

# THE WISCONSIN COMMUNICATOR



## CDC Parent Questionnaires

The Center for Disease Control has developed a series of questionnaires to provide families of newly diagnosed children with hearing loss questions they may want to ask professionals but might lack the knowledge of what to ask. These pamphlets were developed by parents and professionals through a teleconference committee.

The questions are to be used with a broad range of professionals who may come in contact with families of newly diagnosed children with hearing loss. Currently available are Audiologist, Speech-Language Pathologist and ENT Questionnaires. The committee is currently developing Early Intervention, Pediatrician, and Genetics questionnaires.

The accordion style pamphlet has a space available for notes and, is dual-sided with English on one side and Spanish on the other.

You can view or order these questionnaires at [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/chdi/](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/chdi/)

All materials are available free of charge.

## DISTANT PALS PROGRAM NOW BEING OFFERED

Many children who are deaf or hard of hearing throughout Wisconsin sometimes feel isolated and question where they fit in. Distant Pals is a new program sponsored by WI Families for Hands & Voices and the WI Educational Services program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESPDHH) - Outreach. The goal of this program is to connect children who are deaf and hard of hearing throughout the state and provide them with peer relationships and healthy role models.



Distant Pals will mail out an activity six times a year to each participant. Your Deaf/Hard of Hearing child/student will be required to complete this activity within two weeks. Activities will include writing a sample letter and may also involve making a scrap book page, creating a care package, writing a special story, making a puzzle, etc.

When the activity is complete,

it will be mailed to Distant Pals. All letters and activities for individual participants will go through WI Families for Hands & Voices. All letters and activities for classroom participants will go through Stefanie Kessen at WESPDHH. This allows Distant Pals to remain safe and ensures all children regularly receive something special in

the mail. Children and schools who consistently participate in Distant Pals will receive special prizes!

If you would like more information about this exciting new program please contact Laurie Nelson the WESPDHH Parent Liaison at 608-266-6438 or [laurie.nelson@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:laurie.nelson@dpi.state.wi.us).

## RECAP OF PARENT CONFERENCE 2006

The Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, WI was the site for the 4th Annual State-wide Parent Conference for Families of Children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deafblind. Approximately 70 families attended this three day conference that offered an opportunity to get together in a supportive, educational, and enjoyable atmosphere.

WI Families for Hands & Voices played an important part in many aspects of the conference. H&V was represented by several people on the conference planning committee who also volunteered in various areas during the event. H&V secured several scholarships from area organizations for families to attend the weekend. Board

members Molly Martzke and Connie Stevens presented "A is for Access" at a parent workshop on Saturday. This workshop was centered around the concept of creating full and effective communication access for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The date for next years conference is March 9-11, 2007 in Madison, WI.

**WI Families for Hands & Voices**

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**We are on the web!**  
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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.

## SECOND ANNUAL CAMPING TRIP BEING PLANNED FOR JULY 21-23

Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices in collaboration with the Deaf Mentor Project is planning our second annual camping trip. This event is for all Wisconsin families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and all Deaf adults.

It will take place July 21-23, 2006 at Kilby Lake Campground located in Montello, WI.

Please join us for a weekend of family fun and camping. Activities include nightly bonfires, canoeing, mini-golf, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, swimming, fishing, and hiking. The campground also features a game room with video games, a pool, a bird sanctuary, a playground, a whirlpool, laundry, clean bathrooms with showers and



cabins for those who don't have campers or tents. There will be a free pancake breakfast and pig roast on Saturday and a free ice cream social on Sunday. There will also be free raspberry picking so be sure to bring your baskets.

The cost is \$10 for H&V members or Deaf Mentor families, otherwise it is \$15 fee for all others.

Campers will also need to reserve their own campsites, which cost \$30 a night. A limited number of cabins are also available for an additional charge. Campers will also need to provide their own food and beverages, allowing for meals the campground will be providing. Additional information about the Kilby Lake Campground may be found on their website at [www.kilbylake.com](http://www.kilbylake.com).

Registration Packets or questions regarding this event can be obtained by contacting Alice Meyer at 608-487-1021 or [rajmeyer@charter.net](mailto:rajmeyer@charter.net).