

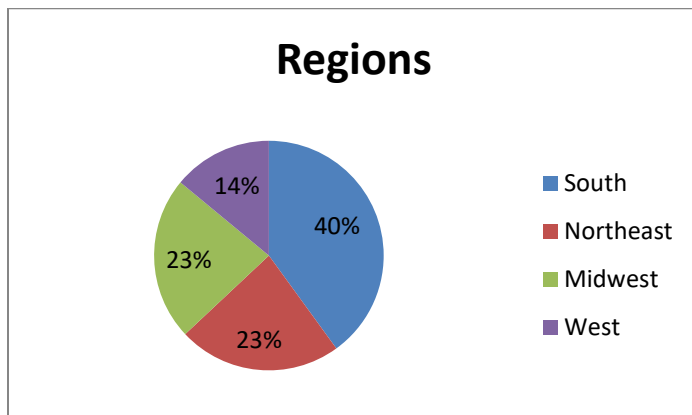
Nussbaum, K., & Schick, B. (Fall, 2010). *It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. *The Endeavor*, 51.

### It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood!



In 2009 ASL Readers, Inc. collaborated with the University of Colorado to evaluate the pilot *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood with ASL Signers DVD* (MRN/ASL DVD). In this episode American Sign Language is modeled through native Deaf signers. Based on child development and early education principles Fred Rogers communicates powerful messages about each person's uniqueness, helping children come to appreciate that they are special—and so is everyone else in the world!

National Family Surveys were distributed through schools for the deaf. [See Regions]



Of the 190 surveys distributed, 78 families returned surveys for a return rate of 41%. Parents were asked to view the MRN/ASL DVD with their deaf or hard-of-hearing child (3-8 yrs) and

complete a 2-page survey. The average age of the children was 5 years, 9 months with 46 female and 32 male participants.

#### **DECIDING FACTORS**

- 1) How long does child attend? 4.40 Avg (1-5 Scale, 5=100%)**
  - 2) Does child like the MRN/ASL DVD? 4.15 Avg \***
  - 3) Does the parent like the MRN/ASL DVD? 4.27 Avg \***
  - 4) Would the parent recommend the program to other families with deaf or hard-of-hearing children? 4.31 Avg \***
  - 5) Would parent like see more MRN/ASL programs produced? 4.58 Avg \***
- (Scale 1-5, 5 = Positive)\***

Careful consideration was given to parent recommendations for improving the program such as: slower signing, less fading in/out of the signers, and providing an ASL Vocabulary Guide for families. Families learned over 70 signs from this 30-minute program including: neighborhood, costume, suitcase, and love. The overall favorite segment was the Bear Factory!

Parent's favorite ASL websites:

ASL Pro [www.aslpro.com](http://www.aslpro.com)

ASL Browser [www.aslbrowser.com](http://www.aslbrowser.com)

ASL University [www.lifeprint.com/index.htm](http://www.lifeprint.com/index.htm)

Children's favorite ASL DVD: Signing Times <http://www.signingtime.com/>

Children's favorite TV Programs: Sponge Bob! and Dora the Explorer

Parent comments:

"I'm so thankful for this program!"

"Helped the whole family learn signs"

"Thank you for working to make the program more accessible to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing families."

For a complete research summary, visit the **ASL READERS INC** profile at

[www.pittsburghgives.org](http://www.pittsburghgives.org) and click "Other Documents." A special thanks to participating

families and schools. Based on positive parent feedback there will be future productions!

### **View a Clip on YouTube!**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCdfhHlwCv4>

-or-

Search: Mister Rogers ASL

Visit the online store to purchase *Mister Rogers' with ASL Signers*: [www.fci.org](http://www.fci.org) or <http://www.fcistore.org/proddetail.asp?prod=wMRNASL1661&cat=23>

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