

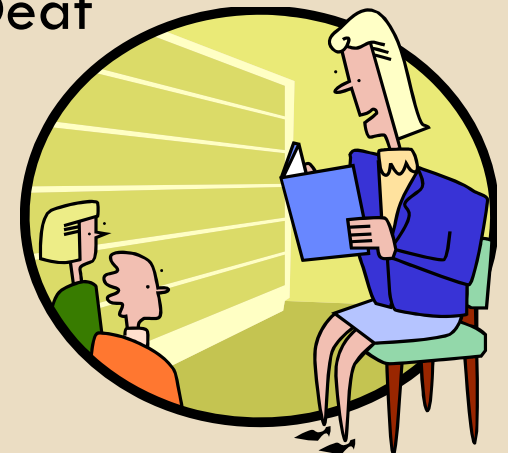
# LEGACY OF LANGUAGE

Nancy Kelly-Jones, M.A.  
Patrick Michael Kelly, Ed.S.  
2010 EHDI Conference IL



# Experience

- Born deaf, third of seven children (all hearing)
- Mom corresponded with John Tracy Clinic “homeschooling”
- Attended oral school, four years with no services
- “Born a deaf person” as senior in deaf school
- BA and MA from Gallaudet University
- Taught reading 15 years at Atlanta Area School for the Deaf
- Taught reading and Deaf Studies 13 years at Illinois School for the Deaf
- Current multi media specialist IL School for the Deaf



# Alternate Experience



- Born hearing with deaf sister
- Attended parochial schools
- Masters/Specialist degrees from Gallaudet in School Psychology
- Counselor & Administrator at SCSSDB 9 years
- Psychologist in public schools 19 years
- Specializing in evaluating deaf/hh children
- Reading is key to school success

# Research studies strongly suggest

- Daily storybook sharing at home contributes greatly to early language and literacy development in hearing children.
- Values and attitudes about reading begin in the home.



Literacy Learning  
for children with hearing loss:

Bringing meaning  
or experiences  
to the printed word



# Parents Are Literacy Coaches

- Parents are the first source of vocabulary development for their children.
- Parents can influence and broaden their child's vocabulary by the kinds of interactions they have at home.



# Communicate with your deaf/hard of hearing child

- Communication interaction is of the utmost importance!
- Two way communication is the key to language development.
  - ▣ responding to your child
  - ▣ encouraging your child to respond to you
- The more world knowledge your child has, the better writer and reader s/he will be.



# Communication choices

**Regardless of what choices are made, meaningful English needs to happen on paper.**

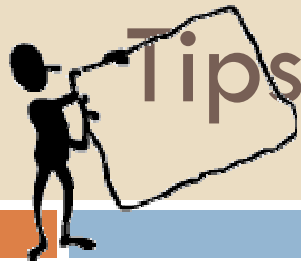




# Becoming Bilingual

- Studies show people who use two or more languages are at a better advantage than those who use only one language.
- Many deaf/hard of hearing people are bilingual:  
ASL and English





# Tips for Encouraging Reading

## In the Home:

- ❑ Model reading; show enthusiasm
- ❑ Have child “read” pictures and re-tell the story
- ❑ Leave notes (natural acquisition of language)
- ❑ Invent a reading competition to list books read
- ❑ Label objects around the house with vocabulary flashcards (osmosis)
- ❑ Leave TV captions on all the time and discuss programs
- ❑ Involve siblings in language activities (grocery lists, chore charts)



# Reading Tips

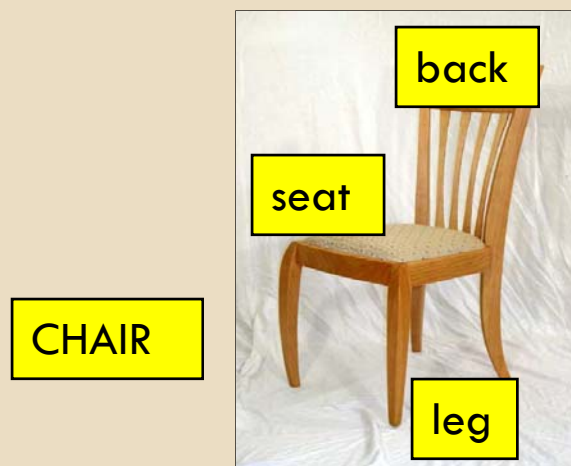
## In the Community

- Give books as gifts
- Go to the library together and frequently
- Read books about children with hearing loss
- Get an email buddy (grandma, church friend)
- Attend free children's events to add to experiences
- Create a book club to share books with families
- Read road signs, menus, phone books, internet searches



# Creating a Literate Home

- Word webs
- Label objects
- Take pictures and caption them
- Make language books and experience books



Example of a word web

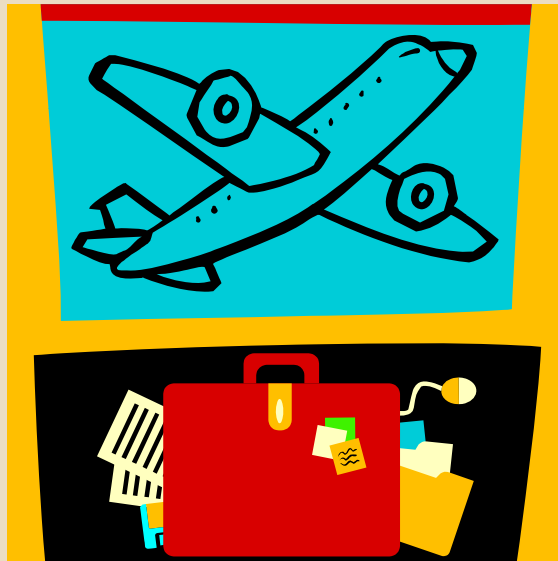


# Sample Sandwich Story



- Take pictures of a simple daily activity involving your child.
- Make a book with the pictures: add captions (single words, phrases, sentences)
- Read and discuss the book with your child:  
**COMMUNICATE!**

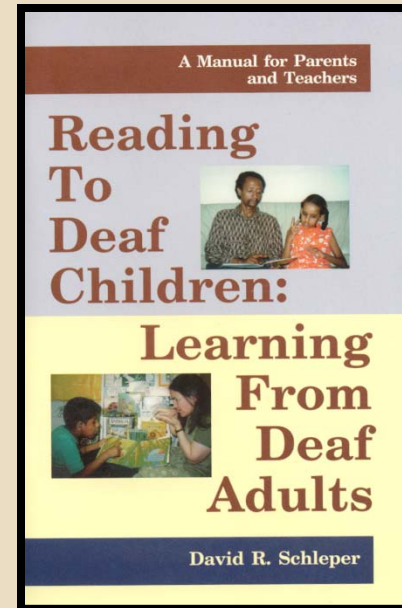
# Example Experience Book



- Mommy will go on trip
- Help pack suitcase
- Wave by to friend's car
- Talk on VP
- Family goes to airport
- Brings home new book!

# Reading Tips from Deaf Adults

- ❑ Re-read and re-read!
- ❑ Follow the child's lead
- ❑ Elaborate on the text
- ❑ Adjust signing/speaking style to fit the character
- ❑ Connect concepts in the book to real experiences
- ❑ Engage in role playing



# Enhance Early Literacy

- EHDI is all about starting early
- Early language begins with families
- Families encourage reading
- Reading begins with home experiences
- Experiences are the basis for literacy
- Literacy is foundation for school skills
- EHDI can help families understand this process





# Family Based Activities to Promote Reading

## Mom:

- Read together every night
- Kept a family journal
- Kept a vocabulary book of unfamiliar words
- Shared her letter writing
- Kept scrapbooks
  - ▣ (captioned pictures)

## Dad...

- Challenged us to guess place of production food items
- Discussed current events with newspapers



# Start by Sharing Language

- The act of sitting together and sharing a book: an ultimate act of love and bonding
- Relax and enjoy those precious moments together... Use your body and facial expressions!
- Communicate!



# Monitor Reading Growth & Progress

- Monitor progress in 5 Big Ideas in beginning reading: phonemic awareness, alphabet principle, fluency with text, vocabulary, comprehension (National Reading Panel, 2000)
- Employ progress monitoring tools such as curriculum-based measurement (<http://www.studentprogress.org/>)



# Suggested Research Articles

- Bergeron, J., Lederberg, A., Easterbrooks, S. Miller, E., & Connor, C. (2009). Building the alphabetic principle in young deaf children who are deaf or hard of hearing. *The Volta Review*, 109, 87-119.
- Cannon, J., Fredrick, L., & Easterbrooks, S. (2010). Vocabulary instruction through books read in American sign language for English-language learners with hearing loss. *Communication Disorders Quarterly*, 3, 98-112.
- Muller, V. & Hurtig, R. (2009). Technology-enhanced shared reading with deaf and hard-of-hearing children: The role of a fluent signing narrator. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 15, 72-101.

Our Family  
Legacy of Love  
And Language!!



# Other Resources

- American Association of School Librarians
- International Reading Association
- Reading Rockets website  
<http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents>
- Local Library List for Age Groups
- Children's Book Award Winners