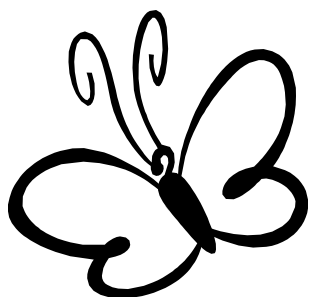


FOCUS FLYER



★ THE MAIN FOCUS ★

RESOURCES AND EVENTS

New resources for family members and support personnel are constantly being developed and offered for our use in Mississippi. The following resources focus on individuals with deaf-blindness and/or individuals of low incidence disabilities and involve training, strategies and assessments for this population. Please contact us if you would like more information regarding these resources.

- ***Project Sparkle***

A training program for families of children with deaf-blindness developed by Linda Alsop at Utah State University.

- ***Interpreting Strategies for Deaf-Blind Students***

An interactive training tool for educational interpreters by the Ohio Center for Deaf-Blind Education and the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence.

- ***Communication Matrix***

An easy-to-use communication assessment tool developed by Dr. Charity Rowland of Oregon Health & Science University

- ***Integrated Functional Behavior Assessment Protocol***

A functional behavior assessment for schools, agencies and families designed for use with students or consumers with disabilities and behavior problems by Kevin Arnold, Ph.D. at the Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapy of Greater Columbus, Inc.

- ***The Early Intervention Training Center for Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairments and Their Families***

A national project directed by Deborah Hattan, Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill developed materials to train personnel to provide family-centered appropriate services to infants/toddlers who have visual impairments.



“The best and
most beautiful
things in the

world cannot be seen or
even touched. They must
be felt with the heart.”

Helen Keller

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| New Resources for family and support personnel | 1 |
| Out of state summer events | 2 |
| In state summer events | 3 |
| Fall events | 4 |

OUT-OF-STATE

CONFERENCES, TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS
FOR FAMILIES AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL***Learning to Communicate: from Body Signals to First Words
Featuring Deborah Chen, Ph.D.***

By the American Association for Home-Based Early Intervention (AAHBEDI)
In Norcross, Georgia (just outside Atlanta)
July 11-12, 2005
Contact by e-mail: largenta@highstream.net
or call: 800-396-6144

***Celebrating 11th Anniversary of Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness:
The Power of Technology for Deaf-Blind People: Let's Get Connected!!!***

By the Helen Keller National Center
In Clarkston, GA
Saturday, June 11, 2005
Contact: Amy Parker
E-mail: ap4hknc@aol.com
404-766-9625

***National Parent/Family Workshop
Keeping It All Together ???***

Strategies for Managing Family Life when a Member is Deaf-Blind
Sponsored by the National Technical Assistance Consortium for Children
and Young Adults who are Deaf-Blind (NTAC)
and the National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFADB)
In Salt Lake City, Utah
August 25-27
Contact by May 26: Kathy Michaels
516-944-8900 x307

***Cortical Visual Impairment
By Christine Roman, PhD***

Workshop regarding visual characteristics of CVI and interventions to
resolve these characteristics
In Mobile, Alabama
June 9-10
Contact: Carol Allison
callison@uab.edu

IN MISSISSIPPI

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS FOR FAMILIES
AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL*The Annual ARC of MS Conference*

At "The Palace" in Biloxi, MS

July 21 and 22

Contact: Cindy Dittus
800-717-1180*Workshop on Deaf-Blindness*Presented by Linda Alsop, author of Project Sparkle, from
The Ski Hi Institute at Utah State University

Sponsored by the Mississippi Deaf-Blind Project

This workshop:

- * Offers strategic planning for the upcoming school year for students with deaf-blindness
- * Involves review of critical strategies regarding:

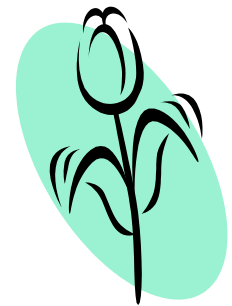
| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Deaf-blindness | Vision |
| Hearing | Touch |
| Concept development | Communication |
| Intervention strategies | Family Issues |
- * Offers individual team discussion and action planning with a follow-up workshop in the early fall
- * Encourages team participants in preparation for school year.

| |
|---------------|
| Family |
| Teacher |
| Assistant |
| Administrator |
- * Requests that participants bring:

| |
|--|
| Student's IEP |
| Student's portfolio (if available) |
| SPARKLE material (if participating in Project SPARKLE) |

At the Life Share Building at the MS School for the Blind
July 28th and 29thContact: Liz Grantham elizabeth.grantham@usm.edu
800-264-5135

Reimbursement for travel expenses for both in-state and out-of-state events, and child care expenses available for families on our registry.



"Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow"

Helen Keller

MISSISSIPPI DEAF-BLIND PROJECT

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND
SPECIAL EDUCATION
BOX 5115
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39406-5115

PHONE: 800-264-5135
FAX: 601-266-4978
EMAIL: DEAF-BLIND@USM.EDU

DR. LINDA MCDOWELL, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
ELIZABETH GRANTHAM, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
JANET SALEK, PROJECT COORDINATOR

We're on the web!
www.usm.edu/msdb



UPCOMING FALL WORKSHOP



Developing Concepts with Children Who are Deaf-Blind

Presented by Barbara Miles, co-author of the book,

Remarkable Conversations

In Daytona Beach, Florida

September 15 and 16, 2005

Registration forms available in June, 2005

Contact: Crys Erdman

800-667-4052

erdman@ufbi.ufl.edu

As with all conferences and trainings - travel reimbursements are available for families on our registry by contacting Liz Grantham at the Mississippi Deaf-Blind Project (800-264-5135)