



## **Setting Language in Motion: Family Supports and Early Intervention for Babies Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

### **Module 4 Launching Communication and Language Through Sign**

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#### **About the Actor**

#### **Michelle A. Banks**



Michelle A. Banks was the actor in the introduction to this product as well as in Module 2 (Understanding Hearing: How the Ear Works and How to Test Hearing in Infants), Module 4 (Launching Communication and Language Through Sign), and Module 7 (Parenting a Child Who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing). She is a native of Washington, D.C., and an award-winning actress, writer, director, producer, choreographer, motivational speaker, and teacher. Her acting credits include the Showtime series "Soul Food," UPN's "Girlfriends," Lifetime's "Strong Medicine," *See What I'm Saying*, and *Compensation*. She credits Jadolphus C.W. Fraser, an independent filmmaker, for introducing her to filmmaking and co-directed his feature debut, *Always Chasing Love*. She was also chosen as one of 13 actors for New York City's 2008 ABC Diversity Talent Showcase. Banks has appeared on stage in *Big River*, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf*, and in her one-woman show, *Reflections of a Black Deaf Woman*. Other achievements include acting as artistic director of the Onyx Theatre Company; as sign master for Broadway plays, Arena Stage, and Centerstage; and as director of plays such as *Guys and Dolls*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Z: A Christmas Story*. Most recently, Banks danced with the Kankouran West African Dance Company, and produced and directed *In Sight and Sound: De(a)f Poetry I and II* and Richard Graham's one man show, *What It's Like: One Veteran's Tale of Addiction, Survival, & PTSD*.

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