



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS

**Listening Together** is a nonprofit educational organization that advances education and rehabilitation of children who are deaf and hard of hearing, around the world, through parent empowerment, professional development, and public awareness.

We want to support professionals expand their knowledge and enhance their skills related to listening and spoken language (LSL) development within the context of child- and family-centered intervention. We are also committed to providing training that is applicable to the social, cultural, and linguistic setting of the professionals and the families they serve.

Uma Soman, PhD, LSLS Cert. AVEd, Co-Founder and Director of Professional Development, conducts trainings related to LSL development and provides individual coaching and mentoring to teachers, therapists, and other professionals.

Adhering to evidence-based principles of adult learning and e-learning, we offer the following professional development opportunities:

### ONLINE TRAINING

- Since July 2017, we have provided online training on a variety of topics related to listening and spoken language development to professionals in the field as well as students, in India and several other countries around the world. Approximately 60+ professionals and students have participated in the following courses with several of them participating in more than one course.
  - Introduction to Educational and Rehabilitation of Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (10 weeks, 3 cohorts of approximately 15 professionals have completed this course)
  - Learning to Read through LSL (4 weeks)
  - Facilitating Language Through Natural Activities (6 weeks)
  - Principles of Early Language Development (8 weeks)
- In the next few months we are planning on offering the following courses. (we develop courses based on feedback from the attendees)
  - Using books to promote language development
  - Lesson planning based on age and stage of development for children 0-3 years
  - Lesson planning based on age and stage of development for children 4-8 years
- Some features of the courses
  - Meet once a week online for up to 2 hours via zoom. Professionals can connect on their phone, tablet, or computer.

- Follow-up assignments are based on the children and families that professionals are working with.
- All courses are approved by the AGBell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language. If professionals are interested in getting their LSLS certification these courses can count towards their continuing education requirements
- All assignments are customized to best suit the social, cultural, and linguistic setting that the professionals are in
- Participants can complete assignments in English, Hindi, and Marathi (which are the three languages Dr. Soman is fluent in)
- Cost: Between USD \$100 - \$250 per participant (depending on number of hours and class size). Discounted prices for groups of 4 or more from the same school/clinic/program are available.

### **IN-PERSON TRAINING**

- In-person workshops that are organized at centers, clinics or schools. Our approach has been to include a hands-on, practical activities that will help attendees improve their professional practices.
  - Dr. Soman was invited to present at the Maharashtra Chapter of the Indian Speech-Language Hearing Association's 2-day workshop in January 2018.
- Adult learning research shows that a one or two-day training does not result in long-term learning so we would want to follow up any in-person training with continued conversations and training.
- Cost: USD \$1000 for full day (up to 8 hours training) + travel and hotel expenses
  - Training fees can be modified based on shorter training durations and number of participants

### **INDIVIDUAL COACHING AND MENTORING**

- For professionals who want to get specific, individualized feedback on their teaching and therapy skills we offer individual coaching and mentoring. These could be professionals who are pursuing LSLS certification, but this is not required.
- Dr. Soman is trained in using a strengths-based coaching model for this process.
- The program is designed for 5 observations over the course of 12 months, allowing the professional being coached to receive feedback throughout the year and improve over time.
- Each observation is divided into three separate meetings as follows:
  - Pre-Observation Meeting (20-30 minutes in person or online)
  - Observation of live or recorded session (60 minutes live or recorded)
  - Post-Observation Meeting (60 minutes in person or online)
- Cost: USD \$750 for 5 observations/12 months

## MONTHLY WEBINARS

- 1-hour webinars on topics related to education and rehabilitation of children who are deaf and hard of hearing are offered to families and professionals every month.
- Webinars take place during the last weekend of the month and are offered twice
  - Saturday, Noon – US Central Time, in English
  - Sunday, 8 am – US Central Time, in Hindi and English
- Previous webinars were conducted on the following topics
  - What it Takes to Achieve Listening and Spoken Language Outcomes
  - Principles of Early Language Development
  - Incorporating Music in Daily Routines (Guest Speaker: Cole Bosas, LSLS Cert AVEEd)
  - Developing Skills in Two or More Spoken Languages
  - Impact of Hearing Loss on Development
  - Planning Intervention for Children with Additional Disabilities
  - Planning Intervention for Children who were Diagnosed “Late”
- A summary video, related blog post, and other resources to be provided for each webinar (ongoing, expected completion August 2019)
- Cost: FREE

For more information about participating in upcoming trainings or scheduling a training for your center please contact Dr. Uma Soman at [uma.soman@listeningtogether.com](mailto:uma.soman@listeningtogether.com)  
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