

South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

Informational Items

May 9-11, 2017



Partnering with Schools



SDSD school-based services are provided for children who are deaf or hard of hearing receiving educational services through any school program. Services are designed to support school professionals, parents, and students in their educational settings.

Services may include:

- Staff in-services to share information about hearing level and its educational impacts
- Technical assistance and orientation with hearing aids, cochlear implants, FM and soundfield systems, interpreters, and other technology
- Participation in the development of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan
- Classroom peer presentations about hearing loss
- Educational strategies and materials

In our new series, we ask educators about their experiences with SDSD Outreach. Jessica Griebel, Brandon Valley Deaf Educator, shares her experiences.

How did you learn about SDSD Outreach?

My outreach consultant contacted me before the start of the 2013-2014 school year (which was my first year of teaching) to let me know of SDSD Outreach and the services its staff provides.

How has SDSD Outreach's involvement benefited your deaf/hard of hearing student(s)?

Right away, my outreach consultant supported me by providing diagnostic tools and other materials to assess my student's abilities and needs, which then gave me direction for my instruction path. She also observed in my classroom on several occasions in order to provide feedback as well as determine what she could do to further support me. After two years, I gained a new consultant, but the level of service I received did not change; SDSD Outreach has always encouraged me and helped me with whatever I needed, which ultimately benefited my students. When I needed direction, tools, or strategies, the consultants have consistently been there for me and my students.

What would you tell other educators about using SDSD consultative services?

Utilize SDSD Consultative services as often as you can. They truly have our Deaf and Hard of Hearing students' best interests at heart. They care not only for the students but for everyone who supports the students' growth and success.

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Ongoing Learning

Submitted by Julie Delfs

On February 16-18, Kerry Ruth, Eileen Anderson, and Julie Delfs attended the Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss Conference in Orlando, Florida. Kerry and Julie attended the pre-conference *Bridging for Better Preschool Outcomes* which focused on appropriate assessments for children transitioning to preschool and how to use the results to determine appropriate goals and objectives as well as where to begin intervention. Eileen attended *Bridging for Better School-Age Outcomes* which analyzed students responses during assessment to identify strengths and weaknesses. The session also focused on how to create data-driven specific goals and objectives as well as the sequence of instruction.



South Dakota School for the Deaf Family Night-West River

Submitted by Nina Ringstmeyer and Kerry Ruth

SDSD Outreach Consultants, Nina Ringstmeyer and Kerry Ruth, hosted a pizza party for clients and families on March 3, 2017. The event was held at Pizza Ranch in Rapid City. Over 50 people attended the event, including clients, their parents, their siblings, and members of the deaf community. It was a great opportunity for families to meet and connect. Special thanks to the Pizza Ranch on Stumer Road and the SDSD Foundation.



South Dakota Special Education Conference

Submitted by Nina Ringstmeyer and Kerry Ruth

The 2017 South Dakota Special Education Conference was held at The Lodge in Deadwood on March 21–22. The event was sponsored by the Center for Disabilities and the South Dakota Department of Education, Special Education Programs. A record 400 professionals attended this year's conference. The 2017 theme was the 1980s. Participants were encouraged to dress in 80s fashion and a polaroid photo booth added to the fun! A variety of topics were presented, including: classroom management, using data for instruction, literacy, technology, program resources, advocacy, strategies for the classroom, collaboration in the school setting, Individual Education Plan ideas, transitions, Response to Intervention, and assessments. South Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Consultants, Nina Ringstmeyer and Kerry Ruth, presented on March 21 and staffed the SDSD booth throughout the conference. The topic of the SDSD presentation was special education eligibility, what to look for at home and school, hearing devices, and tips for working with deaf and hard of hearing students. Attendees were given information on resources as well as contact information of the outreach consultants throughout the state. The annual special education conference is a great opportunity for special educators throughout the state to collaborate, network, share ideas, and gain information to take back to their schools. The 2018 conference will be held at the Sioux Falls Convention Center on March 13 and 14.



A Partnership with Families

Submitted by Kerry Ruth

We asked Tiffany Farrer about SDSD Outreach services. Keep reading to learn how SDSD has impacted her family.



How did you learn about SDSD Outreach?

Our daughter's audiologist in Sioux Falls gave us the contact information for SDSD and told us they could help us out if we were interested in learning ASL. We gave them a call and it was then that we found out about the Outreach Program and all the wonderful resources and support SDSD has to offer.



How has SDSD Outreach's involvement benefited your child?

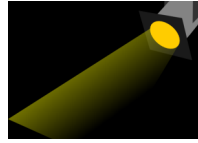
The SDSD Outreach program has benefited my child in many ways. They introduced to us easy ways to get started using sign language in our home by providing signs and pictures correlated with that sign. We then posted those signs in our house on different objects that helped remind us to sign, which also built our vocabulary. They helped us get in contact with other resources to further our progress with sign language. They were able to assess my child's language development according to her age so we knew exactly where to focus our efforts to help her in the most effective ways possible. They have shed light on things that we would have never thought about. For example, it was explained to us how disruptive background noise can be with hearing aids and the importance of us getting down on her level to speak to her so she has the best chances of hearing and understanding us which will ultimately provide her with optimal language development. These are just a few ways off the top of my head that the SDSD Outreach program has benefited my child and there are many other ways my child benefits from their efforts.

What would you say to other families who are considering SDSD services?

If there were families debating whether or not they should contact SDSD, I would tell them not to hesitate and contact SDSD! They will lose nothing and gain everything. When we discovered the severity of hearing loss our child had we were not sure what to do or how to find the resources necessary to help advance her language development, but SDSD services laid a clear path before us through facts and suggestions that would benefit our child most. They have treated my family with respect and compassion. They have helped us along this uncertain path and introduced us to other families in our same situation that have become a great support network. If you are in a situation that warrants utilizing SDSD services then contact them. You will not regret it.



SDSD Staff Spotlight: Julie Luke



What got you interested in working with deaf/hard of hearing children?

I was born with a severe to profound hearing level, and I was mainstreamed in public schools. I had a great experience due to wonderful teachers and a Deaf Education itinerant teacher. I knew that I wanted to make the same difference for other children and families. I truly believe my personal experiences help me have a better connection with my students and families I work with.

What do you like most about SDSD?

SDSD Outreach is my dream job. I have opportunities to work with a variety of ages of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The connections I make with them, families, and schools is invaluable. SDSD allows me to do that, and I am blessed to be doing what I am doing.

If you could share only one piece of advice about deaf/hard of hearing children, what would it be?

My advice for deaf and hard of hearing students is to dream BIG! You can do ANYTHING you want to do - work hard, be motivated and you can do it!! Be proud of who you are.

Family Sign Language Class

Submitted by Julie Luke

Sioux Falls area consultants, Julie Luke, Kami Van Sickle, and Sherry Jackson, are close to wrapping up another successful semester of Family Sign Language Class. Deaf Community members volunteered each week and helped out with learning centers. The class especially enjoyed hearing about the Deaf Community members' life stories. It was wonderful for SDSD families to see how successful they are. Augustana volunteers have helped out in the daycare while their family members attended class. In the daycare, staff used sign language to give children opportunities to learn sign language. Holli Norling, Sioux Falls area interpreter, volunteered each week as well, and SDSD staff are thankful for her help. Thank you to SDSD Foundation for providing the popcorn. Videos of sign language vocabulary can be found at www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/videos.htm.

Southeast Technical College

Submitted by Laura Scholten

On February 17, Laura Scholten and Jodi Schnider presented to students in the early childhood program at Southeast Technical College. The topic was "SDSD Nose Language" which covered the importance early identification and intervention of hearing loss in children. The presentation also emphasized language strategies to maximize the language development of deaf/hard of hearing children. The students left the presentation with practical strategies for use in the classroom in their upcoming jobs. Plans for next year's presentation are already underway!

Teen Group

Submitted by Jodi Schnider

On March 2, Teen Group met at the Hy-Vee kitchen to learn how to make a three course meal. First, the group first learned about what a dietician does, portion size, and moderation. After moving to the counters, they were instructed in how to make a fruit salsa, beef stroganoff, and fruit pizza. The teens had to work together to cut fruit, zest oranges and limes, toast tortillas, boil noodles, brown hamburger, and make it all look appetizing on a plate. They did this all while learning how to measure, decide who was going to have each job, and keep all of their fingers while cutting fruit! The group then shared their creations with their parents and the Deaf community who attended.

In-service Update



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu



In-services and guest lectures are provided by members of the SDSD Outreach team as an extension of support for children with varied hearing status. These in-services relate to varied hearing status and its educational impact, technical assistance and orientation with hearing aids, cochlear implants, FM systems, sound field systems, and/or interpreters, or educational strategies and materials that may benefit SDSD clients.

Audiology Department News

Submitted by Greg King

The following report details audiological services provided to South Dakota children from September 2nd 2016 through March 17th 2017 on SDSD’s campus and via the mobile lab .

Total Screened	12,441
Total Evaluated	4,354
*SNHL Found	248
*CHL Found	498
Mobile Sites	117



SNHL—sensorineural hearing loss
CHL— conductive hearing loss

www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/audiology.htm