

DAY 23 | Motif: Safety Pin

TITLE | "Expanding the Safety Net"

MEDIA | Canson Cold Press, Watercolor, Micro Pen

SIZE | 8 x 10

By Kim Anderson

#FEBCHALLENGE19

There is never enough emphasis on the irreparable catastrophic damage from language deprivation. The audistic system makes language deprivation a normative for Deaf babies/kids. It is not normal and should not ever be accepted as normal. The most critical period to acquire a language is during the first 5 years of a human being's life. When that first 5 years have come and gone without adequate exposure to a language, irreversible damage is forever done. The uproar against this persistent harmful normative among Deaf babies/kids is only coming from the grassroots level – from the very heart of the Deaf community. In response, the grassroots Deaf community in the USA formed a nationwide campaign called the LEAD-K (Language Equality & Acquisition for Deaf Kids), to provide a safety net to Deaf babies/kids ages 0 to 5 to have their basic human right to acquire a language protected by law. Each state has their team of heroes working tirelessly to fight against the massive oppression, ignorance and opposition to get a LEAD-K bill passed into law for future generations of Deaf babies/kids. Since 2015 and every year after, a state has joined the safety net. It is now 2019, there is hope that the safety net expands once again. Despite the resistance and opposition from predictable and unexpected sources, the Deaf community will persist to expand the safety net until it becomes a normative for Deaf babies to be acquiring a language as equally or better than their hearing peers.