



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

The Beacon

Newsletter of
The Wisconsin DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project
Volume I, Issue 2: June 2011



2011 Deafblind Family Weekend, August 27-28!!

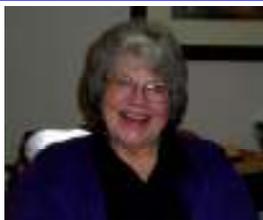
Yes, it is getting close to that time again—the Deafblind Family Weekend held at the Lion’s Camp in Rosholt, Wisconsin. We are changing some things up this year in order to do the most with what we have and to offer family-friendly options. Here are just a few things that will be different this year:

1. Registration will be done the old fashioned way — on paper! You can mail it in, fax it, or even scan and email it to us. This will make planning a little easier for everyone.
2. Our programming will be on Saturday only. So get ready for a fun, busy and educational Saturday! We hope to reach out to more families who have not experienced how much fun the camp can be with the option of either a day visit or stay and camp and play and meet lots of new friends!
3. Registration will include meals and lodging for Saturday, and bagels and coffee on Sunday morning. There will be no scheduled programming Friday night; however, if you would like to stay on Friday night in order to be ready to go on Saturday morning, it is available at your expense. It will cost \$25.00 per person which will need to be paid in advance with registration.



We are very excited to have Ruth Silver and Joan Schneider of the Center for Deaf-Blind Persons in Milwaukee leading one of the workshops that will be offered on transitioning. Registration materials will be mailed out soon — if you have not let us know that you are interested in receiving the materials, please email or call Becky as soon as possible. Don’t miss a great time of connecting with other parents!

Deadline for registration is July 1st!



New On Our Website!

Millie Smith presented several workshops at the Family Conference specifically for families of deafblind children. We are now able to share her wisdom and expertise through webcasts! As of print time, these links were being placed on the WDBTAP website at (www.wdbtap.wi.gov). Short descriptions of the topics covered are also included. Captioning is in the works.

The three webcasts are:

1. Effective Strategies for Working With Children with Multiple Disabilities – With or Without Deafblindness: Routines
2. The “Sensory Learning Kit”
3. Effective Strategies for Working with Children with Multiple Disabilities – With or Without Deafblindness: The Brain and Arousal States

Be sure to check it out!

Meet the Staff

Meet.....Heidi Hollenberger

Heidi Hollenberger is the Deafblind Coordinator for the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Outreach and the Deafblind Specialist with the Wisconsin Deafblind Technical Assistance Project. She has been working in the field of deafblindness for the past 8 years. Prior to this position she worked as a Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Heidi holds dual licensure in the area of deaf and hard of hearing and visual impairments. Heidi provides onsite technical assistance to families and school districts serving children with combined vision and hearing loss. Heidi works out of the WDBTAP office in Baraboo. You can reach Heidi at heidi.hollenberger@wesp-dhh.wi.gov.



Meet....Becky Hovde, Project Assistant

Becky has been with WDBTAP since March 2010 and works out of the WDBTAP office in Baraboo. Becky has a wide variety of skills and experiences that have proven beneficial to WDBTAP. She enjoys event planning, using her craft skills for displays and brochures, and her computer experience has enabled us to use the database more efficiently. In her "spare" time, Becky is as busy as she is at work: she is mom of 4, grandma of 4, and wife of Jim. They have 2 dogs, Larry and Ralphie, and 2 cats, Bubbles and Nova. Reading, scrapbooking, needlework, photography, and fishing are a few of her hobbies. She is a new board member of the Reedsburg Area Historical Society and has written and received grants for some of their programming recently. She also heads the Backpack Project at her church and is an assistant with Kids Club there. If you need to know about community resources or historical trivia, Becky is the one to go to! You can reach Becky at rebecca.hovde@wesp-dhh.wi.gov.



*"I enjoyed reading your newsletter. Thanks for sharing information about your Project's work and resources!"
From Martha Kay Asti, Arkansas Project Director, (Children and Youth with dual Sensory Impairments)*

*"Mahalo Jolene, wonderful newsletter!"
University of Hawai'i, Manoa Hawai'i & Pacific Deaf-Blind Projects*

Feedback From Satisfied Customers of Our Lending Library

Ring Around Bells

I got the toy last week. Just wanted to let you know that it is a favorite with both of my students!!! In fact, one student asked for it the next day.... she signed 'more bells'... of course she got them! :) Thought you'd like to know that you are putting your money to good use!

Wiggly Giggly Ball

My student enjoyed the feel of the wiggly giggly ball. Thank you for loaning these materials to us.

Sunny Sunshine Switch

Loved it, smiled, reached for it.....the classroom teacher is purchasing the switch now.



Link Lites

The National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFADB)

The National Family Association for Deaf-Blind is an organization that has been supporting individuals who are deaf-blind and their families for over sixteen years. We would like to invite all families, consumers and professionals to become a member of this incredible organization. The yearly membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Some of the support offered by NFADB:

- ◇ A toll free number answered by a real person that connects families and others to resources and one-to-one support
- ◇ Bi-annual newsletter with national updates and current information
- ◇ Website and Facebook page with online resources and support
- ◇ Member listserv that connects you by email to hundreds of other members

Check out the website which is available in both English and Spanish: www.nfadb.org



Family Conference 2011

Brought to you by:
 Wisconsin Educational Services Program
 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Outreach

The Family Conference in March was very well attended and enjoyed! There were several sessions that were specifically helpful for parents of the deafblind.

We simply can't say it better than the words of these parents of deafblind children who attended:

I come to conferences like this one to gain the knowledge of the professional speakers but truly what I end up learning the most is from other families that you get to meet that are similar to yours. We have all had experiences with doctor appointments, therapist, etc....that were great or horrible and to network with other families about what worked for them really is the most amazing thing. You think

.....You think you are the only one out there until you come to a conference like this one and meet all the amazing people that are there for you.

you are the only one out there until you come to a conference like this one and meet all the amazing people that are there for you. I am always amazed at how much you can learn by just sitting at a table for an hour with complete strangers. I really enjoyed the workshops that allowed the parents to open up and express what concerns we were currently having and hearing what other parents did about that problem. The information you walk away with from these experiences are just priceless.



We met some new families and got some new ideas. Child care was wonderful! Rachel Coleman was a very inspiring speaker. Thank you!!

♥♥ We simply can't say enough to thank the staff who participated in the child care rooms. It is a tremendous responsibility and your efforts are very appreciated! ♥♥

We both got in the car afterwards and said "wow" that was really good. We have been to a fair number of conferences like this and the keynote was the best we have heard. Millie was great especially in the 0-6 group. She can really explain things well.

We are so very thankful to have had this opportunity. Everything was great. Besides the information and insights we received, we really enjoyed the educational entertainment. It wasn't just for education but for even more enlightenment on the spectrum and variety of personalities and approaches to hearing loss.



Calendar of Events

July 21-22, 2011

- Tips and Tools For Early Intervention Wisconsin Dells
 “Cortical Visual Impairment - Assessment and Resources”

August 27-28, 2011

- DeafBlind Family Weekend
 Lions Camp, Rosholt, WI

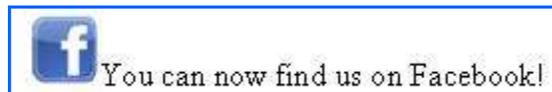
*Transitions:
Surviving and Thriving*



What Types of Technical Assistance Does WDBTAP provide?

- Parent/Family trainings and assistance in connecting families with one another
- Statewide and regional workshops for service providers and families
- Observation, support and coaching in programming for children
- Intensive deafblind training series for paraprofessionals who work one on one with children and youth who are deafblind
- Assistance in identifying children and youth who are deafblind
- Referral to relevant local, regional, and national agencies
- Lending library with materials, equipment, and toys to benefit deafblind children/youth on the Registry

We are here for YOU!



Wisconsin DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project
124 2nd Street Suite 11
Baraboo WI 53913



WDBTAP Staff
Marcy Dicker Project Director
Jolene Gruber Grant Coordinator
Becky Hovde Project Assistant
Heidi Hollenberger DeafBlind Consultant
Brenda Eberle Family Specialist