

Family Conversations



A Birth to Three
Program



Family Conversations Overview

Our program goals are to maximize technology to listen and speak to the best of your child's ability and utilize signing to offer a visual language during a critical developmental period to set the foundation for future literacy.

Family Conversations Staff



Jill Bargones, PhD, CCC-A
Program Lead



Shyla Geck, M.S.
Communication Coach



Ninalynn McGruder, M.Ed.
Communication Coach



Aina de Lapparent Alvarez
Communication Coach
In Training



Brandie Fisher, M.Ed.
Communication Coach



Amy McCall, M.S., CCC-A
Communication Coach



Tatiana Sarkhosh, MPH
Program Director

Our Team



Audiologists

Teachers of the Deaf

DHH Coach

Coach with Deaf sibling

Parent of Deaf child

Cohesive team

Longevity

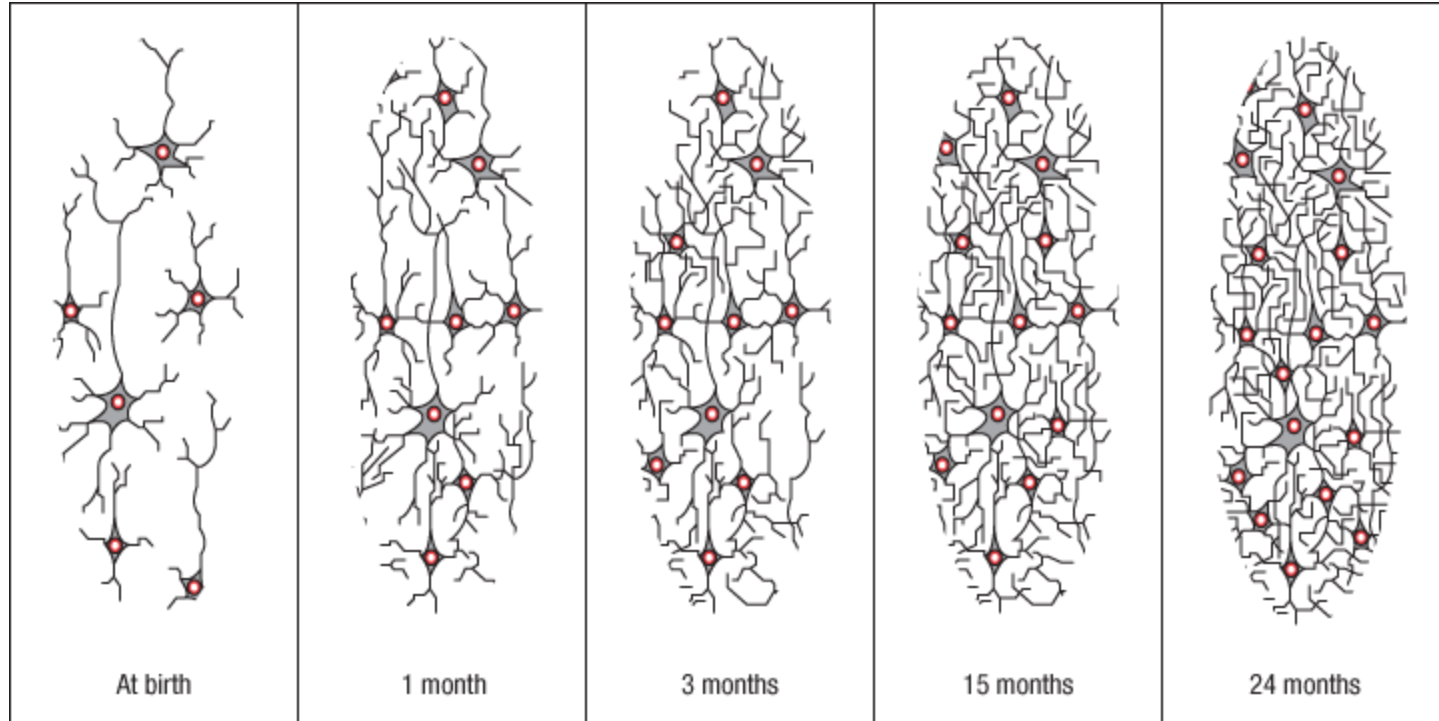
Collaborative

Our School

- Separate program within the school
- Our own classroom and space for family groups and play dates
- Online signing classes with scholarship opportunities
- Weekend sign skills shops
- Older kids modeling language
- Deaf events and community
- Opportunity for preschool at 3
- Tours with Coach at age 2-3



What we know about language acquisition



How a child with mild hearing loss hears

**Won uhon a ime a itty mow wen u vizih a
unry mow. The unry mow live in a eel. EEE
wuz lad u ee iz ittyfren. A too my ran
abowda feel and lay unt noo.**

Total Communication

Gestures

Signing

Talking

Reading

Drawing

Facial
expression

Pictures

Music &
Singing

**Fully accessible language and literacy
for deaf/hard of hearing child**

When is signing important?

Family gatherings

Standing across a
room

During illnesses

On an airplane

When hearing levels
change

Waiting for cochlear
implants or hearing aids

Swimming

In a noisy restaurant

At the beach

Learning new words

Dinner table

Bath time

Playing outside

In the car

*For any child who could benefit from
a visual to offer language clarity!*

What makes our program unique

- **Combining signing and listening/spoken language** during a critical developmental period and following the family's lead and preferences for style
- **Expertise in early childhood** mental health, attachment, and relationships.
- Supporting a pathway to **allow the child to choose speech, sign, or both.**
- Fun, engaging ways to **practice talking, signing, listening, and reading** with your child
- **Builds on existing parent skills** and knowledge
- Utilizes **home language**
- **Deaf community events** to learn from other DHH adults and families and participate in Deaf culture
- **Family groups** to practice, share resources and experiences, make friends
- **Exceptional technology support** during critical periods of parent learning, child practice, and hearing level changes.
- **Extending teaching to childcare providers** on how to support technology use at home or in a daycare setting
- **Comprehensive developmental assessments and reports**
- **School district advocacy and support** at age 3 to advocate for preferred placement and accommodations
- **Lived experience** of team members

What does a typical month look like?

Week 1: In-person meeting with your Communication Coach **in your home** to practice skills, learn new skills, prepare for or debrief appointments, practice signing, practice listening/spoken language skills, and/or to review progress towards goals. (Note: M-F 8am-5pm)

Week 2: Practice with your child; texting/calling/emailing with Communication Coach for support as needed.

Week 3: Virtual visit with your Communication Coach to monitor progress and see if strategies are working for your family. (Note: M-F 8am-5pm)

Week 4: Practice with your child; texting/calling/emailing with Communication Coach for support as needed.



Thank you!

