

# ALABAMA HANDS & VOICES



## EMPOWERING PARENTS

With Knowledge, Support, & Community



- O.U.R. Project & The Child Safety Toolkit
- Safety & Attachment
- O.U.R. Vook Club Book & Video List





# THE O.U.R. PROJECT WHY

“Our kids’ are 3-4 times more likely than typically-developing peers to experience any kind of maltreatment, from neglect to abuse to bullying.

Children who are deaf or hard of hearing may experience many of the risk factors for maltreatment. Understanding the risk factors and how they might relate to your child is the first step to reducing a child’s vulnerability.”

~Parent Safety Toolkit

# EMPOWERED PARENTS CAN

- Know: One caring adult in a child's life increases safety and success for that child.
- Understand the Protective Factors
- Use the O.U.R Project Safety Toolkit  
<https://www.handsandvoices.org/pdf/OUR-Toolkit.pdf>
- Watch videos and use resources from KidPower International created for Alabama Hands & Voices
- Be part of the conversation by attending the monthly O.U.R Committee Meeting



# PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE DHH

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HANDS &  
VOICES™

1. Parent Resilience: Well-Being and Empowerment
2. Relationships: Social Connections
3. Unbiased Knowledge: Systems Navigation
4. Support: Concrete Support and Resources
5. Communication: Accessible and Effective



# JOINING O.U.R. CONVERSATION

Observe



Understand



Respond



# SAFETY & ATTACHMENT

Deborah Mood, PhD

Developmental Pediatrics Unit of Children's Hospital Colorado



# ATTACHMENT

**Affectionate bond between an infant and an adult caregiver**



# OUTCOMES ASSOCIATED WITH SECURE ATTACHMENTS

positive impact on  
child's neurological,  
physiological, and  
psychosocial  
development

more likely to develop  
emotional intelligence,  
good social skills, and  
coping skills

sets foundation for  
development of  
pragmatic language  
skills

# WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT ATTACHMENT AND DEAFNESS

- **Deaf children and adults have a high rate of secure attachment similar to the hearing population**
- **Synchronicity of parent/child dyad/relationship and ability of consistency of caregiver response to child's needs for children under age 3 may have more impact on attachment than communication skill**
- **Influence of parent reaction to deafness**
- **Availability of resources to support parents**



# HOW CAN WE FOSTER ATTACHMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

## Respond to infant/child clues:

- Respond promptly to cries/distress
- Follow child's visual gaze
- Make environmental modifications to increase visual contact
- Respond to all forms of communication/interpret child's actions as meaningful
- Match strategies to child's needs and abilities
- Build routines that incorporate multi-sensory cues to increase predictability
- Incorporate touch



# CIRCLE OF SECURITY

## Circle of Security®

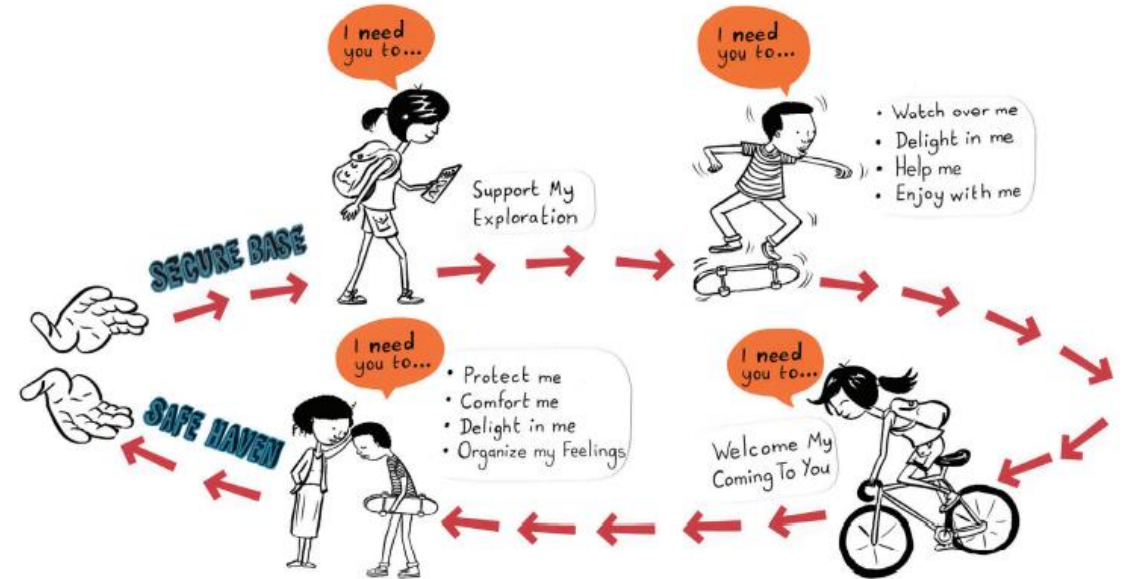
Parent Attending To The Child's Needs



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## Parent Attending to the Teen's Needs



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