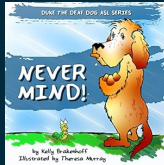


Never Mind (Duke the Dog ASL Series Book 1)

For children ages 3-9
By Kelly Brakenhoff (Author),
Theresa Murray (Illustrator)
A great way to teach children
that everyone deserves to be
included in conversations.



Show Me a Sign (Show Me a Sign Book 1)

For children ages 10-13
By Ann Clare LeZotte (Author)
Deaf author tells a riveting story
based on the true history of a
thriving community on Martha's
Vineyard in the early 19th century.



Parent-To-Parent *Gwen Bryant*

As a "seasoned" parent of a now eighteen-year-old son identified as deaf shortly after birth, the most important things I would like to share with parents of infants and young children newly identified as deaf or hard of hearing are the following:

- **Learn, collaborate, advocate** - You don't know what you don't know! Teachers, therapists, and service providers all have specialized training, knowledge, and information, but you are the expert on your child. Learn the policies, best practices, and laws that will help you advocate for the support and services needed to meet your child's individual needs.
- **Maintain high expectations** - As Szarkowski and Fournier Eng (Odyssey 2014) point out, "high expectations mean more than simply uttering "feel good" intentions and "You can do it!" mantras. They must be supported with appropriate challenges and ongoing assessments." Regular progress monitoring of language and communication abilities is particularly important. It allows providers, parents, and teachers to consider the effectiveness of the strategies being used and provides an opportunity to modify services and support to improve outcomes.
- **Keep in mind** - The Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (2019; 4 (2) 26) describes informed decision-making as a fluid and ongoing process that requires a family to consider new knowledge, information, experiences, language assessment results, and their personal family goals and values as they make decisions.
- **Find your tribe** - Over 90% of children who are born deaf or hard of hearing have hearing parents, and for most of them, their child is the first deaf person they meet. No one quite understands the experience of having a child with hearing loss, as well as other families who also have deaf or hard-of-hearing children. Parent-to-parent connections allow families the opportunity to share information, express feelings, and gain confidence and empowerment.

Family Support Organizations



Things to Do

September 28th, 2024
2:00 p.m.

Scan QR code
to register

WV Hands & Voices 11th
Annual Open House Picnic
Food, Fun, Games, and
Prizes

Valley Park -Large Shelter,
1 Valley Park Road
Hurricane, WV 25526



August 24, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

WVCDHH'S
DEAF/HH
Family Fun Day
Free Entry

Pipestem Resort State Park
3405 Pipestem Dr.
Pipestem, WV 25979

Scan QR Code
to register



Please email questions, concerns, and suggestions to gwen.l.bryant@wv.gov



West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
100 Dee Drive, Charleston, WV 25311
304-558-1675 (Phone) 304-400-6959 (Video Phone)