The mission of the REAL Project is to ensure deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers – birth to 3 years old – have full access to American Sign Language and English.

The first few years of life are critical for language acquisition. 90% of a child’s brain development happens before age 6, and on average deaf children lack more than 75,000 hours of language access from 4-18 than their hearing peers.

It is our mission and duty to provide these amazing and capable children with the school-ready foundation they need.
REAL Services and Programs

**Family Services**
Join us for ASL classes, Deaf Mentorship, Bilingual Storybooks, Family Learning vacations, and the Clerc Center Online Community.

**Early Intervention Providers**
Visit us for resources to support your work with deaf and hard of hearing babies: training, research, resources, and tools to use with the families you serve.

**Medical Professionals**
Stay tuned for continuing medical education courses on language deprivation and ensuring equity for deaf and hard of hearing babies.

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**Impact on REAL Families**

“When we learned ASL, my son instantly became a different kid. He was so happy, confident, and social once he was able to communicate. Turns out he can talk, he just doesn’t need to use his voice.”

- Sandy L., Seattle, WA

“My son was identified as profoundly deaf at birth and we started ASL immediately. By the time he received his cochlear implants at 7 months, he was already signing a dozen words, and understanding much more. Now 15 months, my son is happy, confident, and gloriously expressive.”

- James F., Austin, TX

“It’s a common misconception that using a signed language will delay a child’s acquisition of a spoken language. It’s the opposite. Language builds language. ASL built the foundation for my daughter’s spoken language.”

- Theresa K., Ann Arbor, MI

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**Who REAL Serves**

- **Families**
- **Professionals**
- **Medical Community**

**Where REAL Serves**

- **WEST**
  Coming Soon
- **EAST**
  Coming Soon
- **MIDWEST**
  Coming Soon
- **SOUTH**
  Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind
  Talladega, AL