

EXIT ONLY

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- Not on any map
- You can slow down, but you can not stop
- Unexpected, unfamiliar highway
- Decisions are required for testing, retesting, referrals, diagnosis
- As professionals be immediate, direct, and firm



- Acceptance of the diagnosis
- Understanding of the immediate implications
- Feeling alone



- Families are forced to stay on this road
- Focus on this journey
- Learn about this new landscape and environment –

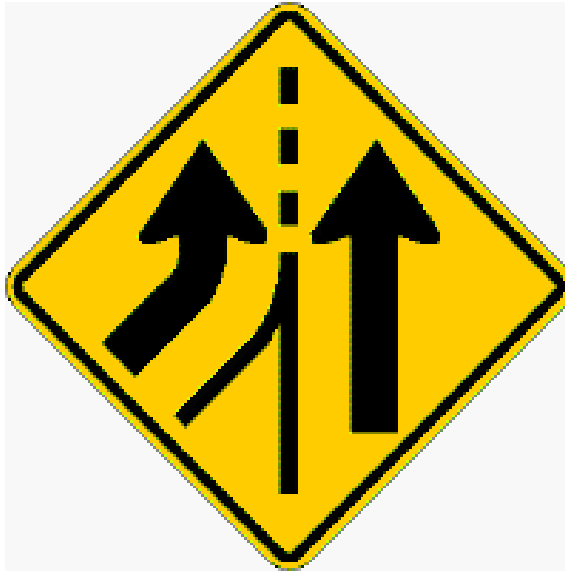
Welcome to Holland

Raising and Educating a Deaf Child – Marc Marschark



Language choices

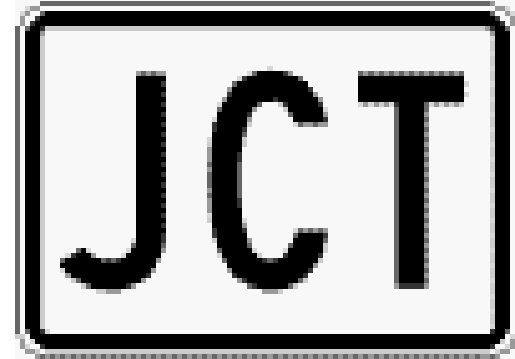
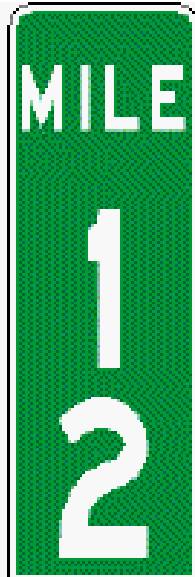
- Use of sign language
 - Bridge to English
 - Speech delay
 - Early access to communication
 - ASL vs. signing English
- Cued Speech
- Oral only



- Parents most often do not choose this route
- We are blessed to meet those who have, merging in with us
- Small group of special people
- It is still our journey to make



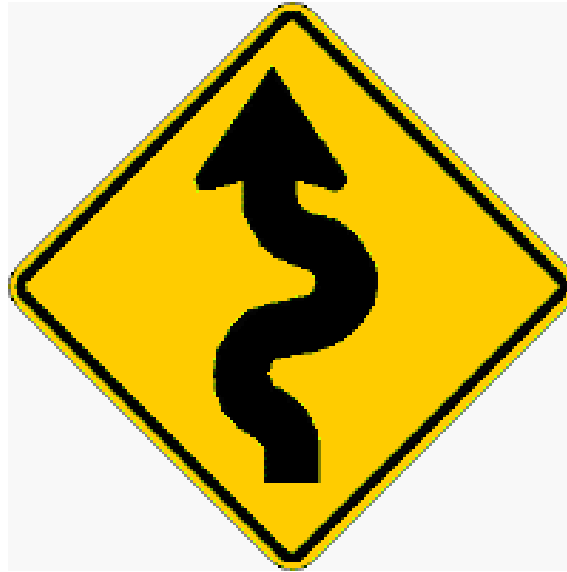
- You are the first in-home source of information.
- Take advantage of the **relaxed** home environment.
- If you don't know, find out, or find someone who does know.
- What kind of learners are the parents? What kind of teachers are they?
- Parents do not always know which questions to ask.



- No guidebooks available for what to expect at each mile marker
- Hard to tell how long some of these miles really are
 - One year's growth in one year's time
- No clear maps about junctions that lie ahead and how to get ready
- Share successful plans from other families



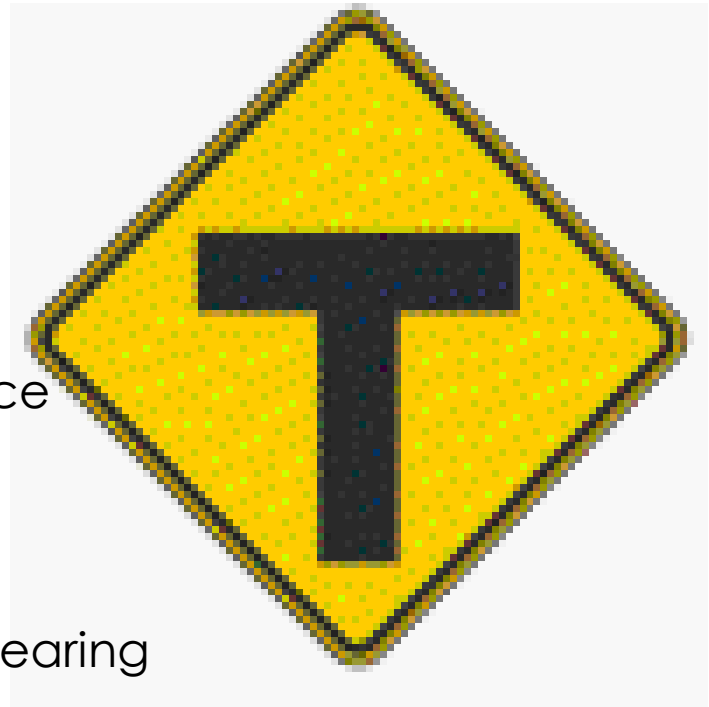
- Our IFSP or IEP map may be distorted
- Decisions based on bad information
- Not following good advice
- Try something and fail
- DO NOT wave this sign in front of us – you may get run over



- Tight turns, slow speed
- Rough road, level "B" maintenance
- Smooth, four lane open road
- Series of stoplights, traffic jams

IMPLANT OR NO IMPLANT

- Parents must decide for their infant child
- Older children can be given illusion of choice
- No indication of “road conditions”
- Research does not specify compliance
- Implant road does not bring back natural hearing
- Implant road is MORE work for everyone
- Expectations need to be realistic
- Decision is harder for some families than others
 - Current FDA guidelines, insurance, finances
- Consider the sources of information
 - Implant companies, implant centers, other families



The bilateral debate

- Insurance coverage
- Simultaneous vs. sequential
- Time between implants

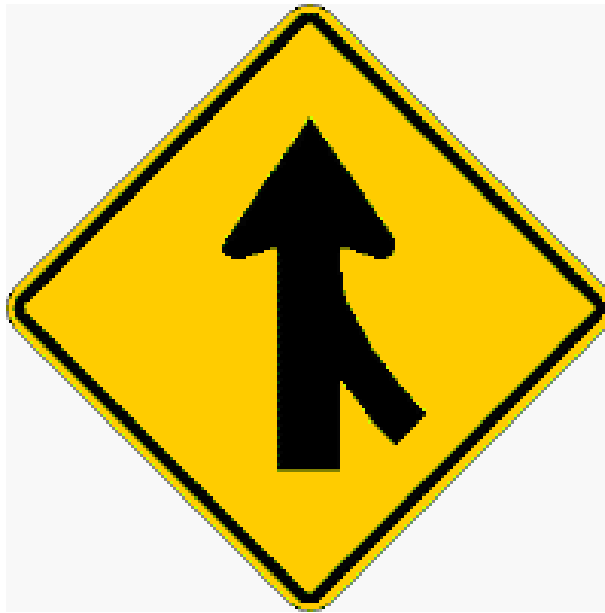


- The risks, however small, are scary
- Gifts, cards, calls both before and after are appreciated
- Classroom presentation helpful for older children



- Once activated NO PARKING ANYTIME FOR ANYONE
- Processors must be kept ON and in working order
- Supplies must be kept on hand
- Everything becomes therapy
- Everyone can do therapy





- Other families join along the journey
- Professionals see the big traffic picture
 - Help us find each other out on the road
 - Support groups are important Hands & Voices
 - Deaf adult connection



Two worlds for some deaf/HOH

- Not completely at home in deaf world
- Not completely at home in hearing world
- AEA workers – ITHI – parents – deaf mentors – friends

All need to help bridge the gap

- Try to keep services going



- Real? Perceived? Surmountable?
- Creative problem solving, communication, support

Pull out services

- Are expectations appropriate?
- Has the bar been lowered? Why?
- Try shoving them back out into traffic
- Benefits vs. costs



- Help families see the joys and enrichment brought into their lives
- Knowledge and opportunities
- Perks

Golden Pass, Civic Center seats



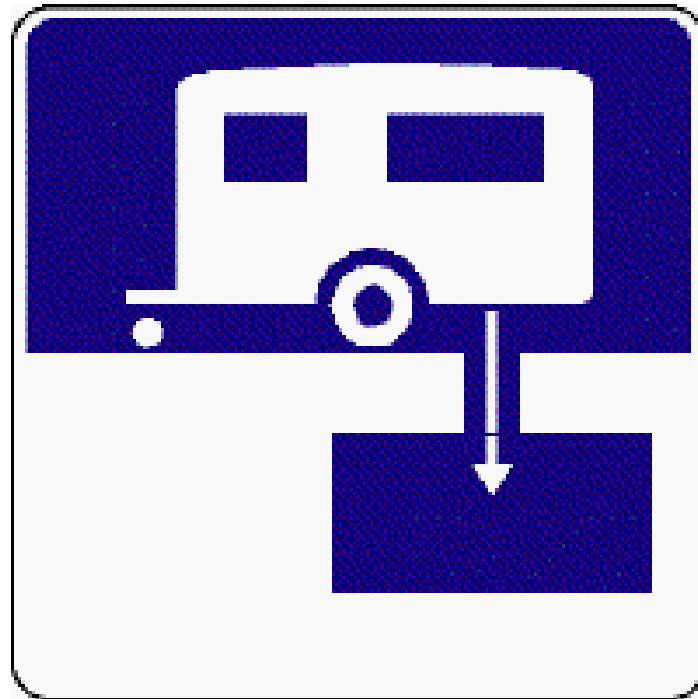
Is my low fuel light on?

- Take time to rest, refuel
 Kids, AEA, parents
- Vacation days, play days, party days
- Continuing education, trips to clinic



We need to dump. Now.

- Dump pain, anger, disappointment, fear, jealousy, anxiety
- Sometimes in the IFSP or IEP
- You don't need to always clean it up – just allow the dump



You need to dump

- Remember we know each other – like small town



- We are not the only ones out here
- Demands on AEA staff, school staff, budget

