

Outreach Newsletter

For Teachers, Parents & Early Interventionists

Deaf Education Nationwide

National Deaf Education Reform Movement Now Web-Accessible at ndepnow.org
(Press Release)

The debate over deaf education has continued for decades and yet one thing remains unchanged--the average deaf or hard of hearing student continues to leave school with a third to fourth grading reading level and deficient in most academic subjects. Even with the advent of newborn hearing screening, early identification of hearing loss, and new technologies, our children may continue to face a limited future. Communication and language are the foundations for all learning, and yet American law and educational policy do not recognize this fundamental truth, and, indeed, often work against it.

The goal of the National Deaf Education Project (NDEP) is to see the development of a communication and language-driven educational delivery system for deaf and hard of hearing students in the United States. In collaboration with a national parent organization, Hands & Voices, a new website has been created for the express purpose of providing information to parents, educators, consumers, professionals, and others involved in trying to improve the education of deaf and hard of hearing children. The web site, www.ndepnow.org, specifically focuses on efforts to transform that system into a strong and appropriate communication and language-driven model that meets the unique needs of our children. The website is also a repository for state initiatives on deaf education reform, including examples of The Deaf Child's Bill of Rights as passed in several states, the Statement of Principle, links to activities throughout the nation including The National Agenda, and a variety of other information regarding NDEP and its work.

Please visit the site and share this news release with your colleagues. We look forward to the work ahead as we all seek an educational system that fully and appropriately serves the academic, communication and language needs of all children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Sports Events at the Indiana School for the Deaf



As always, mainstreamed deaf and hard of hearing students and their families are welcome to attend sports events at the Indiana School for the Deaf in order to interact with deaf/HH peers. For an ISD sports schedule, check out:

<http://www.isd.k12.in.us/Athletics/2005WinterMSHS.pdf>

Hands & Voices :: Research Study Findings

The National Hands & Voices Organization, a nationwide non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing, without bias, has posted some recent research on their website regarding healthy families of children who are Deaf. The research was done to examine factors that contributed to families' health and to gather suggestions for other families. Check it out at:

http://www.handsandvoices.org/articles/misc/V8-3_studyfindings.htm



Playgroups for D/deaf and hard of hearing Babies and Toddlers

Outreach Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children is currently offering playgroups for infants & toddlers who have been identified with a hearing loss and their families. Jodee Crace (Deaf) and Diane Jones (Hearing) facilitate the playgroups and individuals from all over the state of Indiana attend. The purpose of the playgroups is to 1) meet, interact, and enjoy being with other families and 2) get resources on raising a Deaf/Hard of Hearing baby/toddler. Any parents and any D/deaf or hard of hearing baby/toddler ages birth to 36 months are welcome to attend. If you or someone you know is interested in attending, please contact Jodee Crace at JCrace@isd.k12.in.us or Diane Jones at 317-924-8416.



Outreach Mission: To identify needs and find the resources to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing children and their families throughout the state of Indiana.

Outreach Services for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Children in the State of Indiana

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317-920-6311 or www.deaf-kids.com

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