



**Erik Kiefer** - Erik grew up in Upstate New York and studied business management and psychology at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. Before moving to Lake Wylie, SC, in early 2021, he spent eight years working in education, investing in the normally functioning, intellectually disabled, and behaviorally challenged community, thus playing a prominent role in the creation, improvement, and operation of a variety of successful services and education programs. This included training teachers & staff on how to successfully manage school programs/use proper behavior management techniques, working with school administrators on various opportunities, and developing local business connections to provide employment opportunities to individuals looking to develop their professional skills further. Several of the school programs Erik built with his team were voted some of the best programs in their respective counties. After moving to the Carolinas, Erik decided to start an official Sign Language education business called 'Visually Speaking' because of his passion for teaching, knowledge of the language, and unique style of working with his students & classes. He has high expectations and believes every student should receive a personalized, engaging, and interactive learning experience. Erik works with elementary to adult-aged individuals 1:1 in small groups and classroom settings. He grew up with several Deaf family members, was immersed in the culture, and was taught how to sign at a very young age. This history and unique perspective of the Deaf culture have allowed him to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to connect with people in the Deaf community. Since Visually Speaking was created, the course has received outstanding reviews from local co-ops, schools, and students/families who have completed the course. He is very passionate about investing in his and others' education. Besides his work, he enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, working out, sports, cooking, discussing politics, and outdoor activities like hiking.