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Dev Sign Language for Deaf Children

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Reflection #2

The importance of language development in children ages 0-4 is imperative. The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders say that Children who have trouble understanding what others say (receptive language) or difficulty sharing their thoughts (expressive language) may have a language disorder. Depriving a child of language is detrimental to their behavioral and communicative development. Communication is key to human development.

Isolation can be very lonesome and cause you to become unwilling and unmotivated to communicate with the outside world. In Schaller's book, Adam being isolated is a perfect example of how this can be a deeply psychological issue. Similarly, in the movie Wild Child, the deep isolation caused the boy to become aggressive and unable to communicate in any way except in fear/anger. Much like the professor who taught the little boy to communicate, Schaller attempted to teach Adam sign language and associated it with objects. This idea of teaching was imperative in teaching them how to communicate. This is proof that basic understanding of language can improve communication as a basis for learning.

When you are never taught how to communicate, things can become extremely difficult to learn. Teaching someone to understand language is more than just teaching words. People tend to understand language by correlating something they think or find symbolic. For example, teaching someone the word "dog" is not an actual or physical dog but the representation of it.

Learning language goes beyond what we realize. Understanding language is what we correlate the symbols to and goes to show that it is more than just simply learning vocabulary.

When we experience the world, we make connections and create memories of the shared experiences. To Adam, once he started to grasp language, he was no longer chained to the idea of isolation. For example, as children learn language, they begin to ask questions and become curious. When language is taught, you begin to see the world in a different lens and challenge the status quo. Communication is essential for human interaction and is the main source of fostering relationships.

Whether it is the boy in the “Wild Child” movie or Adam from the book “A Man Without Words”, communication and language are essential parts of life. Depriving someone from language is like depriving a plant from sunlight or water— you can never grow. As students in this world, it is important to recognize that everyone is different when it comes to learning language. However, we are all the same in recognizing that without it, we could not communicate.