

February 2007



Outreach Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Successful Networking Event for North Central Indiana Deaf Educators

On December 5, 2006, the Deaf Educators in the North Central Roundtable region met in Lafayette for a day of in-service with presenters and facilitators from the Outreach Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children.

The teachers, all itinerant teachers or resource teachers in the school districts of the North Central area, met to talk about resources available to them from the statewide resource center and to identify their needs. At the end of the day they felt it was an invaluable experience... they shared ideas, learned who they can collaborate with, and exchanged ideas. They have already collaborated on several initiatives since that meeting.

They offered more ideas for us to share with all Deaf Educators and interested stakeholders via this newsletter. We applaud the work you do for students in this part of the state and we were energized by the collective energy evident in this group of dedicated professionals.

Thanks and kudos to the Directors of Special Education in the North Central Roundtable who initiated and supported this day of sharing and collaboration. They plan to make this an ongoing effort. Outreach Services is looking forward to further opportunities to meet with Deaf Educators on a regional basis. Call Cindy Lawrence, Outreach Director or send an email to clawrence@isd.k12.in.us if you would like to provide this type of opportunity in your region.

Did you Know?...

ISD is an official test site for administration of the ACT exam.

If you have a Deaf or Hard of Hearing student or child who will be taking the ACT exam for college applications, feel free to contact Bruce Peters, our site coordinator, for the private test code listing our site.

We are a site specifically for Deaf and Hard of hearing students in Indiana and provide visual accommodations specific to this population.

E-mail Bruce at BPeters@isd.k12.in.us if you are interested in signing a student up to take the test at ISD.

Test Dates: February 8, 2007 and April 12, 2007

It's not just about us...

One goal of this Outreach Newsletter is to bring together information from all of you to offer to other service providers, professionals, teachers, interpreters and parents, then provide through an email format.

Do you wish to share information about your upcoming events or efforts to support Deaf Education in the State of Indiana? Please submit information for inclusion in future issue of this Outreach Newsletter. Submit information for approval one month prior to the beginning of each month. For example, if you wish to have information in the March 2007 newsletter, please email information by January 30th to Joanie Jones at jjones@isd.k12.in.us. Or call 317-920-6311. Thank You.

Outreach Mission

To identify needs and find the resources to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing children and their families throughout the State of Indiana.

From
Our
Friends
Around
the
State

from “The ISEAS CABLE”

From the January 2007 issue of the Indiana Special Education Administrators’ Services Publication:
LRE and Deaf Children

The process for determining the educational placement for children with low-incidence disabilities (including children whoa are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind) is the same process used for determining the educational placement for all children with disabilities. That is, each child’s educational placement must be determined on an individual case-by-case basis depending on each child’s unique educational needs and circumstances, rather than by the child’s category of disability, and must be based on the child’s IEP. We believe the LRE provisions are sufficient to ensure that public agencies provide low-incidence children with disabilities access to appropriate educational programming and services in the educational setting appropriate to meet the needs of the child in the LRE. 71 Fed. Reg. 46586 (2006).

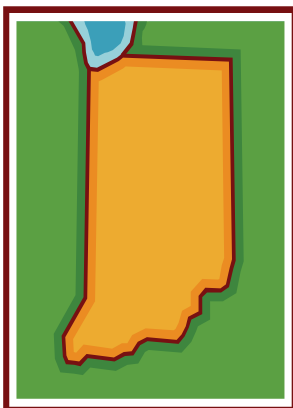
But the different education and social needs of children with sensory impairments are, of necessity, factors that must be considered when determining the instruction and services needed to provide FAPE.

While a regular education classroom placement may offer the most opportunities for interaction with non-disabled students, it also may be the most isolating placement for some deaf students. By contrast, residential facilities for hearing-impaired students may offer far more opportunities for communication, socialization and participation with peers.

In this regard, The 2006 regulations at 34 CFR 300.324(a) (2)(iv) state that the IEP team for a child who is deaf or hearing -impaired must “consider the child’s language and communication needs, opportunities for direct communications with peers and professional personnel in the child’s language and communication mode, academic level, and full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the child’s language and communication mode.”

In some instances, after such consideration the IEP team may conclude that education with similar children with a disability may be the least restrictive environment in which a deaf child can receive a meaningful educational benefit.

Source: LRP e-Connections posting on December 6, 2006 from “What Do I Do When...The Answer Book on Special Education Law—Fifth Edition



Do you live in the Greater Lafayette Area and have a special needs child?

Contact Loretta King, GLASS HI Specialist, if you have questions about special services:

G.L.A.S.S, Greater Lafayette Area Special Services
1415 Ball Street, Lafayette, IN 47904

Press Release

From
Our
Friends
Around
the
State

Contact: Joanna Witulski
Phone: 219-756-3323, through Relay 711 or Email: jwitulski@everybodycounts.org
Release Date: January 2, 2007

LOCAL AGENCY WORKS WITH INDIANA DEAF SCHOOL TO PROVIDE WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS RAISING DEAF CHILDREN

Indiana F.A.C.E.S. (Freedom, Access, Community, Empowerment and Support) will collaborate with the Indiana School for the Deaf Outreach Services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children to provide a workshop for parents raising deaf children on Thursday, January 18, 2007, from 1 to 3 pm.

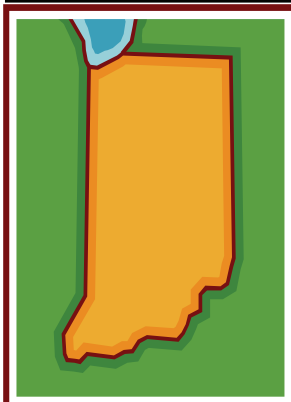
This workshop will provide a wide variety of information covering IDEA (Individuals with Education Act), rights as parents to ensure equal education for their children and the quality of interpreting that goes on in classrooms in the public schools. “As a mom of two school-age children with hearing loss, the information at the workshop will come to a great advantage” Barbara Hess says, “as they will continue to go to school here.” Terri Waddel Motter, Diane H. Jones and Emma Sullivan are presenting on ADA, interpreters and topics important for parents to be aware of.

“I am a mom of a hearing child and I am deaf” says Frances Santos, “this workshop will support my right to get information about my son and his activities while he is in school.”

This workshop will be held at Everybody Counts, 9111 Broadway, Suite A in Merrillville, Indiana. There will be voice/sign language interpreters provided. Please contact Joanna Witulski at 219-756-3323 TTY/Videophone, 219-769-5055 voice or by email at infofaces@everybodycounts.org.

Everybody Counts and Indiana F.A.C.E.S. are centers for Independent Living funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education to provide education, advocacy, peer counseling, and other services to people with disabilities throughout Northwest Indiana and the state.

To use Relay Services to reach for more information or the flyer to Joanna: by TTY, dial “711” or by videophone, dial “866-327-8877”, give the agent “219-756-3323”. Hope to hear from you!



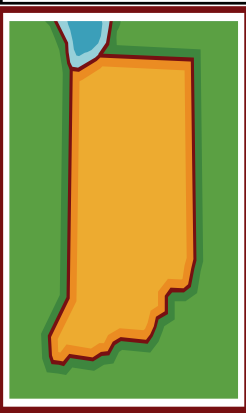
From
Our
Friends
Around
the
State

Do You Need Child Care for Your Special Needs child?
Do you Live in Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Hancock, Henry, Wayne, Shelby, Rush, Fayette or Union county?
Here are two websites to check
www.iaccrr.org or <http://huffer.uwcti.org>
Or call Dana Sinclair at 1-800-554-9331
Also see below...

Are You a Provider Who Cares?
Do you care for children with special needs or challenging behaviors?

I CAN HELP!!!

I can link you with resources.
I can provide trainings and education on inclusion related topics.
I can provide on-site consultation and support.



Indiana Partnership for

Dana D. Sinclair
Inclusion Specialist
HMCC Child Care
Resource & Referral
2000 N. Elgin St.
Muncie, IN 47303
(765)284-0887



A project of the Indiana Association of Child Care Resource and Referral and the Indiana

Upcoming Events Around the State

Mishawaka - First Saturday of Each Month

Parent Directed Signing Play Date

11 AM to Noon, the first Saturday of each month.

Location changes, please look at www.sign2me.com

For more information contact Karen Horvath, 574-232-9255, toll free 866-674-6423

Indianapolis - January 19, 2006

Baby Toddler Playgroup

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM at Indiana School For The Deaf

Meet, Interact and Enjoy being with other families.

Share resources on raising a Deaf/Hard of Hearing baby/ toddler.

For more information, please email LDille@isd.k12.in.us or

call Lori Dille at 317-924-8415 (TTY/V)

Indianapolis - March 19 to Friday, March 23, 2007

HANDS ALIVE 2007 Young Deaf Arts Festival

Talent Show & Art and Literary Exhibitions from elementary, middle school and high school

Students perform and exhibit at The Indiana School for the Deaf

Show of Champions, Thursday, March 22, 7 PM

For more information contact Joanie Jones at 1-800-722-6166 or 317-920-6311 TTY/Voice

Email jjones@isd.k12.in.us

Indianapolis

Indiana Early Childhood Conference

Indiana Convention Center

April 12—14, 2007

Contact the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children at 317-356-6884 or Fax 317-259-9489

Sign Language Courses Offered

The Mt. Zion Church Deaf Ministry will once again offer a basic course in American Sign Language. This ten-week course will begin January 14 and will take place on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. during Sunday Institute hour.

The course is free. Please contact Donald Tinsley at donaldtinsley@yahoo.com if you are interested.

This program is designed to enable participants who have little or no knowledge of American Sign Language to learn to sign to a point where they can function comfortably in a wide variety of situations in the Deaf Community. Deaf culture is taught through the program as well.