

## Community-centered psycholinguistics: a holistic approach

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Linguistics and developmental research have historically failed to reach the communities that they can positively impact. As researchers, we have an obligation to share our findings with the public in a way that is accessible and highlights how research results can be used in day-to-day life, including applications for education, health, and caregiving. In the realm of childhood deafness, there are often gaps between researchers, educators, clinicians, and families that can be bridged with more direct communication and engagement. We describe our series of community Meet-and-Greets as ways to share research findings in a public space. We will describe the flow of these community events, as well as center testimonials and photos from attendees in the poster presentation. These events allow families from varied backgrounds to meet and make connections with each other, and for us as researchers to recruit a more diverse subject pool. Access to a welcoming community is critical for new parents of children with hearing loss, who may gain a sense of belonging from meeting families with children on a similar developmental trajectory. We will also describe challenges that arose during the planning process, including ensuring bilingual and bimodal (spoken and signed) language accessibility. For example, hiring both ASL and Spanish interpreters was logistically difficult but a critical part of allowing the community to engage with our events.

The poster will also include a general overview of our research program's efforts to include the community in our work. Outside of events such as Meet-and-Greets, we will showcase our partnerships with local schools for children with hearing loss. This collaboration includes an initiative to send undergraduate research assistants as regular volunteers to these schools. We will also describe how we encourage lasting relationships with families who participate in our studies. Families of both typically hearing and hard-of-hearing children are encouraged to reach out to the researchers for additional information on the assessments given in a study, clarification from recent research studies from other groups, etc. Finally, we will include examples of our public research reports, which take current findings on a topic in language development and synthesize them for parents to read. These reports are published online and contribute to our overall goal of making research findings accessible to populations outside academia.

The combined efforts shown in this poster presentation ensure a lasting relationship between our research group and the greater d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and allow us to reach populations who we know our work can positively impact.