Project Description
Your family is invited to participate in an extension of the Early Education Longitudinal Study (EELS-I) conducted in 2010-2013, which was the first national study focusing on language and early educational functioning of deaf and hard of hearing children between 3 and 5 years of age. You are being invited to participate in this study, either because you and/or your child participated in this earlier study or because your child's school was selected to enlarge the original EELS-I sample to include a broader representation of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Researchers in the Early Education and Literacy Lab (EL2), one of four resource hubs of the National Science Foundation/Gallaudet University Science of Learning Center on Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2), are conducting this extension study, called the Extended Education Longitudinal Study (EELS-II). EELS-II will follow the children previously tested, and a select group of children who share critical characteristics of the children participating earlier, to determine whether the information we learned from testing the children when they were younger affects their current levels of reading, writing, and math skills. This new information will provide insights for policy-makers, program administrators, service providers, and others as they seek to improve educational experiences for deaf and hard of hearing children. We hope that you will realize the importance of your participation in this landmark study and will want to be a part of it. If you decide to join or continue to participate in this study, you will be asked to:

1. answer some questions about your child and family on a survey. English and Spanish versions of the survey have been prepared in online and printed versions, and ASL versions of the survey are available through a live video conference interview. The survey will take less than half an hour. The questions will be about your child and the services your child is receiving.

2. allow your child’s teacher or service provider to complete a questionnaire about how instructional and support services are being provided in the classroom. By knowing about your child’s progress and services and those of other children in the study, VL2-EELS-II staff will be able to learn how to improve services for other deaf and hard of hearing children.

3. allow your child to participate in a group or computer-based individual assessments of reading, writing, and math skills. The assessments will last about one hour and involve activities similar to those in the classroom. Teachers or assessment specialists at your school will administer the assessments. Your child will be told that the assessment is voluntary – that he/she may choose to skip any of the activities. The assessments will be performed during the Spring Semester of the current 2018-2019 school year. Your school will receive a summary of the results of the testing that should help inform them of your child’s reading, writing, and math skills and needs.

Confidentiality
All information from interviews, questionnaires, and assessments is confidential. No identifying information will be retained in any database used for analysis or released to any author or researcher. Your and your child’s privacy will be carefully protected following strict data collection and storage protocols defined by the Federal Government, and monitored by the Gallaudet University Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Participants in Research.
Voluntary Participation
You are free to decide if you want to be part of the study. Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you choose not to take part, your choice will not influence the type or the quality of services your child is provided, nor will it impact any future relationship you might have with Gallaudet University. If you choose to take part, you may change your mind at any time and stop participating in the study. You may request that any information already collected be eliminated from the EELS-II database. You can withdraw from the study by contacting the EELS-II researchers at el2@gallaudet.edu.

Risks and Benefits
There is minimal to no risk involved with your or your child’s participation in the EELS-II study.

Contact Information
If you want additional information about the EELS-II project, you may contact Thomas Allen at Thomas.allen@gallaudet.edu. You may also contact Katherine Spiegel, Coordinator of the Gallaudet University Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB) at IRB@gallaudet.edu if you have any questions or comments regarding your rights as a participant in this research. This research has been reviewed and approved by the Gallaudet IRB according to formal procedures governing your participation in this research.

Consent
Your signature at the bottom of this form shows that you have read (or someone has read or signed to you) the information on this page, that you understand what it means to be part of VL2-EELS-II, that any questions you might have were answered to your satisfaction, and that you choose to be a part of the study. You will receive a copy of this form.

I, _______________________________ give my permission for _______________________________
Parent/Guardian name (please PRINT) Child’s name
to be part of the Extended Education Longitudinal Study (EELS-II).

______________________________  ________________________________
Parent/Guardian signature Relationship to child

____________
Date

Thank you for consenting to participate in this critically important study.

Support from the National Science Foundation, Cooperative Agreement #SBE 1041725 and from the Gallaudet University Priority Research Fund