



Family Literacy for Hearing Parents & Deaf Children

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The Problem...

Up to 80% of Deaf youth in the United States have little to no literacy skills.

What is out there to help these families?



IDEA's Definition of Deaf

To be deaf is to have “a hearing impairment so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing with or without amplification,” (IDEA, 2004)



Statistics on Deaf Children in the United States

- 2-3 per 1,000 children are born deaf (U.S Health, 2016)
- 90% of Deaf children are born into hearing families (U.S Health, 2016)



Literacy and Deaf Children in the United States

50% of Deaf students graduate high school with a 4th grade reading level or less.

About 30% are functionally illiterate



Deaf People Around the World

- According to World Federation of the Deaf, there are 70 million Deaf people in the world (Human Rights, n.d.).
- 80% of these people do not have access to education. (Human Rights, n.d.).
- 1-2% receive their education in sign language (Human Rights, n.d.).





How does the world perceive the Deaf community?

Many studies have concluded that though social perceptions toward the Deaf culture varies it is mostly negative (Farber, 2015)



Causes of Poor Literacy

- Many deaf children have delays in their face-to-face language development which can negatively affect literacy learning.
- Poor literacy skills are partly due to the fact that there is a discrepancy between a deaf child's incomplete spoken language system and the demands of reading a speech-based system (Geers, 2006).
- These children are faced with developing literacy in a language that they have not yet acquired knowledge in.



Literacy Programs for Deaf Children & Hearing Parents (Local)

- **“Come Read With Me”** is a program designed by USC Caruso Family Center for Childhood Communication at Keck Medicine of USC, to help bilingual children with hearing loss and impairments learn the joy of reading. It is a three week summer program that focuses on skills like shared reading, dialogic reading, writing and awareness of sound and speech, and concepts of print and word knowledge. “After a three-week session, children demonstrate increased conversation turn-taking during reading activities and more purposeful interaction during writing activities, which is very rewarding for all of us on the program team,” said Educational Specialist Debra K. Schrader.

USC Caruso Family
Center for Childhood
Communication



Literacy Programs for Deaf Children & Hearing Parents (Local)

- **“Fairview”** is a learning reading program for deaf students located in Salt Lake City, Utah. This program uses literacy tools to construct mental and linguistic frameworks. This program appeals to the visual linguistic system and it can be used as a response to intervention to jump-start and develop reading skills.
- **“MBR Beginning Reading Program”** is an local online program that teaches reading through sign language. Lessons include phonemic awareness, sight words, sounds of letters, finger spelling and sound blending.



Literacy Programs for Deaf Children & Hearing Parents (Local)



- **Florida School for the Deaf and Blind** located in St. Augustine, Florida is a free school that offers comprehensive educational services, and accessibility needs for developed independence and lifelong success. Programs include accessibility and inclusion through the use of ASL, auditory and speech training, instruction in reading braille and enlarged print, and use of technologies.



Deaf Family Literacy Academy expands to Miami Dade County

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8l6v-I-uTUk>

- Home visits from a mentor.
- Language and reading instruction
- ASL for parents and child.



- Also in Broward County.



Literacy Programs for Deaf Children & Hearing Parents (Global)

The Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss

(located in Seattle, Washington)



**Global
Foundation
For Children
With Hearing Loss**

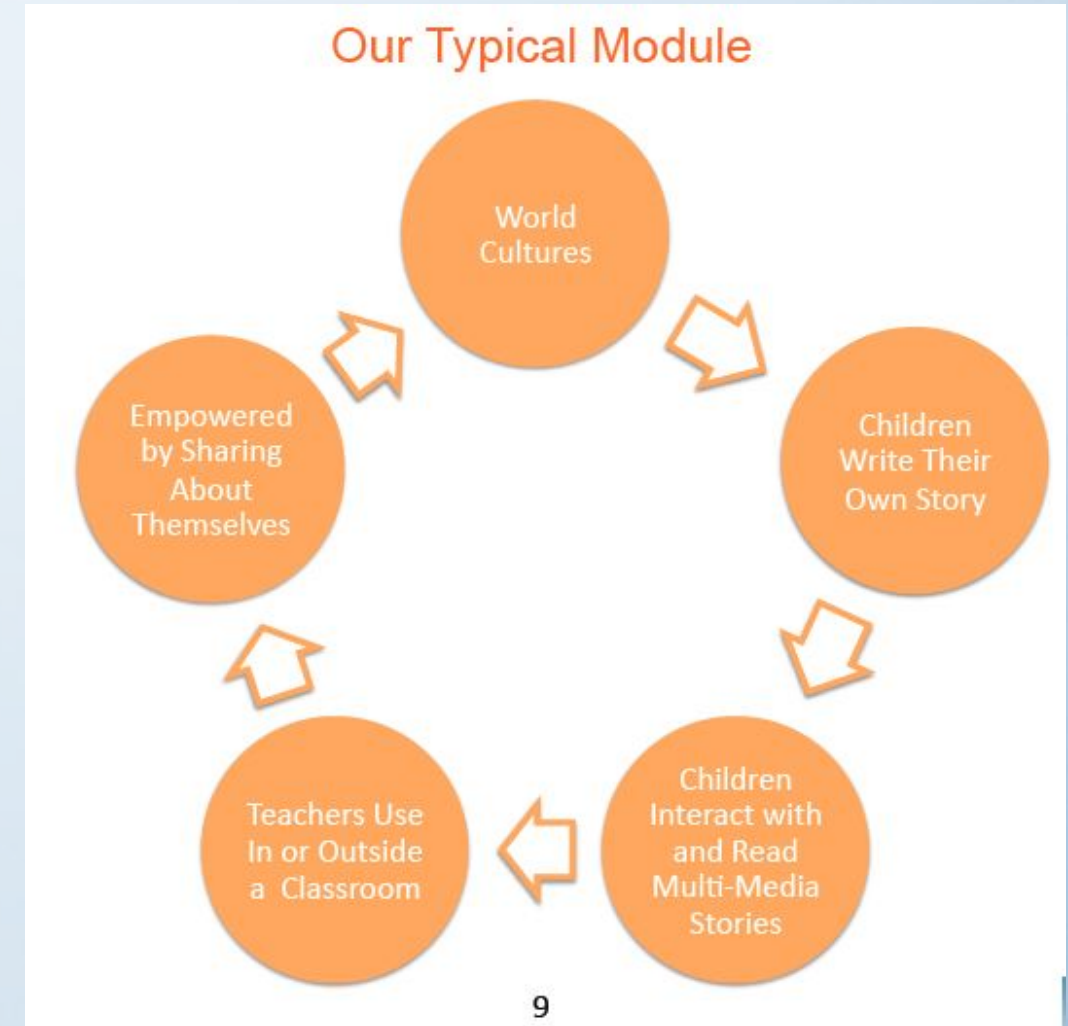
Provides:

- On-location training, video analysis, and mentorship for audiology technicians, teachers, therapists, medical professionals, and families that work or have children with hearing loss in developing countries.
- The Hearing Aid program delivers quality hearing devices to children in developing countries and helps facilitate ongoing audiology and education support.
- The Global Foundation fosters partnerships with like-minded organizations, both domestic and international, to educate communities about the implications of hearing loss in infants and children and how to address them.



Literacy Programs for Deaf Children & Hearing Parents (International)

- The Global Sleepover is an international literacy program that is recognized in South Sudan, India, South Africa, Kosovo, Egypt, UK, and The United States. This literacy program focuses on using multimedia and interactive story books so they can make reading accessible to all children of all nationalities (Global Sleepover, n.d.)
- The Global Sleepover works with 'picterbooks' to improve reading skills of children who are deaf or hearing impaired in South Africa. They were recognized in 2015 by the Library of Congress with an Award in Literacy Innovation (Global Sleepover, n.d.)
- The multimedia design is scaffolded to fit any curriculum, in any language, and enables customized literacy learning.



South African Blog Post

South Africa's DTV allows Deaf people across the country to ask questions and have them answered in a blog.



South African Sign Language Lessons – Hearing Family

1 June, 2016 / in Sign Language / by Chris Meier

Being the only deaf person in your family can leave you feeling isolated and alone, especially if nobody in your family knows Sign Language.

In this week's **South African Sign Language lesson** Karabo advises a young man to start teaching his family Sign Language. Not only will this be a great activity to bring the family together, but it will help him feel more included in future family get-togethers. Get them to [watch DTVs SASL lessons](#), and then test their knowledge afterwards by working the vocabulary used into your own conversations.



This post and video addresses the concern of being the only deaf person in the family.

The advice given was to talk with the family and learn sign language together to create a deeper bond.



Global Issue

- The irony of Deaf education worldwide is that countries with Deaf schools and educational programs still manage to exclude their children from equal chances and education (van Staden & le Roux, 2010)
 - In South Africa children leave school with a 4th grade reading level (van Staden & le Roux, 2010), similar to the U.S.
- Practices proven effective in research studies are not implemented in educational programs for the Deaf population (van Staden & le Roux, 2010)

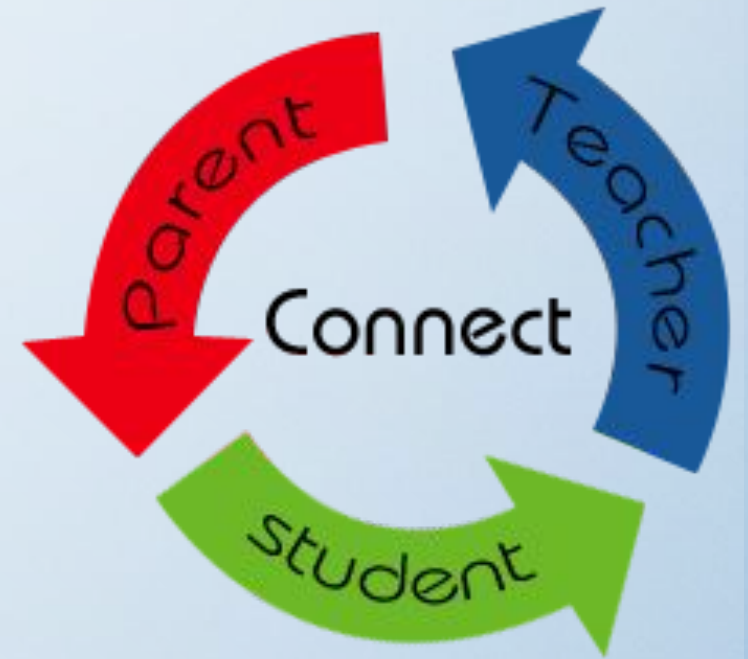


Awareness

Family literacy for a deaf child and hearing parents is not often discussed in textbooks for future educators.

It is vital to include readings on this in order to assist parents in developing their child's literacy skills and help parents handle a new process.

College programs need to edify future educators with strategies to help deaf children and their families.



Solution to Enhance Deaf Literacy in the United States

- Deaf individuals must be given free and unobstructed access to visible and natural language in order to encourage first-language advancement and in turn, literacy development.
- During early intervention, focus on Deaf individuals should change from a ‘deficit model’ to a ‘difference model’.



Solution for Literacy Achievement Gap

- Parent Involvement
- Strategies
- Language Planning

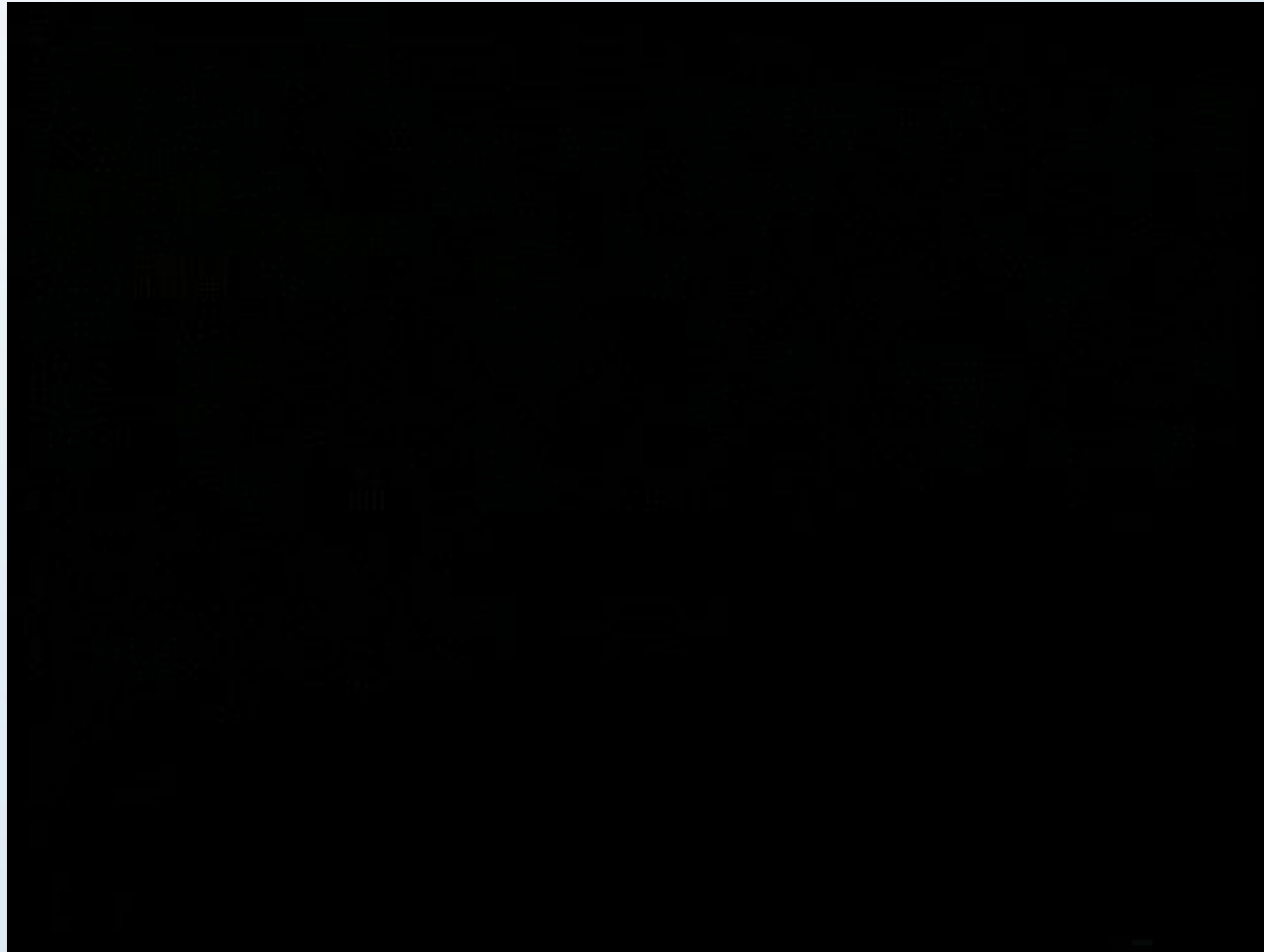
The solution involves helping hearing parents with communicating and understanding while finding the right resources to accommodate their deaf children. It involves parents, children and teachers to work together and learn from one another.



A father reading to his daughter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rD6YWhNP9g>

Notice, all of the advice given is the same as the methods presented to educators for hearing children.



Reading with a Deaf child

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnVHnBcTvX8>

Reading should
be
conversational



Resources

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