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# A Parent's Perspective:

Addressing Common Concerns and Sharing Strategies to Build Self-Confidence

# Introduction



- Amy Reilly is a mother of seven children between the ages of 5-22 years old. Three of her children are deaf and hard of hearing, using both cochlear implants and hearing aids for amplification. Her family uses a blend of mostly spoken language and some ASL to communicate. Professionally, Amy has worked the last three years as a Parent Leader with the FL School for the Deaf and the Blind, offering peer support for families of deaf and hard of hearing children. Amy brings a unique blend of personal experience and professional insight to her work.

# Introduction



- Natasha Rich is a parent of three boys including a child born with Microtia and Atresia and conductive hearing loss. She is a strong advocate for families. Ms. Rich has 25 years' experience providing early intervention services and over 15 years working as a Parent Advocate for families of children with hearing differences. Ms. Rich has worked with Florida's early intervention program, The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and with the FL EHDI program.

# Strong Language Foundation

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- Early Intervention- Early access to supports
- ASL- American Sign Language
- Baby signs
- LSL- Listening and Spoken Language
- Visual cues/pictures
- What works best for your child/family is the best choice for your child/family!



# Social Inclusion

Sports

Church

Scouting

Deaf  
group/meetups

Playgroups

School  
activities /clubs

# Identity Formation

Using positive language

Talking openly about being deaf/hard of hearing

Deaf group- meeting other DHH peers and parents

Validate feelings/hold space for frustrations

Building confidence and self-advocacy skills

# Educational/Future Opportunities

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Bella- IEP @ age 4, mainstream VPK class in neighborhood school which was also cluster site for DHH program. Attended mainstream public school until graduation. Some college, now working towards employment.

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Joey- IEP @ age 3, county DHH auditory oral pre-k, with language role model peers, attended 2 years, attended mainstream until 11<sup>th</sup> grade then switched to school for the deaf until graduation. Currently attending local state college studying business management.

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Johnny- IEP @ age 3, county DHH auditory oral pre-k, with language role model peers, attended 2 years, attended mainstream until 8<sup>th</sup> grade then switched to school for the deaf (currently attending). Plans for college to study engineering.

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Ben-IEP @ age 3, county VE preschool (varying exceptionalities, not DHH specific). Mainstream classroom from K-12 grade with accommodations and supports. Attending Flight School at a local college to become a pilot.

# Contact Us:

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