



MN DeafBlind Project News

Spring 2023

Happy Spring!

Believe it or not, spring is finally here! The last time I shoveled snow, I heard birds chirping, so it must be true... thinking warm thoughts!

That also means we are on the last stretch of the school year. I hope that your child has had a great and successful school year! If your child is making a transition next year, I would love to connect with you. They may be transitioning from early childhood to kindergarten, moving case managers/classrooms, or even the transition out of the school system. We can work together to develop a person-centered plan for what a great transition would look like.

Please call, text, or email me to schedule a time to connect.

-Brandy

612-638-1505 (voice calls)

612-217-2211 (text only)

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Winter Party Highlights

We were happy to host (back to in-person) the Winter Party in collaboration with DeafBlind Services Minnesota in January! Families, children & youth and Interveners had an opportunity to connect with one another and enjoy fun winter themed activities!



Dressing up



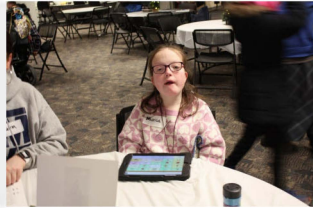
Fun photo booth



Sensory activities



Crafting Station



Fun activities and new friends



DeafBlind Toy Lending Library

Family Learning Community

Attention all families in Minnesota who have a child who is DeafBlind...

We are excited to share a virtual opportunity with you! Join us for monthly meetings designed for families in Minnesota to come together to meet and connect with other families who have children who are DeafBlind. Additionally, we will have interactive information and activities based on input from you!

Meetings will be held virtually on the 3rd Monday of each month with a lunchtime and evening option to join. 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. OR 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Family Learning Community

Dates & Topics:

April 17th: Creating a Network of Resources & Support

May 15th: Virtual Game Night

To ensure all accessibility needs are met and that you always receive the most up-to-date meeting information, please complete the interest form below.

Complete this Family Learning Community Interest Form

Family Survey Results

MEET PAUL URIBE



Families Matter Stories

Each newsletter, I try to share a lived experience of either an individual with deafblindness or the family of a child/youth with deafblindness. This month, I want to highlight a collection of stories that is shared on the National Center for DeafBlindness website. Please enjoy hearing from other families in [Family Matter Stories!](#)

Future Family Spotlights

Our goal is to feature one child with deafblindness and their family in each newsletter. We have found that when families can hear similar joys and struggles that other families have gone through, it builds a sense of community and connection. It helps families to feel that they are not alone in this unique journey.

I will help you share your story in the way that works best for you; you can write or type the story up yourself, or we can do a phone call or video call, where I take notes and write it up. If you are open to sharing your story, please email brandy.johanson.sebera@metroecu.org to get started!





Open Hands Library

The [Open Hands Library](#) is the first digital library of its kind, providing access to language and literacy by collecting books and stories from deaf and ASL creators.

Through **bilingual** education, **children** have opportunities to bridge their knowledge, gained through **sign language**, to **reading**. There is a great range of books available in this digital resource.

You can use the Book tab at the top to search by topic. Here is a highlight of [Spring books](#) with ASL now available.

Wilderness Inquiry

Wilderness Inquiry has partnered with local organizations to offer fun and accessible outdoor activities for individuals who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing.

"We are committed to making the outdoors accessible to all. When you travel with Wilderness Inquiry, you help fund outdoor education programs for youth, provide trip assistance for participants with differing abilities, and travel scholarships to bring families to the outdoors together."

Upcoming events:

- [Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing Day Camps](#)
- [Deaf & Hard of Hearing Family Services: Family Weekend](#)

Contact [Riss Leitzki](#) with any questions.

CVI Now

Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) is a brain-based visual impairment caused by damage to the visual pathways or visual processing areas of the brain—and it's the leading cause of blindness in children. CVI-related vision problems impact up to 1 in 30 kids in mainstream classrooms. CVI is common in children with Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Autism, and neurodevelopmental conditions. An individualized multisensory approach to learning and intervention, rooted in comprehensive assessment, empowers life-changing access.

Discover many more great resources and supports at: <https://www.perkins.org/cvi-now/>



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MN DeafBlind Project



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