

South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

Informational Items

May 10 – May 12, 2016



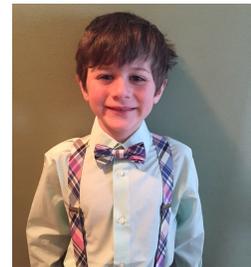
A Partnership with Families

Submitted by Alissa Hutchinson

In our new series, we ask families about SDSD Outreach services. Alexie Gregory, a parent of an SDSD client, shares her family's experience.

How did you learn about SDSD Outreach?

Honestly, it was so long ago. I feel like we've always had SDSD support. I believe I was given the phone number for SDSD by the audiologist who did the hearing test that determined Liam had a severe-profound hearing loss. I remember the first time Kim Wadsworth came to our house, I felt lost and confused. She walked in and left me feeling like "We got this!".



How has SDSD Outreach's involvement benefited your child?

SDSD gives ALL the options and all the information so you can make an educated decision that is best for your family. SDSD involvement has helped every step of the way with the IEPs (Individualized Education Program), getting services with Birth - 3, help in school, setting our family up to learn ASL (American Sign Language), introducing us to other families., and setting up activities for Liam to meet other kids with hearing loss.

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

Why wouldn't you use the services? SDSD has information on all the different paths to take, even ones you don't think about. We would have made a completely different decision had I not been connected with other families and not had all information available. You can google and look up on the internet practically anything but there is nothing better than having the support group and knowledge SDSD provides.



Rapid City Cochlear Implant Outreach Clinic

Submitted by Nina Ringstmeyer & Kerry Ruth

On April 6-8, South Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Consultants, Kerry Ruth and Nina Ringstmeyer, hosted the eighth Cochlear Implant Outreach Clinic in Rapid City. Through a collaborative effort with Rapid City Area Schools and the University of South Dakota Scottish Rite Speech and Hearing Clinic, SDSD was once again able to offer an opportunity for families living West River to have their child's cochlear implant services, including programming/mapping and evaluation of auditory development, provided closer to home.

The USD team utilized the Rapid City School District's sound booth in the Jefferson Building for cochlear implant mapping and audiology evaluations as well as the South Dakota School for the Deaf's mobile lab. Dr. Jessica J. Messersmith saw 30 clients which included audiology services, cochlear implant consultations and mapping, and BAHA programming and consultations as well as numerous hearing evaluations. Dr. Elizabeth Hanson and a USD student saw several of these students as well, focusing on language and augmentative communication. Three students from the University of South Dakota were also on hand to assist with the evaluations as a part of their doctoral audiology program.

This is a great opportunity for families, who would otherwise have to travel a minimum of 12 hours for these services. The next Rapid City cochlear implant outreach clinic is scheduled for fall of 2016.

SDSD Staff Spotlight : Kami Van Sickle

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

When I was in 3rd grade, I had a student teacher show my class the alphabet in sign language. I immediately fell in love with the language. From that point on, I started checking out sign language books from the library in attempt to teach myself sign language. I also have a passion for working with kids and helping them reach their fullest potential. So, I combined my passion for kids and love of sign language and decided to become a teacher for the deaf.

What do you like most about SDSD?

I love the sense of community I feel when I walk into the building. The SDSD staff, people from the Deaf community, and former students all seem to feel a sense of safety and belonging here at SDSD.

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

Keep your expectations high! Deaf and hard of hearing children all have the potential to learn and be successful.



Fairview Training

Submitted by **Nina Ringstmeyer & Kerry Ruth**



On January 14-15, Outreach Consultants, Nina Ringstmeyer and Kerry Ruth, hosted a Fairview Training workshop for professionals and parents in Rapid City and via webinar in Sioux Falls. The Fairview Learning Program is designed specifically for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Fairview provides individuals with literacy tools that allow access and increasing fluency in English and American Sign Language (ASL). This program can be integrated into any existing reading program. Trish Vierra, Owner/CEO, instructed over 65 participants on the program. Attendees had the opportunity to receive continuing education contact hours or a graduate credit. This two day workshop was the first opportunity for many people West River to learn about Fairview. Special thanks to the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology for allowing SDSD to utilize their Hall of Fame conference room in the King Center.

Family Night

Submitted by **Nina Ringstmeyer & Kerry Ruth**



SDSD Outreach Consultants, Nina Ringstmeyer and Kerry Ruth, hosted a Pizza Party for their clients and families! The event was held at Pizza Ranch in Rapid City. A group of 35 clients, parents and siblings, from toddlers to teenagers, attended this fun activity. This gave clients and their parents the opportunity to connect and meet with other families. Special thanks to the Stumer Road Pizza Ranch and the SDSD Foundation!



University of South Dakota

Submitted by **Laura Scholten**

On March 23, Dr. Kyle Brouwer invited SDSD Outreach Consultant, Laura Scholten, to speak to a group of undergraduate/graduate students at the University of South Dakota. Dr. Brouwer teaches in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department. This spring, he taught Advanced Language Disorders. Due to the potential impact of hearing loss on language development, Laura shared some information about some typical deaf/hard of hearing language challenges and how to address them during therapy. The class left the presentation with a better understanding of best practice methods.

Deaf Teens in Action

Submitted by Alissa Hutchinson

On February 18, SDSD hosted an event for our Deaf Teens in Action group. Our event was held at Puerto Vallarta restaurant. After having a meal together, our topic of discussion was international deaf culture.

Attendees included three teens, two Augustana University students, two SDSD Outreach staff, and one community member. During our time together, the Augustana students presented on their recent trip to Jamaica. They shared their experiences working for a Jamaican school for the deaf and the differences between schools here and schools there. The teens were able to ask questions about deaf culture in Jamaica and were engaged in the stories and information that was presented.

On March 10, the Deaf Teens in Action group met again. The event was held at the SDSD swimming pool. Our teens enjoyed spending time together through swimming and playing water games. After swimming, a few more teens joined us for pizza, more games, and some discussion about upcoming deaf events in the community that they could take part in.

The group consisted of eight teens and some of their siblings, one Augustana University student, two SDSD Outreach staff, one deaf community member and several siblings.

SDSD Family Sign Language Class

By Julie Luke

Held at our main campus in Sioux Falls, SDSD Family Sign Language Class finished an eight week class session. Nearly 60 people signed up to learn thematic signs. Participants ranged from deaf and hard of hearing students, their families, speech therapists, classroom teachers, and support staff. SDSD Outreach Consultants, Julie Luke and Sherry Jackson, led class activities with support from Deaf Community Members, Tanya Miller and Colleen Barber. Class included learning about Deaf Culture and sign language vocabulary.

Interactive centers were created for the participants to practice their signs in a fun way. Individuals with more advanced skills had the option to participate in the "Experienced Sign Group" which focused on longer sentences and conversation. Augustana University students volunteered in class and in the daycare. Daycare was offered for participants' children where they could learn signs during play activities. SDSD Foundation provided popcorn at the weekly classes and pizza for the final class. Tanya Miller created weekly sign videos, so class participants could practice their sign language outside of class. These videos can be found at www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/videos.htm.

Welcome to Our Spring Family Sign Class

On February 18, we started our Spring Family Sign Language Class! Each week, we are posting a video of the vocabulary taught in class. This week's theme is "Community Helpers". We hope you will find these videos a useful practice tool. To find past videos, [click here](#).

SDSD is working diligently to grow the content of our website. Check out our new tabs under Resources: [Videos](#) and [ASL, Apps, & More](#). We've also added a link to the [SDSD YouTube channel](#) under Social Media in the banner at the base of our website.



In-service Update



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu

Consultant In-services 2015–2016

129
In-services

1991
South Dakotans
Educated

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 July 1, 2015 through April 6, 2016 on SDSD's campus and via the mobile lab .

Total Screened	12,716
Total Evaluated	1,907
*SNHL Found	254
*CHL Found	508
Mobile Sites	146

SNHL—sensorineural hearing loss
CHL— conductive hearing loss



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/audiology.htm