



Dear VL2 Families,

Greetings! We would like to add our strong support for the wonderful materials that are included in this parent information and resource packet from the National Science Foundation-funded Science of Learning Center on Visual Language and Visual Learning. These materials will provide you with a wealth of information to share with your family, friends and the professionals who work with you and your children.

We would like to briefly introduce ourselves to you. Beth Benedict is a faculty member at Gallaudet University whose expertise is in the area of communication and early intervention. Beth and her husband, Dwight, have two daughters who are deaf. Beth has spent the majority of her professional and personal life working with families who have deaf children through the American Society for Deaf Children (www.deafchildren.org). Beth is actively involved in national and international initiatives as an advocate for deaf children and their families.

Marilyn Sass-Lehrer is also a faculty member at Gallaudet University whose career has focused almost exclusively on early intervention and early education. Marilyn, like Beth, is active in national and international organizations that support the rights of deaf children and family involvement. Marilyn and Beth are committed to ensuring that families have the best information and resources to ensure that their children have full access to language and every opportunity possible to achieve their potential.

We are especially enthusiastic about the materials you are receiving from VL2, including the California State University at Northridge/CA Dept. of Education video, "Through your Child's Eyes: American Sign Language." In addition, we encourage you to look at the following resources:

- the EHDI e-Book chapter 20, "Deaf Community Support for Families: The Best of Partnerships" <http://www.infanthearing.org/ehdi-ebook/index.html>
- The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing recently published a Supplement that focuses on early intervention. This paper emphasizes the importance of Deaf adults as models and mentors and includes strategies for ASL development. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/131/4/e1324.full>

These materials are supported by research and will help you along your journey in raising your child to be fully bilingual.

We commend you for your wisdom and commitment to your child's future. We wish you the very best in your endeavor.

Best wishes,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is "Beth S. Benedict" and the second is "Marilyn Sass-Lehrer".

Beth S. Benedict, Ph.D. and Marilyn Sass-Lehrer, Ph.D.

Co-Directors, Infants, Toddlers and their Families Interdisciplinary Program

http://www.gallaudet.edu/gspg/graduate_school/graduate_admissions/certificate_programs/itf.html

Gallaudet University

Washington, DC

ITF@gallaudet.edu



Letters | VL2 Parent Information Package | www.VL2parentpackage.org

This material is supported by the National Science Foundation under grant number SBE-1041725.

