

**The Ins and Outs of  
Raising a Deaf Child:  
*Building a Strong Foundation***

*Tami Hossler and Trudy Suggs*

# Background

- **Tami Hossler, MA in Ed.**
  - Hearing mother of a Deaf adult and a hearing adult
  - Editor, *The Endeavor* (American Society for Deaf Children)
  
- **Trudy Suggs, MPA**
  - Deaf mother of two Deaf children
  - Deaf parents with diverse upbringings
  - Mixed educational background



# First Contacts

What should a first contact experience involve?

- Reassurance
- Positive and encouraging words
- Resources and opportunities based on language
- No scare tactics

# Grief and Acceptance



## Detection/Intervention

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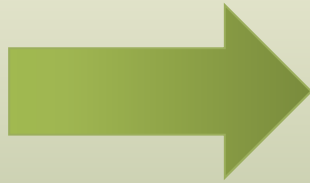
- UNHS (OAE) Otoacoustic Emissions Test
- Audiologist
- Auditory Brain Stem Test
- Ear Molds and Hearing Aids
- Intervention/IFSP
- Communication Options

## Seven Stages of Grief

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- Shock/Denial
- Pain/Guilt
- Anger/Bargaining
- Depression/Reflection
- Adjustment
- Seeking Solutions
- Acceptance/Hope

# From First Contacts to Graduation



- Tami's experience
- Trudy's experience
- People
  - Deaf people
  - Hearing parents of Deaf children
  - Advocates and parents
  - Professionals (both Deaf and hearing)

# Advocacy

- Parents have rights.
- Deaf children have rights.
- Be open-minded, but also be inclusive.
- Join as many groups as possible.
  - American Society for Deaf Children
  - National Association of the Deaf
  - Local playgroups and parent groups
  - Parent-teacher organizations

