

The needs of children are **REAL**



# Our Goal: End language deprivation by 2050



**AIDB** Alabama Institute  
for Deaf and Blind  
Deaf. Blind. Limitless.

**GALLAUDET**  
UNIVERSITY

Laurent Clerc  
National Deaf Education Center

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.



## Who REAL Serves



Families



Professionals Medical Community



## 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

## Where REAL Serves



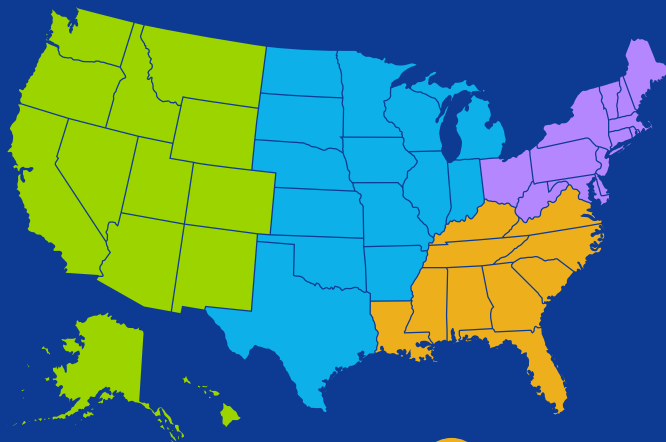
**WEST**

Coming Soon



**EAST**

Coming Soon



**MIDWEST**

Coming Soon

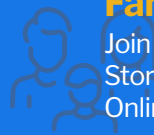


**SOUTH**

Alabama Institute  
for Deaf and Blind  
Talladega, AL

## 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.