

# DDHH'S LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

## BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH ASL DEAF LANGUAGE ASSOCIATES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

### 1. Language Acquisition:

ASL Deaf Language Associates (DLA) provide specialized language acquisition services for young deaf and hard of hearing children, ensuring they develop fundamental linguistic skills from an early age. This is crucial for their overall language development.



### 2. Classroom Facilitation:

The ASL DLA follows the teacher's lesson plan and actively supports the language development of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Their presence creates an inclusive environment that promotes the success of these students during the critical period of language learning.

### 3. Identity and Community Connection:

By serving as role models, ASL DLAs provide valuable language and cultural modeling for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. This facilitates their understanding and embracing of their identity and may even help reduce challenging behaviors by lessening communication frustration. With role models, students who are deaf or hard of hearing can develop a stronger sense of self and a deeper connection to their community.

### 4. Preschool Transition Support:

ASL DLAs provide information about communication plan requirements for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, which facilitates a smoother transition into elementary school. They also assist by connecting parents with resources.



### 5. Clear Communication:

If an interpreter is present, it is important to ensure clear communication and understanding between the ASL DLA and the interpreter. This enhances the educational experience for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The ASL DLA provides support and communication while the interpreter facilitates the spoken language.



### 6. Laying the Foundation:

Working with an ASL DLA may help the students who are deaf or hard of hearing achieve their academic goals and provides them with the necessary support for a successful educational journey.

### 7. Collaborative Tools and Support:

The collaboration between teachers of the deaf and ASL DLAs ensure students receive the necessary tools and supports to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. Working with ASL DLAs brings numerous benefits to an early childhood program, including promoting inclusive education and ensuring the success and well-being of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.



**DDHH's Language Instruction Program is here to provide assistance and support. Feel free to contact DDHH at (609) 588-2648 or [DDHH.Communications2@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDHH.Communications2@dhs.nj.gov).**



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