



## Research Question

Can hearing parents be a good enough model of ASL to their Deaf/Hard of Hearing child when their own ASL skills are limited?

## Background

How much language input is enough for Deaf/Hard of Hearing children learning a signed language? Prior studies focus on Deaf parents modeling language for their Deaf/Hard of Hearing child (Bailes, Erting, Erting, & Thumann-Prezioso, 2009; Lu, Jones, & Morgan, 2016). However, most Deaf/Hard of Hearing children have hearing parents. Can hearing parents be a successful language model for their child? In this study, we look at one such example. When was the child identified? When did the family start signing? How much did/do they sign? What support services did they receive? Answers to these questions may help us provide guidance to hearing families with Deaf/Hard of Hearing children who use sign language.

## Participants

This family was chosen from the pool of participants for the case study because they met certain criteria. The child is profoundly deaf with average language ability (97 on the PPVT) at 3 years old who uses only ASL and has hearing parents. How did the parents support his language acquisition? What is their sign language background? What can parents and early intervention providers learn from this family's experience that will guide their own efforts?

<b>Child's Age</b>	<b>3.3 years</b>
Age of Identification	16 months
El services started	10 months
Family Started Learning American Sign Language	10 months
Child Started Preschool	18 months
Hearing Level	Profound
Years using ASL	2
PPVT4 Standard Score	97
School language	Mostly ASL

## Family Language Background

- Mother is 26 years old and has an Associates degree.
- Both parents are hearing with no sign language experience prior to their child's birth.
- Family communicates directly with the child in ASL
- Communication among family members is half English, half ASL
- Bilingual Language Profile:
  - English 201
  - ASL 105
  - English dominance 95
- El services (including Deaf Mentor) received weekly

## Conclusions

Hearing parents **CAN** be a good enough sign language model to their Deaf/Hard of Hearing child.