



Fall 2024

MN DeafBlind Project News

Happy Fall!

We have had such a lovely, warm fall, and I hope you have had time to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and had a great start to the 2024-2025 school year!

We are continually inspired by the resilience, determination, and creativity that families demonstrate each day. Whether your child is navigating new challenges, reaching milestones, or simply discovering the world in new ways, it's a privilege to walk alongside you in these important moments of your journey. If you would like to brainstorm or are looking to connect, please reach out any time.

Wishing you and your family a season full of warmth, wonder, and continued discovery!

-Brandy

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Find and follow us on
Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube

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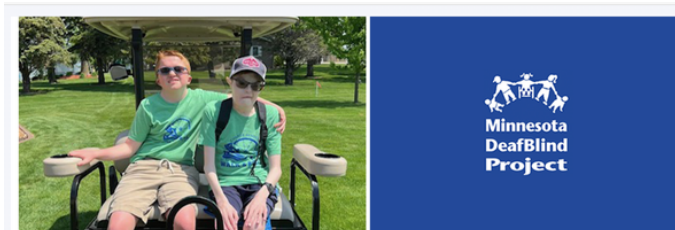


The Work We Do...

Enjoy this spotlight of some of the behind-the-scenes initiatives and activities currently in progress at the MN DeafBlind Project.

MN DeafBlind Project website updates:

Thank you to families who have shared photos of your beautiful children with us. Check out dbproject.mn.org to see these updates!



Understanding Deafblindness (UDB) & The Role of the Intervener

Every August, the MNDBP hosts a virtual training that is open to families and educators across the state. If you missed it this year, you can access the [UDB Online Recording here](#).



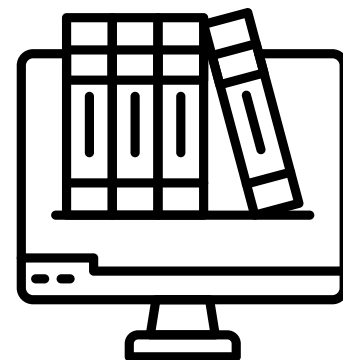
Collaborative Experience Conference:

Ann Mayes and Brandy Sebera attended a wonderful conference the first weekend of November. They presented twice to educators, professionals and families to increase knowledge and understanding about deafblindness. The Project also hosted a resource table giving us an opportunity to connect directly and share additional resources!

Supporting Education Teams

Ann Mayes, our Education Specialist, is focused on providing training, resources and support to school teams. Families can connect their school teams to Ann to access her great knowledge! We work collaboratively to provide both education teams and families with DeafBlind strategies and resources!

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Upcoming Events

Family Learning Community (virtual):

NEW Series

“Empowering Families Through DeafBlind Training”

Learning that your child has combined hearing and vision loss can feel overwhelming. You might have questions like:

“How will they learn and communicate?”

“What is an intervener and what do they do?”

“What will school look like and what resources are available to us?”

Based on parent requests and interest, we will start a new series this fall just for parents and caregivers. The DeafBlind topics will align with those covered during our annual Intervener Training, but we want to make it convenient for busy families. There will be a combination of online learning, real-time Zoom meetings, and an in-person presentation for families to come together to connect and learn! *Although the training has already begun, families are still welcome to join! Just complete the registration below.*

Monthly Topics

October (online module): **Introduction to Deafblindness & Intervention**

November (online module): **Impact of Deafblindness on Learning**

January (online module): **The Power of Touch for Learning**

February (in-person TBD): **Concept Development & Routines**

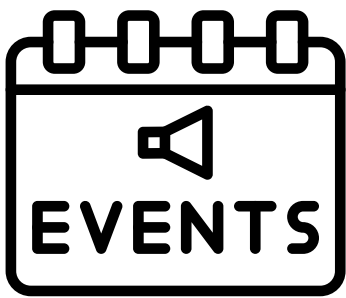
March (online module): **Communication**

April (online module): **Self-Determination & Relationships**

THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN!
REGISTER HERE TODAY!

SCAN ME





Upcoming Events

Save the Dates

Moms' Retreat 2025!

May 2-4, 2025 (in-person, Shoreview)

We are so excited to announce that we will host another Moms' Retreat in collaboration with DeafBlind Services Minnesota in May of 2025! As we are in the early planning stages, we would love to get input (using the form below) from you on potential topics of interest and any great presenter suggestions.



COMPLETE THIS INTEREST FORM!

Winter Party

January 19, 2025 (in-person, Arden Hills)

Join us for a fun party with winter themed activities!



Family & Intervener Appreciation Picnic

June 7, 2025 (in-person, Shoreview)

Mark your calendars for our most loved family event! Activities include: A caricature artist, face (or body) painting, delicious ice cream truck treats, a catered BBQ lunch, and more!



Charting the Cs: "To Literacy and Beyond"

Student and Family Summit (in-person, Brainerd),

Sunday, April 27, 2025 (save the date)

Families are welcomed to a fun night away (Saturday) and a day (Sunday) with activities for the whole family!





RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

Disability Hub, Minnesota

“Disability Hub MN is a free statewide resource network that helps you solve your problems, navigate the system, and plan for your future.”

This website is an incredible, up-to-date website with information for families ranging from infancy through adulthood, medical and social services including updated changes such as “Parents can be paid as a PCA for their child” and “Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) starts Oct. 1”

Go to disabilityhubmn.org today and do your own search! Or contact Brandy for support!



Everyone has a Voice

Exceptional Parent Magazine has released their **2024 Vision, Hearing and Speech Issue**. In the article, “Everyone has a Voice,” (pages 16-19) Nanci Bentley describes her journey of communication with her son, who is DeafBlind.

The article talks about how the family learned about their son's hearing loss and cortical visual impairment, and the strategies they used to encourage and support his communication. Nanci is also a Family Engagement and Outreach Coordinator for the New York DeafBlind Collaborative.