

## Full Agenda for Voice Conference 2023

<https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/Conference-2023>

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Day 1 - October 13, 2023

9:30 am - 9:40 am      **Welcome Message from Chair: Erin Sproule, Chair of VOICE**

9:40 am - 9:45 am      **Welcome Message from Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services**

9:45 am - 10:30 am    **Keynote Address: Marshall Chasin, AuD**

Music and Hearing Aids: Tips for Helping Children with Hearing Loss Enjoy Music to the Fullest

Music has played an integral role in the life of children who are deaf and hard of hearing children for many years (Estabrooks, 1994), and research has shown the benefits of music training and appreciation on listening skills (Hyde et al., 2009; Dittinger et al., 2017), language skills (Kraus & Strait, 2015), and education (Dorman, 2010). Thus, it is important that hearing technology is programmed for and/or connected to music in such a way that the sound quality is as optimal as it can be.

This presentation will illustrate the considerations audiologists, parents, teachers, and therapists must explore when helping children who are deaf and hard of hearing hear music optimally with their hearing aids.

10:30 am - 11:00 am    **BREAK**

11:00 am -12:00 pm    **Talk Yoga™ and Auditory-Verbal Intervention: Breathing, Mindfulness and Relaxation**  
**Julie Sparkes, M.A., SLP(C), Reg. CASLPO, LSLS, Cert. AVT**

At Spark Speech, Julie Sparkes uses Talk Yoga which introduces children to breathing, mindfulness, and relaxation techniques through yoga poses while supporting their speech and language goals. This innovative speech and language group-based intervention focuses on efforts to develop a child's confidence to communicate with their peers. Specific goals are incorporated into these yoga sessions so that the child's skills in speech sound and articulation development, listening skills, fluency, vocabulary, and expressive language are addressed.

This presentation will explore the benefits of incorporating yoga in individual/group therapy and educational sessions with children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families.

12:00 pm - 12:55 pm **LUNCH**

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm **Children with Hearing Loss and Unique Communication Needs**  
**Jehan Shehata-Aboubakr, BA, CCC, Reg.CASLPO**

At Clinical Communication Consultants, Jehan uses a variety of therapeutic approaches to help children with various communication challenges develop and succeed with the help of family-centred intervention. In particular, Jehan has gained two decades of experience working with children who are deaf and hard of hearing who also have challenges in the following: the processing of the Mind, early language development, oral motor and speech disorders, and developmental problems of relating and communicating.

This presentation will explore the diagnostic and intervention process that occurs within the collaborative partnership between the parent, the teacher of the deaf, and the auditory-verbal practitioner. Several case study examples will be highlighted.

1:45 pm - 2:15 pm **BREAK**

2:15 pm - 3:35 pm **PROFESSIONAL ROUNDS PANEL DISCUSSION: What We Can Do to Turn  
“I Can’t” into “I Can!”**

Several professionals from the community will engage in a panel discussion of the description of services available in the community for children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families.

Sheila Waller-Kellen (Bob Rumball)                      Rosary Kwak (Surrey Place)  
Tammany Petrie (Everyday Heroes Kids)              Gillian Lalonde (Surrey Place, IHP)  
Lisa Near (Canadian Hearing Services)  
Connie Mayer (Teacher of Deaf Program, York University)  
Bronwen Alsop/ Sheila Waller-Kellen (Hands & Voices Ontario)  
Janet Martino & Vida Peric (Ontario Home Visit Program)

3:35 pm - 4:20 pm **The Value of Family-Child Chat in Listening and Spoken  
Language Development: What LENA Tells Us**  
**Hillary Ganek, PhD**

Research shows us that children learn most of their spoken language through overhearing the conversations between family members, siblings, peers, and friends. But when and how do these conversations occur? Is there a way to increase the frequency and quality of conversations that can increase listening and spoken language outcomes in children who are deaf and hard of

hearing? Or are there conditions and strategies that we need to pay better attention to help ensure listening, spoken language, and academic success?

LENA, is a small, wearable recorder that collects valuable information about a child's language and listening environment. Hillary Ganek will review what research studies with LENA have to say about how we are doing and what we need to do better to help children who are deaf and hard of hearing reach their highest listening, spoken language, and academic potential in life. Hillary Ganek is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Global Child Health at Sick Kids, in Toronto, and is a Professor at Brock University, Canada.

4:20-4:30 pm                    **CLOSING REMARKS: *Guita Movallali, MSc (Audiology), PhD (Psychology)***

**Day 2 - October 14, 2023**

9:30 am - 9:35 am            **Welcome Message from Chair: Erin Sproule, Chair of VOICE**

9:35 am - 10:35 am        **Keynote Address: *Jodi Michelle-Cutler***

Rally Caps: Raising Kids with Hearing Loss Who Can

Jodi is a film producer (*Rally Caps, 2022*), an author, an activist, and a mother. A Baltimore native, she lived in Tuscany, Italy, for over 20 years, where she had two children (one of whom has a cochlear implant). Jodi is the founding member of the Global Coalition of Parents of Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing and an online forum that supports over 15000 families of children with hearing loss. She was also instrumental in promoting and instigating newborn hearing screening in Italy.

This presentation will explore some of the challenges and joys of raising a child with hearing loss who is bilingual and living life to accomplish his dreams. Jodi will also present the inspiration and message she wanted to share about children who wear cochlear implant(s)...as heroes who just happen to have hearing loss...through her novel and movie, *Rally Caps (2023)*. Come and join Jodi...and get inspired!

10:35 am - 11:00 am        **BREAK**

11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Children with Unique Hearing Challenges: Solutions in Classrooms and Therapeutic Intervention**  
*Lalsa Perepa, AuD, SLP, Reg. CASLPO*

At AudiPro Hearing Clinic in Nobleton, Ontario, Lalsa Perepa, sees children and adults with hearing loss and unique hearing challenges such as Auditory-Processing Disorders, Hyperacusis, Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorders, and Misophonia. These unique hearing disorders present listening and learning challenges at home and at school. During this presentation, Lalsa will give an overview of what these disorders are, how they affect listening and spoken language development, and practical solutions that parents, teachers, and therapists can incorporate to help children reach their highest listening, spoken language, and academic potential.

12:00 pm - 12:55 pm **LUNCH**

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm **Children Who Use Multiple Modes of Communication: How the AVT/AST Practitioner Can Serve Children Who Use ASL and AAC-**  
*Karen MacIver-Lux, M.A., Aud(C), Reg. CASLPO, LSLS Cert. AVT*

In Ontario, there are children who are deaf and hard of hearing who have learned to use multiple modes of communication to communicate with their family, and members of their community, and to learn and interact in school. These modes of communication may include American Sign Language, Cued Speech, and Augmentative and Alternative Communication. At times, many of these families would like to engage the services of speech-language pathologists, educators of the deaf, and auditory-verbal therapy/education practitioners to help their children learn skills that will help them reach their highest listening and spoken communication potential.

This presentation will provide an overview of the benefits of engaging the services of a professional who is able to provide a variety of listening and spoken language (LSLS) interventions such as Auditory and Language Enrichment (ALE)/Auditory-Verbal Therapy/Education (AVT/AVEd) and/or Auditory Skills Training (AST) when a child/teenager uses another mode of communication other than listening and spoken language and uses hearing technology. Karen will discuss what this intervention looks like using case studies, which will also demonstrate how powerful partnerships can turn "I can't" into "I can!"

1:45 pm - 1:50 pm **BREAK**

1:50 pm - 3:00 pm

**Young Adults Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing PANEL DISCUSSION: What We Wish Our Parents, Younger Selves, and Others Knew**

Dayna Blustein  
Holly Marini

Emily Akerman  
Kelina Powell

Farrah Sattaur  
Kelsey Hampson

Martin Leduc  
Kristen Kyone

Eight young adults who are deaf and hard of hearing in the community will engage in a panel discussion to share their inspirational stories, messages, and tips for success. Each panellist will share:

- Their personal journey with hearing loss and how they have navigated challenges along the way.
- The role of mentorship and support in their life and how it has contributed to their achievement.
- Transitioning from high-school to the workforce or post-secondary, and young adulthood.
- Advice and insights they can share with children who are DHH and their parents to motivate and guide them.

3:00 pm - 3:40 pm

**Supporting people with hearing loss...the present and future**  
***Richard Plummer***

As National Executive Director of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA), Richard Plummer brings to his new role over 20 years of extensive experience in the non-profit and Healthcare fields. CHAA is committed to removing communication barriers of hearing loss and providing ground-breaking solutions that support of barrier-free Canada. During this presentation, Richard will talk about the support that CHHA can provide to parents of children, teenagers and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing. Hearing loss can be a “hearing gain” as long as support can be accessed by all who are deaf and hard of hearing. Richard is excited to share the support that CHHA can provide.

3:40 pm - 4:25 pm

**What Can Parents Dare to Dream?: Expectations for Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing Today**  
***Karen MacIver-Lux and Jodi Michelle-Cutler***

History has shown that parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing are the primary driving force behind any positive growth or change with respect to services, accommodations, hearing technology, education, and advocacy at the government level. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the history of VOICE, its accomplishments, and the dreams that children were able to achieve because of their parents. This presentation is meant to inspire today's parents and professionals, and learners will leave feeling empowered with tools and “tricks of the trade” that will drive positive change.

4:30 pm

**CLOSING REMARKS**