RMDS Family Education Program
Friday, December 4, 2020

Topic: Parent to Parent Support: The FL3 Center and Colorado H&V

• What parents and professionals can know about Hands & Voices (Headquarters), the Family Leadership in Language and Learning Center(FL3), and Colorado Hands & Voices

Presenters:
• Janet DesGeorges, Executive Director of Hands & Voices Headquarters
• Sara Kennedy, Director, Colorado Hands & Voices and Hands & Voices Headquarters Editor of the Communicator
Always start with joy...

**PRESENTER:** Janet DesGeorges

Parent of a young Deaf Adult  
Co-founder and Executive Director  
Hands & Voices [www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org)

**Motto**

“What works for your child is what makes the choice right.”

**Family Leadership in Language and Learning**


How I came to be here today:

“Do you have any questions?”
Support: **Support**, maintain, sustain, uphold all mean to hold up and to preserve. To **support** is to hold up or add strength to, literally or figuratively (www.dictionary.com)

The goal of family support is to help parents develop and utilize available intellectual, emotional and material resources that enable them to nurture and support the healthy development of their children.

Examples of areas in which we need support

• Learning the basics: Deafness and hearing loss implications
  • Holistic and medical
• Financial
• Foundations for decision making
  • LANGUAGE, COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, SELF-IDENTITY
• Access to health care
• Intervention and Educational implications
• Emotional
• Individualized to family need (“Hierarchy of need”)
Overall Project Goal: The goal of the FL3 Center is to increase family engagement and leadership, and strengthen family support in EHDI systems of care in order to enable families, parents, and caregivers to optimize the language, literacy, cognitive, social, and emotional development of their children who are DHH.

- PROVIDE technical assistance, education, and training opportunities addressing evidence-based practices for family engagement, leadership, and family support.
- Increase parents and caregivers of children who are DHH who participate in training opportunities to serve as family leaders
- Increase the number of parents and caregivers of children who are DHH from underrepresented communities.
- Increase the number of individuals accessing the FL3 Center’s web-based resources around language, literacy, social, and emotional development of children who are DHH.
FL3 Parent-Takeaways

- Cognitive Development
- Early Literacy Development
- Language Development
  - Semantics
  - Syntax and Morphology
  - Phonology
  - Child Pragmatics
- Visual Language Development
- Social Emotional Development
  - CURRENTLY BEING TRANSLATED INTO SEVERAL LANGUAGES


or take a deeper dive into the H&V FL3 Project in these areas here, https://www.handsandvoices.org/fl3/topics/lang-lit-soc.html.
Our goal is to support you... 
...push/pull theory 
...just in time
Risk Factors: Children with disabilities experience a significantly higher rate of maltreatment because they... do not understand what constitutes maltreatment; do not know they have the right to say “NO!”; may be socially isolated and lonely; lack the language, knowledge and communication skills to tell others that they have been maltreated; ...are not recognized to be at higher risk for maltreatment

**We focus on the Five Parenting Protective Factors:**

1. **Parental Resilience:** Be strong and flexible.
2. **Social Connections:** Parents need friends.
3. **Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development:** Being a great parent is part natural and part learned.
4. **Concrete Support in Times of Need:** We all need help sometimes.
5. **Social and Emotional Competence of Children:** Parents need to help their children communicate.
My teacher...

- Letting go of *my* decisions and frameworks
  - The spiritual, educational, communicative, social context to Sara’s life
- ...*That’s* not how it happened, no offense, *mom*
- Pass it *on*...the story of Anna

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