

Summer
2023

CHIP NEWSLETTER



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CO-HEAR CORNER

Meet Jill Cimino! Jill is the CO-Hear for Pikes Peak area, and serves the Local Early Intervention Programs from Colorado Springs to the Eastern Colorado border and the Southern Colorado border – covering the Southeast part of the state!

- I was born and raised in Colorado Springs, and have lived on both coasts (Washington D.C. & Seattle).
- I completed my undergraduate degree at CU Boulder and my M.S. degree at Gallaudet University.
- I'm a Speech Language Pathologist, and have worked at Children's Hospital Colorado on their DHH specialty team, and in Early Intervention as a CHIP facilitator.
- I enjoy camping, hiking, and skiing with my husband and 2 children. I also love knitting and gardening.

Here's some tips to improve pre-language skills! Check out the link to the graphic in the Resource Round Up section.

Tips to Improve Pre-Language Skills

1. Play – Peek-a-boo, Bubbles, Roll a ball back and forth, Hide and Seek
2. Model – Talk about what your child is looking at, playing with, or is interested in
3. Simplify – Use single words or short phrases when talking
4. Keep Attention – Put away electronics, turn off TV, reduce distractions
5. Be Expressive – Use exaggerated motions, expressions and intonation
6. Face to Face – Position yourself in front of your child, hold preferred items near your face

CHECK THIS OUT

The CO-Hear video has been a 2+ year project, and it is FINALLY done. This video highlights the role of the CO-Hear, and is a brief video that is great for families, providers, and stakeholders who might want to know a bit more about a CO-Hear! Check it out ->

<https://youtu.be/lpC1GbxS1dU>

Last Fall, CSDB received a grant award from the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind (CCDHHDB) to produce ASL Stories for Families. These are popular children's books, that are told in ASL by a Deaf adult, animated, and fully accessible! They can be shared with families, teachers, colleagues, and of course, the children! We hope you enjoy the ones we have so far, and look forward to more to come!

The Rainbow Fish ->

<https://youtu.be/7CwS7S25-zk>





WHO'S WHO

My name is Tania Moore. I am a teacher of the Deaf working in the field for the past 23 years. I spent eight years in a center-based program at East High School and left due to family circumstances. I then became a CHIP facilitator, fluent in sign language and proficient in Spanish, working with families for the past 15 years with five different Community Center boards.

I have been married to my high school sweetheart for almost 22 years. We have three beautiful children. Our oldest daughter will be a sophomore in college at Baylor University in Waco, TX. Our middle daughter is going to be a senior in high school and has Rett Syndrome, requiring full time care. Our son is going to be in seventh grade. Needless to say, we have our hands full.

The wonderful thing about working as a facilitator is the flexibility in my schedule. I have enjoyed being able to work my families around getting my children to and from school. It has also been wonderful for getting my daughter to her therapy sessions.

As a facilitator, I have enjoyed being able to meet so many wonderful families and helping them become experts in their children's hearing differences. I love building a rapport with each family and helping them feel safe enough to reach out to me with any questions that may arise. I love being a sounding board when they process the variety of emotions and I love seeing the smile on each child's face when I arrive. The relationships we've built are solid, and some extend beyond graduation from CHIP.

My advice to new facilitators is to make sure you build a strong rapport with your families and provide a safe space. Be open to suggestions from the families and be a good listener. Share your wealth of knowledge but know the boundaries so families don't get overwhelmed. Be flexible and patient, meeting each family where they are. Some families just take longer to accept the journey of hearing differences. Cherish your time with each family.

“It has been so rewarding to see each child thrive in his/her language development, and so fun to celebrate mini accomplishments alongside their parents.”



RESOURCE ROUND UP

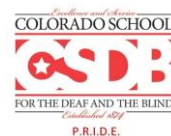
Here are some resources that you can use, and share with families!

- Tips to Improve Pre-Language Skills (from the CO-Hear Corner) -> https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ERKfeCqZJ_xB2aVwRMpkH-TxtHyTlJFa/view?usp=sharing
- Children's Books with Signing Deaf Characters -> https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/15ww-kXE6_d78vvEe70naha7dJ7MncvkMncnuYTWDHlg/mobilebasic
- The Gallaudet Children's Dictionary of American Sign Language: Hardcover OR Online Video (click the letters at the top to enter the video dictionary) -> <https://gcdasl.com/>
- Pinhole Press is a website where custom board books for kids can be created (at a cost). What a great literacy activity this could be -> <https://pinholepress.com/c/board-books>
- Hearts for Hearing created a couple of HOW TO videos related to hearing aids! They've included Spanish videos too -> <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4Sc6kolbgCMp59OSVzX9AXthwGCUr8sb>

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events and Conferences:

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|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Summers at the Park | Varying Locations and times | Contact Your CO-Hear for details |
| • D/HH+ Autism Family Day | August 19, 2023
10 am – 1 pm | Happy Dog Ranch
Littleton, CO |
| • Hands & Voices Gala | September 23, 2023 | Centennial, CO |
| • Hands & Voices Leadership Conference | October 1-3 | Grand Rapids, MI |
| • EHDI National Conference | March 17-19, 2024 | Denver, CO |



33 N Institute Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719.578.2100 • 719.578.2139
www.csdbs.org