



Saving Spoons

Promoting Accessibility for DHH
Children and Families with Disabilities

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Amy Keslinke, IL Hands and Voices

EHDI 20 25





Maddie Hinkle

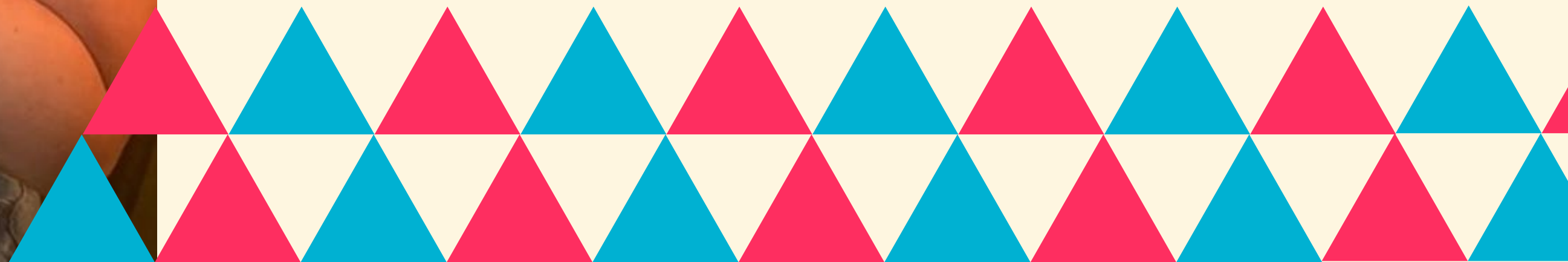
- BA English Literature (Oberlin College)
- MA Deaf Studies: Early Language Advocacy (Gallaudet University)
- DHH Educator
- Youth and Family Coordinator with CHS
- Disabled





Amy Keslinke

- Educator with experience from 3rd grade to adult education
- Mom of 2, one of whom is Deaf+
- President of Illinois Hands & Voices
- Masters of Social Work student



Objectives



Participants will..

Consider observable and unobservable disabilities and how they may impact an individual's participation and inclusion in the service(s) they provide.

Participants will...

Gain a deeper understanding of the connection between deafness and additional disabilities and identify steps they can take to promote accessibility.

Participants will...

Leave with a checklist to take back to their workplace to start some conversations on promoting accessibility.



Spoon Theory

- Christine Miseradino, *Beginning with Disability: A Primer* (2018)
- [Accessible on her blog](#)

Reframing Practice:

Prioritizing Care

Homework Follow-Up

New Day, New
Spoons





Clinic Visit

Clinic Day

Prep

Childcare

Time off work/school

Packing

Appointment

Waiting area

Diaper/toileting

Space

Travel

Parking

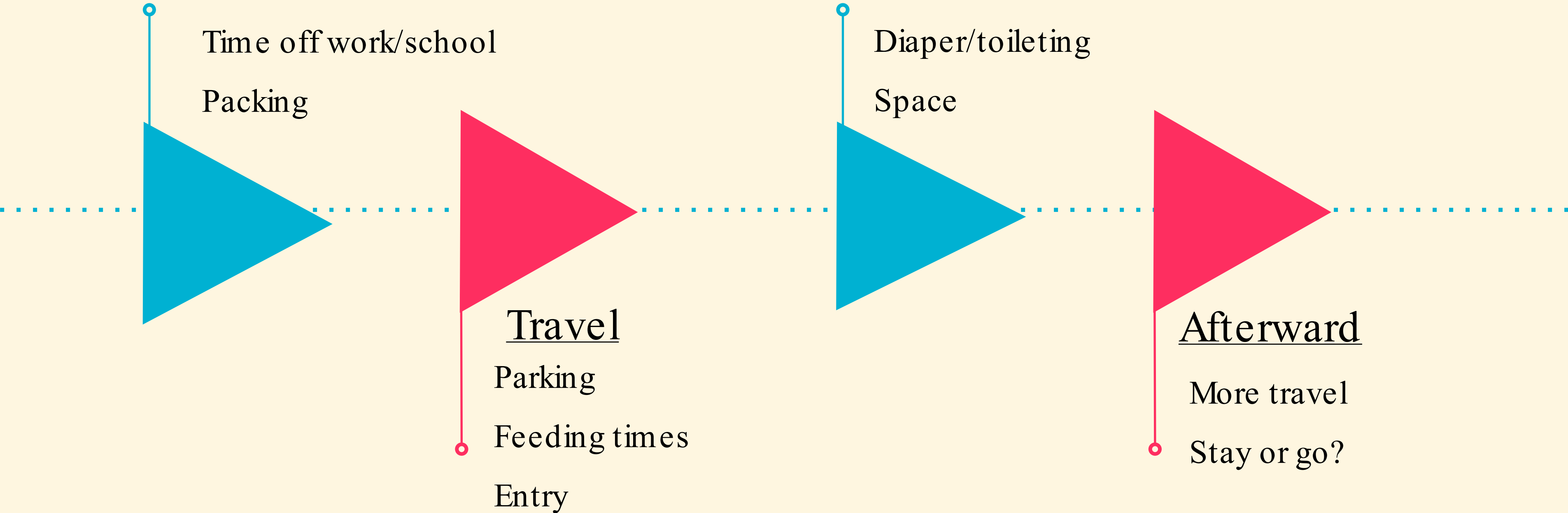
Feeding times

Entry

Afterward

More travel

Stay or go?



Before the appointment



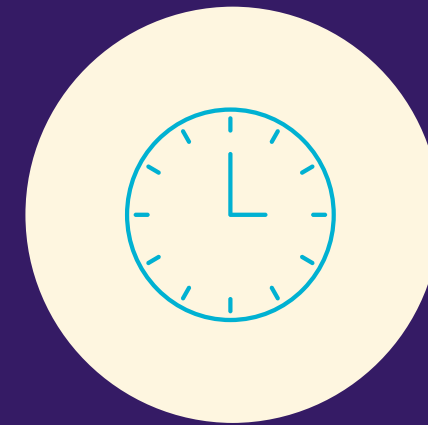
Scheduling

Often no or little choice;
struggle with time of day



Childcare

Other children usually
not allowed



Time Off

Expense to take off work;
sacrifice to take off school



It's not just an hour

- Packing is required
- Feeding schedules
- Emergency meds
- Unknown amount of time
- Pick up/drop off other child



Before the Appointment



Before the Appointment



Travel

- The larger the facility, the worse the parking
- Unpredictable traffic = unpredictable arrival time
- May require a cushion for feeding
- Many doors are not handicap accessible



Waiting for Our Turn

- Medical waiting area = germs!
- Diaper/Toileting needs
- Space
- Unknown amount of time to contain a kiddo
- Late policies



During the Appointment

Parent has to focus, listen, and engage!

Getting an interpreter (usually on video) can be a challenge that makes the appointment take longer.

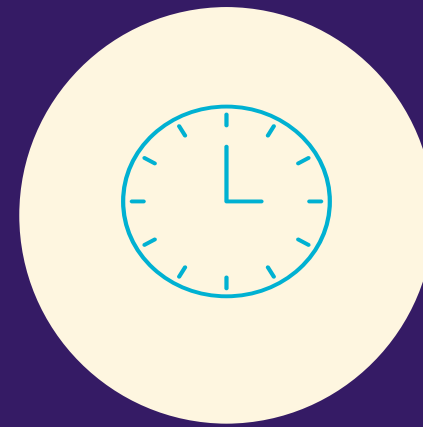


After the appointment



Stay or go?

Do we stay and eat or
head for the hills?



Is there time?

Can we make it back to
school/work/childcare?

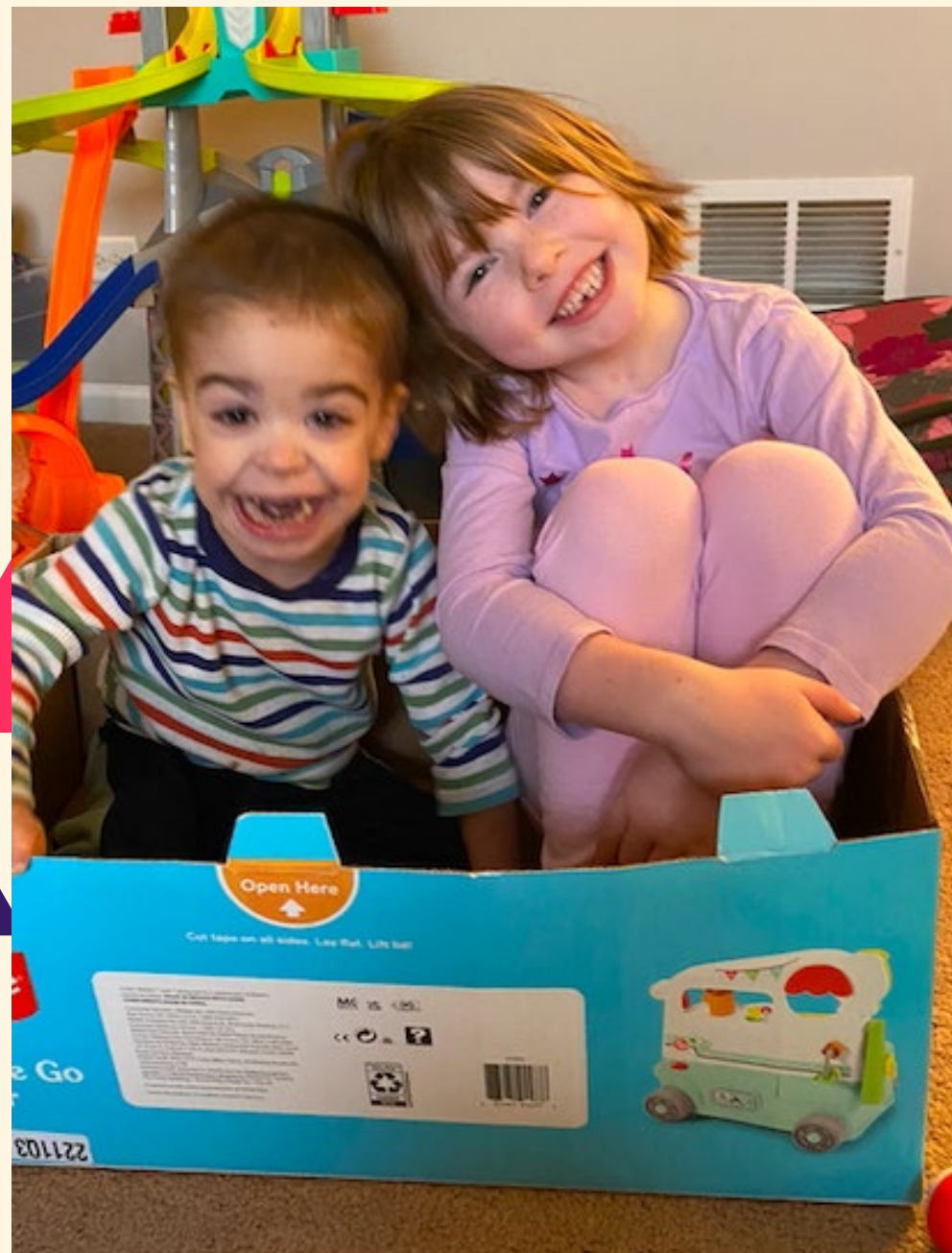


Association

Making time for joy and
being a kid










But what about in-home services?

Many of these pieces still apply! Plus, there is the additional stress of feeling like your home, and therefore yourself, is on display.



The families you
engage with may be
literally running on
empty.

Thank you!

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