

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing **NEWSLETTER**



“Advocacy is empathy, compassion, and community at work.” - Janna Cachola



>>> Commissioner’s Corner

We are thrilled to introduce the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) Newsletter, a brand new monthly publication dedicated to keeping you informed about the latest developments in accessibility and inclusion across West Virginia. This newsletter aims to provide timely insights, feature stories, and essential information regarding our advocacy efforts, policy changes, and the impact of deaf education on the lives of Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in West Virginia.

What to Expect from the WVCDHH Newsletter:

- News Updates: Stay informed with the latest news and updates relevant to our community.
- Feature Stories: Dive into in-depth articles highlighting the people, projects, and innovations driving change in our community.
- Advocacy Alerts: Get updates on our advocacy efforts and discover ways you can get involved in supporting our mission.
- Event Announcements: Learn about upcoming events, webinars, and conferences where you can connect with others who share your passion for accessibility and inclusion.


We believe the WVCDHH Newsletter will be a valuable resource for our community, providing the information you need to stay connected and engaged with our work. We are excited to bring you these updates each month and continue advancing our mission to advocate for, develop, and coordinate public policies, regulations, and programs that ensure full and equal opportunities for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in West Virginia.

>>> Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

For individuals without hearing loss, it's estimated that 80% of information learned is acquired incidentally. However, students who are deaf or hard of hearing face unique challenges that are not adequately addressed in the general education curriculum. The dimension that hearing loss adds to learning often necessitates explicit teaching.

The Expanded Core Curriculum for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (ECC-DHH) was designed to bridge this gap. It encompasses eight key areas: Audiology, Career Education, Communication, Family Education, Functional Skills for Educational Success, Self-Determination and Advocacy, Social-Emotional Skills, and Technology. Each of these areas is crucial for the holistic development of students with hearing loss.

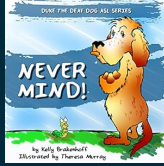
- **Audiology**
Understanding Hearing Loss
Amplification Management
Environmental Management
- **Career Education**
Career Exploration
Occupational Skills Training
Soft Skills Training
Job Seeking Skills
Money Management
Arranging accommodations at work
- **Communication**
Auditory Skills Development
ASL Development
Speech Development
Receptive Communication
Expressive Communication
- **Family Education**
Understanding Hearing Loss
Amplification
Family and Child Interactions
Communication Strategies
Education/Transition
Resources and Technology
- **Functional Skills For Educational Success**
Concept development
Comprehension
Study and Organization
- **Self-Determination and Advocacy**
Self-Determination
Community Advocacy
Community Resources and Support
Cultural Awareness
Using Interpreters and Transliterators
- **Social-Emotional Skills**
Self-Awareness
Self-Management
Support Networks
Personal Responsibility
Decision Making
Social Awareness
Social Interaction
Conflict Resolution
- **Technology**
Skills Necessary to Access Technology

For more information on the ECC-DHH, please use the QR Code provided to visit the Low Incidence Disabilities page on the West Virginia Department of Education’s website. 



Never Mind (Duke the Dog ASL Series Book 1)

For children ages 3-9
By Kelly Brakenhoff (Author),
Theresa Murray (Illustrator)
A great way to teach children
that everyone deserves to be
included in conversations.



Show Me a Sign (Show Me a Sign Book 1)

For children ages 10-13
By Ann Clare LeZotte (Author)
Deaf author tells a riveting story
based on the true history of a
thriving community on Martha's
Vineyard in the early 19th century.



Parent-To-Parent *Gwen Bryant*

As a "seasoned" parent of a now nineteen-year-old son identified as deaf shortly after birth, the most important things I would like to share with parents of infants and young children newly identified as deaf or hard of hearing are the following:

- **Learn, collaborate, advocate** - You don't know what you don't know! Teachers, therapists, and service providers all have specialized training, knowledge, and information, but you are the expert on your child. Learn the policies, best practices, and laws that will help you advocate for the support and services needed to meet your child's individual needs.
- **Maintain high expectations** - As Szarkowski and Fournier Eng (Odyssey 2014) point out, "high expectations mean more than simply uttering "feel good" intentions and "You can do it!" mantras. They must be supported with appropriate challenges and ongoing assessments." Regular progress monitoring of language and communication abilities is particularly important. It allows providers, parents, and teachers to consider the effectiveness of the strategies being used and provides an opportunity to modify services and support to improve outcomes.
- **Keep in mind** - The Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (2019; 4 (2) 26) describes informed decision-making as a fluid and ongoing process that requires a family to consider new knowledge, information, experiences, language assessment results, and their personal family goals and values as they make decisions.
- **Find your tribe** - Over 90% of children who are born deaf or hard of hearing have hearing parents, and for most of them, their child is the first deaf person they meet. No one quite understands the experience of having a child with hearing loss, as well as other families who also have deaf or hard-of-hearing children. Parent-to-parent connections allow families the opportunity to share information, express feelings, and gain confidence and empowerment.

Family Support Organizations



Things to Do

September 28th, 2024
2:00 p.m.

WV Hands & Voices 11th
Annual Open House Picnic
Food, Fun, Games, and
Prizes

Valley Park -Large Shelter,
1 Valley Park Road
Hurricane, WV 25526



FREE Virtual
American Sign Language
Class

October 12, 2024 - January 18, 2025
Live Sessions Via Zoom
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. EST
Saturdays

Provided by the WVCDDH

Instructor
Christine Firkins, EdD

Scan QR Code
to register



Please email newsletter questions, concerns, and suggestions to gwen.l.bryant@wv.gov



West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
100 Dee Drive, Charleston, WV 25311
304-558-1675 (Phone) 304-400-6959 (Video Phone)