

Deaf–Hearing Partnerships: We're in This Together!

Beth S. Benedict, Ph.D.

American Society for Deaf Children

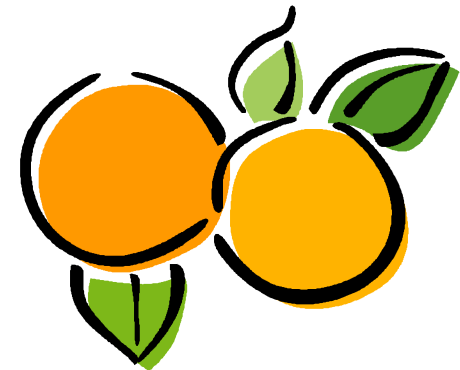
Barbara Raimondo, J.D.

National Association of the Deaf

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About Us and Why We Think This is Important

- Barbara's experience
 - Parent
 - Hearing
 - Lawyer
 - Advocate
- Beth's experience
 - Parent
 - Member of the Deaf Community/University Professor/Researcher
 - Advocate



Barbara's Experiences

- Adaptation to child who is different than expected
- Sense of diversity of people with hearing loss - Seeing child as an individual
- Knowing life experiences of deaf individuals – How that helps parents
- Learning to communicate
- Deaf/HH individuals are part of the “village”
- Enrichment of own lives



Beth's Experiences

- Researcher, Teacher, Role Model
- Collaborator with hearing parents with deaf children
- Participant in conferences, committees, etc.
- Direct Experiences with
 - Misconceptions about deaf people
 - Deaf people as human beings
 - Struggle for Rights, Survival, and Successes



Why the heck do I need hearing people?

- Literacy purposes
- Social purposes
- Resources
- Networking
- Access to community



Why the heck do I need deaf people?

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Deaf/Hearing Partnerships: A History Lesson

- Mason Cogswell, Laurent Clerc, T.H. Gallaudet
 - Cogswell's contribution
 - Clerc's contribution
 - Gallaudet's contribution
- Founding of NAD
- Founding of ASDC
- Partnership
 - Trust and respect
- Today - ASDC, NAD



Two Views of Being Deaf

- Intervention
- Failed screening
- Diagnosed
- Hearing loss
- Professional-Centered
- Deafness
- Disability (cannot)
- Fix the ear
- Imperfect child
- Hearing impaired
- Vocationally and educationally limited
- Choices
- Involvement
- Referred
- Identified
- Hearing level
- Family Centered
- Baby who is deaf
- Cultural (adapt)
- Modify or adapt
- Uniqueness
- Hard of hearing or deaf
- Unlimited potentials
- Comprehensive opportunities

A Research Perspective

Families who have regular contact with deaf adults obtain significant benefits including:

- Social Support
- Improved Communication
- Acceptance and Understanding

Meadow-Orlans, Mertens & Sass-Lehrer, 2003;
Watkins, Pittman, & Walden, 1998; Hintermair, 2000



More Research



English language performance better with experiences with Deaf Mentors

Watkins, Pittman, Walden, 1998;

Social-emotional development supported by opportunities for interactions with Deaf adults/children

See Calderon & Greenberg, 2003

Children/families in "Shared Reading Program" more frequent book sharing

Delk & Weidekamp, 2001



Some Fears

- “They won’t like me.”
- “They won’t understand me.”
- “They will judge me.”
- “I don’t sign well.”
- “I’m not outgoing.”
- “The deaf community will take my kid.”
- “It’s too hard.”



Some Solutions

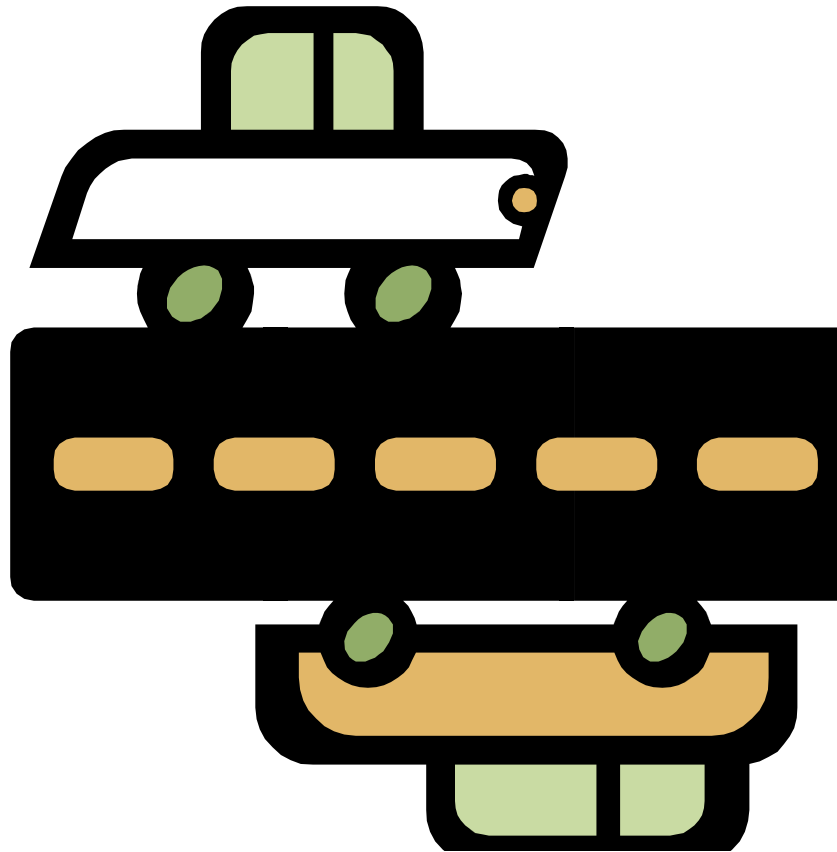
- School activities
- Involvement with committees and organizations
- Let people know you are interested
- Be accessible
- Keep trying
 - Personally
 - Technologically



Experiences and Lessons Learned

- **Advocacy**
 - Education
 - Telecommunications
 - Civil Rights
- **Conference planning and plenary presenters**
 - EHCI
 - ASDC
 - Advertising/marketing
- **Everyday life**
 - Resources/networking/etc.

It's a 2 Way Street



Tell Us Your Stories

