



Newsletter

July, 2010

IMPACT is..

A California statewide all-volunteer, non-profit organization of parents, teachers and professionals serving deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Established in 1986 by 12 parents, IMPACT has a current membership of over 400 and is supported and encouraged by a host of organizations that serve the deaf community.

Welcome to IMPACT!

IMPACT

Vision: To empower parents raising happy and successful children who are deaf or hard of hearing

Mission: We are united in providing support for parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing through education and outreach activities in the spirit of respect for all.

Goals:

- To insure quality educational programs in California for all deaf and hard of hearing children.
- To provide a mechanism whereby parents can impact local, state and national legislative processes.
- To bridge the gap between parents, teachers, administrators, and resource personnel in serving the deaf or hard of hearing.
- To be supportive of agencies, community groups and organizations with similar interest in providing a quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.
- To advocate for parent and student rights.
- To provide parents of deaf and hard of hearing children in California with a vehicle to communicate with each other.
- To provide parent education on an ongoing basis.

We are here to support you!



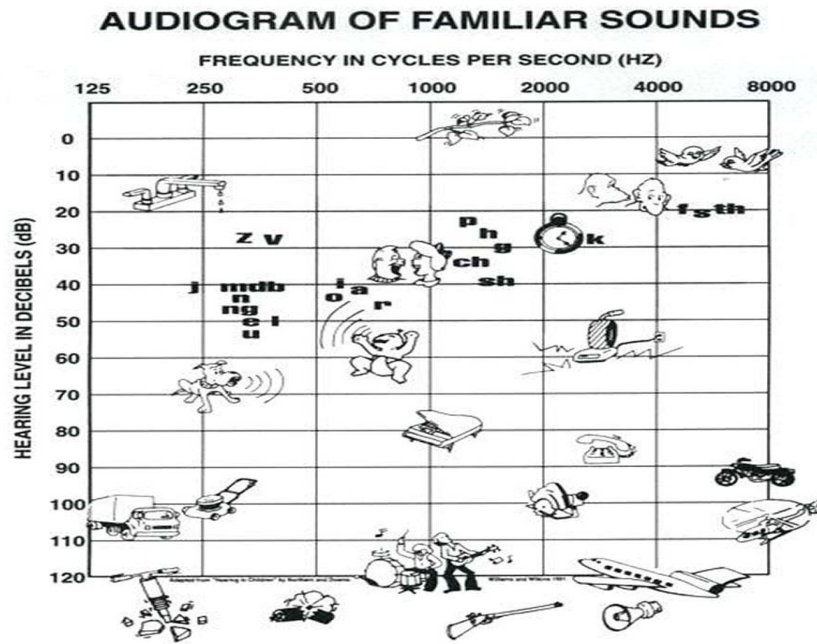
**California School for the
Deaf Fremont
Cheerleading Team**

Understanding an audiogram can be difficult. Below is a version that may make it a little easier.

Your Child's IFSP

What is it?

Individualized Family Service Plan or **IFSP** is a written plan which is the framework for meeting the unique needs of a child and a family. This plan is developed at the IFSP meeting by a team which includes the parents/guardians, the service coordinator or anyone who has evaluated the child. Parents may also invite other family members, friends, advocates, or other supportive people.



Join IMPACT'S Yahoo Group

Welcome to IMPACT Families, IMPACT Discussion Group, Together for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children.

1. Was your newborn or child recently identified with a hearing loss?
2. Are you wondering if your family is getting what they need through your IFSP?
3. Are you wondering if your child is getting what they need through their IEP at school?
4. Would you like to chat with other California families?
5. Are you are interested in finding local events for you and your family to attend?
6. Would you like to share your experiences with other families?

Congratulations, you have come to the right place!

Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IMPACTFamilies/>

IMPACT Website
Check us out at
www.impactfamilies.org

Supportive Programs



Hope! Dream! Achieve!

The mission of the Parent Links - Hope! Dream! Achieve! - program is to empower parents of deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers by providing them with comprehensive information and awareness through mentoring, networking, and resources, and by honoring the family's relationship with their child and their choices in language and communication opportunities.

This program is for families with children identified as deaf or hard of hearing ages birth-3 years old. Parent Links Parent Mentors have children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We are here to support, provide information on education and communication opportunities as well as connections to other families.

Parent Links is a program of the California Department of Education funded by a federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau grant. The Parent Links name and materials are used with permission of the Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.

Find your Parent Links representative for your area listed below.

Parent Mentors

Parent mentors are parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. From hearing aids, cochlear implants, sign language and speech, we have been there. Have questions? Give us a call.

Exceptional Parents Unlimited

Darla Schwehr
4440 N. First Street
Fresno, CA 93726
559-229-2000 x 208

Counties

Alameda, Contra Costa
Fresno, Kings
Madera, Mariposa
Merced, Monterey
San Benito, San Francisco
San Joaquin, San Mateo
Santa Clara, Santa Cruz
Stanislaus, Tulare

Family Focus Resource & Empowerment Center

Barbara Matusky
Apryl Chauhan
Irma Sanchez
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330
818-677-6854

Counties

Imperial, Inyo
Kern, Los Angeles
Mono, Orange
Riverside, San Bernardino
San Diego, San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara, Ventura

Rowell Family Empowerment Center

Kat Lowrance
Barb Ciukowski
962 Maraglia Street
Redding, CA 96002
530-226-5129

Counties:

Alpine, Amador, Butte,
Calaveras
Colusa, Del Norte,
Humboldt, Lake
Lassen, Marin
Mendocino, Modoc
Napa, Nevada, Placer
Plumas, Sacramento,
Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou
Solano, Sonoma, Sutter,
Tehama, Trinity
Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba



Website: www.myparentlinks.com

Learn American Sign Language Online

Professor Bill Vicars has created an online 30 lesson course in American Sign Language for free!
Check it out at www.lifeprint.com

tiger

TIGER: Form both hands into "CLAW" shapes (curved 5-handshapes). Hold your hands in front of your face. Make a "clawing" motion that moves backwards and to the side. Repeat.



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Director / Instructor / Webmaster William G. Vicars

"Safari Bill" (or "Dr. V.") has taught ASL in-person to over 10,000 students during the past 20 years. Many, many more have benefited from his online courses.

In addition to having earned a Doctorate of Deaf Studies (Ed.D.) and a Masters in Deaf Education from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. His undergraduate work includes a Bachelor's in Communication from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.



IMPACT
34130 Gannon Terrace
Fremont, CA 94555
Phone: 1-877-322-7299
E-mail us: info@impactfamilies.org

IMPACT President - Darla Schwehr
Contact me anytime at 559-229-2000x 208 or
dschwehr@exceptionalparents.org

