Bringing together historical information, research, and strategies for teaching and service provision, Marschark and Spencer have given us what is certain to become the benchmark reference in the field.

A range of international experts present a comprehensive overview of the field of deaf studies, language, and education. This area has grown dramatically over the past forty years. From work on the linguistics of sign language and parent-child interactions to analyses of school placement and the mapping of brain function in deaf individuals, research across a range of disciplines has greatly expanded not just our knowledge of deafness and the deaf, but also the very origins of language, social interaction, and thinking.

Pairing practical information with detailed analyses of what works, why, and for whom - all while banishing the paternalism that once dogged the field - this first of two volumes features articles on topics including: language and language development, hearing and speech perception, education, literacy, cognition, and the complex cultural, social, and psychological issues associated with deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. The range of these topics shows the current state of research and identifies the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.