



## KARLA GIESE, M.ED

For Karla, deaf education has been a way of life. Born hearing, Karla began losing her hearing as an infant and became profoundly deaf as a toddler. Her parents chose to raise her with an emphasis on spoken language, using speech therapy, hearing aids, and FM systems while being educated in the mainstream setting. By late elementary school, Karla began learning sign language and used an interpreter through middle, high school, and college. Karla has her Bachelors in Deaf Education, Elementary Education, and Special Education and her Masters in Early Childhood Special Education. She is currently completing her doctorate in Special Education with a concentration on Deafness.

Karla has worked with deaf and hard of hearing children of all ages, from birth to age 21, across all educational settings, and utilizing all communication approaches. Karla has also spent time in administration as Curriculum Coordinator and Director of Student Support Services. She also provides early intervention support and advocacy to local families.

As an advocate, Karla is the Coordinator of CHOICES for Parents, an Illinois statewide coalition of parents and professionals ensuring that children who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing and their families connect with resources, information, services, and support. In addition, Karla recently took on a new role of Visiting Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in their Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher Certification Program.

As a student, teacher, and administrator of deaf education, Karla has come full circle. Fluent in American Sign Language, spoken English, and Cued English, she is passionate about empowering families of children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She enjoys supporting both families, children, and professionals in the field of deaf awareness and education!