

South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

Informational Items

March 31–April 2, 2015



Fairview Learning Reading Program

Submitted by Jodi Schnider

On November 5 - 6, South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) hosted a two day workshop involving 60 staff members from 15 different school districts. Educators came to learn about reading instruction with deaf and hard of hearing students using American Sign Language (ASL). The workshop focused on a program out of Utah called the Fairview Learning Reading Program (Fairview). Fairview provides strategies for students who need the visual support of sign language as well as those who use it as their first language.

Fairview, designed specifically for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, reflects years of collaboration among deaf educators and utilizes best practices. Fairview's unique program provides individuals the literacy tools to construct mental, linguistic frameworks. These frameworks, specific to each user, allow access and increasing fluency in English and ASL, and ease the movement between the two languages. The program can be seamlessly integrated into any existing reading program, and is both user-friendly and fun.

Attendees participated in hands-on, movement activities that could be used in their classrooms. There were many in the group who did not know sign language. By the workshop's end, they knew several signs and had the resources to get started as soon as they returned to their districts.

On the evening of November 5, a parent training night was also made available. Two families attended on-site and four families from West River were available via the web. Trish Fox, Fairview owner and trainer, shared with the group the importance of using conceptual sign language when reading to small children and not to focus on signing each individual word in books.

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Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M) Day

Submitted by Jodi Schnider

SDSD was asked by the Tea Area School District to present on November 14, 2014. The S.T.E.M theme was “Prosthetic and Assistive Technology Devices”. Over 400 students were asked to attend various educational stations as well as find 12 different items through a scavenger hunt. Students searched for assistive daily living devices, hearing aids, bone conduction hearing aids, cochlear implants, and FM systems. They also participated in a skit called “How Sound Reaches the Brain”.



Teens in Action

Submitted by Naomi Mangan

Naomi Mangan (SDSD consultant), Mark Koterwski (Communication Services for the Deaf consultant) and Augustana College students (Deaf Education and Sign Language Interpreter majors) collaborated for the monthly teen group. In November 2014, seven students learned about financial responsibility. The topics for February compared the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) in schools versus colleges. Key points for winter driving safety were also reviewed. Social skills training continues to be a main focus for the group and was incorporated into both sessions.

Connected, Relevant, Useful, and Meaningful Language

Submitted by Laura Scholten

On February 11, SDSD provided a training for speech-language pathologists (SLPs) in the Sioux Falls School District. Thirty SLPs attended the training on the SDSD campus and learned about the importance of pre-teaching vocabulary prior to a language lesson, strategies to build storytelling and writing skills, and how to differentiate questions based on students' language levels. Dr. Barb Avery-Sterud, Sioux Falls Public Schools Related Services Director, and Laura Scholten, SDSD Outreach Consultant, coordinated the event and look forward to future collaborations.



Dr. Barb Avery-Sterud

Augustana Talk

Submitted by Julie Luke

On February 16, Outreach Director Kim Wadsworth and Outreach Consultant Julie Luke presented at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. The nearly 60 class participants were students and professional American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. Information was shared about SDSD Outreach services and how the educational process is similar but yet much different than that of hearing students. Topics focused on the importance of social, language, and educational opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing students. Discussions also occurred about how to best work with and serve students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Technological equipment such as cochlear implants, hearing aids, bone-anchored hearing aids, and FM systems were explored. Presenters also shared about home and school visits and current curriculums we use at SDSD.



Cochlear Implant Programming

Submitted by Laura Scholten

The University of South Dakota Scottish Rite Speech and Hearing Clinic continues to provide support for children with cochlear implants. On February 19, Dr. Jessica Messersmith and her team of students provided cochlear implant (CI) mapping for five SDSD clients on the SDSD campus. For CI recipients, appropriate programming is essential to maximize the benefits of the technology. SDSD and USD plan to continue to collaborate to promote successful outcomes for CI users.



Driver's Education

Submitted by Laura Scholten

All teens look forward to getting their driver's license. Finding a driver's education class offered in American Sign Language (ASL) with an instructor who understands the unique learning needs of deaf and hard of hearing students is a challenge. SDSD identified this need and has teamed up with instructor Cathy Smith to offer a six-week course. The goal is for deaf/hard of hearing students to gain a better understanding of the traffic laws of South Dakota and rules for operating automobiles safely.



A World of Choices

Submitted by Laura Scholten

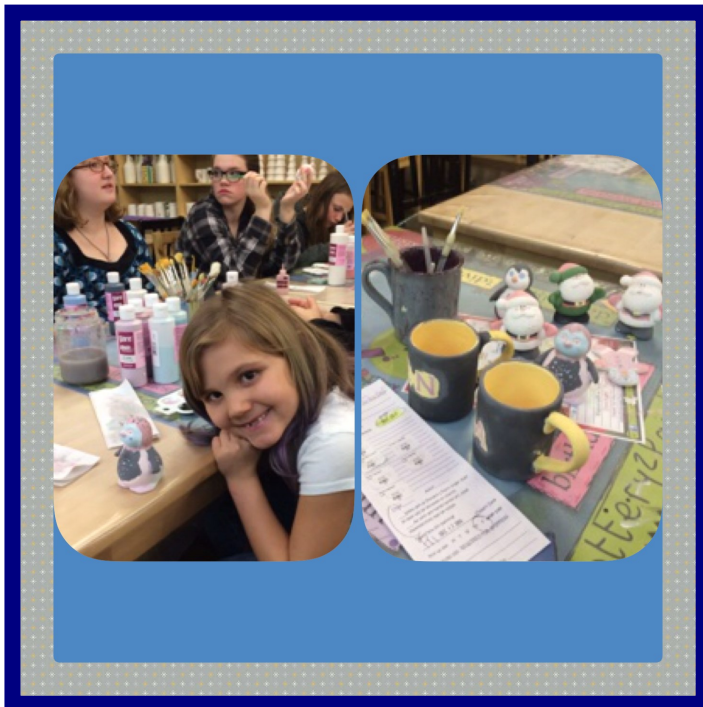
On January 13, SDSD was invited to lecture to undergraduate students taking Psychology & Interpersonal Relations at Globe University. Laura Scholten, SDSD Consultant, discussed the communication, education, and technology choices her parents had to make after her sister lost her hearing at 2 years of age. She shared how her parents had to educate themselves about all the advantages and disadvantages of the numerous options for their child. Overall, her family wished they had an organization like the SDSD Outreach Program to help them navigate their new world. Following the presentation, the class had a deeper appreciation of the role SDSD plays in the state of South Dakota.



Pottery 2 Paint

Submitted by Kerry Ruth

The South Dakota School for the Deaf hosted an event at Pottery 2 Paint in Rapid City on December 12, 2014. The event was open to girls who are served by SDSD Outreach Services. The girls painted Christmas ornaments that were paid for by the SDSD Foundation. It was a great opportunity to socialize and meet other girls from the area who are deaf or hard of hearing. Six clients attended, along with three siblings. A special thank you to Pottery 2 Paint for waiving the studio fee.



In-service Update



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu

Consultant In-services 2014–2015

128 In-services

1,745
South Dakotans
Educated

In-services and guest lectures are provided by members of the SDSD Outreach team as an extension of support for children and students with hearing loss. These in-services may relate to hearing loss 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 July 1, 2104 through February 27, 2015 on

Total Screened	9747
Total Evaluated	923
*SNHL Found	195
*CHL Found	389
Mobile Sites	110

SNHL—sensorineural hearing loss
CHL—conductive hearing loss



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/audiology.htm