

# WHAT IS LANGUAGE DEPRIVATION?

Language deprivation occurs when someone with hearing loss is not able to consistently access language because they can not fully hear spoken language

Most kids with hearing loss are born into hearing families

Cochlear implants (CIs) and hearing aids are not replacements for individuals within normal hearing limits

Language Deprivation is preventable with ASL



# WHY AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)?

Research shows that the brain does not have a preference for HOW it learns. What is important is whether it is accessible. If your child has hearing loss, they risk access to spoken language, even if they have hearing aids/CIs.

American Sign Language is a natural, accessible language used by the Deaf community and Deaf and Hard of Hearing classrooms in the US. It is proven by audiologists, teachers, SLPs, and other professionals to develop language.

## MORE INFORMATION:

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[www.caempower.net](http://www.caempower.net)



# LANGUAGE DEPRIVATION SYNDROME (LDS)





## BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE THROUGH ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

### Ask your school's special education department for a DHH Specialist

- Consider your child's language needs
- If delayed, the child needs specialized instruction in an accessible language (ASL)
- Providing ASL interpreters alone is not enough!
- Specialized instruction **MUST** be from someone proficient in ASL
- If needed, auxiliary aids and services will be provided

### English not your first language?

You have the right to request a translator in your native language. Remember: You are your child's number one advocate!

## HOW DO I TELL IF MY CHILD HAS LDS?

1

Your child has hearing loss and has little to no experience signing.

2

They have a hard time learning new information auditorily and may come across as intellectually disabled

3

They struggle to read, speak, and/or comprehend language, including incidental language (out of context)

4

They may struggle with time concepts. Today, last month, last year, and other dates may seem ambiguous

5

They struggle with expressing to others how they feel; they tend to act out in "tantrums" when not getting their way. They have social-emotional issues and difficulty establishing relationships with others

## WHAT RESOURCES DO I HAVE TO HELP ME? (CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW)

[DCARA](#)

[National Association of the Deaf](#)

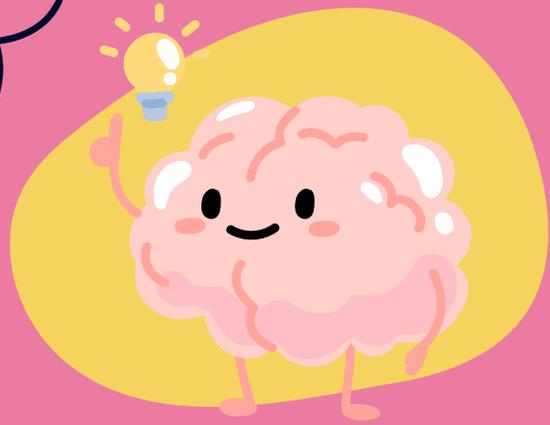
[Assembly Bill 1836: Deaf Children's Bill of Rights](#)

[LEAD-K](#)

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

- LDS is NOT caused by hearing loss
- Under the IDEA, your child has a right to an education
- Bilingualism (ASL/English) supports brain and social development
- Has lifelong consequences if not addressed

What is Community Access and Empowerment? CAE's mission is to empower and support our clients to achieve their goals and full potential. With a team of trained professionals, CAE strives to improve access and break down barriers in schools, the workplace, and the greater community.



## WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IN MY CHILD?



Learn ASL! There are many free classes. Reach out to CAE for more info



Connect with the Deaf Community



Include your child in all communication



Get a Deaf/ hard of hearing mentor for your child

## WHAT RESEARCHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT LDS

Signed languages are more effective at preventing language deprivation than cochlear implants are at remediating auditory deprivation.

- Dr. Wyatte Hall

Deaf children can be raised in loving homes, treated by medical specialists, fitted with high tech electronic aides, and provided special education, but still emerge from childhood with a devastating, permanent, and PREVENTABLE disability.

-Dr. Sanjay Gulati

Early exposure and consistent access to a complete language....are critical for communication development for all children.

-American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

## WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LDS? CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS AND ARTICLES

Hall W. C. (2017). What You Don't Know Can Hurt You: The Risk of Language Deprivation by Impairing Sign Language Development in Deaf Children. *Maternal and child health journal*, 21(5), 961-965. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10995-017-2287-y>

Glickman, N.S., & Hall, W.C. (Eds.). (2018). *Language Deprivation and Deaf Mental Health* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315166728>

Levin, A. (2009). Deaf Children's Behavior Often Mistaken for Mental Disorder. *Psychiatric News*, 44(2), 23-28. <https://doi.org/10.1176/pn.44.2.002>

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## LAST WORDS....

- HEARING LOSS IS NOT A DEFICIT
- AS A PARENT, YOU HAVE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS
- YOU ARE ENTITLED TO CALL FOR AN INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (IEP) MEETING AT ANY TIME
- ASK FOR EVIDENCE OF HOW YOUR CHILD IS MAKING COMMUNICATION GAINS AT SCHOOL
- REACH OUT TO DEAF RESOURCES (SEE RESOURCE INFO LINKS ABOVE) FOR SUPPORT IN ADVOCATING FOR YOUR CHILD