



Language Starts with Me  
31st Annual Family Conference  
**American Society  
for Deaf Children**  
July 12-14, 2023 • Great Wolf Lodge - Williamsburg, VA

**2023 CONFERENCE  
PRESENTERS &  
SESSION  
DESCRIPTIONS**



**Exploring Available Online Resources, Learning, and Networking for Deaf Education Professionals and Families: Introduction to the Clerc Center Community Portal**

**Stacy Abrams**

*Project Manager (Early Intervention) at the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center and Founder of the #whylsign Campaign/Movement*

**SESSION: FRIDAY, JULY 14 | 11:15 AM**

The Clerc Center eagerly welcomes you into our new online Clerc Center Learning Community. Once inside, you'll gain access to world-class resources and networking opportunities. This web-based community will be home to over 600 free, world-class resources for families of deaf and hard-of-hearing children (ages birth to 21) and the educators, professionals, and service providers who work with them. In our online learning community, we offer flexibility in signing up for training through self-paced online learning plans. You can also sign up for live events where there will be opportunities to learn and interact with other individuals and professionals on various topics relevant to deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth-21.

During this session, you will first learn how to sign up to receive information from the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center; then, you will learn how to navigate through different sections of the online learning community, from resources to training opportunities to networking.



**Access to Language and Learning for All**

**Cindy Camp**

*Marketing and Communications Specialist with Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP)*

**SESSION: FRIDAY, JULY 14 | 8:45 AM**

Communication is an essential life skill. Good communication is the key to successful relationships and work life. However, students with hearing loss often lag behind their peers in language development and literacy because they do not have the same access to learning as their hearing peers.

Students who are deaf and hard of hearing often lack good communication skills because they do not have a strong foundation in a primary language.

Historically there has been a debate over which mode of communication provides deaf children with the best way to learn language. But why should they be limited to just one? Hearing children often grow up bilingual or multilingual. They may learn to speak one language in the home, another in the community, and perhaps a third in school. A child's mind is amazingly adaptive at learning languages. Deaf children who are provided with visual and spoken language are able to benefit from both.

This presentation will look at resources for providing deaf children with access to sign language, spoken language, and text. By using a combination of all three in the home and classroom, children can increase their vocabulary, improve reading comprehension, and enhance their overall communication abilities. Language comes in many shapes and forms. All help children in their education and life skills.

1. Participants will explore how to use both English and ASL when teaching a deaf child.
2. Participants will discuss how to incorporate written text as a guide to enhance English and ASL vocabulary.
3. Participants will employ various strategies and games to improve communication skills.

*Cindy Camp is the Marketing and Communications Specialist with The Described and Captioned Media Program. She holds a Master's degree in English, is a nationally certified interpreter, is certified in mental health interpreting, and is a C-Print captionist and trainer. She has provided access services for students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing for over 30 years.*



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### Book Sharing the Deaf Way

**Shanae Rouse**

Project Manager (Early Intervention) at the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center

**SESSION: FRIDAY, JULY 14 | 11:15 AM**

Book sharing includes an explanation of the following: translating text to convey meaning in ASL; linking pictures and print with ASL; signing features; how to engage viewers with questions and phrases about the story; and how to be in character using body shifting, eye gaze, etc. This would also include using 15 principles for reading with deaf children.

*Shanae Rouse holds a bachelor's degree in family and child studies from Gallaudet University as well as a master's degree in deaf education from Lamar University and in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Texas at San Antonio. For over nine years, Rouse taught deaf and hard-of-hearing students in the program for the deaf in a mainstream setting and in deaf schools from pre-kindergarten to fifth grade. She then served as a high school director at the Alabama School for the Deaf for three years before moving to Washington, D.C., to assume her current role. Rouse is the mother of two children—a daughter and a son.*



### Session Topic TBA

**Mariella Satow**

CEO & Founder of SignUp Captions

**SESSION: THURSDAY, JULY 13 | 11:15 AM**

*Mariella Satow, a teenage entrepreneur, is the Founder and CEO of SignUp Captions. SignUp is a free Google Chrome Extension that overlays sign language captions on movies and TV shows on Disney+ and Netflix.*

*The extension was invented during the pandemic after Mariella began learning American Sign Language (ASL) and discovered there was nothing like it available. Since its launch in September 2021, SignUp now has more than 20,000 weekly users, 200 interpreters and is seeing exponential growth.*

*Created in collaboration with, and welcomed by, the Deaf community, SignUp is used as an educational tool in classrooms, with students discovering new vocabulary, sharpening receptive skills, and providing an opportunity for students to be exposed to various signing styles and language models. As well as fostering inclusion in Deaf and hearing classrooms, SignUp is also used as a tool in interpreter teaching programs and is being licensed by other companies to provide equal access. SignUp gives media accessibility to entertainment for a community poorly served by big media. 432 million people worldwide are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, and over 300 sign languages exist.*

*SignUp was launched in the US with ASL and is now available with British Sign Language, and India, Pakistan, Canada, and Australia next. Originally funded with money made from dog walking, Mariella has started her seed round and will continue to work on SignUp when she starts at Stanford University in September 2023.*



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**Supporting Literacy Development for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children at Home**

**Debbie Trapani**

*Director, National Programs and Outreach - Early Intervention  
Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center (Clerc Center)*

**SESSION: THURSDAY, JULY 13 | 9:30 AM**

Strategies and tips on supporting and encouraging literacy development at home for deaf and hard-of-hearing children will be shared. Literacy includes ASL, Spoken English, reading, and writing. The strategies shared will help to build the foundation for emerging literacy skills and continued literacy development throughout your deaf child's childhood, ensuring your child grows up bilingual in both ASL and English.

*Debbie Trapani, EdS, is the director of National Programs and Outreach-Early Intervention at the Clerc Center. She is also currently co-leading the Regional Early Acquisition of Language (REAL) project in collaboration with the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind. Before coming to the Clerc Center, Trapani was a parent-child educator, a teacher of students from preschool through secondary, a literacy specialist, and administrator of the Delaware School for the Deaf and statewide programs in Delaware. Growing up deaf, she was a student in several deaf education settings in California before graduating from a school for the deaf.*