

Entendiendo. Understanding Hispanic/Latino Families with Deaf or Hard of Hearing Children

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Education
And
Families Project**



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Objectives

- 1) to explore the cultural context of Latino families and deaf/hard of hearing children
- 2) to examine trends in Latino families' journey with their deaf or hard of hearing children
- 3) to explore themes in parent support provided for Latino families.

La familia Sanchez



En contexto

Dual Cultural Participants (Wolbers, 2002)

- Deaf and Latino
 - 30% Latino (Hispanic) NATIONALLY (GRI, 2008)
- Education outcomes parallel the hearing population
- Largest minority population in Deaf Education, yet the resources do not match the needs.
(Gerner de Garcia, 2002)

Perceived and Real Barriers in
working with Latino families who
have DHH children

Trends

- At identification, for parents:
 - Challenges with vocabulary
 - Challenges with the delivery language
- Challenges with interpretation
 - Terminology
- Can it be “fixed”

Trends

- Understanding of the process
 - Waiting to be contacted, don't know what to do next.
 - State Funding processes
- Family dynamics
 - Mother /father, extended family
 - Support for mother
 - Big families (4-5 children)
- Transportation issues

Conversations during Parent-to-Parent Support

- Will the hearing loss improve?
 - Explanation , reiteration of what professionals have probably already said.
 - Denial, Guilt
- Hearing aids: management
- Do babies with hearing loss act differently?
 - Especially true for new, first time moms.

- Other disabilities
 - Hearing loss not the priority
- Listening to parents
 - Again the opportunity to have some one listen in a primary language.
 - You are like me, you KNOW what I mean.
 - Grateful
- Respect for diversity in paths traveling
 - Support along the way.

Next Steps

- Spanish written materials
 - Written FOR Latino parents
- Deaf Latinos in Los Angeles
- Mexican Americans - data collection and service delivery
 - What does Home Language and Preferred Language mean?

Take home with you

- Understand the context but don't assume
- Parents are parents regardless of culture
 - Parents want the same things for their children
- Parent to parent support.
- Parent buddies with “like” parents

Likes like like

THANK YOU

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