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EHDI - PARIS

NAVIGATING VISUAL LANGUAGE RESOURCES IN THE WORLD OF EI

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>> Hello, everybody!

Hello!

Do you have some afternoon energy with you today?

I have a short, simple, sweet and quick presentation, and the goal is to give you access to resources.

So here is a plan for our time today.

We're going to focus mostly on the ASL resources and the various formats that are out there for you. I have select samples to show you to get you started in the resources that I have.

And maybe it might be a review, something that you need to pull out of your toolkit that you haven't used in a while.

Here is my background, my bio.

So when you are looking for ASL resources, I'm going to ask you, which of the three things is true for you?

First, you don't have any idea where to start. Show of hands.

Who feels like you have no idea where to start?

Okay, I see a couple of hands.

Good. I'm glad you're here. I'm so glad you came today.

The second one is when you're looking for ASL resources, you feel bombarded. There's just too much out there.

Oh, a couple... okay.

And I know what's out there. I feel pretty good with accessing resources.

All right, great. Seems like we have... I'm preaching to the choir here. We have a lot of people who know how to access resources.

So the first picture is showing the road. And trying to find things out there. And then the second is you've got signs everywhere and you know where to go.

So hopefully we'll get you from point A to point B today.

I want to talk about the benefits of early bilingualism and reading.

Often people think that American Sign Language resources don't have links or connections to English.

Some resources out there do, because they're bilingual resources. There are some ASL only resources but several of the resources I'm going to share with you are actually bilingual ASL resources.

It's so important to do shared reading with the child. Not just pass these resources you find on to your children for them to experience together. So this is a time for you to be able to use the resources as a shared joint learning opportunity.

Also, it benefits the child to bridge language and use with reading. And it expands the child's brain to be able to access both modes of language, ASL and English.

There is a shared reading project with the Clerc Center some of you may be familiar with that, others are not. The Clerc Center can give you resources to get started with the shared reading project. There are books paired with ASL videos. You can practice signing the ASL videos and then read that book to your child, or you can sit with your child and watch the videos together. That's just one example of resources that are available to you.

Again, the goal of this presentation is to provide more opportunities for language development that can tie to or bridge to the growth of the child's literacy.

We want to give the child as much language as possible. American Sign Language. Print English. Spoken English. Videos. Books. Whatever you can. The more language, the better.

So just an important disclaimer. The National Association of the Deaf has collected these resources, but in doing so doesn't specifically endorse any books, DVDs or apps.

We just want to show you the available resources that are out there. Hopefully what I present to you today can guide you on a further journey of finding additional resources.

I also encourage you to reach out to deaf professionals to ask what resources they recommend or other families of deaf children, what resources that they have found beneficial.

So first let's start with apps and E books.

There are various apps and eBooks that are available. So, there are those that are ASL only. You just watched the American Sign Language. Or you can watch it paired with print English. And let me give you an example of what that looks like.

Is there any sound?

So, this is one format without the English captioning.

You can see the very visual background.

And now you can see it with the English text.

The highlighted terms in the English text show signs that will be presented in that section specifically, so you can... they can be hyperlinked to just that sign.

And this is the glossary that shows you how to sign the specific vocabulary within the story.

This is one of the VL2 story book apps. This was developed by a deaf teen graphic designers, deaf storytellers, and it's a wonderful resource.

You can still use these with individuals from other countries because they are also produced in various languages. Japanese, Russian, Belgium and more.

Teachers, family members, early interventionists can use this. The range is zero to seven and lesson plans are included.

I'm not sure how many of us are still using DVDs. Some of us are.

We have many stories that are presented on DVD. and they're heavily literature based so children can be exposed to classic stories, sometimes with deaf values included. Folklore from all over the world is also told in story form.

Signing Time is a DVD series that is very popular.

One nice thing about DVDs is your center can house these DVDs in a library and allow them for lending. So families can come and borrow the various DVDs to use with their children.

If you want to encourage a family member to learn ASL or you want to learn ASL yourself, you might have a lot of English resources but you don't have ASL learning resources.

You would want them maybe to go to a class and take a specific class to learn American Sign Language, but there are also websites that are available for learning American Sign Language. Gallaudet University has established what is called ASL Connect, which is a free online video resource and lessons. And it's fairly new.

There are links in the presentation that will take you to a variety of different resources.

Sign On is a partnership with the American Society for Deaf Children. They have five 30‑minute interactions with deaf adults to practice signing, which is limited to the first 500 families.

So ASDC has put the money upfront and that is available to the first 500 families.

That's another example how you can learn American Sign Language.

We also have an intern who is collecting state by state various resources on learning American Sign Language. Courses offered at the community college, at various deaf centers. On the websites, deaf meet‑ups, so the intern is logging that and hopefully it can be disseminated by the summer, the list of information state by state.

So you could use a website to encourage a family to learn ASL. But it's not necessarily the best technique for teaching sign language to children.

These are children‑focused websites. Developed by teachers with children in mind.

Kiddos love these. The backgrounds are visual.

There's rhyming and rhythm in the stories.

How many of you are familiar with ASL rhyming?

and rhythm.

Good.

If I have time, I'll show you one of the ASL rhyming videos at the close of our presentation today.

Often these are based in ECE curriculums of shapes and types of jobs, emotions.

So you can use these videos with families at home or when children are with you as service providers.

There are books that are paired with the DVDs. Book/DVD combos that are available. Again, I mentioned the classics.

Good quality produced material for your children.

So there is spoken English paired with American Sign Language and handouts as well.

Some books that you purchase actually come with a DVD in the back, and there are more resources that come up through the links.

Technology aside, some real hold‑in‑your‑handbook options. I know some of us really love to hold a book in our hand.

The Clerc Center link has different books that you can get. And you can practice signing when you're working with families. You can use these books to sign with one another.

So here is an example. The type of book that shows signing within the physical book.

If you want to learn about more resources in your state, I suggest that you look at these sites. We have deaf mentor programs. If you have an EI specialist or deaf specialist in your area, I would link with them to get resources they work with.

Deaf mentor programs have a curriculum that they use, and they have endorsed resources that are available and they can share with you.

Encourage families who are learning American Sign Language through apps or websites or by taking classes to also take advantage of utilizing an ASL tutor. It's easier for you to learn a language when you're connecting with another person.

I have a great story to share with you about that. One mother came to me and said, "I am so embarrassed about my story." She was a hearing mother learning a story. I said, what happened?

She said, "I went to Deaf Expo, and there were booths all around." And the mother was excited to meet members of the Deaf community.

I kept signing, "nice to date you... nice to date you... nice to date you..." instead of "meet."

She doesn't know because she was learning via a two‑dimensional resource that just the slightest change in hand shape changed the meaning. Of course, the Deaf community didn't make fun of her. They understood what she was getting at. Yes, it's nice to meet you too!

They talked to her and welcomed her and supported her. She said, I can't believe I did that all day. I think she said someone corrected just a bit of her hand shape and she was mortified.

It was a funny story. It happens. That is going to happen when anyone is learning a new language and there are going to be tiny linguistic errors, but that just shows if you were to get some ASL tutoring, one‑on‑one, it might help with those kinds of things.

Www.care.com.

They can get you hooked up with deaf nannies or babysitters. You can check that I want somebody who has a sign language background to tutor or to come babysit my child or to nanny for my family.

There is a screening process to make sure that those individuals who are recommended are safely screened and vetted.

And hopefully we will be able to provide ASL tutoring online soon. Probably that will be released this summer.

I also encourage you to reach out for local resources. Go to your local school for the deaf. Go to your library instead of having to personally fund your library, go to your local library. They have inter‑library loans. Get creative to figure out how you can get the resources that you want.

You, as an individual professional who is working with families can develop and slowly build your library, so that you can bring it with you and show it to your families as you visit with them.

Sign‑wise has been endorsed by a visual language/visual learning, which is with a scientific foundation. VL2 is based at Gallaudet University. There are so many books and DVDs out there and not all of them are good quality.

I was working with one school, they had a baby signing rug. So animated pictures of babies signing different words, around the outer edge of the rug.

So during the morning the kids would sit on the rug and the kids would be signing around this rug. And there was one image of a baby signing "drink."

What is the correct sign for drink?

Yes. But it was this...

That means alcohol beverage. So that baby was drinking some alcohol out of a bottle.

And I'm like... oy!

I don't want to promote that kind of drinking.

So people who can hear who don't know sign language and not fluent in sign language are developing those types of things because there's money to be made. So we need to make sure that things are accurate, that they're produced correctly and Sign Wise is on the case and making sure those things are vetted. They partnered with all of these different agencies. NAD, the American Society for Deaf Children and Gallaudet University too.

They have asked parents to review DVDs and apps, and send in recommendations and there is criteria that must be met. And those that pass the vetting are then placed on the website.

If something is not on the website and you're curious about whether or not it's correct or accurate, you can send in a request to have a book, DVD or app reviewed for its contents.

And the website is signwise4kids.com.

It's important that we have accurate assessments looking at the child's language growth. This is the only standards test for American Sign Language. So I highly recommend that you look into this as a state, if you have not yet.

It was done over 500 deaf children and cost $125 and requires a training. There's an online training. Once you have passed the training, you can run the assessment.

And once you have trained in the assessment, you can become a trainer for others.

There are different types of language assessments. So you can see that there is a fingerspelling, a reception, an expressive American Sign Language.

Resources that the National Association of the Deaf actually endorses for your journey. If we find something new, we will post it on our Instagram page. You can become a member of NAD. If you're frustrated because you're not getting ASL services or other services that you need, contact us. We have a team of advocates that can work with you and your state to get you the resources that you need. And come to the National Association of the Deaf conference. The National Deaf Education conference in Austin, Texas.

You can meet different teachers of the deaf or educators of the deaf. Parents, family members, professionals, early interventionists, audiologists, speech pathologists, everybody is welcome. We will have CART. We will have interpreter services. Everything you need to have access.

And that will be taking place on June 20th to 22nd of this year. In Austin, Texas.

Registration closes March 15th. Early bird.

So now that you know where to find resources... you're going to find them everywhere.

I just posted on Instagram a teacher signing a very cute math themed book. And the book was talking about a math teacher being so good. The student is like... you are hypnotizing me.

Now I'm looking at the flakes in my cereal and I'm counting how many doors are in the house and how many pieces of cereal are in my bowl, and how many...

And it's a very, very cute book. It's the same idea with this. I started you on this journey of where you can find resources and now you're going to see them everywhere you go.

This is my contact information. And I do have some time left if anybody would like to ask any questions.

Any questions? Comments? Suggestions? Other resources?

No?

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: [ off microphone ]

>> TAWNY HOLMES HLIBOK: Yes, definitely.

>> TAWNY HOLMES HLIBOK: So it also shows the family engagement, reading and signing with one another, singing and dancing with one another. Which is the best.

So we wish you the best on your journey.

Thank you!