

TRAIN-GO-SORRY:

Insights from D/HH Early Interventionists

Kathleen Aranda-Myers

Robin Getz

Joseph (JoJo) Lopez

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TIMELINE

18TH CENTURY



https://gallaudet.edu/images/History-Through-Deaf-Eyes/Language%20and%20Identity/2.07.03_long.jpg

MILAN CONFERENCE 1880



Image by – <https://amazonaws.com>

21ST CENTURY



Image from Microsoft PowerPoint



INSIGHTS FROM

D/HH EARLY INTERVENTIONISTS

POLL

Speech and sound are not necessary to become a successful reader.

TRUE

With hearing technology, you won't ever need an interpreter or closed captions.

FALSE

MEDICAL-SOCIOCULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Medical Perspective

Communication options (“either/or”)

Hearing loss

Early Intervention

Failed hearing test

Diagnosis

Fix the ear

Deafness

Hearing impaired

Vocationally limited

Grief process

Disability (cannot)

Auditory technology

Sociocultural Perspective

Language acquisition opportunities

NOTE: Originally it was framed as “communication opportunities”

Hearing level, status, abilities, or differences

Early family support and collaboration

Refer with explanation

Identification

Enhance access to sound

Deaf, Deaf people, being Deaf

Deaf or hard of hearing

Unlimited opportunities

Journey

Culturally diverse (adapt)

Visual and auditory technology

LANGUAGE DEPRIVATION

NEWS ALERT

**Language deprivation
is NOT due to deafness.**

(@republic_of_imagination 2023)

@republicofimagination

POLL

We should stop signing once the child starts talking and/or stops signing.

FALSE

Your child has full access to spoken language with hearing technology in the daycare/preschool, family gatherings, and the community.

FALSE

DEAF KIDS PAY THE PRICE



When children have delayed access to language, they are at risk for permanent cognitive and socioemotional damage



REMINDER

@ADVENTURESINDEAFED



READING AND LANGUAGE
DELAYS ARE CAUSED BY

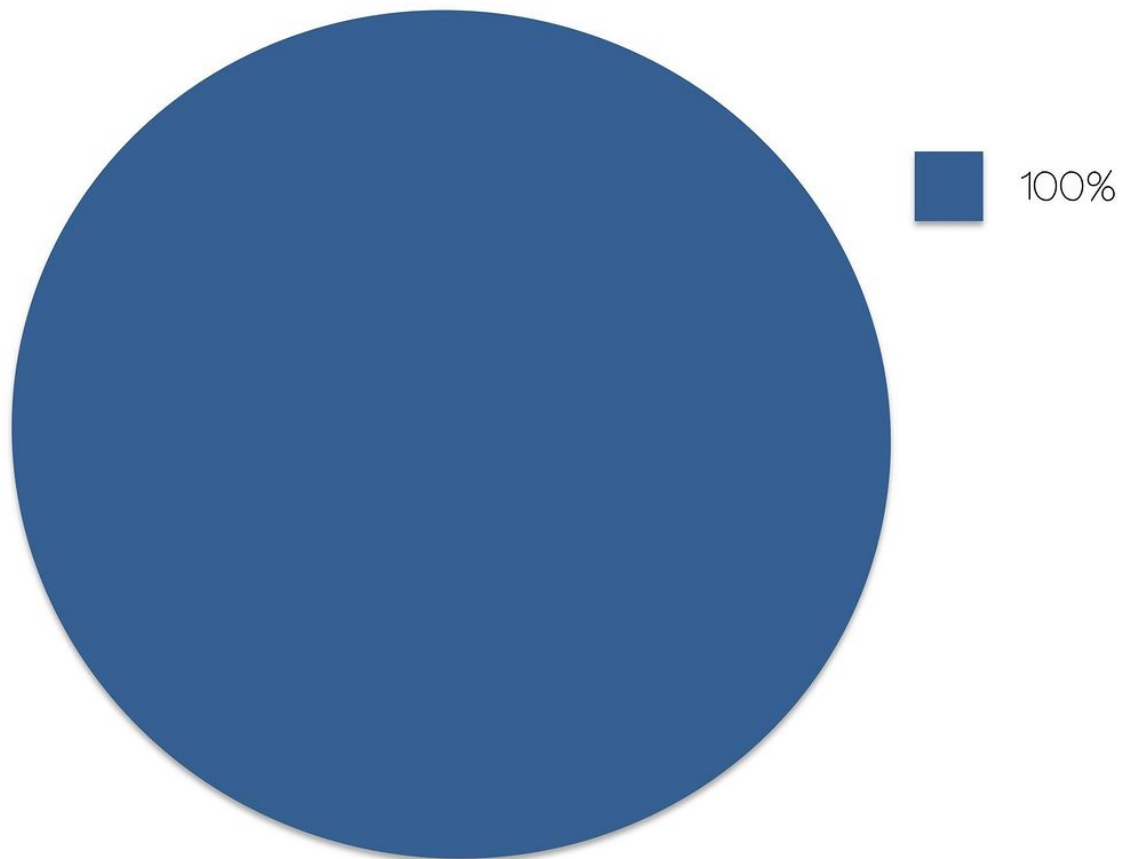
**LANGUAGE
DEPRIVATION.**

IT'S NOT THE HEARING LOSS
OR SIGN LANGUAGE THAT
CAUSES THESE DELAYS.

(IT HAS TO DO WITH A LACK OF EXPOSURE
TO AN ACCESSIBLE LANGUAGE!)

(Miller, Sara 2023)

What percentage of language deprivation cases are preventable?



LANGUAGE **FIRST**

(Language First, 2024)

“

The ACLU considers the evidence-based “gold standard” approach to be providing access to a natural signed language during early infancy, in addition to support for learning English and other heritage languages desired by the family.

(Boston University Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, 2024)

EARLY INTERVENTION

COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES

There is no "one size fits all" when discussing language and communication of children who are identified as DHH. DHH children use various languages, communication tools, systems, and technologies. They receive education and support services in a variety of settings and have diverse experiences with DHH peers and adults.

(American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, n.d.)

“Evidence of the health benefits of signed and spoken language bilingualism continues to accrue. Families need not be constrained into choosing a single modality for their child’s communication.”

**- American Academy of
Pediatrics**

(DrCMVMom, 2023)

POLL

Sign language is not beneficial for all children but is only for “really deaf” children.

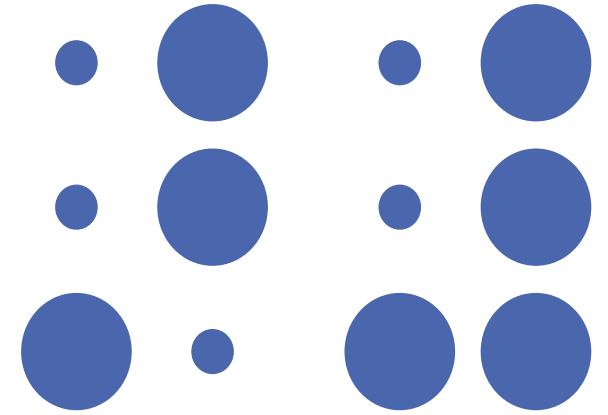
FALSE

Schools for the Deaf do provide spoken language support/speech therapy.

TRUE

Deaf/Hard of hearing children do not have consistent access to incidental language and the various daily scenarios around them like hearing children do.

TRUE



"Language is important for many executive function skills... Researchers have demonstrated that deaf children who have full access to a sign language from birth do not exhibit the same deficits in EF skills as deaf children who use spoken language, even when these native-signing children have little to no auditory experience (Hall et al., [2018](#); Marshall et al., [2015](#)). Thus, these researchers argue that early language input, in either modality, is more important than early auditory input per se for the development of typical EF skills."

**"Speech"
isn't the
same as
"language"**

(and why the distinction is
super important)

(@Redefined, 2020)

“

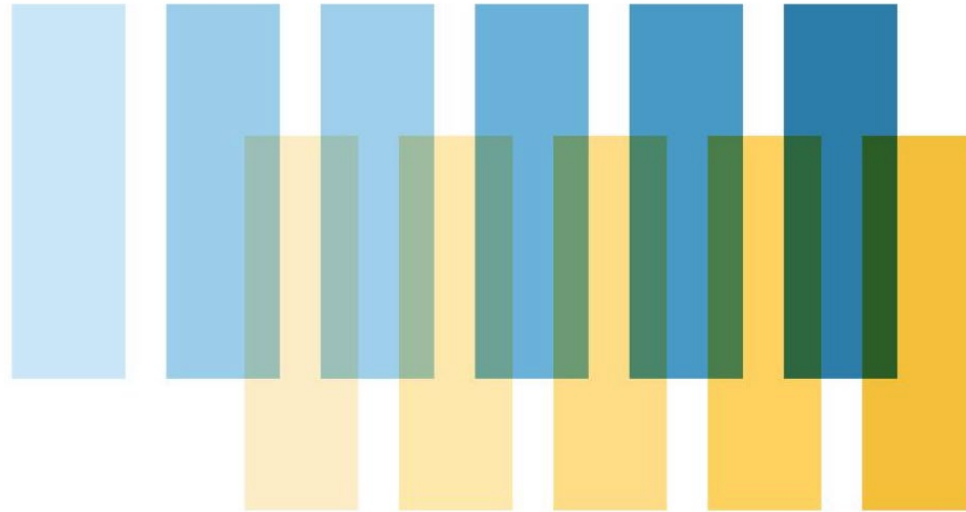
**"LESS THAN 10% OF
DEAF CHILDREN IN
AMERICA ARE GETTING
EARLY ACCESS TO
SIGN LANGUAGE."**

Wyatt Hall
VLAA Lab

RIGHT to
language

(Right To Language, 2023)

- Children who started signing by 6 months old had completely age-expected ASL vocabularies, even when their parents were new signers.

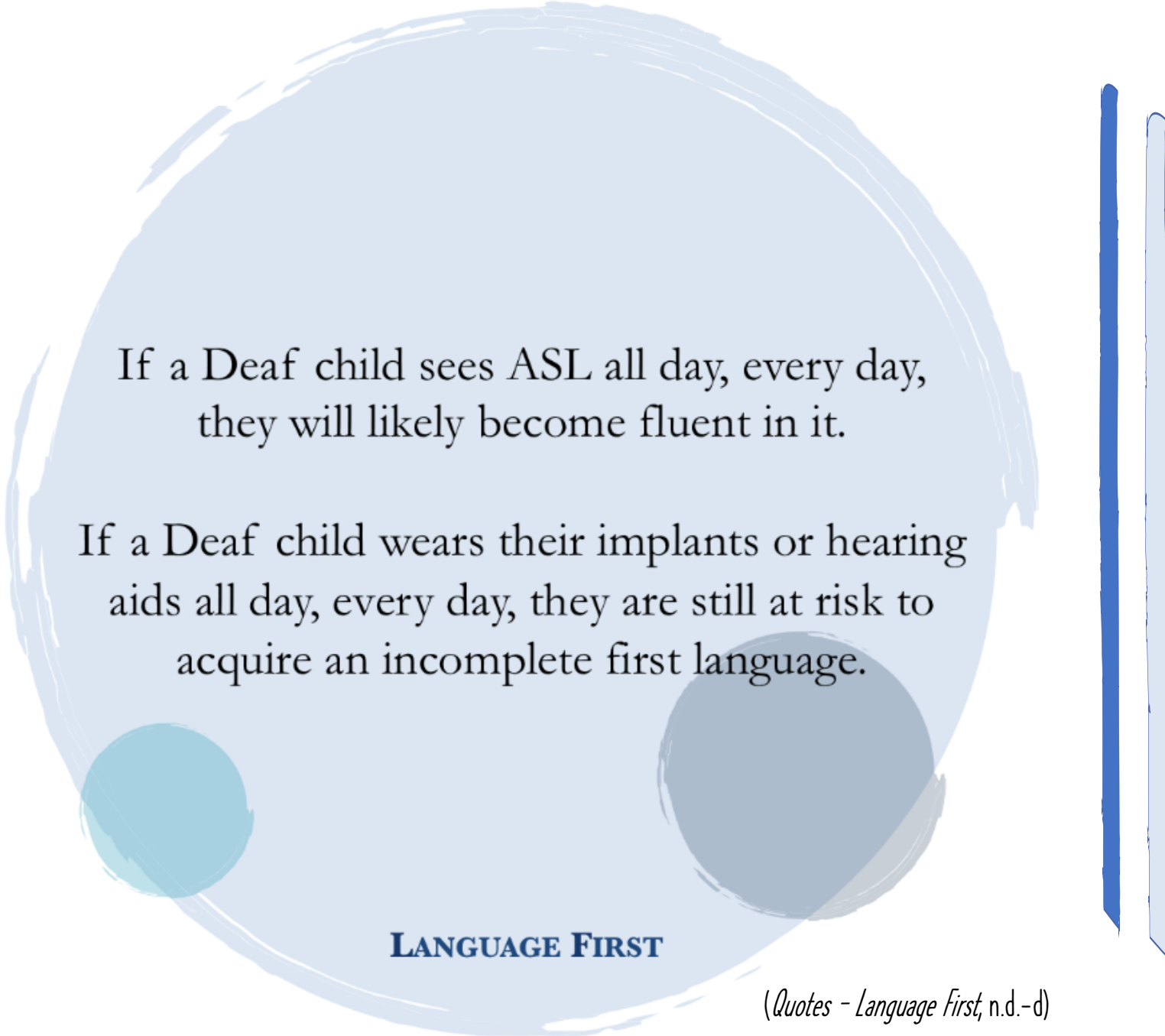


- Those who began learning ASL after 6 months, but before 3 years old, had a delay, yet made rapid gains.



DOWNLOAD 'RESEARCH ON SIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION' TO READ MORE

(Boston University Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, 2023)

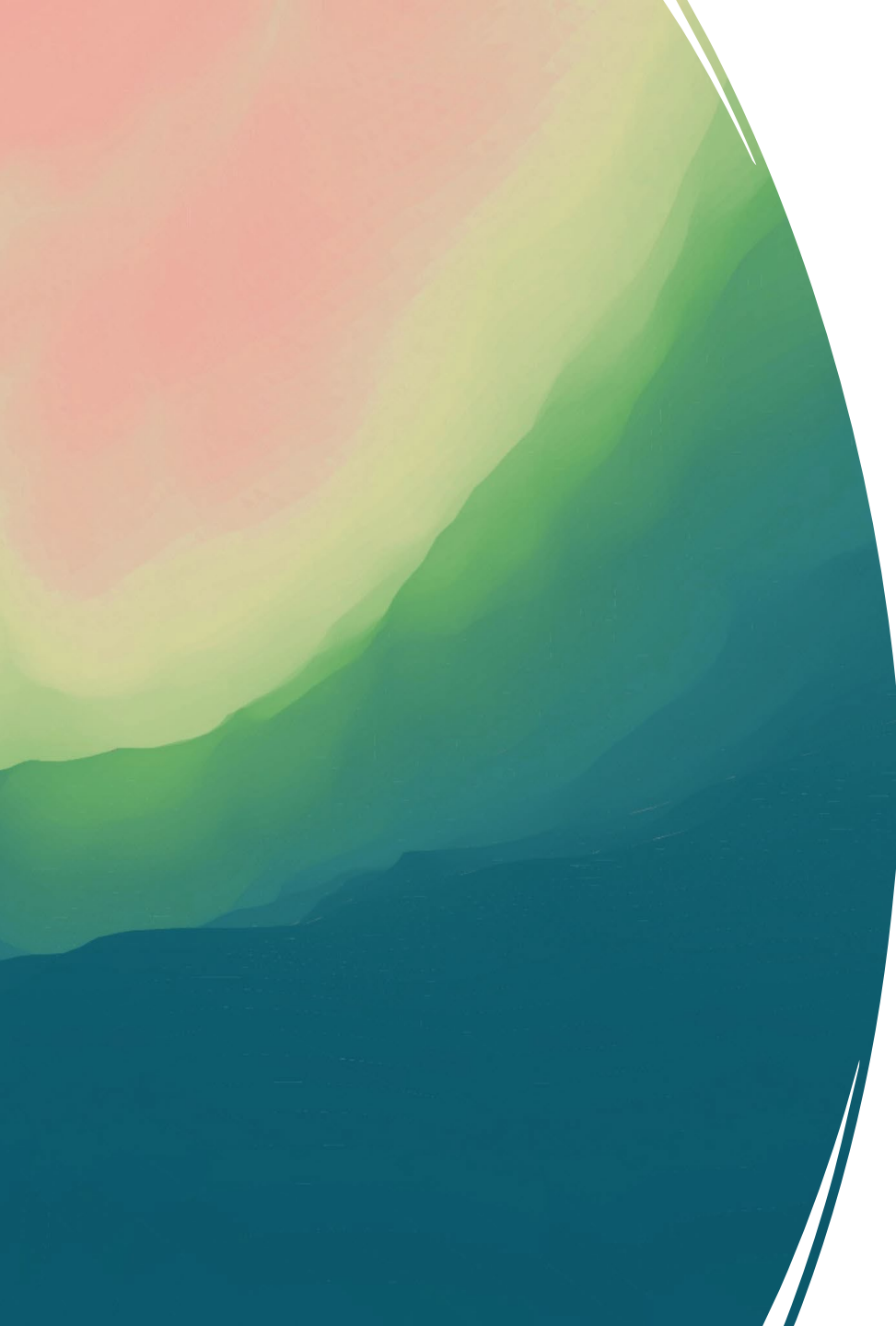


If a Deaf child sees ASL all day, every day,
they will likely become fluent in it.

If a Deaf child wears their implants or hearing
aids all day, every day, they are still at risk to
acquire an incomplete first language.

LANGUAGE FIRST

(Quotes - Language First, n.d.-d)



"IF AN ACTUAL DEAF MODEL
CONVERSES WITH PARENTS,
IT WILL MAKE A
PARAMOUNT DIFFERENCE."

HEARING DEVICES

INCIDENTAL LEARNING

REMINDER

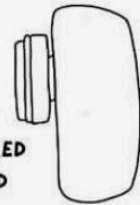
@ADVENTURESINDEAFED



COCHLEAR IMPLANT



HEARING AID



BONE ANCHORED
HEARING AID

**THESE ARE NOT A CURE
FOR DEAFNESS...**

(THEY ARE SIMPLY TOOLS.)



adventuresindeafed

IF ANY OF THESE
ARE TRUE, YOUR
CHILD DOES NOT
HAVE FULL ACCESS:

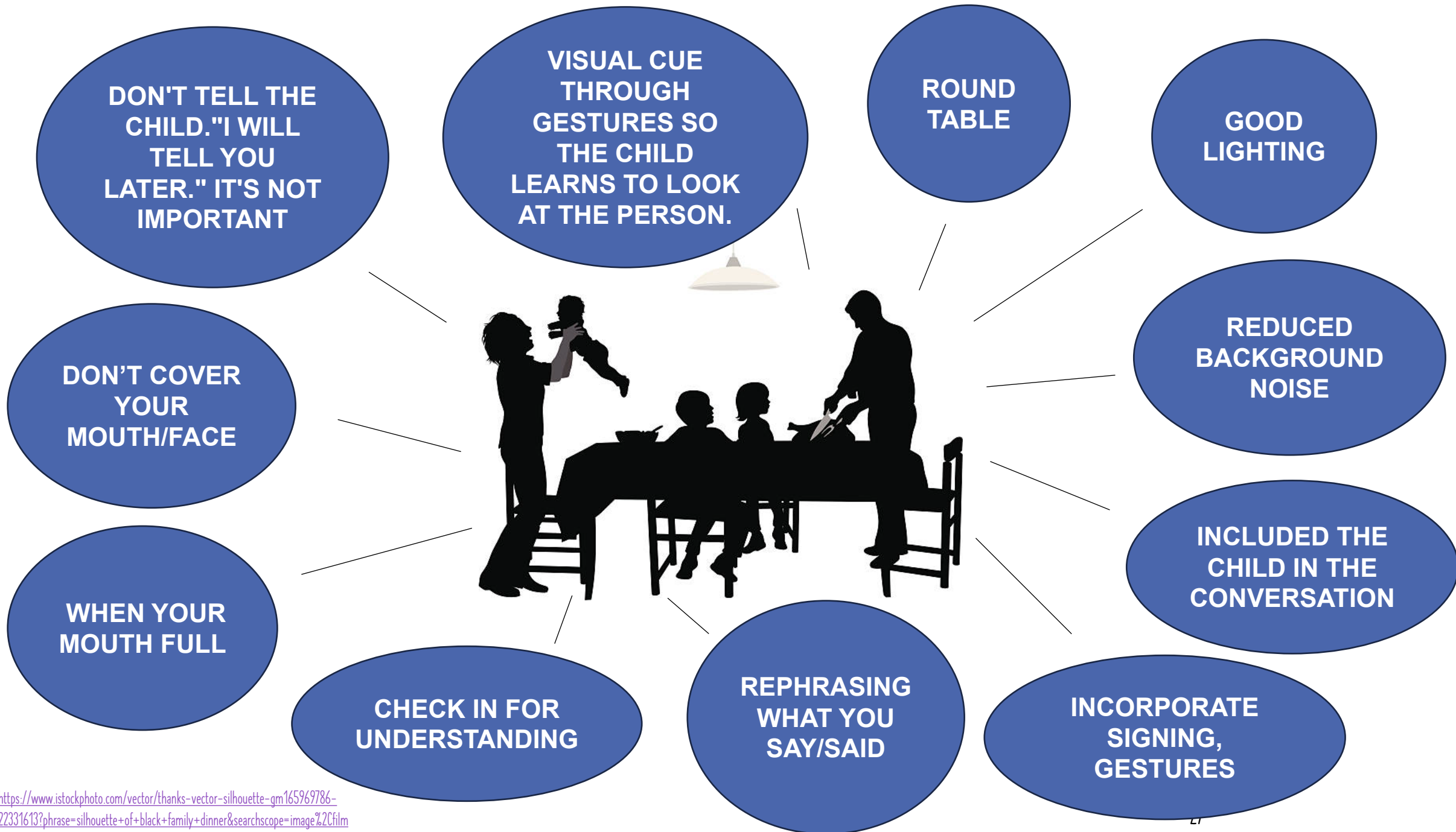
Your child can hear most sounds most of the time

Your child struggles to hear in background noise

Your child must take hearing equipment off in the water

Your child struggles to follow conversation at the dinner table

Your child isn't able to wear hearing equipment at any point during the day





accessible
language is a
human right.

LANGUAGE FIRST

(Language First, September 10, 2023)

QUESTIONS

COMMENTS

THANK YOU

Kathleen Aranda-Myers, LMSW, DS III, FSC, DM

New Mexico School for the Deaf, Early Intervention & Developmental Services
1060 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505

EMAIL: Kathleen.arandamyers@nmsd.k12.nm.us

VP: (505)369-3347

Voice/Text: (505) 228-8089

Robin Getz, MA

CHIP CO-Hear Coordinator: Denver and Aurora
The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
33 N Institute St Colorado Springs, CO 80903

OFFICE: 720-413-7426 voice/text

FAX: 719-578-2139 ATTN: Robin Getz

EMAIL: rlgetz@cldb.org

Joseph (JoJo) Lopez, MASLED, DS III, DM, VCSL Certified ASL Evaluator

New Mexico School for the Deaf, Early Intervention & Developmental Services
1060 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505

EMAIL: joseph.lopeziii@nmsd.k12.nm.us

VP: (575) 541-3597

Text: (505) 231-7685

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