

Hello!

We are sign language researchers studying how hearing people learn ASL as a second language. We know that exposure to ASL in the home by signing parents dramatically enhances deaf children's chances of developing linguistic and cognitive skills on time, so this is the major motivation behind our project. Many early intervention programs recognize that typical college ASL curricula are not necessarily appropriate for what parents of young children need to learn, yet there is no standard "family ASL curriculum" currently available. There is also very little research documenting the many creative ways early intervention groups use for teaching ASL to hearing parents, or the success of these methods.

As a first step to addressing these gaps, we are interviewing **hearing parents with deaf children and ASL instructors who work with these families**. Interviews are informal, with a flexible structure focusing on your personal experiences and observations, including questions like the following:

(for parents): What made you decide to learn ASL? What aspects of the language have you found the most intuitive, or the most difficult, to learn? How do you use ASL at home?

(for ASL instructors): What type of ASL materials do you use to teach ASL to hearing parents of deaf children, and what works best? In what way are hearing parents different from "typical" college aged hearing ASL learners?

Interviews can be by video chat or in person, depending on your location, and will be filmed if you give permission. Each participating family or ASL instructor will receive \$20 as compensation for your time. After the interview, you will be invited to optionally participate in additional activities related to this project, to be scheduled and compensated separately.

If you are interested or would like to ask us more about this project, please contact Dr. Deborah Chen Pichler (deborah.pichler@gallaudet.edu). Put "From Vancouver, BC" in the subject line. Then I'll send the paperwork to fill out.

We look forward to hearing from you!

