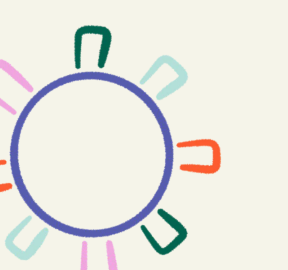


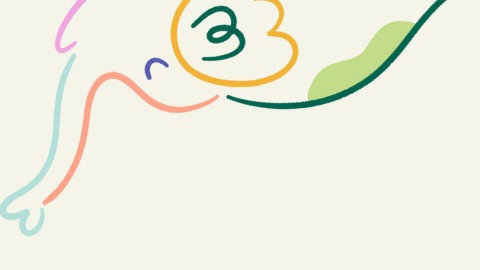




ASL: a Social-Emotional Connection Tool for Preschool Classrooms


Mallory Lester




What is Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)?


SEL is anything school systems implement for the betterment of their students' social skills or emotional wellbeing.

Some forms of SEL you might be familiar with:

- Mindfulness exercises
 - Conflict- resolution role plays
 - Topical assemblies
 - Special emotional regulation classes
 - Schoolwide practices
- 




Research suggests that many children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing have significantly more social and emotional problems compared to their hearing peers.



Why?

Teachers in mainstream classrooms report not knowing how to best emotionally engage with their Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.



Opinion

**Teaching ASL in mainstream
preschool classrooms
benefits the
social-emotional wellbeing
of all students, but
especially those that are
Deaf/HoH.**





Outline

01

Deafness

How do people become Deaf? What are the communication options for a Deaf person?

02


SEL and ASL

What does ideal SEL look like in a mainstream classroom? How could ASL fit into this?

03

Implementation

What research is available to help with implementation? Where can we go from here?



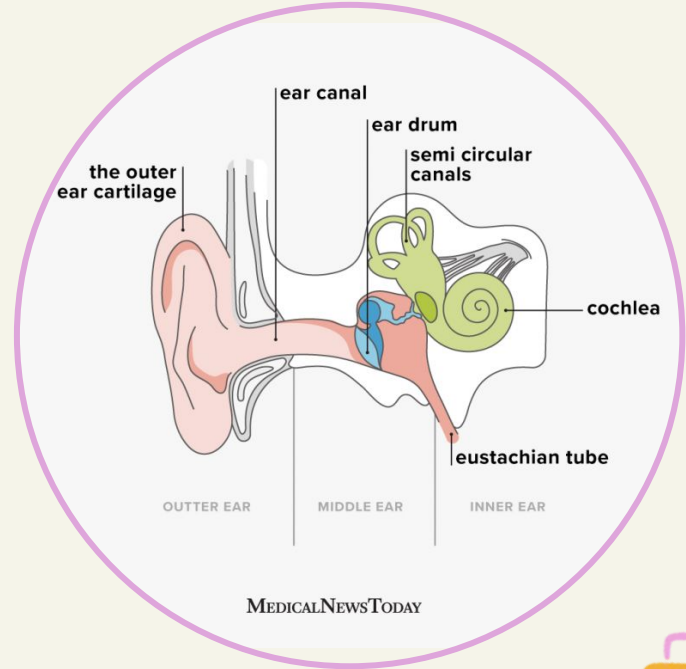
01 Deafness and Language Acquisition

How do people become Deaf?

What is communication like for a Deaf/HoH person?

- Sign Language
- Lip Reading/Oral communication
- Written English vs ASL

Around 80% of Deaf/HoH students are currently in mainstream classrooms.





02 Social-Emotional Learning


Intra -personal

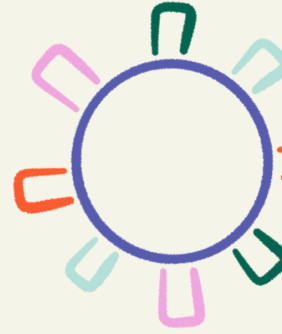
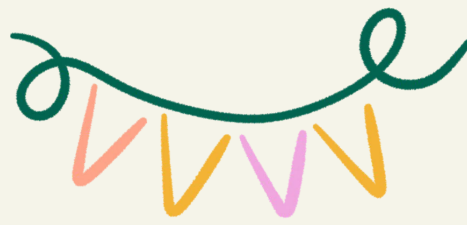
Useful for self-awareness, emotional regulation, self-control, confidence, and decision making.

Inter -personal

Useful for communication, relationships, collaboration, empathy, and friendship.

SEL encourages students to reflect on their own identity and how their differences can connect them to other students.






Research shows that ASL helps hearing preschool students gain a higher fluency of emotional expressiveness than English alone.

Hubler, M. S. (2015). Effects of sign language as a tool for improving social and emotional learning of toddler-preschool-age children (Order No. 3745405). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global Closed Collection. (1757729773).





Teaching ASL in mainstream preschool classrooms benefits:




Deaf/HoH

Teaching ASL to all students in a mainstream classroom helps Deaf/HoH students to feel more included, reflect on their own identity, and connect with their hearing peers.

Hearing

Research supports hearing students learning ASL to improve emotional communication skills, develop more understanding of their Deaf/HoH peers, and build stronger relationships with them.





03


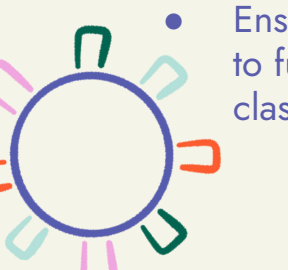
Implementation

Potential ways to begin integrating ASL into SEL curriculum.




03 Implementation

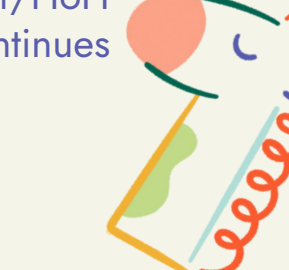
Ideas

- 
- Teach daily signs to all preschool students
 - Incorporate “feelings” signs into SEL activities
 - Encourage all students to practice using ASL when expressing difficult emotions
 - Learn about Deaf culture and celebrate Deaf/HoH students’ identities in the classroom
 - Ensure Deaf students have an interpreter in class to fully understand instruction, but still encourage classmates to use ASL when communicating.
- 

Keep In Mind



There is a significant need for **more research about SEL curriculum in ASL**. Because ASL is a visual language and differs greatly from written English, the current SEL curriculum may not be the most beneficial for Deaf/HoH students when translated. Encourage teachers and researchers to elevate Deaf/HoH voices and opinions as SEL continues to develop.



In Conclusion

above	age	bad	breakfast	can	cry	day
doctor	eat	feel	forget	give	grow	him
hour	idea	is	keep	later	little	medicine
mother	never	old	pen	promise	question	remember
same	see	start	take	think	use	usually
very	walk	when	write	yesterday	and more...	

Teaching preschool students ASL in mainstream classrooms has many benefits. It's important for Deaf/HoH children to feel included and valued inside the classroom, and there are advantages for all students. While more research is still needed to find ASL specific SEL curricula, incorporating ASL into existing SEL lesson plans is a great way to begin merging the Deaf/HoH and hearing worlds.



Thanks!

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