

GUT-FEELING

created with Juliet

You felt it early on, in NICU.
She didn't respond to sounds
like her twin. She'd been through

so much - blood transfusions, a hole
in her heart - so when you found out
she was deaf, it sort of made sense.

It wasn't such a shock. That didn't
stop the worries. How would you bond
without eye contact? How would you

communicate? Then, one day, you saw
her learning how to sign - looking
the lady in the face. Everything changed -

you learned to sign as well, from
someone who was also profoundly deaf.
And now it made sense - how many ways

there are to communicate. Speech, sign,
gestures, face. And isn't every child
different in their own ways?

What a child needs right now, today,
will change. You make decisions
as you go. That gut-feeling you follow.

And look at her - look at what she does.
The way she reads her siblings' lips.
The way she knows when to step, pliet,

leap, from watching other kids.
The way she swims. How intuitive she is.
And how she listens to The Killers

with her hips - completely in time,
sensing the rhythm.