

### The 4 E's of Raising a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child: Expose, Educate, Embrace, and Elevate

Families will learn about different concepts and how they tie into how families can elevate their deaf or hard of hearing child's language.

We know that the earlier families **expose** themselves to what is out there to support their deaf or hard of hearing child's language growth and success, the less risks of language deprivation that child has. It is also critical that families are **exposed** to what myths are out there about deaf and hard of hearing children and language.

After families acquire this knowledge, they need to be directed to evidence-based practices. With an understanding of the evidence, they can critically analyze the research studies and then **educate** themselves on how to advocate for their deaf or hard of hearing child to ensure the education their child receives is the best possible option.

Families need to ensure the educational planning their deaf or hard of hearing child receives is exemplary. Through their parenting journey, families will **embrace** their deaf or hard of hearing child's identity by connecting with other deaf or hard of hearing adults to learn and understand what their child may grow up to be and how language is a factor in self-identity and development.

During the workshop, these messages will be expanded on by including evidence-based Clerc Center resources that will support the families' affirmation in **elevating** their deaf or hard of hearing child's language. There will be opportunities for families to write down their thoughts on what they can do to ensure they have all the E's to elevate their deaf or hard of hearing child's language.



Stacy Abrams is a Gallaudet University and University of California at Santa Barbara alumna. She is currently the coordinator of the Deaf Mentor program at the Arizona Schools for the Deaf.

In her spare time, Abrams teaches classes in the deaf and hard of hearing infants, toddlers, and families: collaboration and leadership program at Gallaudet University.

She also trains with the National Deaf Mentor curriculum team. Abrams originated **#whyisign**, a national social media opportunity, to promote individuals using ASL. She is a proud mother of two bilingual deaf children.

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