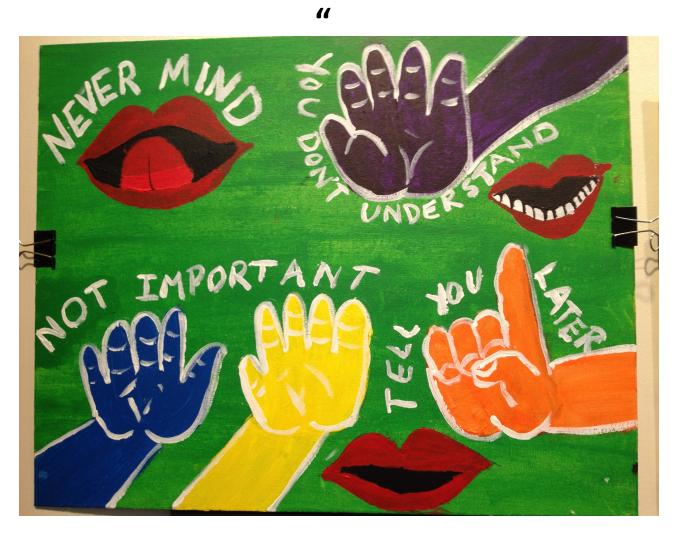


A Deaf Child's Voice: Things I Wish EHDI Told My Parents

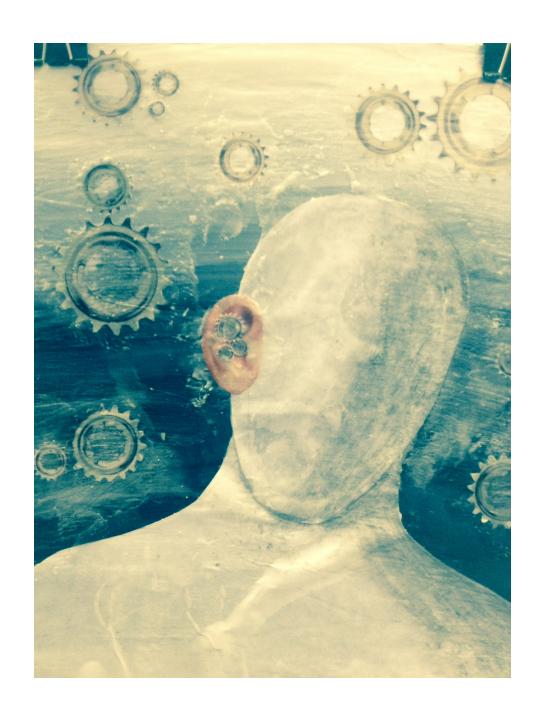
Christopher Patterson, Ed.S and Julie Rems-Smario, M.A, M.S.



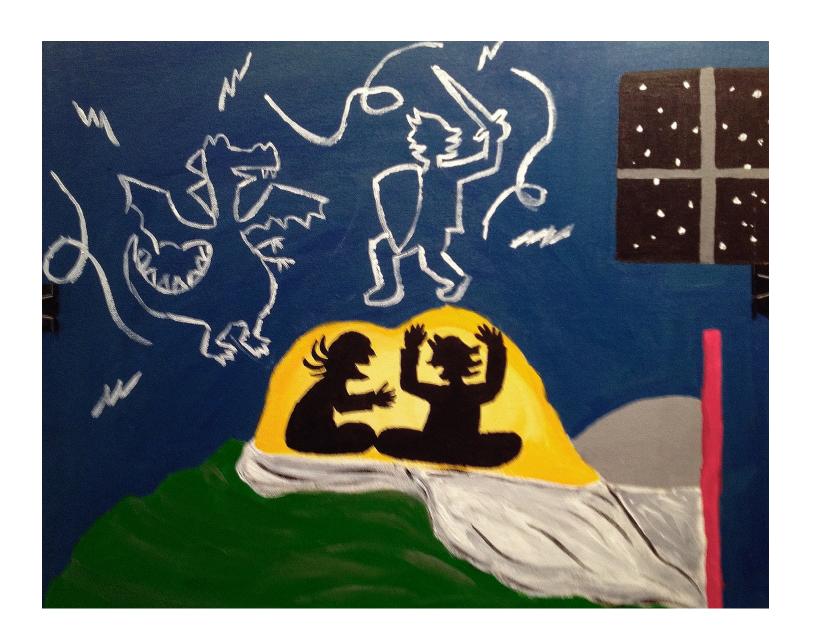














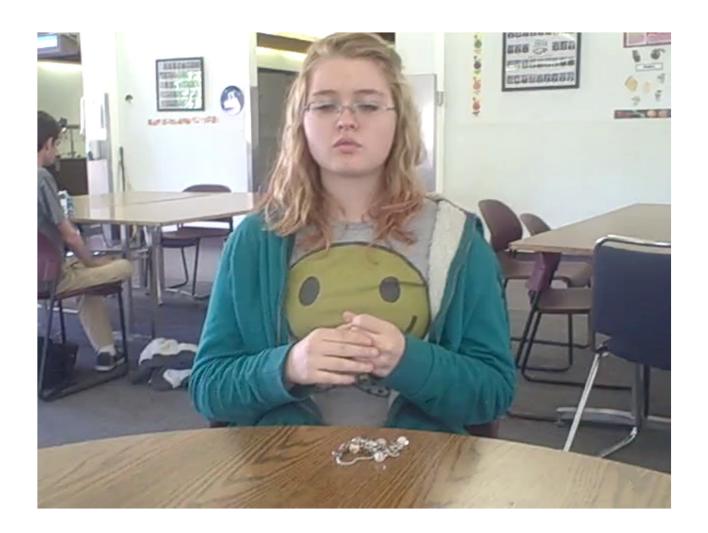










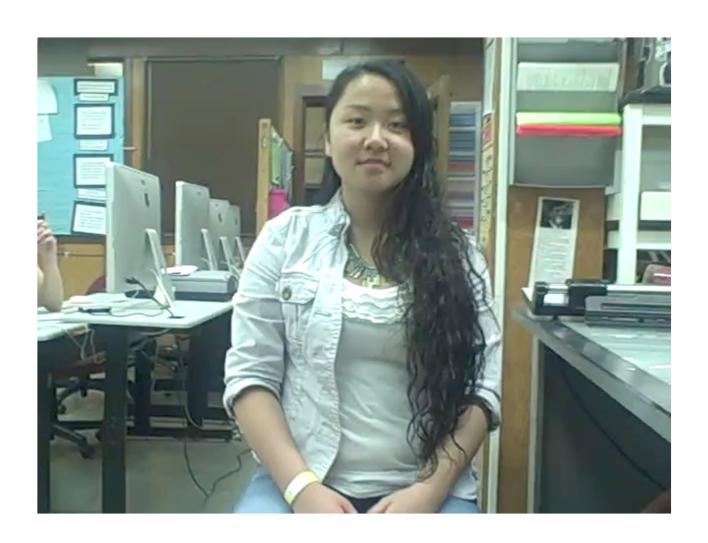










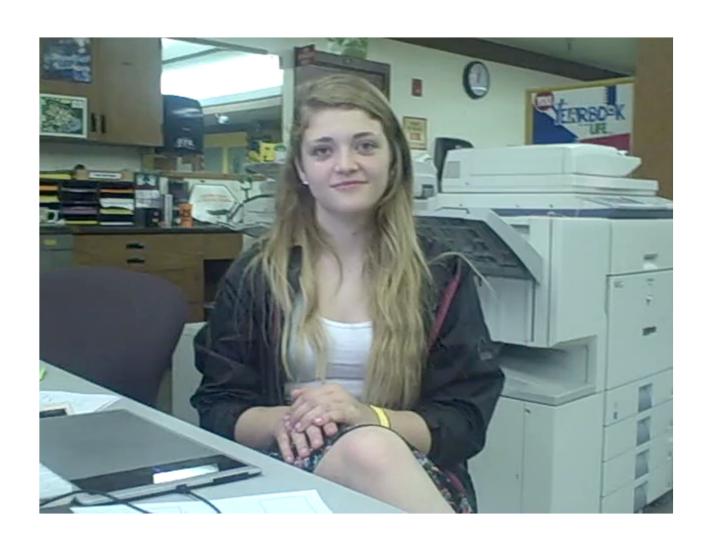


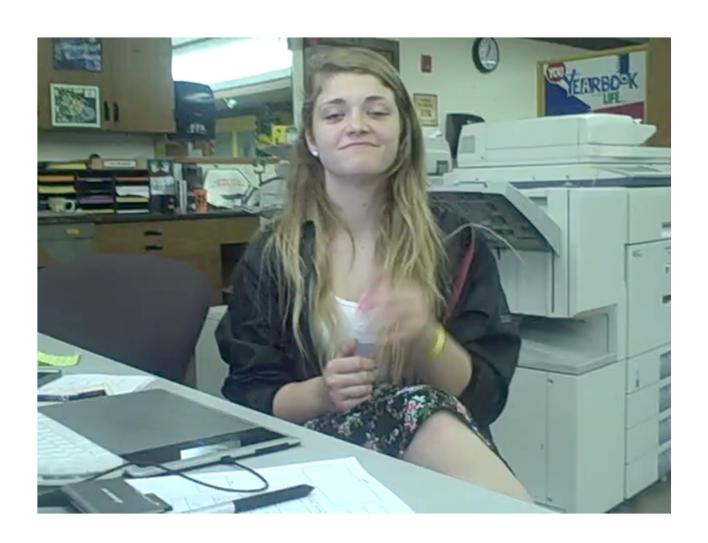
















Language and Identity Deprived

- Second guesses onself
- Feels alone and lacks self-esteem
- Has gaps in interpersonal and social skills
- Misses social cues and opportunities to connect with others
- Feels anxious in communicating using speech and listening skills with groups
- Tries hard to fit but may feel unwanted or a burden
- Experiences academic and social delays
- Feels frustrated in communicating basic needs

Language and Identity

- Language is integral to culture and identity.
- Interacting with Deaf individuals like themselves can provide a sense of grounding and belonging necessary to achieve self actualization.
- Using sign language and identifying with the Deaf community significantly contributes to positive self-esteem in Deaf children.

(Jambor & Elliott, 2005)

SELF-ACTUALIZATION

Language
allows access to
factual information
& morality & creativity
discussions.

ESTEEM

A command of language allows us to communicate unique ideas, be respected by others & develop executive function skills.

Language
deprived Deaf
and hard of
hearing
children often
fail to progress
beyond these
basic needs and
levels of
dependence and
development.

BELONGING

Language instills a sense of belonging by allowing us to discuss ideas & develop trust among peers and family.

SAFETY

guage allows us to understand and predict the world und us & and to not be in a constant state of anxiety.

PHYSIOLOGICAL

Language allows us to be comforted & municate basic needs such as hunger and cold.

Deaf Children who use only Spoken English and experience being socially ostracized often have limited abilities and opportunities to move up this pyramid.

The human brain does not discriminate between the hands and tongue. People discriminate, but not our biological human brain." Dr. Laura Ann Petitio

Relying solely on spoken English, of which only few master, puts many Deaf children at a linguistic and social disadvantage.

(Caprara, Barbaranelli, Pastorelli, Bandura, & Zimbardo, 2000; Malecki & Elliott, 2002)

American Sign Language is not antithetical to spoken English but actually facilitates speech skills.

(Malaia & Wilbur 2010: Priesler, Tvingstedt and Ahlstrom, 2002)



The dominant culture causes many Deaf individuals to feel marginalized. This has social, psychological and linguistic repercussions. (Ridgeway, 1998)



What Deaf adults know instinctively and historically is that relying solely on unreliable, unlimited or distorted auditory language input translates into a greater risk of lifetime language delays for Deaf children. We are also alarmed witnessing a national epidemic language and identity-deprived Deaf children. It is a national crisis.

Four Legs of EHDI

- Parents
- Medical professionals
- Educators
- Deaf Community

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

Desmond Tutu