

# Thinking Beyond the Clinic Walls



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National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference  
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Jacksonville, FL



# About the presenters



Charlotte Mullen AuD, CCC-A is a pediatric audiologist at Boston Children's Hospital and the Specialty Audiologist for Education & Training. She has been a member of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing multidisciplinary team for many years. She is a founding member of the Audiology Clinical Education Network (ACEN).



Katie McCarthy, MBA, CPACC is the Outreach and Support Services Coordinator with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Boston Children's Hospital. Katie oversees outreach programming, educational resources for families and community & hospital-wide training initiatives. She is also the co-chair for the Disability Alliance Employee Led Group at the hospital.

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Throughout this presentation, the word *deaf and hard of hearing* is an umbrella term that defines anyone who may be:

d/Deaf

DeafBlind

Deaf Plus or Deaf Disabled

Hard of Hearing

Cochlear implant users

Hearing aid users

BAHA users

Auditory and/or visual language users





**Boston  
Children's**

Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing Program

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Boston Children's Hospital provides comprehensive evaluation and consultative services to d/Deaf and hard of hearing babies, children and adolescents.

Our interdisciplinary program is located within the Department of Otolaryngology and Communication Enhancement and is one of the largest and most experienced programs dedicated to d/Deaf and hard of hearing children.



**Boston Children's**

Where the world comes for answers



# Philosophy of Care

- Our team is dedicated to equitable and evidence-based care.
- We collaborate closely with physicians, allied health professionals and educators
- Most clinicians are bilingual and bicultural with spoken English and American Sign Language
- We value a whole child approach and strive to provide a full range of opportunities for families.



# Audiological Clinical Care



Childrenshospital.org



# Amplification and Communication Options

- Options for amplification (hearing aids, CI, BAHS)
- Discussion of communication options based on family values, culture and needs
- Referral to local resources and specialty care services

These discussions must occur at each clinic visit!



# Most Important

- ✓ Connection with other families and children



# Family to Family connections



# Child to Child Connections



# Supporting families beyond the clinic



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- belonging not just inclusion
- language-rich experiences in natural settings
  - parent networking
- best-informed practices and resources for parents, educational staff, and clinicians
- understanding what it's like to raise a d/D/HH child from other parents and Deaf individuals
  - collaborations with clinicians, colleagues, and community venues in making programs and services successful and ongoing



Family-centered events

Educational workshops

Parent support groups

Cultural Connections

Transition workshops

Community collaborations  
and partnerships





Boston Children's Hospital

# ASK AN AUDIOLOGIST

COFFEE CHATS WITH ALISON LESCHINSKI, SCD AND KALIE BUCHMAN, AUD

08

FEB, 2025

VIRTUAL SESSION  
9 - 10 AM



BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL -  
WALTHAM  
9 - 10 AM

9 HOPE AVENUE, WALTHAM MA 02453

10

MAY, 2025

16

AUG, 2025

08

NOV, 2025

VIRTUAL SESSION  
9 - 10 AM



BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL -  
BOSTON  
9-10 AM

333 LONGWOOD AVE, BOSTON MA 02115  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR ORL CONFERENCE ROOM

Parents and caregivers of deaf and hard of hearing children of all ages are welcome! Bring your children and connect with audiologists about habilitation, language development, routine maintenance, and develop a support network with other families. E-mail Kalie at [kalie.buchman@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:kalie.buchman@childrens.harvard.edu) if you would like to attend!

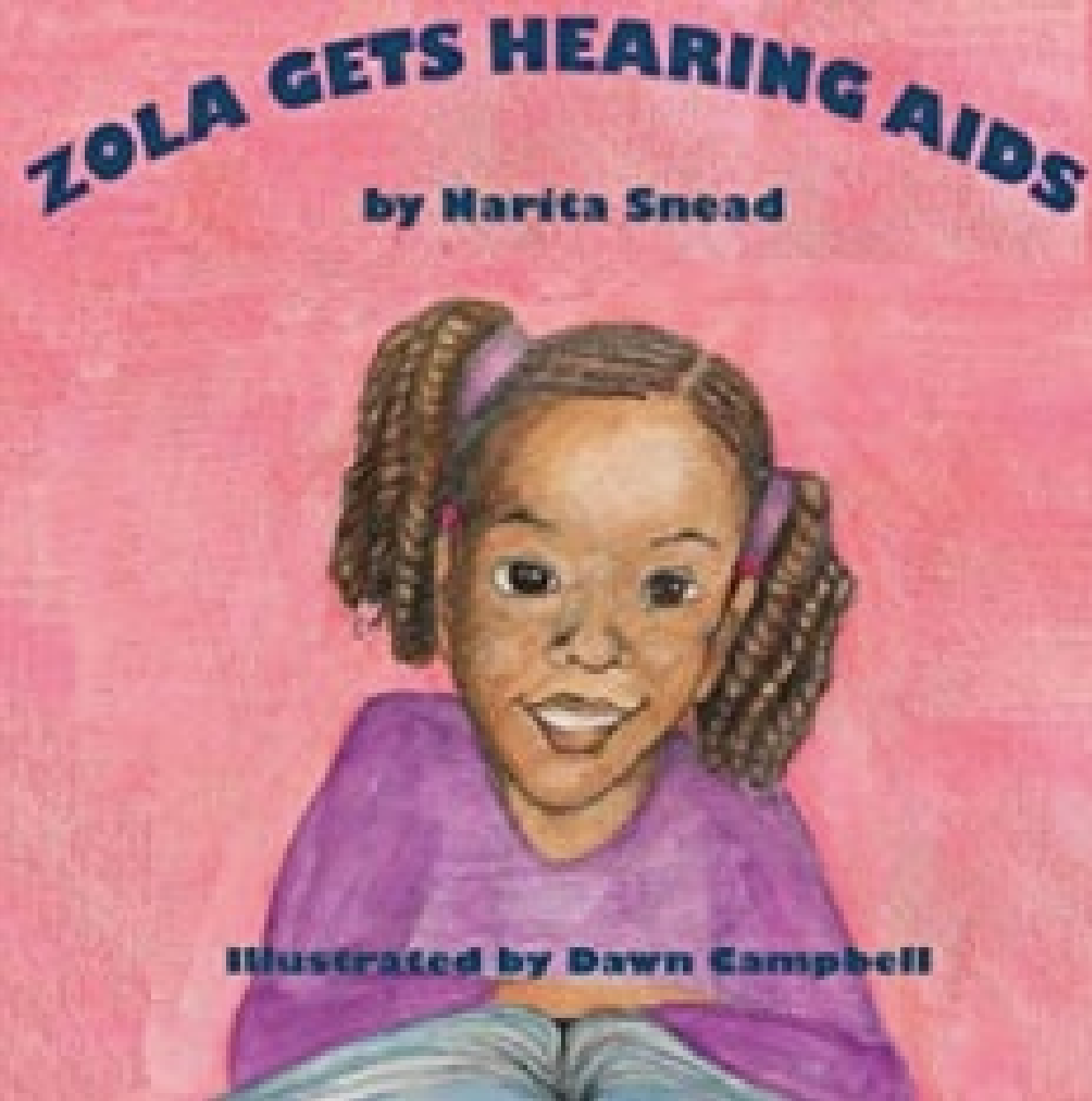
The program was generously funded by:



## ¿ENSEÑANZA BASADA EN Rutinas Y CENTRADA EN LA Familia?

- Los niños pequeños aprenden mejor en su entorno natural durante las actividades cotidianas.
- Aprender en las rutinas diarias →
  - Generalizar habilidades a otros aspectos de la vida.
  - Progreso más rápido
  - Fácil de practicar varias veces al día, todos los días.





## Informative resources for families

- *Lending library for families*
- *Biweekly and monthly resources*
- *List of early intervention resources*
- *Guidelines for Educational Planning\**
- *Setting Language in Motion\**
- *Informative tip sheets\**
- *Books and magazines*
- *Camps for D/HH children*
- *Information about IEPs/504s and advocacy*

### Setting Language in Motion

Family Supports and Early Intervention for Babies Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Available in American Sign Language and spoken English



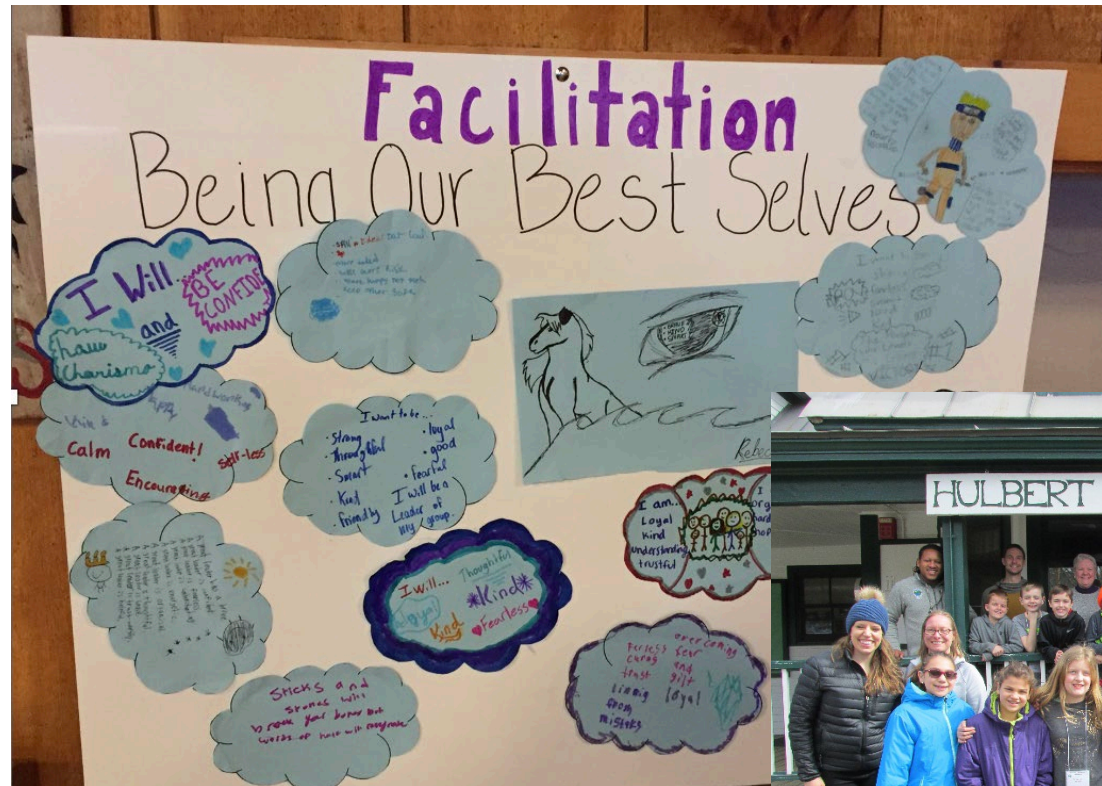
**FREE** seven self-paced, on-line modules



# Middle School Connections



# Success Leadership Camp



# Success Horizon Camp



# Benefits of thinking beyond the clinic walls

Parent support and opportunities for community engagement

Friendship, sense of community & giving back and confidence with identity

Opportunity for clinicians to see children and families in the “real world”

Patient retention and trust between family and clinician

It's fun for everyone!!!



# Recommendations for clinicians and families

Start conversations with your patients or families about identity development, long term goals, and existing resources & what may be lacking in their areas

Encourage opportunities for parent support and networking

Start conversations with your department about supporting families within the clinic first (workshops, parent connections, etc)

Seek funding or budget-friendly options for virtual or in-person support groups or collaborate with local parent groups beyond the clinic

Partner with local organizations to provide space and activity options



# Contact information

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Katie McCarthy: [katie.mccarthy@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:katie.mccarthy@childrens.harvard.edu)



**Boston Children's Hospital**  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Program



Thank You

