

# THE WISCONSIN Communicator

Volume 12, Issue 3

Summer 2014

“What works for your child is what makes the choice right”



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## **SUMMER SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING**

(Excerpt from Raising Deaf Kids found at [www.raisingdeafkid.org](http://www.raisingdeafkid.org))

### **WATER SAFETY**

- Hearing aids and cochlear implants are not water resistant. Help your child to understand this and how to care for these devices.
- Communicate with the lifeguard on duty that a deaf child is present.
- Sun block is very important to protect your child against harmful rays. Water resistant sun block is the best for long term water fun.
- A common mistake that we make is forgetting certain spots when putting on the sunscreen. Ears, feet, behind the legs are places that we tend to forget.

### **BE STREET SMART**

Kids think that if they can see a car, the driver can see them. They also have trouble understanding how fast a car is going. Your child may not hear the sounds of cars coming towards her. Teach your child to be street smart.

### **PLAN AHEAD**

- Make sure your child knows who to call and how in case of an emergency
- Talk about how to contact an interpreter if your child needs one
- Make sure your child carries a card with emergency numbers with him at all times
- Make sure your child's school, coaches, and child care providers know how to reach you
- Prepare an emergency kit with water, flashlights, hearing aid batteries, and other things your child may need
- Make sure your home is safe inside and outside
- Practice the plan with your family

WI Families for  
Hands & Voices  
PO Box 9644  
Green Bay, WI 54308  
NEW Phone#  
920-819-2979

[www.handsandvoiceswi.org](http://www.handsandvoiceswi.org)  
Email: [handsandvoiceswi@yahoo.com](mailto:handsandvoiceswi@yahoo.com)



**Keep your face to the  
sunshine and you cannot  
see the shadows ~ Helen  
Keller**

## EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND

BY JODI ANDERSON

This last article of the series on deafblindness will focus on practical strategies to use with individuals with combined vision and hearing loss.

### Anticipation:

- Cueing using touch, smell, taste, picture cues, signs, voice, Braille, print, or whatever is appropriate to help the child be prepared for an event or activity;
- When interacting, letting the deafblind children know that you are there and who you are before you interact;
- Approaching the child in a non-threatening, non-startling manner;
- Touching the child when he appears ready;
- Using the same manner of approach each time and a consistent name sign or gesture so that the child can recognize them;
- Letting the child know they are leaving at the end of the interaction.



### Access to Environmental Information:

- Teaching concepts directly as new skills are learned;
- Using routines to teach practical skills in natural settings;
- Emphasizing the beginning, middle, and end of activities and routines so as to provide structure;
- Providing feedback to help the child repeatedly understand the effects of his action;

- Structuring activities so that the child can be successful in a reasonable amount of time and know that he is successful;
- Permitting the child to decide whether she wants more or wants to stop;
- Giving the child more time to take in information, process it, and respond.

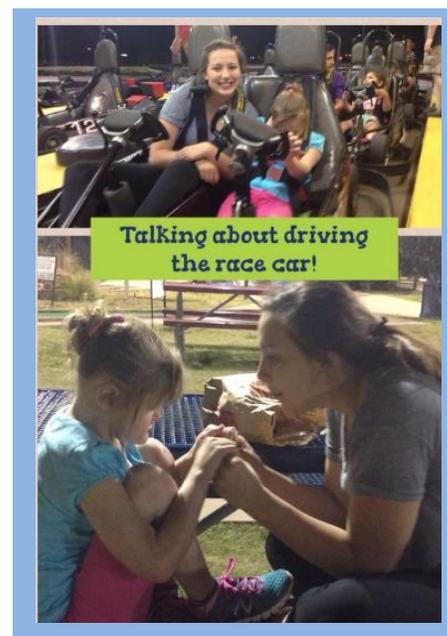
### Develop Communication:

- Making sure the child who is deafblind has a reason to communicate and something to communicate about;
- Communicating in a way the child can understand using a variety of communication techniques to get the message across;
- Watching for all attempts at communication and responding accordingly;
- Helping the child expand his experiences with the world whenever possible and labeling new things in the environment thereby expanding vocabulary;
- Being clear and consistent and seizing any moments that allow for communication development;
- Allowing enough wait time for the child to process & respond;
- Providing opportunities to interact with a variety of communication partners.

### Social and Emotional Well-Being:

- Interpreting and responding to the child's emotional needs for safety and understanding;
- Increasing and strengthening the child's positive interactions with others;
- Helping others understand and honor the child's need to gather information through touch and close personal space;
- Guiding the child in acquiring acceptable strategies to greet people or to ask another person's permission to touch/ move closer;
- Encouraging independence at the level appropriate for the child;

- Promoting concepts and skills that will help establish a positive self-image, a feeling of worth, and an ability to contribute to the world;
- Providing choice making opportunities throughout the day to help the child have a sense of control.



(<http://www.helplaurenlearn.com>)

### **SAVE THE DATE: Sunday** **June 29, 2014**

We invite your family to a very special afternoon

A picnic lunch, a fabulous Splash pad and playground, and the opportunity to meet and network with other families who have children with hearing loss.

**Lakeview Community Park,  
Middleton**

6300 Mendota Ave (at Allen Ave)  
**11:30am - 2:30pm** at the pavilion  
by the Splash Pad

The Splash Pad is fully accessible and safe for all ages (view it online at <http://wi-middleton-civicplus.com/gallery.aspx?pid=98>)

Please bring a dish to pass

Hamburgers, brats, and hot dogs will be provided

## A MAGICAL DAY!

BY MICHELLE PANDIAN

Deaf and Hard of Hearing students from around western Wisconsin, eastern Iowa, and eastern Minnesota can't wait for the first week of May. Why? That is the week each year when we host the annual DHH Olympic Day at the YMCA-North in Onalaska, WI. This year Olympic Day was held on May 8<sup>th</sup>. More than 70 DHH students, plus parents, teachers, interpreters, and DHH adults were in attendance. Every year the kids flock to the Y for opportunities to socialize with each other, play on the equipment in the gym, compete in a friendly game of basketball or air hockey, ride the water slide, and swim in the Y's amazing pool. Many students can't wait to again see friends they have made over the years from different school districts and states. Kids who are the only DHH student in their class/grade/school district can meet other kids like them. And students have the opportunity to interact with DHH adults and professionals from our community and across the state, who are an inspiration.

This year we had a magical day! Mr. Matt Morgan, or Magic Morgan as he is called, came and amazed us with his illusions. Mr. Morgan is Deaf himself, and was a great inspiration for the kids. With his opening trick he drew a picture of a bird on his notebook, then flapped the pages and a live dove flew out! Then he called kids out of the audience and gave them the "power" to multiply foam balls, repair paper torn to shreds, and make popcorn in a cylinder that contained only air.

His best trick was making a volunteer's cell phone disappear! Children and adults alike were astounded. In the words of one DHH child – "He not doing tricks. He doing REAL magic! I want to learn REAL magic like him." More information about Magic Morgan is available on his website - [www.magicmorgan.com](http://www.magicmorgan.com).

My thanks to the YMCA-North for offering us the use of their wonderful facility and equipment. The Y is an amazingly accessible location for this event. Interpreters in attendance help out with swim tests so the kids can use the water slide and swim in the deep end. Sports and games are designed for kids of all ages and abilities to enjoy. And they offer us the use of their multipurpose room so the kids can eat lunch and enjoy the entertainment activity.

You don't want to miss next year's event! DHH Olympic Day is a FREE event open to all children who are deaf or hard of hearing, children who are deafblind, their families, and professionals who work with them. Next year's DHH Olympic Day will be held on Thursday, May 7th, from 10:30am-1:30pm, at the YMCA-North in Onalaska, WI. Mr. Matt Hamill from the movie, "The Hammer," will be joining us for the day! Mr. Hamill is a deaf professional wrestler in the UFC, and will share some of his story growing up in rural America as a deaf person. You can learn more about Mr. Hamill at [www.matthamill.com](http://www.matthamill.com). For more information about DHH Olympic Day, please contact Michelle Pandian at [jmpandian@yahoo.com](mailto:jmpandian@yahoo.com).



### Our Mission:

Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families statewide who have children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind without bias around communication modes or methodology. We are a parent-driven organization providing families with the resources, networking 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, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind children to reach their highest potential.

# WESP-DHH EVENT SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE:

See the website for more details and registration links!

## Save the Dates for These Upcoming WESP-DHH Outreach Events!

<b>July 11 &amp; 18</b>	<b>College and Transition Fair @ WI Lions Camp</b>
<b>July 17 &amp; 18</b>	WDBTAP's <b>Tips &amp; Tools</b> Workshop in Baraboo <b>REGISTRATION IS LIVE!</b>
<b>August 4-7</b>	<b>Summer Institute</b> Teachers of the Deaf in Pewaukee Educational Interpreters in Appleton <b>REGISTRATION IS LIVE!</b> Registration closes July 15
<b>September 12-13</b>	<b>Spanish-Speaking Families Weekend</b> Registration Deadline: August 29th, 2014
<b>October 24-25</b>	<b>Partners in Listening Workshop</b> More information to come soon!
<b>November 7-9</b>	<b>Teen Getaway Weekend, Jr.</b> @ WI Lions Camp
<b>October 22-23, 2015</b>	<b>Annual Statewide Professional Conference</b>
<b>October 23-25, 2015</b>	<b>Annual Statewide Family Conference</b>

**Renew Your Membership or become a member today!**

### 2014 Hands & Voices WI Membership

Please circle one of the following

Parent of a deaf/HH child	\$25.00
Deaf /HH Adult	\$25.00
Student	\$25.00
Professional	\$40.00
Organization/agency	\$75.00
Additional Donation	\$_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment

Check \_\_\_\_ Scholarship \_\_\_\_

**Become a Member/Renew Online!**

Credit Card Payment NOW Accepted!

Please Visit:  
<http://www.handsandvoiceswi.org/>

Or clip and mail to:

WI Families for Hands & Voices  
PO Box 9644  
Green Bay, WI 54308



#### HELP OTHERS BY DONATING USED HEARING AIDS!

WI Families for Hands & Voices is now accepting hearing aids donations as part of a partnership with Starkey. If you have hearing aids that are not being used and would like to make a charitable donation to help WI Families for Hands & Voices....

Recycle now! Contact Hands & Voices at [handsandvoiceswi@yahoo.com](mailto:handsandvoiceswi@yahoo.com) for a self-addressed, stamped envelope

