

THE WISCONSIN COMMUNICATOR



HANDS &
VOICES

See us in Appleton!!

Come meet some of the Wisconsin Hands & Voices board members at the 2006 Parent Conference and let us know what we can do for you!!

WESP Parent Liaison

Laurie Nelson has accepted the job of Parent Liaison on the WESP/DHH Outreach team. She began on January 9th.

Her duties include: providing coordination and management of the Guide-By-Your-Side program, overseeing all aspects of the statewide parent conference, and to act as a parent liaison with staff from many agencies regarding the needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.

Laurie can be reached at 608-266-6438 or by email laurie.nelson@dpi.state.wi.us.

Opportunity for Parent Advocacy Training

Wisconsin Families for Hands and Voices is applying for a training grant, called Parents in Partnership (PIP) through WSPEI (Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative). Through this particular PIP offering, Hands and Voices can provide a free advocacy training opportunity to fit the needs of parents with deaf and hard of hearing children. This will be accomplished by including Hands and Voices board members and hopefully parents in the planning stages. WSPEI's mission meshes well with Hands and Voices goals for advocacy: for parents of children with disabilities to be supported and encouraged to participate meaningfully and equally on IEP teams, in school advisory functions, and in the education of their children. Parents and educators are supported and encouraged to build positive, reciprocal relationships.

We are very optimistic that this training will begin in the Fall of 2006 and finish in the

Spring of 2007. The free training takes place over five sessions, beginning at 4:00 pm on a Friday and ending by 4:00 pm on a Saturday. The training will take place in the center of the state so families statewide will be able to participate. One motel room, per family, is provided for the overnight stay. A Friday evening dinner, breakfast and lunch on Saturday will also be provided for each participant free of charge.

What do you need to do? We are currently looking for families who can commit to all five sessions. We need to have a list of committed families when we submit our grant application. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Connie Stevens at 608-577-8186 or email her at handsandvoiceswi@yahoo.com. Registration will be limited to 25 participants. Current Hands and Voices parent members will have top priority, but you need to notify us by February 28th.

PARENT CONFERENCE 2006 “BUILDING LANGUAGE & LITERACY”

The 4th Annual Statewide Parent Conference is scheduled for March 10 - 12, 2006 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin. The goal of the conference is to bring families of children who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind together in a supportive, educational, and enjoyable atmosphere. The conference offers the opportunity for valuable, personal contact with parents and children from around the state of Wisconsin, as well as professionals in the field through workshops and vendor exhibits.

The conference is designed with many fun, educational activities to support a family's development and growth. This is an exciting opportunity for parents and children to learn, share and express ideas of support in the child's literacy development in the home and at school. For more information and to obtain registration materials on-line please visit the website: www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov.

WI Families for Hands & Voices

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We are on the web
www.handsandvoices.org

Board Members

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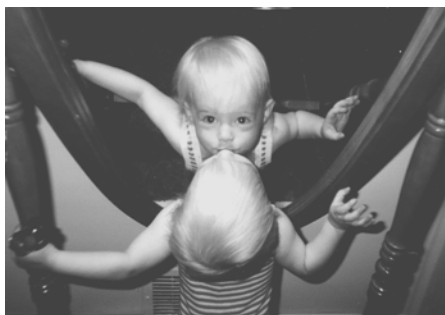
Parent Support and Advocacy for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Our Mission:

Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices is dedicated to supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. We are a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration, and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling Deaf and Hard of Hearing children to reach their highest potential.

And The Winners Are....

The First annual Hands & Voices Photo Contest was a success, with a total of 41 photo entries! Thank you so much for sharing moments of your child's life, captured on film, with us. Photo contest winners were selected based on the quality of the photo, it's reproducibility, and what we called the "Awwwww" factor. The grand prize photo winner is Valerie Richter of Waukesha WI, who snapped the photo we are calling "I love me!" The star of the photo is Valerie's daughter Rebecca Richter when she was age 1 1/2. Valerie has won a brand new digital camera on behalf of WI Hands & Voices. First prize winners will receive a one-year paid membership to WI Hands & Voices and enjoy all member benefits. First prize winners are Susan Dorn, Eau Claire (0-11 month); Christine Janssen, Waukesha (1-4 year old); and Wendy Niemi, Elkhart Lake (school age). All photo entries will be returned by January 31, 2006. All entries may be used in future issues of the Hands & Voices Newsletter or other publications.



Grand Prize Winner



First Prize in the Category 0-11 Month



First Prize in the Category 1-4 years



First Prize in the Category School Age