



Winter 2025

# MN DeafBlind Project News

---

## It's a New Year!

We have just wrapped up the first month of 2025! As our team reflects on our work at the MN DeafBlind Project over the past year, we continue striving to provide meaningful resources, services, and supports to families. We're grateful for your input and participation and we thank you for allowing us to be part of your community! We are looking forward to a fun and busy spring with many opportunities for connection and learning!

In this newsletter, you'll find highlights from our MN DeafBlind Project YouTube channel, upcoming family events (don't miss this!), and resources you might find valuable for your family.

-Brandy

612-638-1505 (voice calls)

612-217-2211 (text only)

[brandy.sebera@brightworksmn.org](mailto:brandy.sebera@brightworksmn.org)



Find and follow us on  
Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube

"Funding for this grant activity is made possible with a grant from MN Department of Education. The source of the funds is from federal award – CFDA 84.326T, Special Education - Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children who are DeafBlind." The contents of this publication do not necessarily represent the policy of the federal Department of Education or the state Department of Education and you should not assume endorsement by the federal or state government.

---

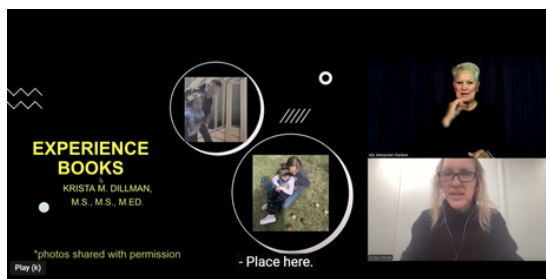
# MNDBP Highlights



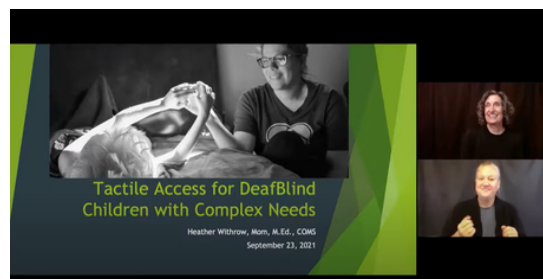
## MN DeafBlind Project YouTube Channel

Did you know that the MN DeafBlind Project has it's own YouTube Channel created by our education specialist, Ann Mayes?! We use the channel to create and share resources for families and educators. All videos have accurate captioning and many videos also include ASL interpreting. Check out a few highlighted videos below and then visit our [MN DeafBlind Project YouTube Channel](#) and subscribe today!

### Webinar Recording: Literacy Through Experience Books



### Webinar Recording: Tactile Access for DeafBlind Children with Complex Needs



### Collection: Marvin's Market Adventures



### En Español: Las aventuras del mercado de Marvin

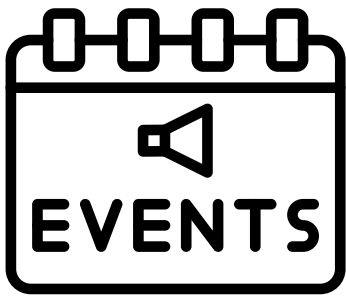


### An Interview with Patrick Vellia: A DeafBlind adult shares his experiences



There are also **playlists** available with collections of videos on specific topics.

- [Communication](#)
- [Literacy](#)
- [ASL Storytelling](#)
- and more!



# Upcoming Family Events

Family events hosted by the MN DeafBlind Project are FREE to families of DeafBlind children/youth.

## Empowering Families: Concept Development

**February 23, 2025 (in-person, Arden Hills)**



[RSVP Here!](#) before February 9, 2025

## 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! Registration is now open!! There will be wonderful learning opportunities, time for relaxation and most importantly connections with other moms!



[RSVP Here!](#) before April 5, 2025

## 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!



[RSVP Here!](#) before May 17, 2025

## Charting the Cs: "To Literacy and Beyond"

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

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Families are welcomed to a fun night away (Saturday, the 26th) and a day (Sunday) with activities for the whole family!

\*This is not hosted by the MN DeafBlind Project, but we will be there!



[Register here](#)



# RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

---



## **New Resource!** **Communication video for families.**

Our colleagues at the Texas DeafBlind Project developed this wonderful 35-minute new video, **Interactions and Connections: Following Your Child's Lead with Your Conversations**. "The Texas Deafblind Project and Statewide Outreach Center at the Texas School for the Deaf had such a great time collaborating in making this a reality. We hope you find it meaningful and confirming."

Remember, I'm available and would be happy to talk with you about specific communication interactions and strategies for your child. Please email me to schedule a time if you are interested. - Brandy



### **Innerhive**

Innerhive was designed for parents who are caring for their child(ren) with a disability, genetic condition or other complex medical needs. They understand that caregiver burnout is real and significant and designed this tool, Innerhive to help families by:

- Save time and energy onboarding new school and care team members with a helpful visual to guide them
- Store and share important notes during appointments, care conferences, IEP meetings, and more
- Ensure that other caregivers have access to the info they need for bedtime routines to emergency contacts
- Share your story without needing to repeat yourself over and over again. Instead, share with those you trust and let your care map do the talking!

### **Innerhive Video Trailer**