



DEAF: In Our Eyes

ASDC's Usage of the Word - Deaf

Rationale:

- a.) The American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) is committed to empowering diverse families with children and youth *who are deaf or hard of hearing* by embracing full access to language-rich environments through mentoring, advocacy, resources, and collaborative networks,
- b.) ASDC is visibly active in all of our public relations work to empower families.

The clarification below explains why ASDC uses the word - Deaf.

In order to celebrate the positive self identity of all deaf and hard of hearing children and instill in them a sense of pride, ASDC in its literature will use the word "Deaf" with the understanding that it is inclusive of hard of hearing. ASDC believes that Deaf children should not be divided into the various shades of hearing levels. Only when a hearing level is being specifically discussed will terms such as "hard of hearing" be used independently.

ASDC believes all Deaf children and their families are accepted as part of the larger community of Deaf people regardless of their hearing level, education, language, use of communication tools, or use of visual and auditory technology. ASDC recognizes the importance of American Sign Language and English as well as respects the culture of the Deaf Community. While each Deaf child's journey may be different, their visual predominance and orientation binds them together with others who share the unique daily experiences of living as a Deaf person. ASDC believes all Deaf children and their families deserve to know they are not alone, that they have a connection to a larger community, and that they can be proud of who they are.

Resources written by authors outside of ASDC will maintain the language of the author.

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