

# "E arly language(s): Creating an optimal foundation for deaf children's development"

In-Depth Presentation By  
Marie Coppola & Deanna Gagne



Marie Coppola



Deanna Gagne

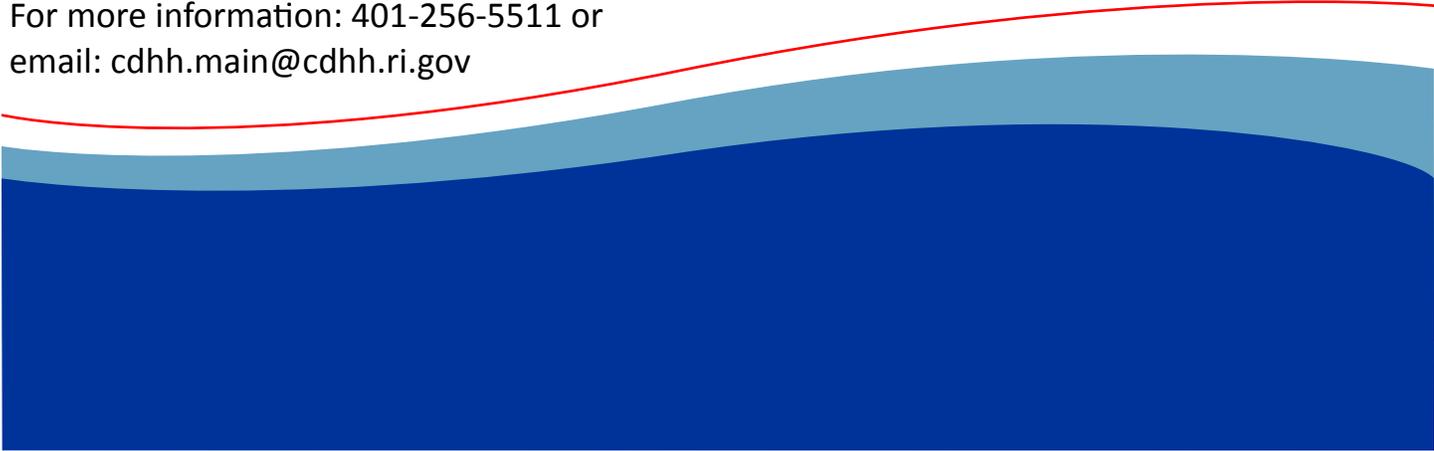
\* December 9, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Rhode Island School for the Deaf  
1 Corliss Park, Cafeteria  
Providence, RI 02908

ASL interpreters and CART will be provided.

**Marie Coppola**, Ph.D is an Assistant Professor and **Deanna L. Gagne**, MA, CI/CT, is 4th year PhD Student at the University of Connecticut, Departments of Psychological Sciences and Linguistics and both are hearing children of Deaf parents.

For more information: 401-256-5511 or  
email: [cdhh.main@cdhh.ri.gov](mailto:cdhh.main@cdhh.ri.gov)





**Marie Coppola**



**Deanna Gagne**

**"Early language(s): Creating an optimal foundation for deaf children's development"**

**Marie Coppola, Ph.D.** is a faculty member in the Department of Psychological Sciences and the Department of Linguistics at the University of Connecticut, where she directs the Language Creation Laboratory ([languagecreationlab.uconn.edu](http://languagecreationlab.uconn.edu)). Her research interests include the emergence of a new sign language in Nicaragua (Central America) and the relationship between early language experiences and cognitive development. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Manos Unidas, a non-profit organization promoting equal access to language and education for deaf children in Nicaragua ([manos-unidas.org](http://manos-unidas.org)). Her research and advocacy are rooted in her personal experiences as the daughter of Deaf parents.

**Deanna L. Gagne, MA, CI/CT** is a PhD candidate at the University of Connecticut working with Dr. Marie Coppola. Her research focuses on language emergence, language evolution, and the relationship between early language experiences and cognitive abilities. Deanna incorporates her previous professional work as an ASL-English interpreter and interpreter educator with her personal experiences in a Deaf Latino household to inform her research and community outreach activities.