

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

INFANTS' COMPLEX THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS REVEALED THROUGH SIGN LANGUAGE... BEFORE THEY CAN SPEAK!

SEATTLE, WA - When Joseph Garcia first began promoting his method of using Sign Language with hearing infants, he expected to hear stories about babies expressing their basic needs and wants in a manner that would dramatically reduce frustration for them and their caregivers. Concepts like, "I'm hungry", "I need a diaper change", or "I want up" were common experiences of his family and other families who participated in his research. What Garcia didn't expect was the kind of detailed inspirational stories from all over the world that are revealing that sign language has the power to help preverbal infants express a complexity of thought and emotion that can only be described as revolutionary. Perhaps for the first time in history, caregivers have access to the thoughts and feelings of their babies...before they can speak.

Rachel Mano found this to be true with her nineteen-month old son, Logan. Logan showed compassion and problem solving skills when he expressed concern for his fish. The Mano's were in the process of moving and had emptied their fish tank of all but a small amount of water, enough to keep the fish alive. Logan, who was able to sign upwards of 100 signs, had noticed that the plants in the tank had fallen over, so he signed to his mom, "fish," "help," "tree," and "fall down." She took this to mean that the fish needed help because the plants fell down. She asked Logan if that is what he meant and he confirmed. She writes, "It was so cute and funny and it let me see more clearly into Logan's sweet and caring personality. He was also so glad that I understood his concern for the fish."

This testimonial is one of many collected from families using Garcia's method. It shows that children, before they can speak, are able to express complex ideas and emotions. Logan demonstrated that he was able to access a potentially dangerous situation for the fish, and determine help was needed. He also showed concern and compassion for other living creatures. Most amazingly, he was able to express all of this to his parent with his hands.

Testimonials from other parents and professionals who use Garcia's method have shown that signing with preverbal infants can:

- Help pediatricians diagnose ear infections and other ailments
- Direct parents' attention toward potential dangers, like a wasp in the car
- Request foods and liquids of choice, such as whether they want "water" or "milk"
- Communicate the subjects and fears from their dreams
- Resolve and avoid conflicts with other children

Joseph Garcia, author and creator of SIGN *with your* BABY™, began developing his method as a graduate student at Alaska Pacific University. He wanted to empower infants with expressive communication before they can speak. During his research, Garcia found that infants exposed to signs as early as six months could reproduce those signs in context by the eighth or ninth month, up to a full year earlier than previously published experts thought it possible for children to communicate effectively.

Today Joseph lectures nationwide at medical schools, hospitals, universities, and conferences. He talks about the many benefits of using sign language with hearing children and he continues to develop new sign-language-based programs.

Joseph strongly believes that sign language can help break down communication barriers and help to bring parents and babies closer together. It has been a liberating force in his life and he would love the opportunity to share his story and experiences with you. Press kits, photos, extensive video footage of signing babies, signing parent contacts and interview opportunities with Joseph Garcia are available upon request.

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