

MOTHER TONGUE:  
EMERGENT LANGUAGE AND LITERACY IN  
A CASE STUDY OF A CHILD WITH A COCHLEAR IMPLANT

A dissertation

by

Theresa Moorman Barrett

Submitted to the Graduate School

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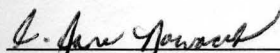
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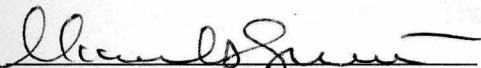
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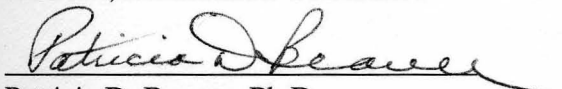
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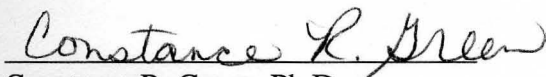
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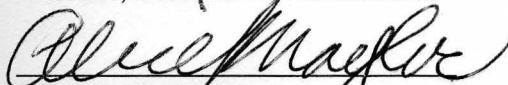
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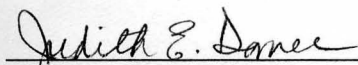
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## ABSTRACT

### MOTHER TONGUE: EMERGENT LANGUAGE AND LITERACY IN A CASE STUDY OF A CHILD WITH A COCHLEAR IMPLANT

Theresa M. Barrett, M.A., University of Tennessee,

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This case study tells the story of a girl with deafness and her mother as they construct a shared understanding of the world. The child received a cochlear implant at the age of 18 months. Videotapes of mutual play activities, book reading, and conversation were made at intervals after the implant, and interviews and archived data were considered to give perspective to analysis of these conversations.

The narrative follows the mother and child through personal experiences and decisions about communication. This mother incorporated information from a variety of sources into joyful and intelligent conversation, play, and reading interactions with her child. By the time this child was 4 years old, her spoken language competence by standards of mean length of utterance and vocabulary use measured at 2 standard deviations above the norm for her hearing peers.