



Early Education is Parent Empowerment



Parent Representatives
JTC, U.S.A. & worldwide
June 2014

JTC Approach

- Encourage early education for parents
- Serve families of child with hearing loss 0-5 years
- Support communication approach chosen by family
- Offer parent learning online and onsite
- Provide materials in Spanish or English
- Promote expectation of parent empowerment

Parents Are JTC's Primary Students

- Parents are first communicators with their child
 - Need hearing loss information
 - Want guidance to help their child
 - *Support is valued later but is not an initial family request*
- Parents gradually become educational advocates
 - Need service/system information
 - Want guidance to strengthen programs

Emphasis on Adult Learning

Strategies:

- Discuss why their learning will help
- Teach to their experiences
- Offer pertinent information
- Provide immediate practice
- Share authentic encouragement
- Recognize varied learning styles
- Respect cultural perspectives

*Major Topics for Parent Outcomes**

- Childhood hearing loss:
 - Increase access to language
- Early intervention:
 - Identify strategies and services
- Listening, language, speech:
 - Recognize progress and needs
- Family roles:
 - Partner with professionals

**Outcomes are Measurable Actions by Parents*

Effective Early Education Methods

- Family Consultations
- Ongoing Parent Classes
- Support Group Discussions
- Panels of Persons with HL
- Individually Set Family Goals
- Guided Observations & Practice
- Handouts, Links & Videos
- Connect with Other Parents

International Onsite Results*

- 100% increased KNOWLEDGE of spoken language
- 100% improved ABILITY to use auditory verbal strategies
- 94% expanded AWARENESS of professional partnerships
- 93% enhanced STRENGTHS and feelings of support

“I feel empowered with so much knowledge that now seems logical but that I didn't know before! Knowledge is power, thank you, JTC!”

from parent's written comments

*2013 session evaluations

JTC Parent Distance Results*

- 98% applied communication information
- 98% expanded their knowledge
- 99% increased confidence to help child
- 93% improved child's language & listening

**from surveys of JTC parents worldwide over past 4 years*

Reports from Distance Parents

Their actions indicating empowerment:

- Supporting child
 - Participate in early education and encourage child
- Obtaining services
 - Identify programs, professionals and plans
- Promoting collaboration
 - Assume advocacy role and advise other families

Empowerment Principles

Education guides parents to be **LEARNERS**

Expectations guide parents to be **PARTNERS**

Encouragement guides parents to be **LEADERS**

In Their Own Words*

“I am empowered and in control due to the resources and knowledge JTC has given me. In the past I was full of worry and now I have direction and a path. I am better organized. I am a calm mommy now so my son senses that I know...he will be just fine.”

**written comment on JTC parent evaluation 2012*

Parents Connect with JTC

- Internet
 - Website www.jtc.org
 - Videos under “Meet Our Families”
 - Distance Education <https://pals.jtc.org/>
 - Emails to staff pals@jtc.org
 - Facebook with other parents
<https://www.facebook.com/johntracyclinic>
 - TALKS (live online group video classes)
<http://www.jtc.org/services/parent-distance-educat>
- Mail- enroll and receive materials—
 - JTC 806 W. Adams Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007