

Community Needs Assessment: Education

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Self Disclosure

- Early intervention
- Difficult journey
- Identity challenges
- Comprehension

At Risk Population

- Early intervention is critical for long term impact
- Russian Roulette
- Parents of DHH child are not receiving neutral platform related to options
 - Often being forced towards specific path

Parents of DHH Child Focus Group

“We see a lot of Deaf children being very isolated. So they’re in the neighborhood school but they’re not really integrate into the community because of language barrier and we’re seeing a lot of mental health problems in the Deaf community because of their isolation”

(parent of a Deaf child)

A parent of 7-month-old baby expressed her frustration with an early intervention program on communication:

“The early intervention preschool right now, the only preschool I could get a hold of that had any sign support with a hearing specialist, doesn’t get it.”

Parent of a hard of hearing child who uses both ASL and spoken language shared:

“...there’s this problem where kids aren’t getting language. And I’m not talking about sounds. Because what I’m seeing is that they’re not getting language. And when they finally get [the hearing aids] on, they’re being told to not sign. So there’s just this big gap and for me that’s a huge barrier as children go forward and I would just like to see the children. I’d like to see babies with lots of language.”

Parent of a 5 year old Deaf boy complained:

“When my son was diagnosed as Deaf, they [the early intervention team] looked at us and said ASL or oral, you need to pick one and you can’t do both. They said we will confuse him if we do both ASL and oral. You look at people who have hearing infants and they say teach them sign language for teaching them to eat and sleep but they are telling me I can’t do that with my Deaf child. You don’t know where to get information but you feel like you are forced to have to make a decision for your child at that stage”

Recommendations

- Neutral center for parents to explore options for their deaf or hard of hearing child
 - (SB 1018)
- Early intervention and preschool option at the Oregon School for the Deaf (OSD)
- Language acquisition and development
 - (HB 3412)