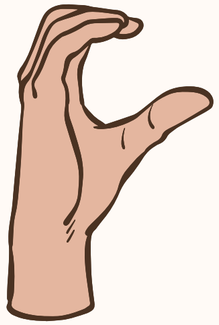
COLLABORATIVE ALLIANCES: STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS AMONG EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

LATRINA HARRIS-LEWIS, M.ED.
MARVELLA SELLERS, M.ED



EXPERIENCE IT FROM A PARENT'S PERS

- BACKGROUND CONTEXT: 2ND FLCP SESSION, LESSON# 2
- VOLUNTEER/S FROM AUDIENCE: HEARING PARENTS (DOESN'T KNOW ASL AT ALL)
- FLCP CONNECTOR=LATRINA

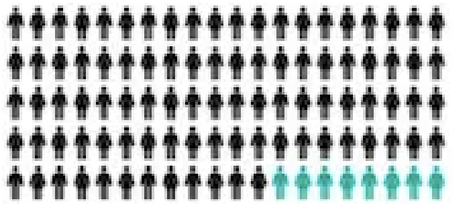
**D/HH CHILD=MARVA (1-YEAR OLD "IN-ROLE"),

**ATYPICAL CHILD- DOESN'T KNOW ASL, LEARNING ALONG WITH PARENT/S.

YOU EXCITED?
ME TOO!

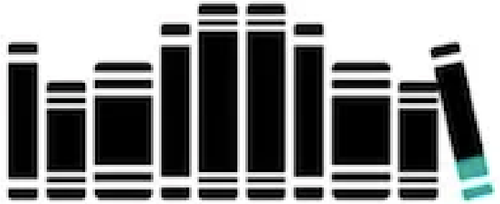
THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND FLCP'S MISSION

Deaf children are at **HIGH RISK** of **language deprivation**



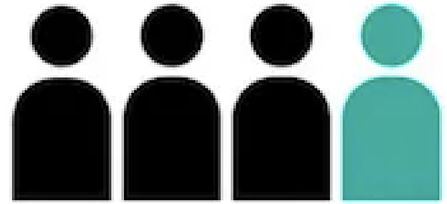
92%

Deaf children have hearing parents



98%

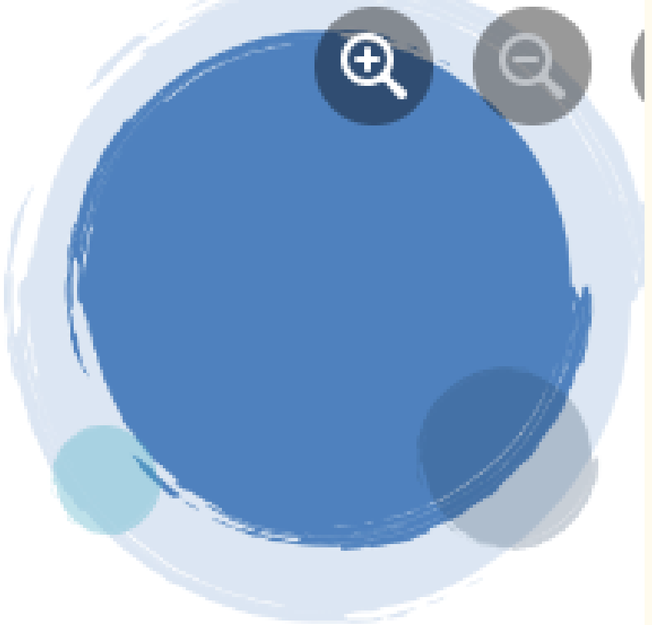
Deaf children have *no access* to education in sign language



3 out of 4

parents *do not sign* with their Deaf child

Photo credit: @JBASergeant



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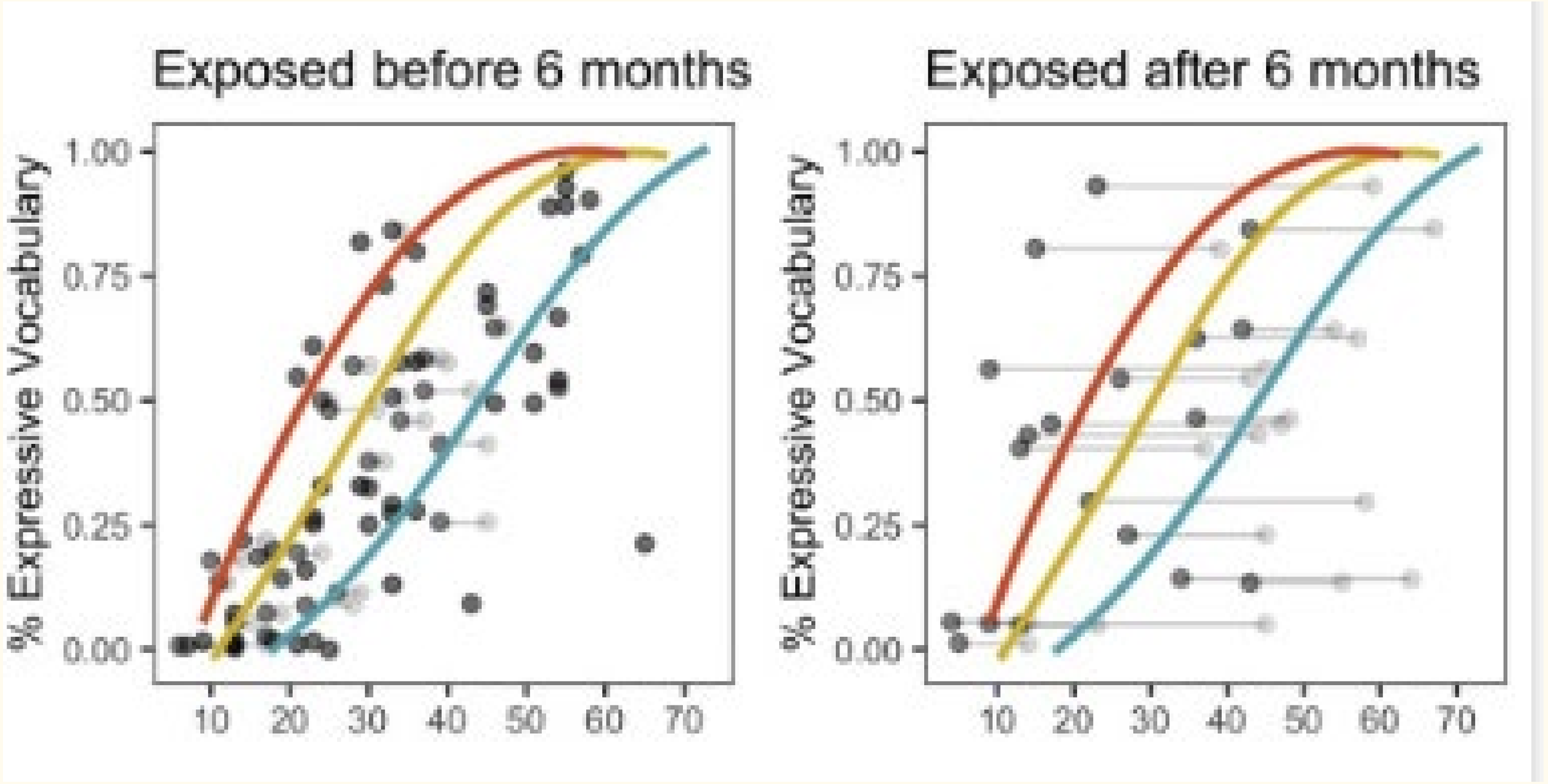
In the past, language deprivation in deaf children was primarily caused by the late age of diagnosis, which was on average 2.5 years. Today, however, it’s commonly due to a medical model that “prioritizes hope for the eventual acquisition of *spoken* language over the immediate need for exposure to *accessible* language” (Hecht, 2020, p. 3).



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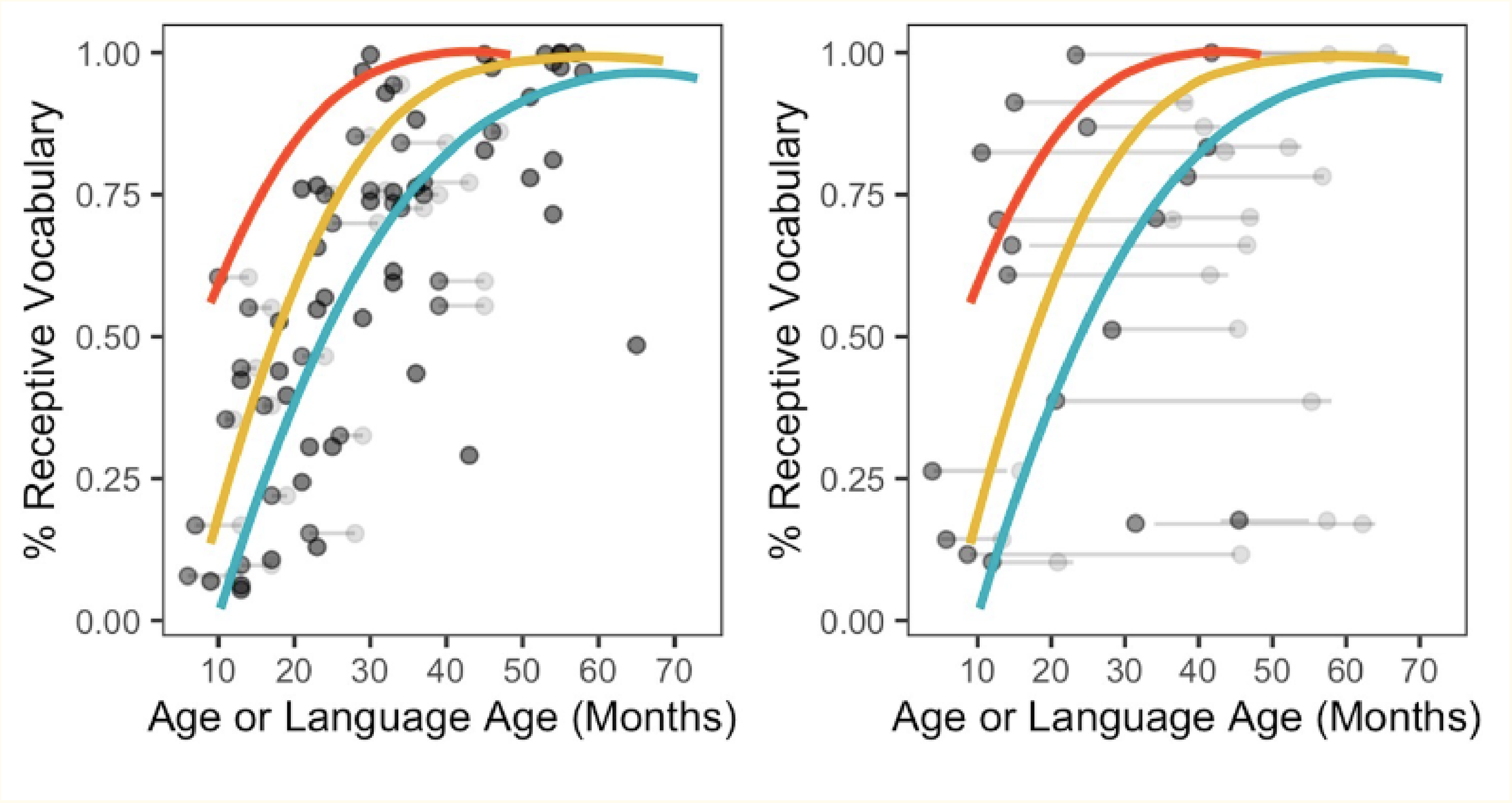

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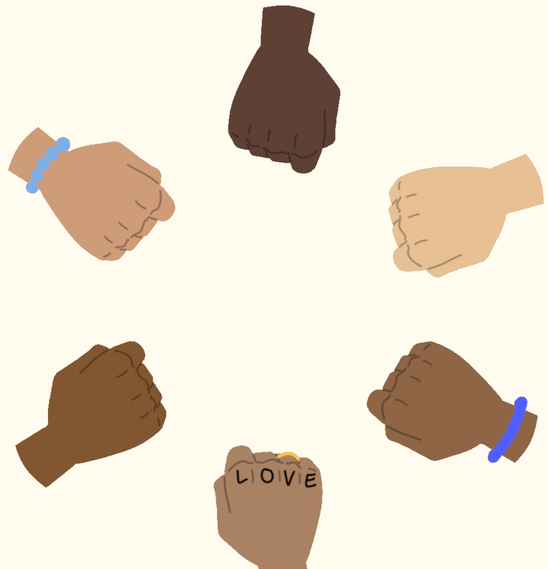
ASL Levels

1. Basic, Emerging, Intermediate and Advanced Levels
    a. Expressive Language
    b. Literacy Development
    c. Real- World Connections
    d. Linguistic Skills
2. Subtopics exemplifying
    a. Emotions
    b. “All about Me”
    c. Shared reading
    d. Storytelling
3. Family Involvement
    a. Multicultural and multilingual friendly
    b. Removal of barriers

What makes FLCP unique?

- Multicultural Lens
- 100% Family Connectors are Deaf
- Diverse Deaf Role Models and Educators
- Visual Communication Sign Language Checklis
  FLCP's Family Comprehension Level of ASL



FAMILY LANGUAGE CONNECTOR PROGRAM

3 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH FAMI IN OUR PROGRAM

360 FAMILIES

2,880
LIVE VIDEO SESSIONS

AVERAGE

NUMBER OF FAMILIES AND SESSIONS WITH CONNECTORS

LEVEL 1

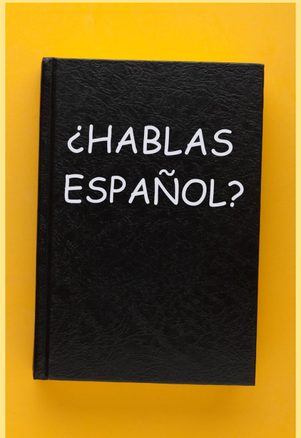
36 FAMILIES x 8 lessons = 28 TOTAL SESSIONS

8

VIRTUAL learning
30-45 minutes
each SESSION

2020 to 2023

SPANISH & VISUAL-ACCESSIBLE VERSIONS ALSO AVAILABLE!



FAMLY

LANGUAGE

CONNECTOR

PROGRAM

FAMLY- CENTERED AND L1/ CULTURAL SOCIO-EMOTIONAL CONNECTOR FORMATION

FAMLY LANGUAGE CONNECTOR PROGRAM

FAMLY

LANGUAGE

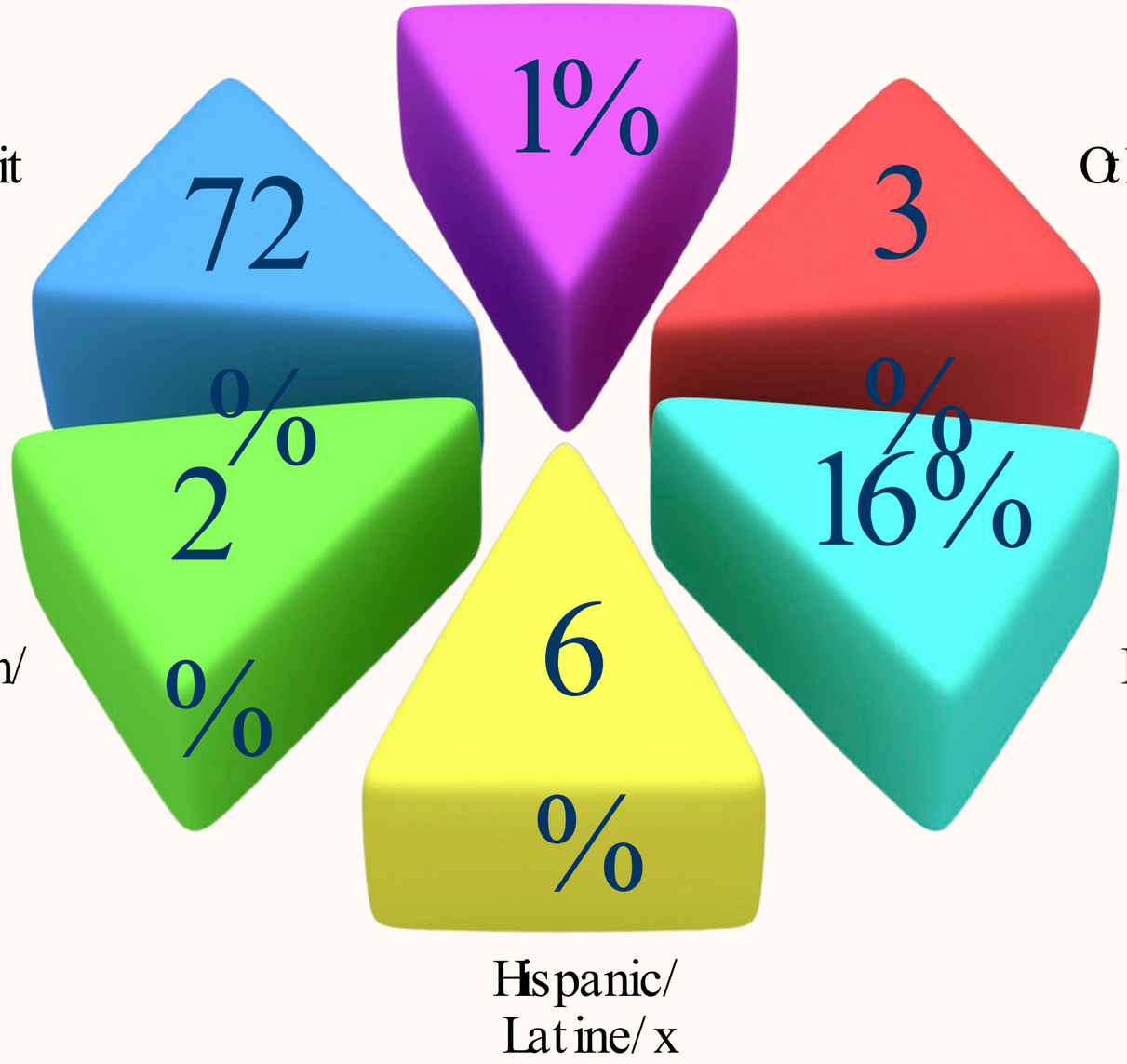
CONNECTOR

PROGRAM

*DEAF+ CHILD, MOTHER TO MOTHER CONNECTION & MULTICULTURAL ROLE MODELS.

*Deaf PLUS = Deaf & additional disabilities

RACES & ETHNICITIES OF FAMILIES



FLCP's FRAMEWORK TIMELINE

STEP 1: INTERESTED FAMILY

- Contact the state's Early Hearing Detection Intervention (EHDI) Service Providers
- Local School Districts
- Medical insurance to cover fundings

STEP 2: One Month Prior to Start

- Sign Language Pre-Assessment
- Distribution of iPad

STEP 3: Two Weeks Prior to Start

- Greet & Meet with Families
- Care Package

STEP 4: Sessions Begin

- ASL Levels (Basic to Advanced) via Zoom with Connectors

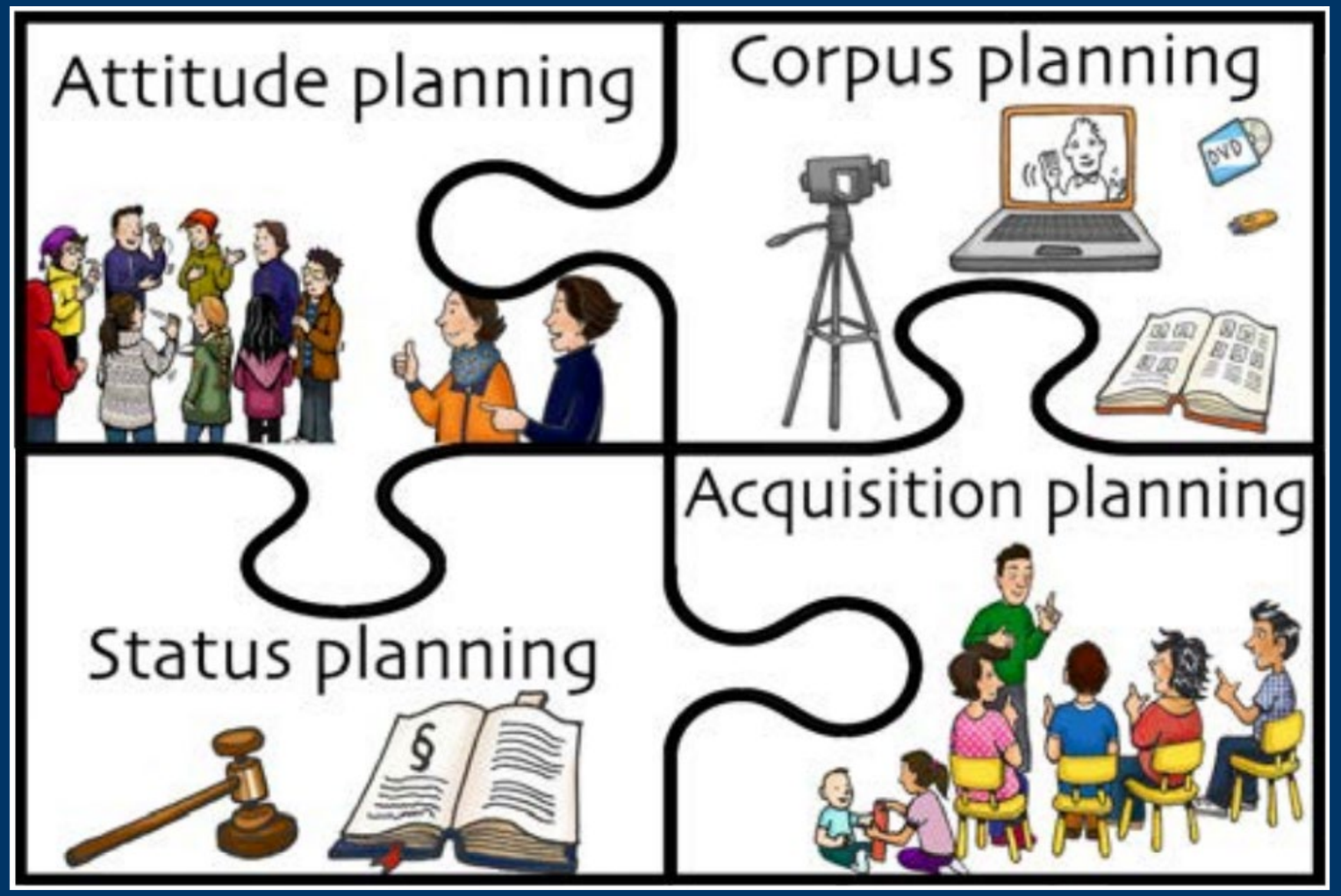
STEP 5: Visual Communication Sign Language Checklist

- Assess Child's Language Milestones at End of 8-Week Cylce

STEP 6: Virtual Community Networking

- Connect with Local Families
- Offer Enrichment Virtual Workshops

FLCP'S LANGUAGE FRAMEWORK



WWW.SLWMANUAL.INF

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"THE SINGLE GREAT RISK FACED BY DEAF CHILDREN IS INADEQUATE EXPOSURE TO A USABLE FIRST LANGUAGE."

- DR. SANJAY GULATI