

Outreach Services

For Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children



August/September 2008

Welcome Back to Indiana Schools

By: Cindy Lawrence, Outreach Director

Many students returned to school in mid August, registering for classes, meeting their new teachers and anticipating a new year of learning with new opportunities to become involved in their school and with other students. This is our expectation for all of our children including deaf and hard of hearing children whether they attend their local public school, ISD, or a private school. This school year brings about new changes in the Special Education Law in Indiana in response to the changes in IDEA (the federal Special Education Law reauthorized in 2006.)

In Indiana parents will notice differences in some components of the IEP including written notifications that will allow for more communication regarding the intentions of the case conference committee, less requirements for testing for eligibility among other improvements. Outreach Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children is revising procedures in order to be of further assistance to all Deaf and hard of hearing children in Indiana, where ever they attend school. When parents or LEA's contact Outreach, we will have the team most likely to be of assistance, respond with requests for information that will help us know the best way to proceed. Upon review of the data including information from the parent, our team may suggest one of the following proposed actions:

- Further evaluation in areas listed and specified in a proposed informed consent form, probably at the Eliza Willard Assessment Center or locally in the child's home or assigned school.
- Offer to observe the child in their local public school

with recommendations and consultation with deaf educators and other specialists.

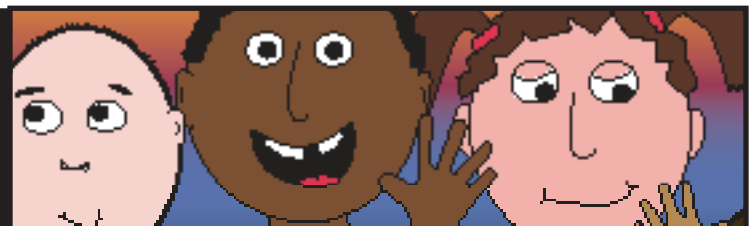
- Offer to attend the case conference committee meeting and make recommendations based on the available data.
- Referral to other agencies with specific expertise addressing areas of concern.
- Offer to provide in-service training and support to the Deaf Educators and staff working with the student.
- Or any combination of above services.



Our goal is to continue to provide services that will address the needs or find the resources that can meet the needs of all deaf and hard of hearing students in Indiana.

Outreach Mission:

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



Basic Parent Advisor Training In Session

Submitted by Jodee Crace

SKI-HI (www.skihi.org) is a family-centered and home based early intervention service. One component of the SKI-HI Institute is a home-based curriculum for families with deaf and/or hard of hearing babies/young children. Jodee Crace, Outreach Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children's Early Intervention Coordinator, has recently become the State Trainer. In this role, she will be training qualified people to become Indiana's Parent Advisors and mentor them as they work directly with families utilizing the SKI-HI Curriculum. In addition, Jodee and her partner, Michelle Coleman, also an Early Intervention Coordinator with Outreach Services, oversee the SKI-HI Program in Indiana.

The upcoming group of trainees will received the first three days of SKI-HI Basic Parent Advising training on September 4 – 6 in Indianapolis. Each trainee will receive six days' total of training. The second three days of Basic PA training will be on November 19 – 21. Upon completion of training and meeting the expectations set

forth by the National SKI-HI Institute and Indiana's Outreach Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, each Parent Advisor becomes certified by SKI-HI to deliver Parent Advising. Each Parent Advisor is also to be an enrolled First Steps provider.

This SKI-HI Basic Parent Advisor Training is in collaboration with Indiana's First Steps and Indiana's State Department of Health's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program.

If you'd like additional information about SKI-HI, please feel free to contact Jodee Crace at jcrace@isd.k12.in.us.

What's Up At Gallaudet University?

by Carolyn S. Pimentel

School Psychologist at the Outreach Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

An article was recently published about Gallaudet University called "Gallaudet Regroups" written by Susan Kinzie in the *Washington Post* on June 28, 2008. The article talked about the protests and problems that Gallaudet went through previously when it was looking for a new president. The university was put on probation for a time; however, reports have it that the Middle States Commission of Higher Education has reaffirmed Gallaudet's accreditation. Under the leadership of interim President Bob Davila, the university has developed a new curriculum, placed an emphasis on sign language with a new bilingual mission, and put a system in place to use data to prove results. Gallaudet has raised its admission requirements and increased the academic difficulty of its classes. While they will soon be looking for a new president, interim President Davila has promised that he and his staff will remain at Gallaudet until the new president is hired. Now that the university has its accreditation and the campus is calm once again, Gallaudet hopes that its enrollment will begin to grow. For more information, search the internet for "Gallaudet Regroups" and you should find the original article.

Here is the internet address we used;

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/27/AR2008062702314.html?nav=rss_metro



Send us your Pictures

We want to see what your students and families are doing. Send your photos along with captions to jjones@isd.k12.in.us in JPEG format so we can consider featuring them in our newsletter.

Upcoming Events

September 12, 16

Infant Toddler Playgroups

Contact Lori at ldille@isd.k12.in.us or
Diane at dhjones@isd.k12.in.us

October 19, 20, and 21

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Investing in Family Involvement Conference

Taking place in Raleigh, North Carolina. States are encouraged to send teams including parents, early interventionists, and other stakeholders. For information visit www.infanthearing.org

November 14

26th Annual Education Conference HEAR Indiana

“Building Partnerships: Working Together to Support Children with Hearing Loss”

The conference will be at the Garrison Hotel,
Indianapolis, IN
For registration information visit www.hearindiana.org or
call 317-828-0211

October 11

American Sign Language EXPO 2008

“Come as an exhibitor or as a participant.”

Contact Manon Culver at manon@aslexpo.com or at VP
(714) 888-8888 or FAX (714) 276-0382.

To have an event posted in the newsletter please visit
www.deaf-kids.com for the appropriate form.



Upcoming Events for Interpreters

See www.edterpmeetingplace.com
for the events calendar



To view a list of upcoming events online visit <http://www.deaf-kids.com/IND/FamilyEducation/Events.asp>



FAMILY SIGNING FUN!

The Tuesday evenings in the Summer of 2008 brought in a wide variety of people mingling together with American Sign Language. Families with Deaf or Hard of Hearing children, Indiana School for the Deaf staff, and ASL friends from the community met at the Broad Ripple Park for the “Family Signing Fun” to enjoy American Sign Language via signing games and discussion. Tami Ellis, who has been the Parent Advisor certified in the SKI-HI Program and works as the First Steps provider, created this opportunity. Outreach Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children provided partnership and support via logistics and recruiting Deaf/Hard of Hearing Adults to be the mentors.

The feedback provided by the participants of the Family Signing Fun have been positive. There is a desire for more such gatherings. Families learn best in that type of a relaxed, fun atmosphere. Various activities were provided for the participants to acquire and enhance ASL skills, such as finger spelling, hand shapes, grammar, and receptive building skills. In addition, the participants enjoyed learning from Deaf/Hard of Hearing people their personal and social experiences.

Look out for more announcements on the next Family Signing Fun on the Outreach Newsletter! If you are interested in starting or organizing a similar social opportunity to learn and play with sign language in your local venue, feel free to contact Outreach staff for further assistance.

Meet some of the Outreach staff



Cindy Lawrence serves as Director of Outreach Services. She works closely with other agencies providing services for deaf and hard of hearing children as well as directing the department. As a licensed educational audiologist at ISD since 1986, and former teacher of the Deaf, she has served as a preschool and elementary school audiologist, and now as the Director of Outreach. She may be reached at clawrence@isd.k12.in.us or at 317-920-6311 TTY/Voice.



Joanie Jones serves as an Administrative Secretary to the Director of Outreach. Joanie came to Outreach with a variety of work experiences. She is also the mother of a teenage Deaf child. She may be reached at jjones@isd.k12.in.us and at (317) 920-6311 TTY/Voice.



Louise Fitzpatrick, having served in a variety of capacities at ISD since 1982, including teacher and as a former Supervising Teacher for the Preschool Department, is the Language Specialist for the assessment team and an Outreach Team Leader. She has expertise in early childhood education and language development. She assesses students’ language and/or their communication system to determine their needs in this area. She may be reached at lfitzpatrick@isd.k12.in.us and at (317) 920-6263 TTY.

Outreach Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children has a website, www.deaf-kids.com, which allows you to share your event information with the entire state of Indiana.

We value diversity and respect all viewpoints and opportunities for communication; therefore, please contact sponsors of events supporting specific methodologies. We suggest the questions on the following link be considered when viewing website and newsletter information:

<http://www.deaf-kids.com/IND/Links.asp>

Please submit information at least one month in advance of your event. Questions? Call Joanie Jones at 1-800-722-6166 or email jjones@isd.k12.in.us