

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

A Presentation by JoAnn Benfield, M.Ed



This presentation is for families and professionals of young deaf and hard of hearing children. The presenter will discuss research and the impact of family involvement on a deaf/hard of hearing child's language acquisition skills. Details of how parents/caregivers, other family members, and educational professionals can contribute to the deaf/hard of hearing child's literacy skills including their educational and social development will be shared along with a personal story, helpful tips and resources. Early Intervention providers, educational professionals/interpreters, administrators and other professionals are encouraged to attend this workshop.



JoAnn Benfield is the Director for the Gallaudet University Regional Center - South at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas. She serves 13 states/territories in the South region and collaborates often with schools, programs, service providers, and organizations to promote their connection with Gallaudet University and the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center. She has a moderate to severe hearing loss and engages with both the deaf and hearing communities. She earned 3 B.A. degrees in Production & Performance Arts, English, and Education, along with a M.A. degree in Deaf Education and holds 12 years of experience in the field of education.

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