

Supporting Language Acquisition in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants and Toddlers: REAL Opportunities

Benefits of Early Accessible Language

1. Strong predictor of second language development and academic skills
2. Heightens communication skills
3. Enhances cognitive development

Potential Barriers

1. Time
2. Access to resources/transportation
3. Limited support system
4. Conflicting advice/misinformation from professionals
5. Motivation

Impacts of Language Deprivation

1. Delays in communication, social interaction, academics, etc
2. Disconnection from family
3. Mental health concerns
4. Cognitive deficits

Regional Early Acquisition of Language Project (REAL)

REAL is a federally funded collaboration between the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) and the Laurent Clerc National Education Center at Gallaudet University. The goal is to support and provide resources for language acquisition for deaf infants and toddlers, birth to 3. South REAL serves 11 southeastern states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and the US territories including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands (contract service area).

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<https://www.aidb.org/real>



[REAL Resource Library](#) (or scan QR code with camera)