

DAY 16 | Motif: Chart

TITLE | "Head Start"

MEDIA | Canson Cold Press, Watercolor, Micro Pen

SIZE | 8 x 10

By Kim Anderson

#FEBCHALLENGE19

The hottest trend for the last few years was for hearing parents to teach ASL to HEARING babies. Where's the hottest trend/movement to teach DEAF babies the same?! Most promotional materials for hearing parents with hearing babies rave about how learning American Sign Language gives babies a head start in acquiring/expressing a language and enhances cognitive development. Sadly, hearing parents of Deaf babies don't get this kind of positive promotional info. Also, there tends to be no mention of where ASL is from. This is blatant disregard for cultural appropriation. The info for this chart was derived from [babysignshine.com](http://babysignshine.com) geared for hearing babies. I used some of their developmental info and just inserted "hearing" and "deaf". I titled it differently than theirs – mine as "language milestones chart" and theirs is "language acquisition of hearing children". ASL belongs to the Deaf community and yes, a Deaf baby using ASL will have a greater head start than a non-ASL hearing child. The audist world can't imagine Deaf babies surpassing their hearing peers in language and cognitive development! That should be something to rejoice about and make it hot and viral! Get that info out to hearing parents of Deaf babies!