



# Impact Newsletter

Winter

[www.deafkids.org](http://www.deafkids.org)

2001

Independently Merging Parents Associations of California Together for deaf and hard of hearing children

## PARENT LINKS

### STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO LINK FAMILIES WITH DEAF & HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN TO EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES



SACRAMENTO - The California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. announces the implementation of PARENT LINKS, a statewide program that links families of deaf and hard of hearing children (age 0-3 years) to information, health care services, early intervention programs and other parents. In addition, PARENT LINKS will provide parent group meetings and one on one support. The program will also provide information and training to service providers within the Early Intervention System and to the medical community about the needs specific to deaf and hard of hearing. Funding for the program was provided by a \$891,522 grant from The California Endowment, the state's largest health foundation.

PARENT LINKS Consultants will be located in four locations throughout California. Their goal will be to empower families through education, training and support to become equal participants in education, medical and social decisions that have a life-long impact on their deaf or hard of hearing child.

"As parents, we have an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and understanding about our children. Our child is often times the first person we have ever met who is deaf or hard of hearing. It is significant to parents who have just learned that their babies cannot hear to realize that they are not alone," said Program Coordinator Sandy Harvey.

For parents, the complexity of raising children

with a hearing loss, meeting their social, psychological, and educational needs is complex and at times, overwhelming.

The Coalition believes that parents desire to become knowledgeable in issues relating to hearing loss, to advocate for the rights of their children and to make informed decisions. In keeping with this position, the concept of PARENT LINKS was developed. The Coalition represents eight sister non-profit agencies throughout the state serving deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families for over 25 years.

In collaboration with IMPACT, the statewide organization for parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, volunteer Key Parent Links will be available throughout California to provide local information and contacts.

For more information, please contact:

Sandy Harvey at (916) 921-1045 v/tty

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### *The Silent Garden* - A must read for parents.

When originally published, *The Silent Garden* was one of the first books to offer reassurance and answers to the torrent of questions asked by parents who had just learned that their child was deaf. Now, this completely rewritten edition presents parents of deaf children with more crucial information enhanced by the advances made in the general understanding of what it means to be Deaf and the greater possibilities afforded Deaf children now. Deaf since birth and an educator in communication science, Paul Ogden provides parents with a firm foundation for making the difficult decisions necessary to begin their child on the road to realizing his or her full potential.

printed by [Gallaudet University Press](http://www.gallaudet.edu), Washington, D.C., \$29.95. TO ORDER CALL 1-888-630-9347 (TTY), 800-621-2736 (voice), or 1-800-621-8476 (fax).

## What is IMPACT?

IMPACT is an organization of parents, teachers and professionals serving deaf and hard of hearing children. IMPACT was established in 1986 with 12 parents and has a current membership of over 400.

IMPACT is supported and encouraged by a host of organizations serving the deaf community. IMPACT's purpose is to meet the needs of the parents.

## IMPACT Mission Statement

We as parents, members and professionals of the deaf and hard of hearing community are rising up as a single voice. Regardless of communication modalities, we stand united in the task of getting the very best for our children. We will take no less than quality education for our children, support and early intervention for our families, information and education for our parents.

### Be Informed... Join Impact Today !!

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ TTY (yes / no)

WORK PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION (Please Check One):  Parent

Professional  Student  Organization

Business  Legislator  Other

### Enclosed is my contribution to be a (an):

Advocate \$500 Supporter \$200 Booster \$100

Family \$30 Student \$10

New Member Renewal Membership

Send to the Treasurer at: IMPACT

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## **Monitoring My Deaf Child on the TTY: Invasion of Privacy or Good Parenting?**

*By Richard Medugno*

As the hearing parent of a deaf child, I am constantly confronted with child-rearing problems that I never imagined I'd have to deal with. One of the biggest issues for me is that I'm never quite sure if I'm responding to the problem in an appropriate manner.

True, being a parent of a hearing child, there are times, when I'm just not sure if my actions will lead to the desired results. However, if I search hard enough I'm sure I can get a lot of different opinions from family, friends, community or the media. The same is not true for the issues with my daughter, who is nine-years-old, deaf and attends CSDF.

For example, the problem that concerns me right now is TTY conversations. When my hearing son is on the phone, I can overhear what he's talking about and monitor without being sneaky or heavy-handed. If he swears or talking inappropriately, I can immediately take action.

It's a different story when my daughter is chatting on the TTY with her classmates. She gets rather annoyed when her mother and I look over her shoulder and often will cover the screen when letters and words are rolling past. Or, if she's typing, she'll stop and try to shoo us way.

At first blush, it seems she's got a legitimate case. I know I hate it when someone is looking over my shoulder as I write or type. I once physically threw a guy out of my office when he had the audacity to come in, stand behind me and read aloud the email message I was in the middle of typing. But am I being a good parent, if I allow my child to use swear words or inappropriate language on a TTY? I don't think so.

Eavesdropping is a big temptation with a TTY, because you don't have to be standing over a child's shoulder to have access to their conversations. If you wait until the call is over and the child has left the room, you can simply go to the TTY and review the entire conversation that has been saved in the memory of the device.

I feel uncomfortable doing this because now I have access to more information than I do with my son. When he is chatting on the phone, I can only access one half of the conversation. With the TTY memory, I have access to both sides of the conversation and it feels like I'm invading the caller's privacy, as well as my daughter's. I can justify it being a parent, but it still just doesn't sit right with me. What do you think? Should I continue to sneak to the TTY after conversations and check on the content? Or should I trust a preteen will not abuse the privilege of telephone calls?

So I'm conflicted...I'd like to hear what the Deaf community thinks about this issue. How and do deaf parents monitor their deaf children's TTY conversations? And at what age do you stop?

## **GOVERNOR VETOES ASSEMBLY BILL 855 AND LEAVES CALIFORNIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF STAFF / PARENTS ANGRY**

Fremont, CA - (October 17, 2001) - On Monday Governor Gray Davis vetoed a piece of legislation that would have helped stem the flight of highly qualified teachers from California's state Schools for the Deaf and Blind. Supporters of AB 855 are promising to continue the fight.

"We're not going to take this lying down," said Barb Matusky, a mother of two students at the California School for the Deaf at Fremont (CSDF) and a S.O.S. (Save Our School) Committee member. "How can these state schools recruit and retain teachers, if the teachers can go down the street to the city schools and make almost twice as much? It will result in our children receiving an inferior education because the school continues to lose high-quality employees because of this issue. It's a disgrace that the state of California would allow this to happen." AB 855, sponsored by Assemblyman John Dutra (D-Fremont), had passed through the state legislature with near-unanimous, bipartisan support. It calls for the state teachers employed at the California Schools of the Deaf and Blind and other state-employed teachers to be paid on par with school teachers in the local school district where the schools are located. The state schools in Fremont, in particular, are experiencing huge difficulties in retaining and recruiting good teachers because the salaries are not competitive, in an environment where the cost of living is extremely high and the local school district's teachers are paid at least \$10,000 to \$20,000 more annually. The governor's opposition to the bill is rumored to be because he feared setting a precedent of state employees being statutorily guaranteed a certain pay scale.

### **The Governor's Veto Message**

To Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 855 without my signature. This bill would require that State teacher salaries be established based upon local school district teacher salaries. By mandating that State salaries be based upon salaries established by local school districts, the fiscal controls currently exercised by the Legislature and the Governor would be removed. I have instructed DPA to make an offer to increase the salaries of teachers at the schools for the deaf and blind and to any others DPA may deem appropriate. Thus, this legislation is not necessary. Moreover, the matter of determining State teacher pay is best determined through the normal collective bargaining process.



## **CAL-ED/IMPACT**

### **United for the Success of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children**

Y'all Come!!!

We'll be mighty pleased to see you all here at the 2002 CAL-ED/IMPACT Conference here in Sacramento, March 8-10! Our conference theme this year is "Treasuring The Past - Blazing New Trails."

We are proud to announce that Dr. Robert Davila, CEO, Vice President of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York, will be here to help us kick-off our conference with his Friday evening keynote address, "Treasuring The Past." Dr. Davila's keynote address will be preceded by an entertainment extravaganza, brought to you by the local Deaf community, and followed by a wine and cheese reception, sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter, N.T.I.D. Alumni.

Our Saturday morning keynote address, "Blazing New Trails," features Mary Pat Moeller, M.S., from Boystown National Research Hospital, who will be providing us with the latest research based information on early intervention with Deaf and hard of hearing babies.

A Continental breakfast will be provided both Saturday and Sunday. This year's raffle promises to provide the best prizes ever!

Saturday will be filled with exciting workshops (something for everyone, we promise!), incredible exhibits, a delicious luncheon (where our annual awards will be presented), and all-day snack and coffee breaks! Saturday night will wind up with a Wild West Hoedown, which will be great fun for the whole family, so bring your dancin' shoes and western clothes!!!

Sunday morning we will have more great workshops. Finally, your children will dazzle us with their incredible talent at our spectacular western style closing ceremonies.

Our children's program planners are cookin' up the greatest activities for your kids, so don't leave 'em at home. They won't want to miss any of this fun!

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the NorCal Center on Deafness, the highest quality interpreting services will be provided at all of this year's CAL-ED/IMPACT Conference events.

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