

# The Silent Garden

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## Parent and Educator Testimonials

“When I received my copy of *The Silent Garden*, it was like having a ‘boarding pass’ for a journey that most hearing parents of Deaf children cannot even begin to imagine. We were fortunate that this book was one of our first reads as we learned that language is the key to the mind, relationships, identity, and family—we couldn’t learn sign language fast enough! The beauty of *The Silent Garden* is that it will provide parents with a handbook as they face challenging developmental steps and will be helpful again and again as their child grows.”

—**Barbara Montan**, Parent and Former Board President, TRIPOD

“I first read the second edition of *The Silent Garden* when I was a college student and before I became a mother of a Deaf child, and that book affirmed for me the importance of following the child’s lead in what is best for his/her cognitive, social, and language development. No one approach has to be static; it can change during the child’s formative years. As a Deaf individual raising a Deaf daughter, I allowed her to choose her educational settings, which is a choice I never had. Whereas I was mainstreamed for the majority of my school years, my daughter started out in a mainstream school but then transferred to a school for the Deaf. We differ in how we communicate with the world at large; for instance, although both of us primarily rely on American Sign Language, I enjoy wearing hearing aids and use speech as a tool, whereas my daughter prefers to use her iPhone. She is her own person, which is most important to her well-being. As the title *The Silent Garden* implies, each Deaf and Hard of Hearing individual is a different flower that grows in the garden, each varying in the amount of light, nutrients, and tending needed.”

—**Michelle L. Bronson**, Parent and Executive Director,  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center, Inc.

“Paul W. Ogden and David H. Smith, both profoundly deaf, have written a wise and highly intelligent book explaining in depth how parents with a deaf or hard of hearing child can create a positive life for that child and their other children. This invaluable book cuts through emotional issues, identifies subconscious struggles, and demonstrates successful pathways for living with deafness.

From the book:

*When deafness enters the dynamic, evolving network of family relationships, it changes everything, perhaps subtly, perhaps immeasurably...It is as if a great wave had swept out of nowhere to shake up every pebble on the beach.*

*The Silent Garden* is a comprehensive, uplifting plan to deal with understanding the challenges of communication. It is also a major resource for those involved in the education of deaf students.”

—**Glenda Lane**, Parent

“Ogden and Smith know their stuff and provide much information about the communication and educational options facing parents today. I especially recommend chapter 10, which is full of ideas to get parents and young children playing with language together. As the authors demonstrate, deaf adults are great sources of information, lessons, and inspiration. Find them. Get to know them.”

—**Barbara Lincoln**, Parent and former Coordinator,  
TRIPOD GRAPEVINE & House Ear Institute LEAD LINE

“I first read *The Silent Garden* when I was a graduate student in Deaf Education. As a deaf educator now for thirteen years, I still espouse the critical element I took away from the book: the importance of intentional and extensive communication with deaf children. I hope that parents and teachers reading the new edition discover strategies that will help them with providing early language access for all deaf children. I find this to be the single most important predictor of deaf children’s academic success and social, cognitive, and emotional health.”

—**Keila Classen**, Educator

“*The Silent Garden* and its Spanish translation, *El Jardín Silencioso*, were valuable resources for my Deaf/Hard of hearing students and their parents. As an educator for Deaf/Hard of Hearing children, grades K-6, for 25 years, I purchased numerous copies for my professional library. These copies were given and/or loaned to many of my parents. Often the parents shared that the book spoke to them like a good friend. This wonderful, informative book gives unbiased information and guidance to newly identified Deaf children and their families. My parents experienced **hope** for their Deaf child’s future. In addition, some of my families expressed gratitude and happiness when they discovered that the author, Paul Ogden, was profoundly deaf himself.”

—**Rosie Ruelas-Wasser**, Educator

“*The Silent Garden* is a wonderful resource for teachers to use while working with parents of a Deaf or Hard of Hearing child. I have referred parents to this book numerous times throughout my career as a teacher. It opens a variety of doors into the world of raising a Deaf or Hard of Hearing child. *The Silent Garden* provides parents with a range of options and resources to assist in decision-making processes. This book also helps parents feel as if they have a partner by their side while raising their child, that there are others out there who have gone through the same trials and tribulations they are facing, and that they are not alone in this journey.”

—**Andrea DaSilva**, Educator