

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind

3911 Central Avenue
Great Falls, MT 59405

Phone: **406-771-6000**

Videophone: **406-205-0016**



MSDB Outreach reaching out across the state




684 schools
across 1,198 miles of highways traveled



Mission

To foster the learning and growth of the whole-child with a hearing and/or vision loss, preparing them to become successful citizens.



Vision

To be Montana's leading resource for the stakeholders of MSDB by providing supports & services that empower individuals to attain their highest potential.


Belief Statement

All children are capable and confident and will receive an education through the whole-child education philosophy, which includes sensory specific access to communication and curriculum in safe learning & living environments.



Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind webpage



- Our campus program serves ~40-50 students annually.
 - We have come a long way since 1893! Check out our amazing history,,,,,,
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Outreach Program

MSDB's Outreach Program serves as a statewide resource center providing information and consultation to parents, schools and professionals serving students who are low vision, blind, hard of hearing, deaf or deafblind.

Our current outreach program serves ~1,200 students across the state.

PL 94-142 (est.1975, 1990 & 2004)

Blind & Low Vision Consultants



Back row left to right: Michelle Cross, Amy Tangen, Barb Peterson, Susan Davis

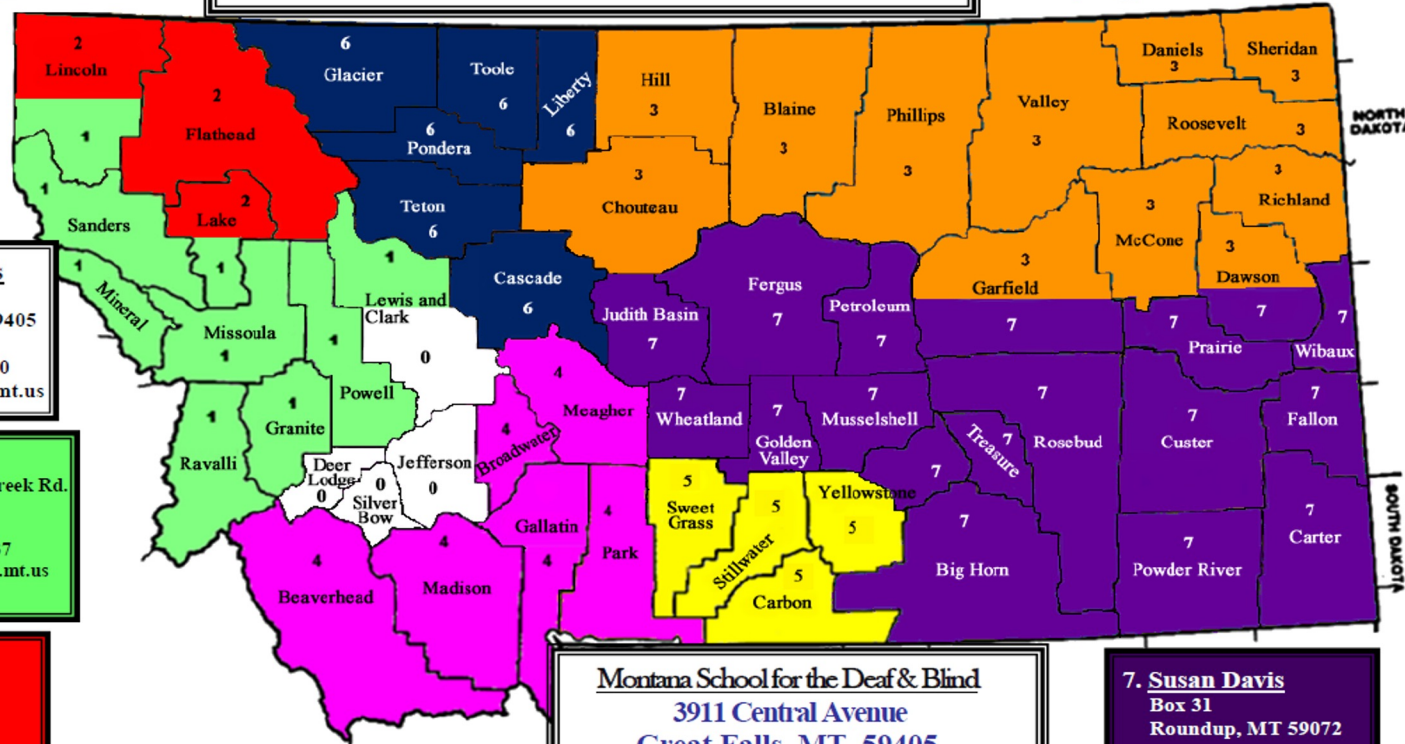
Front row left to right: Kerri Norick, Carol Clayton-Bye, Jane Garrison, Miranda Briggs

Not pictured: Sharon Woods

Blind & Low Vision Consultant Map



MSDB Blind & Visually Impaired Outreach Consultant Coverage Map & Contact Information



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1. Barb Peterson
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2. Jane Garrison
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3. Michelle Cross
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For more information about our Outreach Programs contact:
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4. Kerri Norick
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Supporting from Birth

Encouraging typical developmental activities and providing accommodations to support them.



Assuring parents know how to engage with their child and understand developmental milestones for their child.

Teaching the child about their needs and how to advocate for themselves.



Supporting Parents



Through Community Events...

Providing trainings ...
Attending meetings ...
Attending appointments ...
Answering questions ...



Perform Assessments for blind and low vision



Learning Media
Functional Vision
Orientation & Mobility
Functional Skills
Cortical Visual Assessments
Pre-Braille and Braille
Assistive Technology




The Oregon Project
For Preschool Children
Who are Blind or Visually Impaired
Skills Inventory
Sixth Edition

We use sensory specific
assessment, checklists and
curriculum that is
researched by experts in
the field of Visual
Impairments

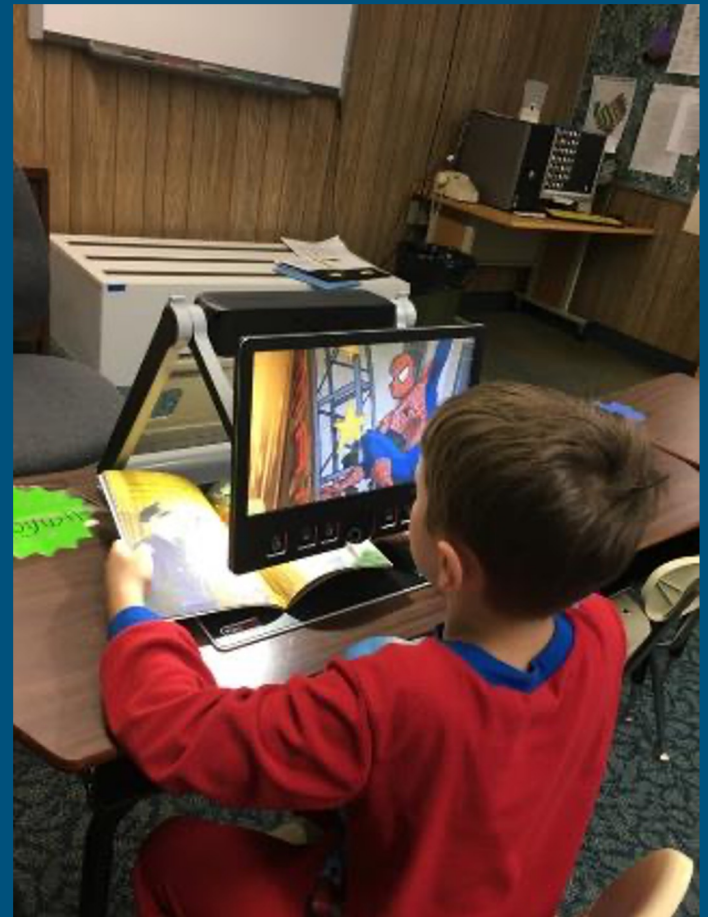
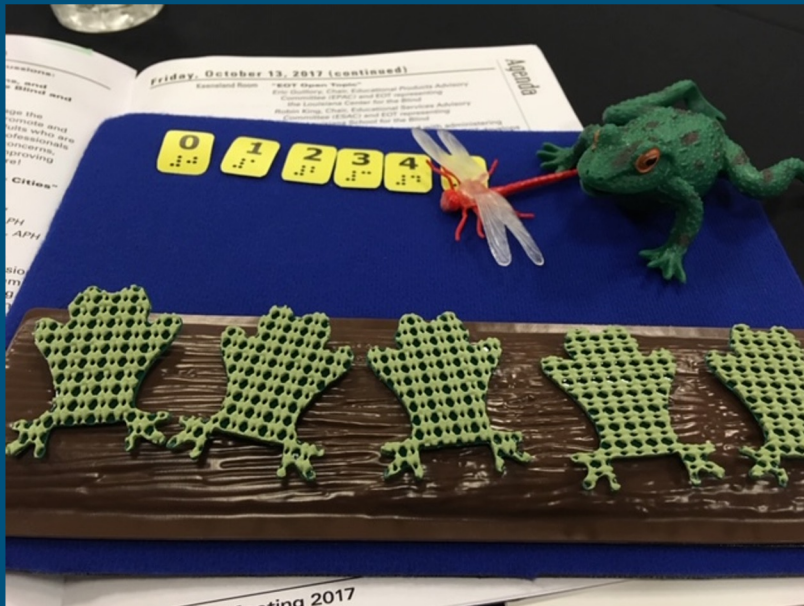
Supporting Professionals

Common Workshops and Methods of Support:

- Untangling the Dots to learn about Braille
- INSITE & VIISA Training
- Lending Library
- APH Products
- Low Vision Technology
- Impacts of Blindness



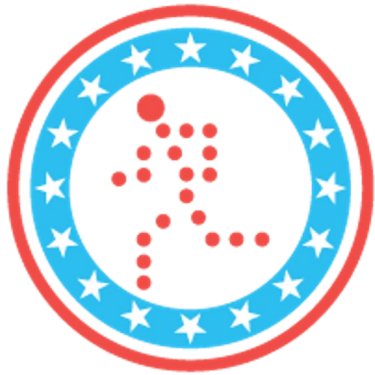
Lending Library



LIONS Club/MSDB Low Vision Reader Project



[Video presentation](#)



NW ASSOCIATION
FOR
BLIND
ATHLETES

MSDB partners with the Northwest Association for Blind athletes to provide at home and face to face physical activities for our student population.



Visually Impaired Enrichment Weekend (VIEW)



Providing access to the Expanded Core Curriculum: braille, nementh, abacus, social interaction, self determination, recreational and transition opportunities to students with vision loss and blindness.



Games for the Visually Impaired



This is a competitive event for blind and visually impaired students ranging in age from 3-21

Blind Family Learning Weekend

Serving an average of 30 families during this 3 day event in June.



Offering children opportunities to meet adult mentors who are deaf or blind



Family Advising Services

Trained staff model how to work with children with sensory needs and provide family advising for children birth to preschool age based on need.



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Consultants



From left to right Back row:

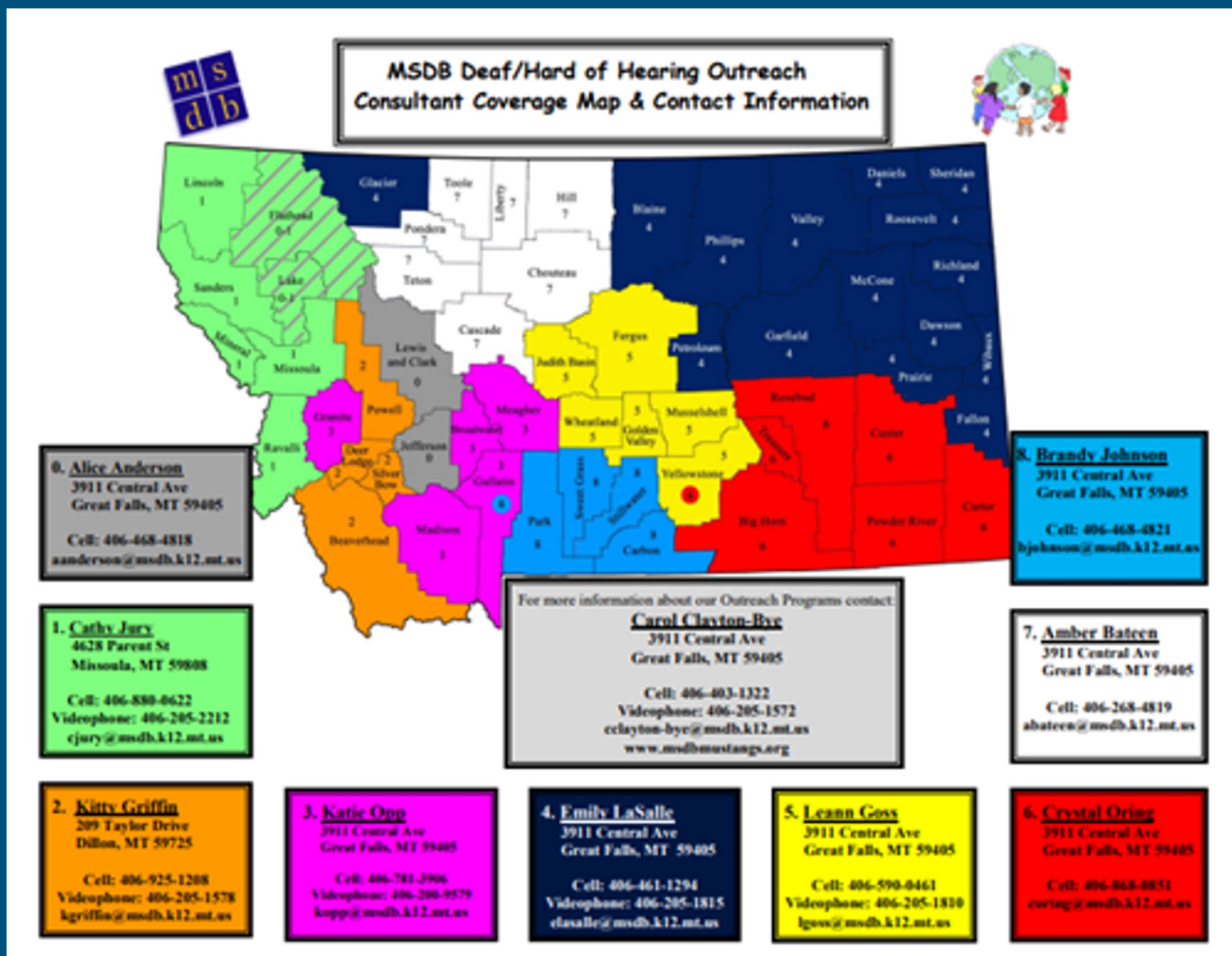
Crystal Oring, Amber Bateen,
Cathy Jury, Leann Goss, Emily
LaSalle.

From left to right Front row: Lisa

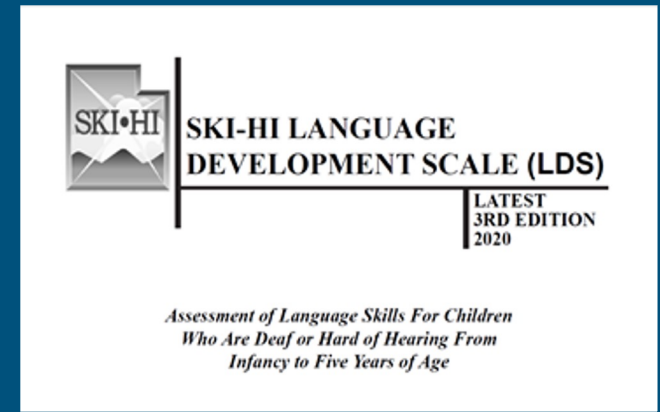
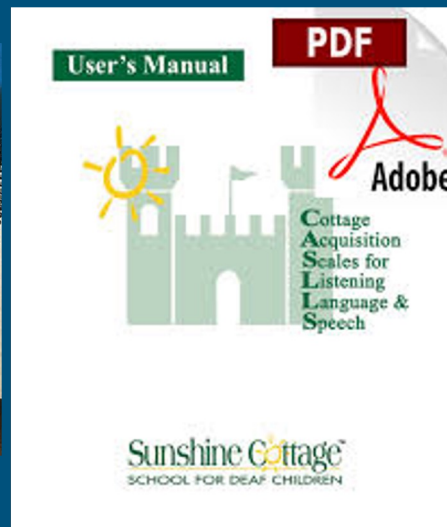
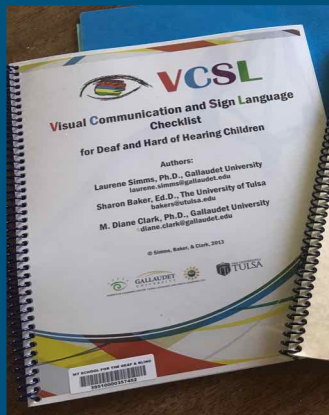
Cannon, Alice Anderson, Brandy
Johnson, Clayton-Bye,

Not pictured: Katie James, Kitty
Griffin

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Consultant Map



Perform Assessments for deaf and hard of hearing of hearing

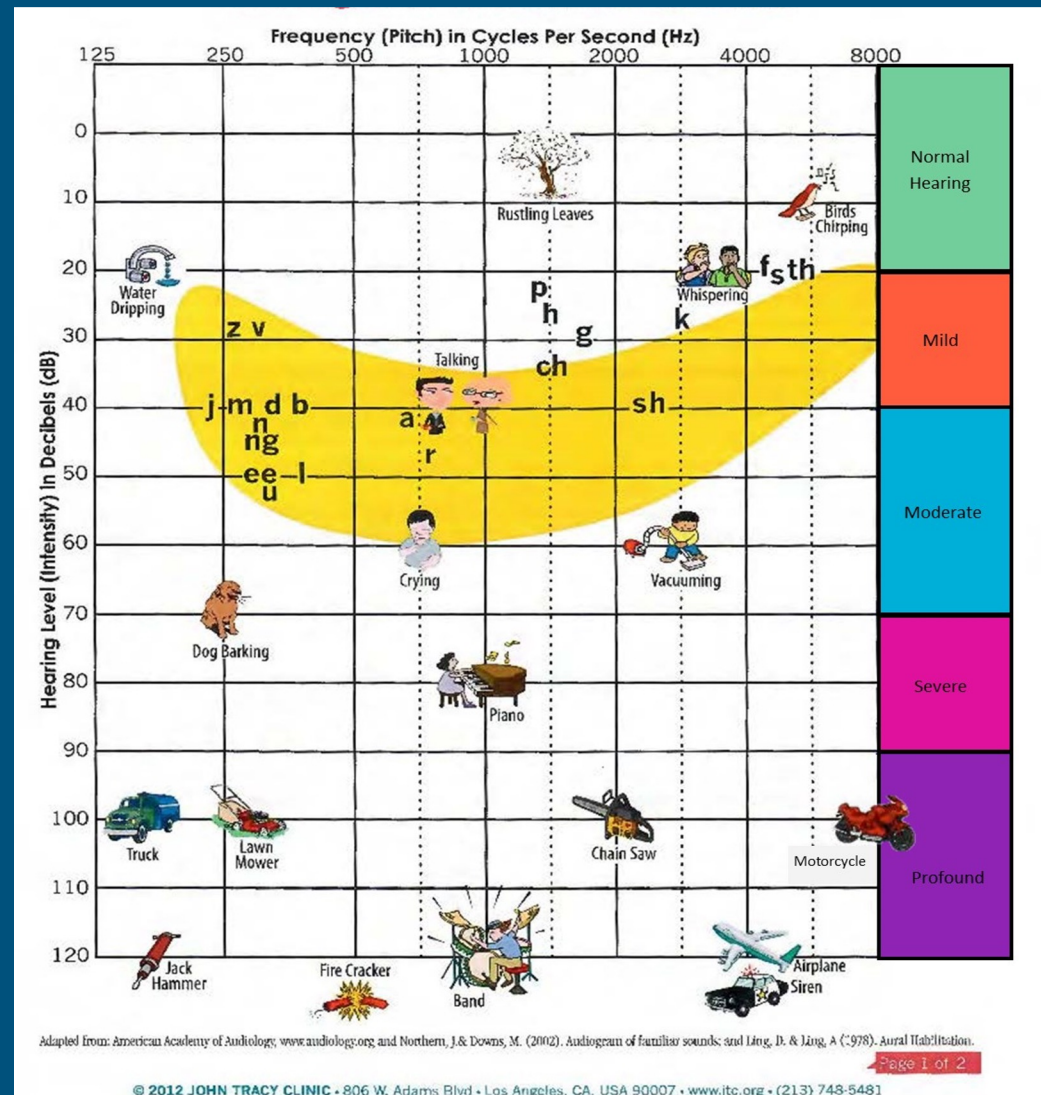


- *Language & Communication
 - Spoken Language
 - American Sign Language
- *Listening *Educational *and more

Working in collaboration with School teams!



Interpreting results of the audiogram



Understanding devices and accessories



Consultants work with students, families and their teams to understand the assistive devices and how to best use them.



Family Advisors for DHH

The Family Advisor Program supports families in learning to address the unique learning needs of their child/children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deafblind. Consultants work with families to determine family goals and Family Advisors work with the families to accomplish those goals. Families choose to work on language development (English and/or ASL), communication, spatial and concept development, and mobility skills.

Family Advisors follow the SKI*HI curriculum for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

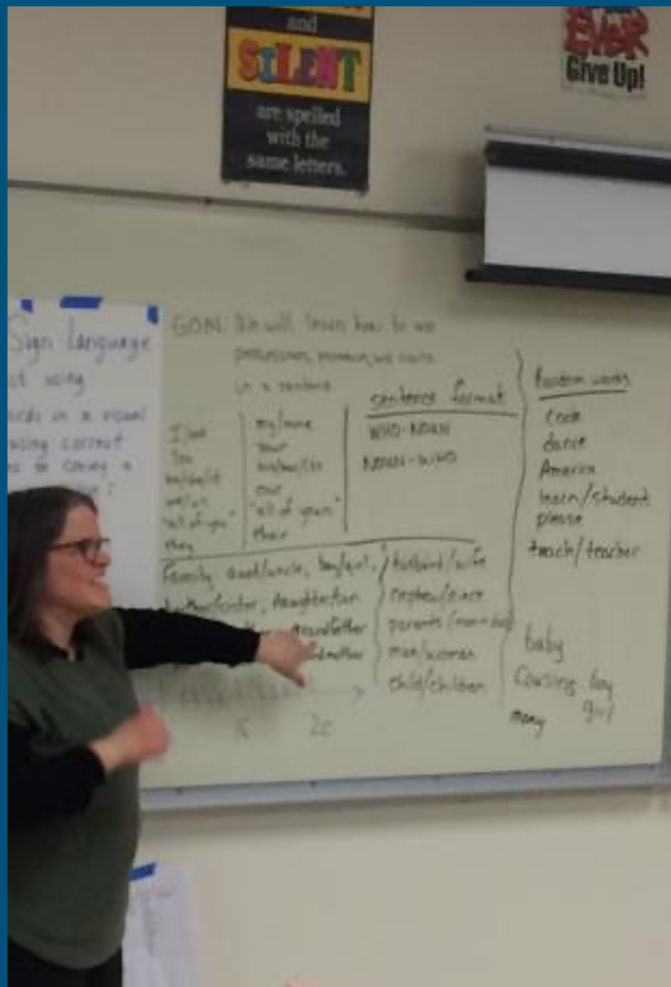


MSDB Deaf Mentor Program

Trained Deaf adults who are hired through the Deaf Mentor Program and have the ability to work with families of children birth through 21 to understand ASL, Deaf Culture or other aspects of having a deaf child. This program is grant funded.



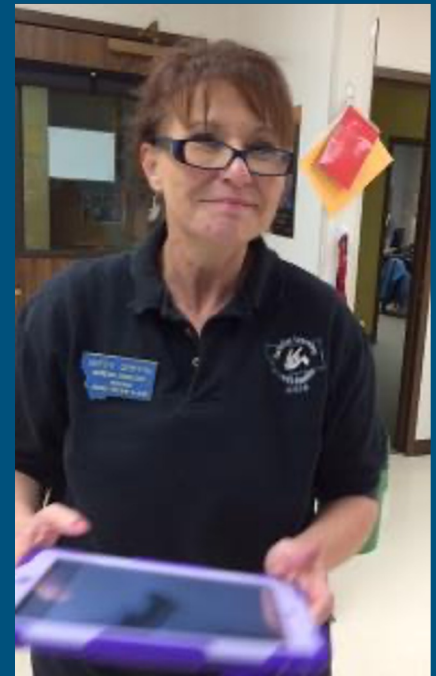
ASL Classes in Person and Online



Learn ASL
for FREE!

Supporting Professionals

- ❑ Provide American Sign Language resources
- ❑ Tips and strategies for access to communication and learning
- ❑ Training on:
 - ❑ Assistive listening devices
 - ❑ Impacts of hearing loss
 - ❑ Understanding the audiogram
 - ❑ Listening & spoken language
- ❑ Workshops like Listening Under the Big Sky



Deaf Enrichment Weekend (DEW)

To promote self awareness, socialization, build confidence, exposure to language and communication models and develop independence as a young deaf or hard of hearing student. School age students are welcome to attend.



Deaf Family Learning Weekend

Serving an average of 40 families during this 3 day event in June.



Ways we can connect

- ❖ In-person home visits, school visits or therapy visits
- ❖ Use of distance technology to connect with families

Example video:

[Adapted Book for a Child with Low Vision](#)



How to refer a child.....

- ❖ MSDB - Outreach vs. Campus
- ❖ Part C - Early Interventionists
- ❖ Medical professionals
- ❖ Therapists
- ❖ Audiologists
- ❖ Other community & school providers
- ❖ Parents

Thank You for this opportunity to share!

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&

Brandy Johnson

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MSDB Presentation Feedback

