

Deaf Culture Question of the Week - Oct 12-16, 2009 Bill
Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

What year was the American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)
established?

- a) 1965
- b) 1967
- c) 1972
- d) 1978

Go to the bottom of this message for the answer.

Answer: “b” 1967. The American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) is one of the oldest organizations established to serve and provide information to parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Originally it was a program of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). The NAD has a long history of planting the seeds for programs and organizations that later grow, flourish and become independent organizations in their own right. Other examples of this are the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA). Both of these organizations began under the umbrella of the NAD.

Below from the ASDC website

(<http://www.deafchildren.org>) core value statements of this parents helping parents organization:

1. We believe deaf or hard-of-hearing children are entitled to full communication access in their home, school, and community. We also believe that language development, respect for the Deaf, and access to Deaf and hard-of-hearing role models are important to assure optimal intellectual, social, and emotional development.

2. We believe that consideration of communication opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing children should be based on facts. Research consistently demonstrates that fluency in sign language and English offers deaf children (including those with cochlear implants) and hard-of-hearing children optimal opportunities for social and academic success, and thus both should be part of their language-rich environment.

3. We believe there should be access to identification and intervention by qualified providers, family involvement, and educational opportunities equal to those provided for hearing children. The goal should be to provide children what they need in order to become self-supporting and fulfilled adults.

4. We affirm that parents have the right and responsibility to be primary decision-makers and advocates. For this role, parents need education, access to information, and support.

The Washington School for the Deaf is an organizational supporting member of the ASDC. If you are a parent of a deaf or hard-of-hearing child check out this website for very helpful information and resources.

<http://www.deafchildren.org/>