



Julie Rems-Smario

Advocating for Deaf Education
as the new **Education Programs Assistant**

As a life-long educator and advocate, actively involved with early intervention with Deaf children, Julie Rems-Smario works to develop American Sign Language activities and resources for families of young children. Julie is also one of the co-founders of a national movement: Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K). She is currently involved in a legislative campaign for several states to establish mandated language benchmarks for all Deaf children, between the ages of 0 to 5, to prepare them academically for kindergarten. (California, Kansas and Hawaii have already passed their LEAD-K laws.)

In 2014, Julie was honored by *DeafLife* as the Deaf Person of the Year. She has also been recognized with international awards, such as CNN Heroes 2007 and the E-Women Network International Humanitarian Award, for her past work as the founding executive director of DeafHope, a nonprofit organization working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Currently, Julie is in a doctorate program, at California State University, East Bay, studying education leadership and social justice.

After working with the Outreach Division at the California School for the Deaf and with DawnSignPress, Julie now works at the California Department of Education as the project director for the California Maternal and Child Health Bureau Newborn Hearing Screening and Early Intervention grant. She receives and processes early start referrals to ensure that the families of Deaf babies are receiving early intervention services in California. She also performs administrative assignments, consultations, and technical assistance for all phases of California's LEAD-K law, Senate Bill 210. She will also be working with CORE and CDERC to provide consultation and technical assistance in all phases of Senate Bill 210 (LEAD-K Law).

Additionally, Julie maintains statewide ParentLinks parent-to-parent support, as well as provides technical assistance to teachers, administrators, departmental employees, state agencies, and advocates regarding information related to Deaf education in California. She is personally thrilled to be working closely with the following groups to support the families of Deaf children in California:

- **Local Education Agencies**
- **Special Education Local Plan Areas**
- California School for the Deaf's **CORE**
- California School for the Deaf-Riverside's **California Deaf Education Resource Center**



NYLE DIMARCO & JULIE REMS-SMARIO
WORKING TOGETHER TO EDUCATE
ABOUT EARLY LANGUAGE ACQUISITION