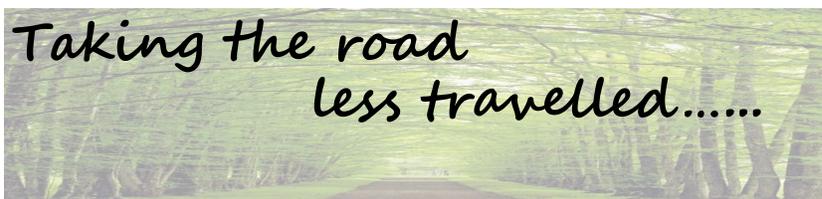




Supporting infants, children, and youth with combined vision and hearing loss

The Beacon

Newsletter of
The Wisconsin Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project
Volume 3, Issue 1: May 2013



“As Interveners, we are compelled to see things with more than just our eyes.”

*Submitted by Sandy Hein,
Intervener for a Deaf-Blind Child*

What a wonderful privilege we have as Interveners to make a difference in the lives of the individuals with whom we share! When I really take time to think about it, I realize how fortunate I am to be in this exciting field. Who can ask for any more than to be given the opportunity to play a part in opening up someone’s world? It has given me a whole new perspective on how to approach experiences not only in the lives of my students but also in my life. I like the analogy of the highway and the side roads. We are asked to slow down and perhaps take a road less travelled in order to take in all that is around us. We, in turn, facilitate this in the lives of our students.

“Sandy always goes the extra mile”
-Parent Brenda

Don’t forget, we are on this journey with them. We experience things with our students in various ways. We have learned to approach new experiences through touch, smell, taste, movement, and vibration. We can share first- hand how we have experienced things with our hearts instead of with our minds. We understand the light tap on the hand or tug on the arm. We know about a tilt of the head or a mischievous glint in the eye. We pick up on subtleties and nuances that we probably would not have noticed before. As with any endeavor in life worth taking, we come away with much more than we started with. We have a new appreciation for life’s “little experiences”.

When I think of the amazing kids I work with, I am inspired by their courage and determination and so very thankful that I have the opportunity to make a difference in their lives. It is truly an honor and privilege to be included among the many dedicated professionals who make a difference in the lives of individuals with special needs every day.



Brittany E.



Sandy was awarded the “iSuperHero” Award at the WESP-DHH Professional Conference in March for her dedication and commitment as an intervener. She was nominated by her fellow professionals in the field of deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind. Sandy is an intervener for a deaf-blind student in the Elkhart Lake School District.



Conference Highlights

Past and present students of the deaf-blind training programs had a “conference within a conference” unique to them! Linda Alsop, Utah State University Director of Deaf-Blind Programs at Ski-Hi Institute led the group in reviewing, sharing, teaching, and enjoying the time to connect with other professionals. Participants of this training worked with a Minnesota deaf-blind training or an online program at Utah State University.

If you are interested in attending a future training please go to wdbtap.wi.gov and click on “Events” and fill out a scholarship application form. Applications for the 2013-2014 online Utah State program will be accepted from May 13 to July 12, 2013.



2013 Texas Symposium on Deaf-Blindness: Hands Matter!

*Submitted by Brenda Eberle
WDBTAP Family Specialist*

On February 22 and 23, 2013, my husband and I were very fortunate to be able to attend the Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired symposium on deaf-blindness. It was a very validating experience for us, being able to learn so many things which will help us personally and professionally. We were given many opportunities to listen and share personal experiences with other families of deaf-blind children and gain added insight into what the future can hold for us and our children.

One of the sessions of great interest to me was “Sibling Issues: Unique Concerns, Opportunities and Resources”, led by Jennifer Tumlin-Garret from the Georgia Sensory Assistance Project. We have four daughters and sibling issues are an every day thing! When one of your children is deaf-blind, the issues can be tougher for the whole family.

All of the sessions were presented by professionals who have so much to offer families of deaf-blind children and who really understand the obstacles faced by the family and individual. It was a very enlightening experience for both my husband and I.

I look forward to sharing some of the insights I gained with you throughout the year as we gather together!

“It is always interesting to get different perspectives even though each of us has a unique situation at home.”

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

WDBTAP Family Text Club To Begin

Many of you have asked if WDBTAP could send text reminders of registration and events. We have now set up the **WDBTAP Family Text Group** and invite you to give it a try! Please be assured we won't be flooding you with texts, just some reminders of upcoming events and registration deadlines.

Join today!!

To join the WDBTAP family text group:
Text **Family** to (608) 588-8611

Standard messaging rates may apply.
Please contact your cellular phone service for details.



Fun for all at the museum!

HOW WAS FAMILY CONFERENCE 2013? IT WAS GREAT!!

It is a great time to learn, visit, explore, and meet new friends!

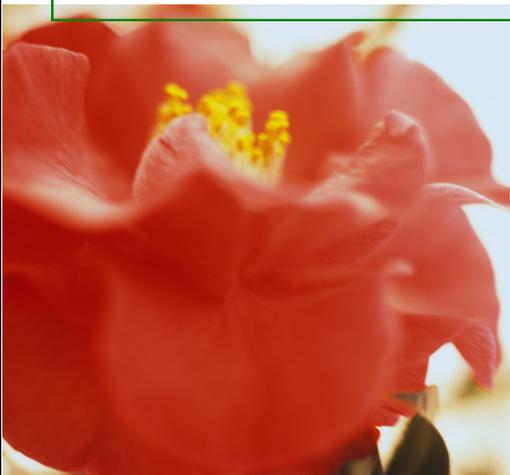


LENDING LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

The ModularHose.com Assistive Technology iPad1 Kit is designed for quick and easy use of Apple's iPad with the flexibility of Loc-Line. The iPad1 holder features lightweight construction with a silicon edge for protection and grip. The form fitting silicon edge keeps iPad securely in case during regular use.

The holder is open for all connections and controls.
(iPad not included)

The WDBTAP Lending Library is a great way to try before you buy! Contact Jolene at (608) 356-0091 or email jolene.gruber@wesp-dhh.wi.gov.



Time Out For Mom! August 24

The next Regional Family Meeting will have a spa time for moms—to focus on mind, body, and spirit and find your balance. Details to follow!

Save The Date

Calendar of Events

- July 25-28, 2013:** **11th International CHARGE Syndrome Conference**
Scottsdale, Arizona
- July 29-30, 2013:** **WESP-DHH Summer Institute**
Wausau, Wisconsin
- July 29—Aug 1, 2013:** **Tips and Tools for Service Providers Identifying Sensory Needs With Children Who Are Deaf-Blind**
Wausau, Wisconsin
- August 24, 2013:** **WDBTAP Regional Family Meeting**
Time Out For Moms!
Location TBD

The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the US Dept. of Education, H325C080043. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Dept. of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.
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New Parent Pages from the Oregon Deaf-blind Project

www.oregondb.org/Family/index.html

“Coming to Terms”
“Getting the Support You Need”
“Teaching Your Child”

These are just a few of the helpful sections of the online Family Guide which was put together by Trisha and Dave McCready, parent leaders, and Roxanna Marvin of The Teaching Research Institute for the Oregon Deaf-Blind Project

Tell us what you think!



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