

THE WISCONSIN Communicator

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"What works for your child is what makes the choice right"



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Mom's Brunch Fun



Karen Manning hosted the Winter Mom's Brunch on December 6th in Madison. Everyone brings a dish to pass, so good eats and great conversations are guaranteed about our amazing kids! Look for more information on the next one to be held in March!

CAPTIONING ON EVERY TV AND DISPLAY IN AIRPORTS

The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a ruling that requires closed captioning on all televisions in US airports that receive federal funding and experience at least 10,000 flights annually. This DOT ruling makes it mandatory for TV screens in gate areas to display closed captioning, as well as all public facing displays at the ticket counters, security area, gates, lounges, restaurants, or airport shops. This includes televisions and displays located in space leased to shops or restaurants. In addition to captioning, the ruling requires that airports provide sufficient facilities for service animals. This ruling, which went into effect on October 5, 2015, amends the Department of Transportation's compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which requires accessibility standards for entities receiving federal funds.

<http://www.3playmedia.com/2015/08/10/us-dot-officially-requires-closed-captioning-on-airport-tvs/#sthash.oNceBvRF.dpuf>

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ROLE MODEL INFUSION BY MARCY DICKER

As part of the WESP-DHH Long Range Planning one of the “priority goals” to address was to “*foster and provide opportunities for children who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind to interact with deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind adults who serve as mentors and role models.*” For 2015-16, WESP-DHH Outreach has made it a priority to ensure that deaf/hard of hearing/deafblind adults are “infused” into all aspects of Outreach programming. In addition, WESP-DHH Outreach is committed to supporting collaborations to ensure that all students and their families in the state of WI have the opportunity to meet and interact with adults who have a similar life experiences. Adult role models can provide support to students, families and professionals by sharing examples of successes and challenges, drawn from direct life experience as an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. Through WESP-DHH Outreach, Role Model Infusion focuses on three critical components for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind: Culture; language (communication); and, identity (including self-confidence, self-esteem, independence, and transition). These components are also identified in the Wisconsin Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC - <http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/pdf/hi-ecc.pdf>). The ECC targets areas of functional skill development that are required of students who are deaf or hard of hearing in order to access the General Education curriculum and achieve the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards.



Support for Students...

Adult role models can provide opportunities for students to connect with individuals who are “like them.” which can reduce isolation. This frequently occurs in outlying portions of our very large and rural state. In addition, adult role models can provide positive messages that emphasize the value of education and the importance of literacy, support college and career readiness, work and independent living skills, and promote the student’s sense of identify and well-being.

Support for Families....

The 2013 Supplement to the 2007 Position Statement of the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH, <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2013/03/18/peds.2013-0008.full.pdf+html>, Goal #11, p. 15) specifically recommends that deaf and hard of hearing adults should be involved in all EHDI (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention) programs as they can enrich the family’s experience by serving as role models: “*All Children Who Are D/HH and Their Families Have Access to Support, Mentorship, and Guidance From Individuals Who Are D/HH*” Adults role models can provide families with both a realistic “snapshot” of the life of a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, in addition to a “glimpse” of the future, providing hope and reinforcing the importance of setting high expectations for their child. Janet DesGeorges, Executive Director of Hands & Voices Headquarters expresses clearly the value of adult role models, in her article “I Can See the Future” (http://www.handsandvoices.org/articles/fam_perspectives/future.html): “*I had great fears around this issue when my child was identified with hearing loss. Over the years, my fears on this subject have been greatly put at ease due to the input of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults I have had the opportunity to meet. To see and talk with adults who are happy, healthy, contributing members of society has helped to set a vision in my heart concerning my daughter who is hard of hearing.*”



Support for Professionals and Educational Programs...



Professionals can also benefit from interaction with adult role models. Successful adults can reinforce the potential of the student with whom they work, and can share valuable insights into the perspectives of their students. Outreach can support school districts and educational professionals in identifying and accessing adult role models in their community for a variety of reasons, including:



- Provision of workshops or presentations, which highlight the personal testimonials and life experiences from adult role models who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind.
- Opportunities to expose entire classroom communities to adult role models, when the environment is inclusive and involves students who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind.
- Provision resources and helpful tips on how to better communicate with and/or include their students who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind.

Let the Infusion Begin...

WESP-DHH Outreach Role Model Infusion Coordinator Brice Christianson has already begun infusing adult role models into our programming, as well as establishing collaborations that allow us to promote opportunities to learn from adult role models throughout Wisconsin.

- **Role Model Infusion Spotlight**

We are just beginning to build our website, which will contain a “virtual platform” of adult role models addressing a variety of topics of interest to students, families and educational professionals. Go to: <http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/outreach/students/rolemodels/>

- **Deaf Awareness Week – Deaf Stories**

Through a unique collaboration with University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, and as part of a week full of events highlighting Deaf Awareness Week, WESP-DHH Outreach staff member, Brice Christianson identified and facilitated a day of “Deaf Stories.” A diverse group of adults who are deaf and hard of hearing shared their life stories and offered time for questions and answers from the audience. The event was videotaped, and videoclip highlights will soon be posted on the WESP-DHH Outreach website, as part of the Role Model Infusion Spotlight to share with students and families. Next year, we hope to “live stream” this event, so students in classrooms around the state can participate in this event, using technology.

- **Panel Discussion at the WESP-DHH Outreach Family Conference**

Brice Christianson facilitated a panel of adults who shared their experiences with successful transition out of high school and in to the workplace and adult life. Participants on the panel were diverse in their cultural backgrounds, hearing loss, communication modalities and overall life experiences.

Role models CAN make a difference in the lives of families, students, and professionals and we’ve got plans to “infuse” role models into many aspects of WESP-DHH Outreach programming! Let us hear from you too. Have you been impacted by meeting an adult role models? Do you have ideas for infusing adult role models into programming? For more information or to share your story, contact Brice Christianson, Role Model Infusion Coordinator, at brice.christianson@wesp-dhh.wi.gov or 262-787-9500 ext. 9569.

