

# South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

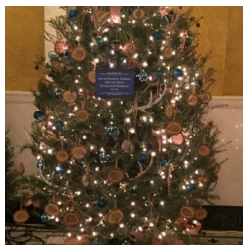
Informational Items

March 28-30, 2017



## Christmas at the Capitol

Submitted by Sarah Lingle



SDSD Outreach Program was selected to decorate a tree for the 2016 Christmas at the Capitol event. This was the 36<sup>th</sup> year for the event and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mount Rushmore with a theme of “A Monumental Christmas”.

The purpose of the display is to provide an enjoyable experience for all who come to view the trees. Dottie Howe started the holiday tradition in 1981, when she convinced Gov. Bill Janklow to let her put 12 Christmas trees in the Rotunda of the Capitol. Since then, it has become a Christmas celebration with music and fun for kids. The display is open to the public the week before Thanksgiving thru December 27<sup>th</sup>.

Every year, a South Dakota Christmas tree is located and donated to the event. This year’s tree was a 29 foot Colorado blue spruce from Huron. The remaining 90 trees came from a Wisconsin tree farm which were decorated by various businesses, nonprofit organizations, communities, and/or government agencies across the state.

SDSD’s tree stood proudly outside Gov. Dugaard’s office this year. The seven foot tree was decorated in blue, one of SDSD’s school colors, with a woodland theme and copper colored accents. Oak slices, donated by Kerry Ruth, SDSD Outreach Consultant in Deadwood, were inscribed with *Monumental Moments* such as learning first ASL signs, receiving a cochlear implant, securing funding for a child to receive hearing aids, and expanding the audiology department in Rapid City.



### Inside this issue:

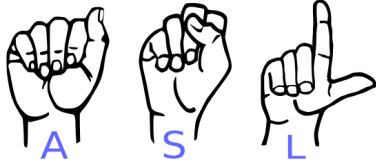
Strategies that Work	2
A Partnership with Families	3
West River Audiology Clinic	4
L & L Bags	4
Audiology News	5



Sarah Lingle, SDSD Outreach Consultant in Pierre, decorated the tree with over 100 *Monumental Moments*. It was a beautiful addition to the celebration in Pierre and a wonderful way to share the SDSD Outreach Program’s mission.

## Brandon Valley ASL Presentation

Submitted by Julie Luke



Julie Luke presented information about various hearing levels, different communication opportunities, and assistive technology deaf and hard of hearing individuals use such as: hearing aids, cochlear implants, bone anchored hearing aids, and American Sign Language (ASL). The

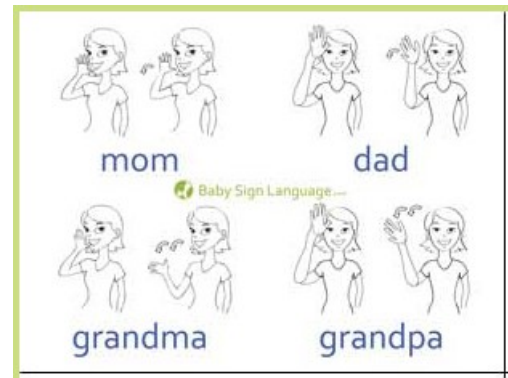
students were given the opportunity to explore assistive technology equipment, so they could see how it worked. Julie also shared information about her personal experiences growing up deaf and using hearing aids.

## Spring Family Sign Language Class

Submitted by Kami Van Sickle

This spring, SDSD will offer another semester of Family Sign Language Class for deaf and hard of hearing children, their families, and other professionals. Sioux Falls consultants, members of the Deaf community, and volunteers from Augustana help make this class a success! The class has different themes each week to teach functional vocabulary that families may use in the home. The new vocabulary is reinforced through fun, interactive activities that the whole family can enjoy. This class is a great opportunity for clients

and families to connect with each other in a relaxed environment. A signing daycare is available on campus for young children at no cost. The SDSD Foundation provides funding for snacks and a pizza party on the last night of class.



## Strategies that Work

Submitted by Kami Van Sickle



This year, SDSD has been partnering with members of the Deaf community, Chantal Bergeron & Tanya Miller, to create signed stories for a Deaf, signing client. In order to provide the Deaf child with background knowledge comparable to his hearing peers, the child is able to view a story in his primary language, American Sign Language, prior to reading the classroom story himself. Data taken before and after implementing this accommodation has shown an increase in comprehension and improved test scores. Check out our website to see all the great stories: <http://www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/videos-signed-stories.htm>

## A Partnership with Families

Submitted by Laura Scholten



We asked Jill Scott about SDSO Outreach services. Keep reading to learn how SDSO has impacted her family.

### How did you learn about SDSO Outreach?

We first learned about SDSO Outreach when our son, Eric, received his hearing loss diagnosis. We were in the Avera NICU at the time. Any NICU family can tell you it's overwhelming to have an early arrival of a baby, but to receive the news of hearing loss was hard. SDSO was very patient in understanding we needed time to adjust to our baby once we were able to bring him home with us, and our consultant, Laura, simply called and offered their services and support over the phone. Once we were ready to meet with them, it was a very relaxed meeting in our home to hear about what SDSO could offer to us as a family and for Eric as an individual. We also met with a member of SDSO Outreach, Kim, at the multidisciplinary hearing loss clinic we attended at Sanford Children's Clinic. SDSO has been nothing but supportive to us as we experience the world of hearing loss with our son.

### How has SDSO Outreach's involvement benefited your child?

Their involvement has benefited us as we trialed hearing aids and eventually went to Mayo Clinic for our son's cochlear implant surgery. After we chose a company for cochlear implants, our consultant was able to guide us through their website to show us troubleshooting questions and answers once we were home with all of our equipment. Laura could offer us suggestions on what other families have done to keep all of that equipment organized and safe. This helped our first activation meeting at Mayo Clinic not be quite as overwhelming, as we had a comfort level already developing. Once we were home from our activation, Laura was just as excited as we were (if not more) to check out all of our latest technology. It was great to also have two new consultants to SDSO, Sherry and Alissa, visit our home to see our technology and also learn about the LENA device research study we were participating in for Mayo.

SDSO has also been very supportive in our choice to have Eric pursue auditory verbal communication. While we have been waiting for this to develop, they have assisted us with sign language in our home to bridge his communication from sign to verbal. It has truly helped to reduce frustration for Eric and his parents to have improved communication and understanding.

SDSO has been very involved at our meetings with the Birth to 3 program. Our consultant, Laura, has worked closely with Eric's speech therapists offering support and ideas on how to maximize his services these first three years of life (first two years of hearing with cochlear implants).

SDSO has also provided a network of other families for us to meet and be of support as we go through the cochlear implant journey together. Having other parents to bounce ideas off of is a stress reliever. It is also a blessing to know someone who has first-hand knowledge and understanding of what you are going through and feeling.

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

The best advice we can offer to other families is: don't hesitate. The diagnosis of hearing loss can be overwhelming to any parent, but there are wonderful professionals who have a wealth of knowledge to help answer any questions and calm any fears. We can attest that we have had many questions along the way and SDSO is always a quick call away.



## West River Audiology Clinic

Submitted by Carly Hemmingson

Over the last few months, the South Dakota School for the Deaf- West River Clinic has been busy preparing to officially open its doors! The office is now fully furnished, and the clinic's new custom-built sound booth and audiological equipment were installed in mid-January. The clinic will be open to children birth through high school graduation, and will focus on diagnostic audiological services and device troubleshooting. Services are provided at no charge in order to assist in meeting the hearing healthcare needs of the children in western South Dakota. The SDSD-West River Clinic is excited to host an open house on Wednesday, March 15th, 2017, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. All are welcome to come tour the clinic and visit with the SDSD staff. We hope to see you there!



## Language & Literacy Bags

Submitted by Jodi Schnider

We know that children who come from families that read become readers themselves. One of our roles as Outreach Consultants is to make sure parents/caregivers have the access and the knowledge necessary to assist their children on the road to literacy. An avenue to this is the creation of Language and Literacy Bags (L & L bags).

Language and Literacy Bags are a collection of children's literature, fiction and/or nonfiction, which children have the opportunity to use at home and share with their parents/family. Each bag contains 1-2 books, usually on a theme (gardening, emotions, families, etc.), a list of activities for parents to do while reading, and various types of activities to do after the reading with all the materials needed to complete each activity.

Reading aloud allows children to:

- learn how books work
- learn how stories are put together and retell them
- have discussions about the text and illustrations
- use new and varied vocabulary (an important predictor of long-term academic success)

Shared reading allows children to develop:

- alphabet awareness
- vocabulary
- comprehension
- phonological awareness (how sounds work: syllables, rhyme...)
- print awareness (pages, covers, reading left to right...)
- visual and auditory memory

Additional activities in the bags help develop:

- fine motor skills
- time management skills and the ability to complete a task
- writing and drawing skills
- story sequencing
- number confidence if the story relates to math

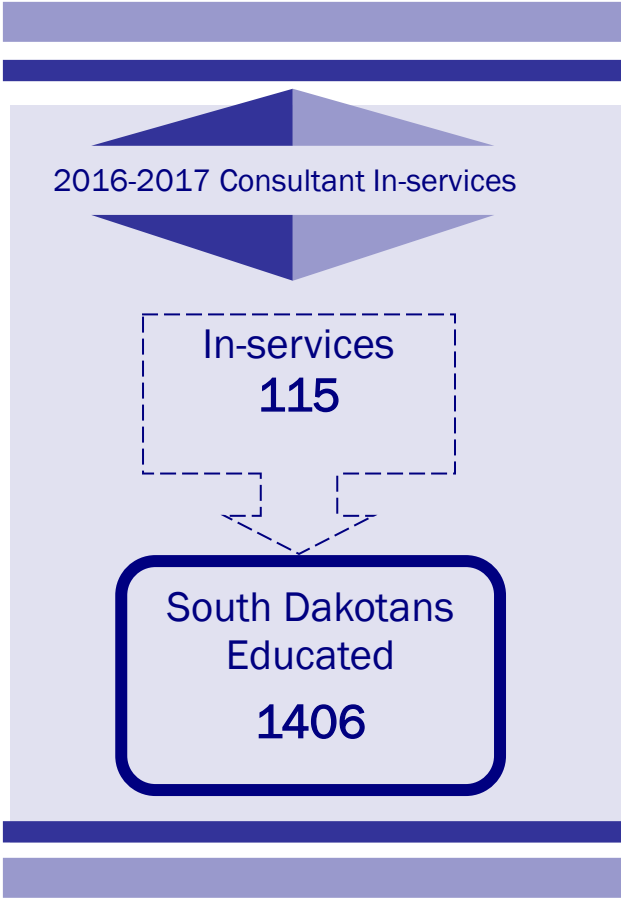
Just Keep Reading!



# In-service Update



[www.sdsd.sdbor.edu](http://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 2, 2016 through February 2, 2017 on SDSD’s campus and via the mobile lab .

Total Screened	11,408
Total Evaluated	3,993
*SNHL Found	228
*CHL Found	456
Mobile Sites	107



SNHL—sensorineural hearing loss  
CHL— conductive hearing loss

[www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/audiology.htm](http://www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/audiology.htm)