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Secrets of Sibling Bonds: Where is Our Road Map to Success?

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First Deaf & Hearing Siblings Retreat



Congratulations First Deaf & Hearing Siblings Retreat! July 7-10, 2011

Deaf & Coda Sisters: Our Life Journey Together... "Pinkie" Sisters




“Double Pride Family” = Best of Both Worlds

- What is “Double Pride”?
- Double Pride Family or Divided Family?
- Successful Deaf and Hearing Sibling Adults can be role models to INSPIRE our new generation!
- Where are our Sibling Stories?
 - In Textbooks? Libraries? TV?

“Double Pride Sisters”

- Living in both Deaf and Hearing Worlds ~ easy?
- Various stressors on the Deaf and Hearing sibling bonds for 50+years ~ “The Big Picture” (ex. Graduation/wedding)
- Let’s connect the dots between Adult Sibs and 0-3 Sibs.
- How? Social Media could be used.
- EHDl programs can:
 - connect siblings to siblings.
 - invite Deaf and Hearing adult siblings as mentors/panelists at workshops & camps.



Slide 1

SJ1 SJ, 4/10/2014

**Our father, Leo M. Jacobs, Author
A Deaf Adult Speaks Out**








Deaf History & EHD History



Growing up: 10% vs. 90%

- 10% of Deafness is genetic. Our family is one of the 10%. We grew up using sign language from day one. (Lisa)
- 90% of Deafness is not genetic. These hearing families unexpectedly have a deaf/HH child. (Allen)
- Many of the 90% married into our large deaf family. Ex: Lisa's husband, aunts, cousins. (Ex: hearing/deaf holidays)

At Our Dinner Table



- Jacobs Family dinner guests
- "This is the VERY FIRST time that I can understand what we are talking about at the dinner table!"
- Have times changed?
- 200 teachers reported that only 10-15% of their deaf students can sign with their families.
- "I want to adopt you!"

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY REGIONAL CENTERS



- West:** Chloae College, Fremont, Calif.
- Pacific:** Kapi'olani Community College, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Southwest:** Austin Community College, Austin, Texas
- Midwest:** John A. Logan College, Carterville, Ill.
- Northeast:** Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, Mass.
- Southeast:** Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

Directors: Pam Snedigar, Judy Coryell, Sheri Cook, Kathleen Vesey, Karen Sheffer, Arlene Gunderson

We need to connect the dots between deaf kids and deaf adults. Why?

- o **Examples:**
 - o **Little girls** but they never see successful **Adult Women.** (Or meet only one or a few)
 - o **Black boys** but they never meet successful **Black Men.** (Or meet only one or a few)
- o **Deaf children AND their hearing siblings** need **adult sibling role models.**
- o We are each other's **mirrors.**



Our 3 Goals for Today

- o To build **empathy between deaf and hearing siblings.**
- o To develop **sibling communication tool kits.**
- o To use **communication huddles** to plan/predict before, during, or debrief after an event.


To build empathy between deaf and hearing siblings




Strong foundation = strong bridge




Weak foundation = weak bridges AND can...




COLLAPSE!




Visually/Deaf Friendly Home




Video Relay Service (VRS)




TV Closed Captions



Flashing Fire Alarm System





Doorbell Flashing Light System



Signing Stories & DVDs

Clerc Center's Shared Reading Project



To develop sibling communication tool kits



Nurture the 'ouch'



Try to decrease communication gaps



Plan & predict communication issues

Sibling Dynamics

- o Sibling Order (oldest, middle, youngest, only)
 - o Ages
 - o Gender
 - o Personalities
 - o extroverted or introverted?
 - o Interests
 - o Strengths
 - o Ways of communicating

Goal: To communicate about sibling communication together

- o "Metacommunication"~ to be able to communicate ABOUT our communication
- o 0-3 children can learn from adults who can "communicate about family communication"
 - o successful?
 - o unsuccessful?
- o Debrief
 - o "Let's rewind and start again"

Each family is unique. Each family grows & changes.

- o What works for one family may not work for another family.
- o What may work at an earlier stage may not work when they become teenagers or young adults.

To Use Communication Huddles



Family Communication Experience



Appetizer



Salad



Dessert



Entree

Parents can model how to plan and predict/debrief

- o **Example:** Cousin's birthday party
 - o Parents discuss how each child will probably do at that event:
 - o time of day, various personalities & ages
 - o Discuss "IT" ~ the deaf/hearing communication...
 - o How can each sibling check on each other?
 - o Included? Excluded?
 - o Draw pictures, role play, use puppets
 - o Feelings can be color coded:
Green=Happy Blue=Sad Red=Angry Purple=Confused

Our desired outcome!



Sibling Quote

Sibling relationships...outlast marriages, survive the death of parents, resurface after quarrels that would sink any friendship. They flourish in a thousand incarnations of closeness and distance, warmth, loyalty and distrust.

Erica E. Goode

FAMILYHUDDLE BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES



Families = FOOTBALL TEAMS

Parents = QUARTERBACKS

Program Providers = COACHES

Goal: "Double Pride EHDl"

Equality for
Hearing and
Deaf
Interactions!

Creating healthy family communication = TOUCHDOWN!!



Thank you for coming!



Sisters forever!

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