

Louisiana Hands & Voices

Connections Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4

October 2013

What's happening around Louisiana for families of deaf and hard of hearing children?

With the Fall season the flurry of activity has continued for Louisiana Hands & Voices (LAHV). GBYS Parent Guides attended the Hearing & Speech Health Fair held at University of New Orleans in September. We met many Deaf adults and families of kids with hearing loss, as well as providers of services to the Deaf/HH.



GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™

Also in September, through the State Advisory Council for the LA Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (LA EHDI), Jill Guidry was able to speak to the Louisiana chapter members of the American Academy of Pediatrics during the Pediatric Potpourri conference in Lafayette. Supporting and working collaboratively with the professionals who serve children with hearing loss continues to be a focus of Hands & Voices.

In addition, we were able to meet and talk with some of the families of children that attend The Bright School during one of their family support meetings. We always love sharing information with parents.

In October at the state conference of Speech Pathologists and Audiologists in Louisiana schools held in Lafayette, LAHV was an exhibitor. We are continuing to make great connections and get the word out for kids with hearing loss.

We are thrilled to welcome a new member to our Board of Directors: Penny Hakim. Penny is a Parent Guide with our GBYS program, and board member for the National Cued Speech Association.

We are excited to welcome new Parent Guide, Renee Carlson. Renee will be the new contact person for the middle south area of Louisiana. Rene has hit the ground running, and is planning a "family fun day" event on **November 10** in Lafayette.

Ochsner's holiday party for cochlear implant recipients and their families will be held **December 17**. Louisiana Hands & Voices will join in the celebration with activities for the kids and families. We hope to see you there.

Be sure to checkout our Facebook page for more information and reminders on events scheduled around the state.♦



HANDS & VOICES™

"What works for your child is what makes the choice right"™

Non-biased support for families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing

For more information about Hands & Voices, please contact:

Mariah Ranko

504.919.8147

Jill Guidry

337.515.5774

Join us ... Hands & Voices family event
October 26 12:30 pm



Wear a costume!

**Come meet other families and enjoy the day with your children
Games, face painting and treats —**

2105 Etienne Drive, Meraux, La 70075

For questions or more info, call:

Mariah Ranko 504-919-8147

Marbely Barahona 504-473-2479

Mardi Gras Beads

FOR SALE!



We have Mardi Gras beads for sale. Donation proceeds will help provide educational programs for families of kids with hearing loss.

Contact info above!

Toys to Support Language Growth

This time of year, many parents are looking to choose the best toys for their child with hearing loss. To facilitate language development, it is important to pick good, quality toys to help support language growth.

You can never go wrong with books. Literacy is such an important facet of your child’s learning – start early fostering an interest in books. For young children, choose books with strong, durable pages and books with lots of ‘Learning to Listen Sounds’ (ie, farmyard animals and transportation sounds). For older children, choose books that appeal to their interests.

Choose toys that can be played many different ways. For example, a set of pretend food and kitchen tools can be made into a restaurant, a birthday party, a family dinner, a grocery store, or more.

Choose toys that encourage development in a variety of domains: fine motor, pretend play, speech/language, cognition, and gross motor.

Toy phones are often a favorite toy. Toy phones are low cost and grow with your child. And think about it... what is it that we do on the phone? WE TALK! We use LANGUAGE! So a toy phone is a GREAT toy that can be used to support communication development.

A dress-up box full of old clothes (these do NOT have to be specific “costumes.” Really, just cleaning out your closet will do.)

Mr. Potato Head -- Another classic toy, Mr. Potato Head can help teach so many language concepts and vocabulary! Mr. Potato Head can be used with young

elementary school children to work on basic concepts, body parts, clothing and accessories and following directions.

Choose toys that encourage social skills and cooperative play (dollhouses, games, sports), rather than solitary or parallel play (videogames).

The Farm set. This is a wonderful item for tons of fun and learning. Let’s look at just some of the language concepts that the farm set can help teach and support: Work on teaching the names of all the animals and the sounds they make! Answering “wh” questions: Work on answering Who, What, Where, Why, When, and How while you play with the animals. Where is the horse? Which animal is next to the cow? Who is eating? Which animal makes the Mooooo sound? Etc. Using the animals and the barn, work on all the prepositional concepts, as well as size and color.

Balls. Believe it or not, the simple act of rolling a ball back and forth to another person takes quite a few skills, from social play to eye-hand coordination and all the language that goes with playing roll or toss.

In general, less is more, and low-tech is better than high-tech for encouraging cognitive development and creative play.

Your time and attention are worth so much more than a toy. Give your child experiences, not stuff ~ those experiences and interactions will go towards bonding, and expanding language skills. Have fun with it, and enjoy your child’s growth. ♦



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Email: handsandvoicesofla@yahoo.com
Website: www.handsandvoices.org
Facebook: [louisianahandsandvoices](https://www.facebook.com/louisianahandsandvoices)

What’s happening:

- 10/22/13 Board Conf Call
- 10/26/13 Family Event, New Orleans
- 11/10/13 Family Event, Lafayette
- 11/21/13 LA EHDI Advisory Council Mtg
- 12/17/13 Booth at Ochsner Holiday Party

Louisiana Hands & Voices
and
Darnal, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick's
ART for All SEASONS
cordially invites you to
a night of wine, music and fine art
featuring **Kali Babineaux**
October 22, 2013
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
2000 Kaliste Saloom Road, Suite 300
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508

Check out our **Facebook** page to help you follow all that is happening locally around our State, as well as throughout the nation.



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from our families to yours!