

# THE WISCONSIN Communicator

Volume 15, Issue 2

Summer 2017

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



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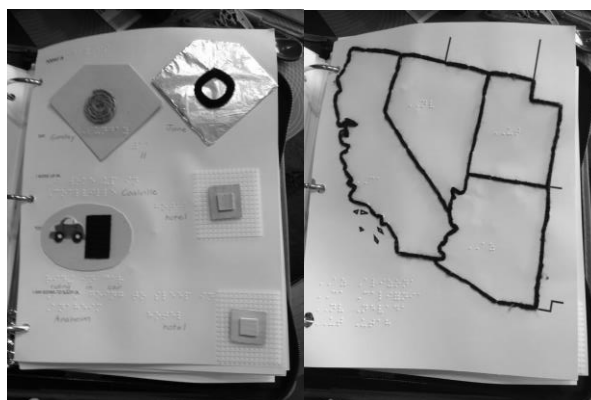
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## **ACCESSIBILITY AT DISNEYLAND** BY JODI ANDERSON

This summer after the boys are out of school, we are packing up the van and heading on a road trip to California and Disneyland. Such an adventure requires a lot of preparation especially if your child has combined vision and hearing losses as my son Liam does. One of the things I am making for him is a binder with tactile cues and Braille to help him understand what we are doing each day.

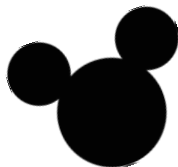
We have been working with the binder to help him understand it and learn how to use this new tool. I also have been researching how to make his experience at Disneyland more meaningful for him.



(pages with Braille, raised lines and texture)

Disneyland has many services for their guests who are deaf or hearing impaired. Assistive Listening Systems, which amplify sound through headphones or an induction loop, are available for those with mild to moderate hearing losses. At select theater-type attractions, reflective captioning is an innovative technology that is offered. This equipment utilizes LED display to project desired captions onto an acrylic panel in front of the user. Handheld captioning uses a wireless handheld receiver to display text in locations where the fixed captioning systems are impractical, such as moving attractions. Disneyland also provides sign language interpretation at specific live park shows and also upon request for special events. Guest relations can help guests with any of the above needs.

For the visually impaired, Disney offers audio description through Disney's Handheld Device, which provides supplemental audio information and narration at specific attractions and outdoor locations via an interactive audio menu as well as Braille tactile maps. With careful preparation, planning and using the services provided by Disney, we will make the most of this trip and maximize Liam's enjoyment of the park and the trip as a whole.



WI Families for  
Hands & Voices  
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Green Bay, WI 54308  
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Email: [handsandvoiceswi@yahoo.com](mailto:handsandvoiceswi@yahoo.com)

*"If my baby does not pass the newborn hearing screening, does that mean that my baby for sure has a hearing loss?"*

*J.D. Ripon, WI*



In Wisconsin 99% of all babies are screened for hearing loss at birth. Of those babies screened, 3% (approximately 1800 babies) do not pass the screening prior to leaving the hospital. Of the babies who need additional follow-up testing, 133 (7%) were found to be deaf or hard of hearing.

So while not passing the newborn hearing screening absolutely does NOT mean your baby will for sure have a hearing loss, it is best to find out for certain by going to the next recommended appointment. Remember, hearing loss is an invisible condition. Even the most attuned parents often can't tell simply by observing the baby. Identifying hearing loss early affords the baby the very best opportunity to develop the hearing centers in the brain, learn to communicate, and form a secure relationship with the family. If you have any questions be sure to ask your baby's doctor, or you can contact the Wisconsin Sound Beginnings Program at (608) 267-9191.

## ONCE UPON A SIGN

Once Upon A Sign is a series of classic children's stories retold in American Sign Language (ASL) with a modern twist. Every story has a helpful review of key signs to further support language. Perfect for families and children learning ASL.

Rent one for 24 hours, \$1.99, or buy one to keep, \$3.99. Learn more about the Once Upon A Sign series or download the FREE activity booklet for Jack and the Beanstalk at <https://www.dawnsign.com>



**LION'S CAMP** dates are: July 23-28 for children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing as well as July 30-Aug. 4. August 21-25 is the one for adults.

### **CAMPS AT WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

(interested parties can go onto their website to get information to register):

#### Drivers Ed Camp

July 9-14, July 23-28 or July 30-Aug. 4

#### Literacy Camp:

Grade 1-5

# DEAF ~~101~~ 2-5-8

## Perceptions: Then and Now

Click [here](#) for signed version.

In the book "*Angels and Outcasts*" the perceptions of Deaf people throughout history was explored through a review of literature. **Deaf people** were often viewed as either **saintly, mystical, innocent** or the opposite – **evil, sinful, damaged**. They were rarely viewed as anything in between. The views held during a particular time period, **shaped the treatment of Deaf people** – child-like and to be taken care of, yet denied human rights, or despised and killed as infants. The roots of these perceptions sometimes continue even today.



*Even today Deaf people are viewed as either:*

Always sweet and kind or innocent	Evil
Sicker than hearing people with the same illness/injury	Often angry
Can do no wrong	Demanding
Never missing work, hard workers	Malingers
Don't know/use any cuss words	Mentally inferior
Always truthful	Deceitful

Deaf people when made aware of this **myopic perception**, may respond with surprise, and have even been known to burst out into laughter, or even play to the stereotype. However, **imprecise assumptions** can often do **damage** to Deaf people in the way they are treated, even today.

**Insider tip:** "258" means "very interesting."

If a Deaf person ever jokingly signs to you the numbers "2, 5, 8" what they mean is "very interesting." The two comes from the initialized English sign for VERY. (The English sign VERY uses a "V" as the handshape and uses a position, palm orientation, and movement similar to the sign "BIG." Which is to say, the Signed English sign "VERY" is an initialized version of the ASL sign "BIG.") ASL doesn't use the sign "VERY," rather ASL uses exaggerated movement, body language, and facial expression to indicate the idea of "very."

WISCONSIN FAMILIES



FOR HANDS & VOICES

Renew Your Membership or become a member today!



**"SUMMER PICNIC"**  
**HARRIET PARK in VERONA, WI**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017**  
**11:30 am - 2:30 pm**

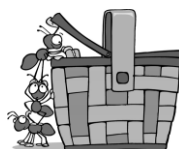
**Sign Language Interpreters will be available.**

A very special summer afternoon!  
 Picnic lunch, covered shelter, play areas, conversation and fun  
 with families with children of all ages with hearing loss!

Please bring a dish to pass.  
 Hot dogs, brats, buns & condiments provided.

**Where: Harriet Park Shelter - 151 Mary Lou Street  
 Verona, WI 53593**

**When: Sunday, July 23, 2017  
 11:30 am - 2:30 pm**



Questions / RSVP by July 16 to Karen Manning at  
[krmanning1@gmail.com](mailto:krmanning1@gmail.com) or phone 608/831-3638



**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

**2017  
 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**

EVERYONE YOU  
 WILL EVER MEET  
 KNOWS SOMETHING  
 YOU DON'T.

-bill nye