

Being Deaf: Sharing Deaf Culture with Hearing Parents

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Being Deaf: Sharing Deaf Culture with Hearing Parents

- About Me
- Definition of Culture
- Biculturalism
- All About Deaf Beings: Sharing with Hearing Parents
- Characteristics of a Culture
- Deaf Culture/Community/World
- Ways of Life

Culture

- a refined understanding or appreciation of this
- *the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group*
- *[with adj.] the attitudes and behavior characteristic of a particular social group*

(www.dictionary.com)

Biculturalism

- having or combining the cultural attitudes and customs of two nations, peoples, or ethnic groups
(www.dictionary.com)
- Two or more cultures
 - Deaf Culture/Community/World
 - Hearing Culture
 - Everyday activities for hearing only?
 - Family Culture
 - Bilingualism (Garcia, 2001)
 - More than 1, not limited to 2
 - Doesn't imply that both (or all) languages are equally competent
 - Cognition Development and Language Acquisition (Cummins, 2006; Grosjean, 2001)

Culture

Characteristics of a culture: do we fit in?

- Attitudes
- Behaviors
- Ethnics
- Customs
- Arts
- Social Institutions
- Achievements

(www.dictionary.com)

Culture: Attitudes

Characteristics of a culture: do we fit in?

- Attitudes
 - Medical model: Disability
 - Social model and the deaf culturo-linguistic model (Ladd, 2005)
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What Do Families Have in Common?

- *Discovery of Having a Deaf Child Unexpected*
- *Impact of Having a Deaf Child Unknown*
- *Opportunities and Potential Unknown*
- *Education and Communication Unknown*
- *Resources Unknown*
- *Struggle with Communication & Technology*
- *Without Support ---Experience Stress*

(Sass-Lehrer, 2008)

First deaf person parents met was...

Culture: Attitudes

Medical model

Communication Options

Hearing Loss
abilities

Intervention

Failed hearing test

Diagnosis

Fix the ear

Deafness*

Hearing Impaired

Vocationally limited

Grief Process

Disability (cannot)

Technology

Socio-cultural model

Communication Opportunities

Hearing level, status or

Involvement or Identification

Refer with explanation

Identification

Modify or coping

Deaf, Deaf Beings, being deaf*

Deaf or hard of hearing

Unlimited Opportunities

Journey

Cultural (adapt)

Visual and Audio Technology

Culture: Behaviors

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 - Visuality of Humans
 - Gestures
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Behaviors: Visuality of Humans

- Approximately 80% of information enters through the eyes.
(Richmond, McCroskey & Hickson, 2008)
- Eyes are probably most important in human communication.
(Richmond, McCroskey & Hickson, 2008)
- Eyes and ears as communication system (in all cultures)
 - Gestures
 - Sounds
 - Feel
 - Tactile
 - Hear

Behaviors: Gestures

Gestures as a natural phenomenon in all human communication

- No language exists without gestures. (Richmond, McCroskey & Hickson, 2008)
- Humans have always used gestures with and without speech. (Bahan, 2009)
- 65 - 93% of communication are nonverbal. (Richmond, McCroskey & Hickson, 2008)
 - Continuous
 - Repeating
- Various gestures
 - Point, eat, sleep, good, bad, okay, go, throw
 - Movement
 - Directions
 - Size

Behaviors: Gestures

Deaf children in a world that use eyes and gestures for years

- Ways of lives of Deaf People
 - Seeing people (Bahan, 1989)
 - Hearing People
 - Babbling
 - Sign with Your baby kit
 - Visual cues
 - Environment awareness
 - Use of visual technologies
 - Auditory technologies accepted
 - Gestures – Home signs – emerging sign language – signed languages

Culture: Ethnics

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Culture: Ethnics

Diverse characteristics of Deaf Beings

- Communication
 - Degree of hearing or Fluency (ASL and Oral)
- Education
- Deaf/Hearing Parents
- Auditory/Speech training
- Family Interactions
- Confidence/self esteem
- Difficult “journey” from their own family culture to the discovery of Deaf Beings and ASL (Kuntze, 2010)

Home at last....

Culture: Ethnics

- Typical Members
 - Deaf People
 - Native Signers
 - Later Learned Signers
 - Use and reliance of eyes on mouth
 - Sense of Comfort
 - Continued Use of ASL
 - Children of Deaf Adults
 - Hearing People using American Sign Language (ASL)
 - Hearing People working with Deaf children/adults using ASL
 - Hearing Parents using ASL

Deaf World Knowledge and Experiences of Deaf Beings
(Bahan, 1994)

Deaf Culture/Community/World

Deaf World Knowledge and Experiences of Deaf Beings

- Sameness, rather than “us vs. them”
- Wide range of competence in ASL
- Connections to members who have connections to others
 - Networking: religious, social and athletic events
 - Political issues
- Shared experiences of Deaf Beings
 - Knowledge of tales, jokes and stories
 - “Can-do”

Change of Title

Keep in mind...

Deaf Culture/Community/World

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All About Deaf Beings: Sharing with Hearing Parents

Sharing with Hearing Parents

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Customs: Language

American Sign Language (4th in US)

- Has linguistic parameters (phonology, morphology and syntax)
- Has rules of grammar, sentences and sign formation
- Is rather visual than auditory
- Conveys information with hands, eyes, face, head and shoulders
- Can convey concrete, subtle, complex and abstract thoughts
- Not a written language
 - Embraces and values written English

(Benedict & Kelly, 2009)

Customs: Language

Benefits of American Sign Language

- Strong correlation between fluency of ASL and written English (Strong & Prinz, 2000)
- Most native ASL users on grade level as hearing peers (Brill, 1966; Corson, 1970; McVernon, 1968; Strong & Prinz, 2000)
- Spoken English, more effective when combined with visual supports including ASL (Calderon & Greenberg, 1997)
- ASL as Communication Opportunity

Customs: Language

Issues

- Proficiency of ASL and training among teachers
 - 3rd grade level
- Certified interpreters
 - Registry of Interpreters
- Availability of instruction for children in ASL
- Families not learning ASL
 - Stay ahead by several signs
 - Wealth resources of ASL courses, activities, stories
 - online and face-to-face classes

All About Deaf Beings:

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- Arts
 - De'VIA
 - Deaf Artists in America
- Social Institutions
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Arts: De'VIA

- Deaf View/Image Art
 - Deaf experiences
 - Expressing innate cultural or physical experience
- Deaf Artists in America (2003)
 - 42 artists
- Museums

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 - Organizations
 - Programs
 - International Networks
 - Societal Awareness
- Achievements

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Organizations

USA Deaf Sports

National Association of the Deaf

American Association of the Deaf-Blind

Self Help for Hard of Hearing Persons

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Entrepreneurs

American Society for Deaf Children

Religious associations

National, State and local organizations
and events

Intertribal Deaf Council

Hands and Voices

Telecommunications for the Deaf
Inc.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing in
Government

AGBell Oral Hearing Impaired
Section

Association of Late Deafened Adults

National Black Deaf Advocates

National Cued Speech Association

Programs

Schools

- Statewide schools
- Regional programs
- Charter schools

Camps and programs

- NASA Space Camp
- Young Scholars Program (Gallaudet)
- Aspen Camp School for the Deaf
- National Leadership and Literacy Camp

Institutes of Higher Education

- Gallaudet University
- Nat'l Tech Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology
- California State University

International networks

Deaf Way I and II

World Federation of the Deaf

Deaflympics

Societal awareness

Deaf theater and entertainment

Signing with hearing babies

Media portrayals

Sensitivity regarding access such as real time captioning, interpreting

American Sign Language as a foreign language

Country becoming more diverse

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 - Legislation
 - Visual Technology
 - Employment

Achievements: Legislation

Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act

Telecommunications Act of 1996

Television Decoder Act

Achievements: Visual Technology

Video relay service

Video phones

Web cams

Visual Alert system

Pagers

Instant messaging/texting

Internet

Captioned media

Achievements: Employment

- Actors/actresses
- Administrators
- Architects
- Artists
- Athletes
- Authors
- Bankers
- Chefs
- Clerks
- Computer whizzes
- Construction workers
- Educators
- Engineers
- Landlords
- Lawyers
- Mechanics
- Medical doctors
- Merchants
- Paramedics
- Publishers
- Stockbrokers

Misinformation Passed on to Parents

- Children who are deaf cannot learn to talk
- You have to choose signing or talking
- Depends on the extent of the hearing loss
- All children should try speech first
- ASL is not a “real” language
- Children who speak don’t need signs
- Children with cochlear implants should not sign
- Deaf community is against cochlear implants
- Schools for the deaf have lower achievement expectations
- Deaf people who sign do not read well
- Deaf community will “steal” the child
- Limited research on use of ASL

All About Deaf Beings

- Ways of Lives
 - Attitude: Diversity is Normalcy
 - Can-do!
 - Visual Oriented
 - Visual language and technology
 - Bicultural/bilingual
 - Not one culture of its own, never was
 - Literacy
 - Make connections with Deaf Community
 - Common values, experiences and history

Celebrate!