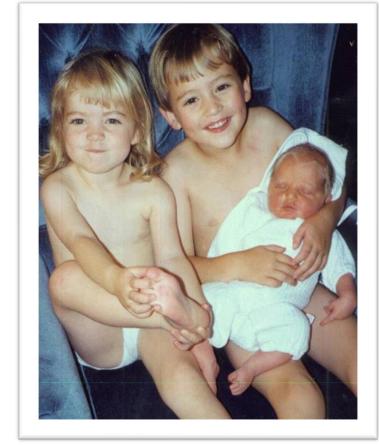
## How I came to be here today:









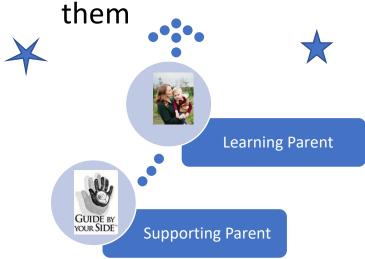


But... how do I teach her about love, faith, tradition?

### The Role of Parent to Parent Support

"Is my child going to be okay? Am I going to be okay?"

- for Parents of children birth to 18 who are Deaf/hard of hearing or Deaf/hh Plus...
- and the professional community who serves them





www.cohandsandvoices.org gbys@cohandsandvoices.org



#### Colorado Resource Guide



For Families Raising Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing



### Parent Leadership Opportunities

## An *EHDI* System created with parents for parents (What is EHDI?)

- Will be more successful
- More user-friendly
- Understandable to parents



#### How to get involved?

- Share your parent story
- Join a panel discussion
- Write an article for other parents
- Join a local or statewide task force
- Testify for a bill or a change in policy
- Apply for an Ambassador. Guide.
   Board member or an ASTra advocate position
  - Support other new families with occasional events – social and educational, visits, phone & social media

### Educational Advocacy in Colorado



- Parent training on the educational process
- One-on-One coaching
- Attending meetings with parents
- About 50 requests a year/35 meetings
- Brenda@cohandsandvoices.org



# Parents' Wishlist for Professionals

- If you do know, say so. If you don't know, say that.
- Reach for a month's progress in a month's time.
- Help us connect to other families and to a variety of deaf/hard of hearing adults.
- If the system needs tweaking that got us here, please help us speak up to the right people.
- If you know of something that may help our child, have courage to have that critical conversation with
  us.
- See our child's strengths and help us to develop talents.
- Remember the whole child. Where do Deaf/hh kids trip up in real life? Help us promote emotional health, social skills and pragmatics, safety, self-advocacy, identity, and remember the purpose of special education. (What are the three points?)

The 2 per 1000 babies identified at birth and the 2 per 1000 toddlers and kids later identified in childhood will be glad you did!



## Many ways to connect: Print, Social Media, E-news, Phone/Text/IM, Events





#### Sara@cohandsandvoices.org, info@cohandsandvoices.org

720-598-2648 (COHV)

Facebook: Colorado Hands & Voices (Group – CO Chapter Hands & Voices), Deaf + Autism, UHL, cCMV Family Network, fledgling Instagram and Twitter

#### Moms' Time Out 2021

