



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June 8, 2011

Dear Recipient:

THROUGH YOUR CHILD'S EYES: AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD

The California Department of Education (CDE) is pleased to provide you with this complimentary copy of CDE's new DVD, *Through Your Child's Eyes: American Sign Language*. This DVD, funded by a generous grant from the Annenberg Foundation and in-kind contributions from California State University, Northridge (CSUN), celebrates the ability of children who are Deaf or hard of hearing to acquire a natural, visual language—American Sign Language.

With the advent of Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and advances in cochlear implants and hearing-aid technology, children who are born Deaf or hard of hearing have improved opportunities for acquiring listening skills and spoken language. At the same time, CDE recognizes research evidence that sign language supports and enhances the development of both spoken language and cognitive skills for all children, including those who are Deaf or hard of hearing and whether they use assistive technology or not.

The CDE encourages professionals who work with families of children who are Deaf or hard of hearing, including physicians, audiologists, and teachers, to encourage parents to learn everything they can to support their child's linguistic development in both spoken language and American Sign Language.

I hope you will share this DVD with all families you work with. The DVD can be viewed and ordered at the CSUN *Through Your Child's Eyes: American Sign Language* Web page at <http://www.csun.edu/~tyce/about.html> (Outside Source).

For more information about programs and opportunities for children who are Deaf or hard of hearing, please visit the CDE Deaf & Hard of Hearing Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ss/dh/> or contact Nancy Sager, Education Programs Consultant, by telephone at 916-327-3868, by videophone at 916-993-3023 or 866-371-6722, or by e-mail at nsager@cde.ca.gov.

For information specifically about the DVD, contact Andrew Laufer, Education Administrator, by telephone at 916-319-0559 or by e-mail at alaufer@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Torlakson".

Tom Torlakson

TT:we