



MED  EL

# **Empowering Latino Families Through Collaboration**

# About American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)

Supporting parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing since 1967

- Deafness is not a disability
- Our mission to ensure that every child can learn sign language

ASDC believes that parents of deaf children:

- Have the right to make informed decisions on behalf of their children.
- Benefit from meeting other parents of deaf children from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and philosophies.
- Benefit from meeting successful deaf children and members of the deaf community from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and philosophies.

ASDC believes that deaf children have the right to:

- Be valued and respected as children capable of high achievement, regardless of their degree of technology use.
- Meet, socialize and be educated with other deaf children.
- Achieve fluency reading and writing English, and to the extent of their ability, speaking English.

ASDC believes that medical, audiology, and educational professionals serving deaf children and their families have a responsibility to:

- Be informed about the successes of deaf persons from all walks of life, including those who use American Sign Language, as their primary language and those who do and do not use cochlear implants.
- Recognize the benefits of early language, including sign language, and work to ensure that deaf children's language development, whether signed, spoken or both, progresses at a rate equivalent to that of their hearing peers.
- Refer parents to a wide range of information sources, including deaf individuals, families with deaf children, schools for the Deaf and local, state and national parent and deaf adult organizations.

# About Med-El

# ASDC Resources

- ▶ ASDC Annual Conference
- ▶ ASL Weekends
- ▶ Online Classes
- ▶ Camp Belong
- ▶ Latino Family Support Group
- ▶ Educational Workshops in Spanish



# Med-El Resources

# Collaboration...

- ▶ What exactly does it mean to COLLABORATE?
  - Working together to for a common purpose
  - Helping families make informed decisions
  - Provide families with tools to help their child reach their full potential
- ▶ Who do we collaborate with?
  - Deaf Agencies
  - Schools for the Deaf
  - Cochlear and hearing aid companies
  - Other agencies/organizations
  - Medical professionals and educators
- ▶ When should we collaborate?

# Benefits of Collaboration for the families we work with

- ▶ Better communication within the family
- ▶ Child success
  - ▶ School
  - ▶ Independence
  - ▶ Adulthood
- ▶ Parent empowerment
  - ▶ IEP success
  - ▶ Goals and Services
  - ▶ Parent connections



# ASDC & Med-El Collaborating

- ▶ Online Support for Latino Parents
  - ▶ Monthly support groups held in Spanish
  - ▶ Monthly Educational workshops held in Spanish
- ▶ ASDC Annual Conference
  - ▶ Workshop Presentations in Spanish
- ▶ Working together
  - ▶ Communication with families



