



Information on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resources

This resource is geared towards the Deaf and hard of hearing population that includes information on culture, community, language, resources, services and the role of the DHH Specialist, Natalia Magana.

Meet our DHH Specialist and what her role pertains: Natalia Magana is the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist at the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC). Her role is to support the expansion of Deaf services and resources for people served by the agency. Natalia carries a reduced specialized caseload and is also the point of contact for individuals, families and staff on matters related to DHH. If you have any questions, you may contact Natalia at:

Email: nmagana@elarc.org

Office: 626-248-4960

Video Phone: 626-283-6492.

What's New: Requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act must provide effective communication to Deaf consumers. Regional centers are required to timely provide auxiliary aids and assistance to consumers who are Deaf if necessary to afford consumers an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of services. It is the responsibility of the regional center, and not the consumer, to ensure the required auxiliary aids and assistance are in place. If a deaf consumer of the person assisting them needs an interpreter to communicate effectively, the regional center should not rely on the consumer's family or representative to interpret is inappropriate because they may lack the impartially and specialized vocabulary needed to interpret effectively and accurately. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are not prohibited from facilitating effective communication if appropriate, but regional centers cannot solely require or rely on this.

[Head over to the ELARC website to learn more about DHH](#)

Upcoming Community Events

ELARC is not affiliated with these events. Cost may be associated with events, see individual events for details.

CA Hands and Voices – For event details visit their website [here](#).

Deaf Latinos y Familias – For event details visit their website [here](#).

- ASL classes
- Expositions

GLAD – For event details visit their website [here](#).

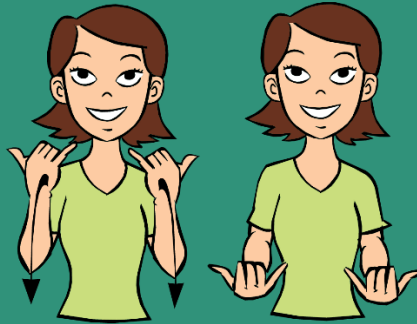
- September 22 –ASL dodger night

OC Deaf Event – For event details visit their website [here](#).

- Deaf Pizza Nigh at Shakeys-Third Thursday of Every Month
- Deaf Coffee Chat nights – 1st and 3rd Tuesday of Every Month

Learning Corner

How to Sign “Today”



- **Peace Over Violence** – Deaf, Disabled & Elder (DDE) services program is committed to extending accessible services for victims of sexual and domestic violence who are deaf, hard of hearing, have a disability and/or elder individuals. They have expanded their Deaf Services program to include victims of crimes such as robbery, false imprisonment, vehicular assault, caregiver and/or hospital abuse, aggravated assault and stalking. Visit their website [here](#).
- **Five Acres** – provides therapeutic services in American Sign Language to Deaf and hard of hearing children in Los Angeles. They have expanded their mental health services to include deaf adults, offering individual and family therapy for deaf person in their home, school or community. By promoting appropriate and linguistically sensitive treatment for Deaf children and adults, their mission is to help families stay together and thrive. Visit their website [here](#).

Highlights

ELARC is thrilled to highlight vendor Roman Empire as a provider who has gone above and beyond to support Brisa Camacho, a DHH + individual supported by DHH Specialist Natalia Magaña; Brisa has agreed to share her story with the ELARC community. Brisa was referred to Roman Empire for support with Individual Living Services (ILS), however Brisa was struggling to communicate with ILS educators for several years as they were not fluent in ASL and she often required a third party interpreted to communicate her wants and needs. Roman Empire was committed to supporting Brisa in her preferred language and was willing to seek out different channels to meet her needs. DHH Specialist Natalia, connected Roman Empire with GLAD, an organization whose mission is to ensure equal access of the deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind and deaf disabled community. GLAD and Roman Empire’s collaboration and person centered approach helped facilitate the hiring of an ASL educator for Brisa, the ASL educator now works with Brisa several days per week. The educator helps Brisa with employment, community access and to be as independent as possible so that she may lead a happy and fulfilling life. Brisa believes she and her ILS educator are a great match and now Brisa is excelling and thriving. Brisa is happier because she can communicate her interest wants and needs directly to her ILS educator without the need for a third party interpreter.



Children's Corner



It's Never Too Early To Learn ASL

MyGo! Sign Language for Kids – ASL is a YouTube channel that believes all kids should have access to good quality entertainment, regardless of geography, culture, background or abilities. Visit their YouTube channel [here](#).

Hands Land are videos on Amazon Prime that create educational content and resources for young children through ASL rhymes and rhythms. Find their videos [here](#).

Learning Never Ends

Deaf Latinos y Familias -is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2010 by Irma Sanchez. They work with Latinx families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Deaf Adults, and non-verbal, as they integrate family history, traditions, and values into the lives of the families to bridge the gap between two different cultures/language/worlds. They are a family oriented organization ran for parents by parents. Visit their website [here](#).

GLAD (Greater Los Angeles on Deafness, Inc) – their mission is to ensure equal access of the deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind and deaf disabled community to the same opportunities afforded their counterparts. This organization’s general purposes is to support the individuals social, recreational, cultural, educational, and vocational well-being of its deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind and deaf disabled constituents. Visit their website [here](#).

Strategies To Empower People (STEP) – they offer SLS, ILS, Vocational Services and Interpreting Services. They believe in creating a fully inclusive world for all people regardless of level of disability, where individuals can access the high-quality, personalized services they need and deserve. Visit their website [here](#).

Emergency Preparedness

Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and need support in a crisis can text for help

Text “HEARME” to 839863

Available 24/7

[Crisis Text and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Support](#)

ELARC Emergency Management Officer is **Gina Esparza** and she can be reached at **(626)299-4699**;
gesparza@elarc.org

Coming Soon

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and Regional Center’s Emergency Management Officers as well as DHH Specialists are collaborating to develop a Communication Card for DHH +/-Deaf Blind individuals. The communication cards will include visuals that can be used to communicate with first aid responders and help minimize communication barriers during emergency situations.

Stay Connected

