

RAISING AND EDUCATING A DEAF CHILD : A Comprehensive Guide to the Choices, Controversies, And Decisions Faced by Parents and Educators

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A Readable and Informed Guide to Raising Deaf Kids

By Marc Marschark

Anyone who has a deaf child, has taught one, worked with one, or been one understands the kinds of challenges involved in growing up deaf. Like parents of any child who has special needs, parents of a deaf child want answers to what seem to be simple and straightforward questions like:

What kind of language experience is best for my child, speech or sign language?

Will my child ever learn to speak normally?

Does being deaf affect how smart a child is?

What kind of school is best?

Will my child be able to get a good job?

Regrettably, these questions are not as simple as they appear, and parents may sometimes get contradictory information from professionals who are supposed to have the answers. Now comes a book that parents can turn to time and time again. In **RAISING AND EDUCATING A DEAF CHILD: A Comprehensive Guide to Choices, Controversies, and Decisions Faced by Parents and Educators** (OUP, April 24, 1997, \$25.00, ISBN: 0-19-509467-0, 235 pp.), Marc Marschark has written what is sure to become the most useful tool parents will find for raising a deaf child.

One of the most important issues Marschark addresses is the early identification of hearing loss. While early detection is crucial to a parent's ability to communicate with a deaf child, the average age for detection of childhood hearing losses in the U.S. is between two and three years and sometimes hearing loss is not discovered until children are screened as part of kindergarten placement. The sad part is that hearing loss can be detected even before a newborn leaves the hospital. Communication with a deaf child can make all the difference for a parent, and the earlier communication starts, the better.

Marschark addresses numerous topics including as what it means to be deaf from a medical standpoint, the uniqueness of Deaf culture, technological aids for the deaf such as TTY and cochlear implants, and the educational and social opportunities available to deaf children. He describes many ways that the environment of home and school can influence a deaf child's chance for success in both academic and social circles. Above all, he emphasizes the need for early detection of hearing loss, and recommends that all parents of deaf children learn sign language and use it often.

RAISING AND EDUCATING A DEAF CHILD is not a "how to" book with all the "right" answers for raising a deaf child. This is a guide through the many conflicting suggestions and programs for raising deaf children, as well as the likely implications of taking one direction or the other. Marschark sifts through the most current educational and scientific journals and research, including his own recent research, and talks to deaf children and adults and their parents. The result is a readable and enlightening survey of what we know about the language, social and intellectual development of deaf children, and what educational and practical issues face them and their families.

Parents of deaf children can and should make their own decisions based on what is right for their family and for their child. **RAISING AND EDUCATING A DEAF CHILD** allows them to make informed decisions.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Marc Marschark is Director for Research, Teaching and Learning at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology. A professor and research psychologist, his books include *Psychological Development of Deaf Children* (1993) and *Psychological Perspectives on Deafness* (1993).

For more information about **RAISING AND EDUCATING A DEAF CHILD**, call Alisa Wyatt at Oxford University Press, (212) 726-6106 voice.