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SUMMER
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CONNECTIONS

A publication of the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education

***The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Mission:
To promote positive outcomes for all deaf and hard of hearing children
through information, services, and education.***

From the Director



Christine Moody

Our stakeholders are integral to our mission here at the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education (Center) and the connections necessary for a seamless system of support, resources and services for deaf and hard of hearing children in the state.

Since our last newsletter, we have completed presentations to all of the First Steps system points of entry, increasing awareness of the statewide, specialized network that we administer through a partnership with Saint Joseph's providers. We are happy to report a significant increase in the use of this network, along with an improved protocol for referrals, and increased collaboration with EHDI and INH&V GBYS to ensure that no newly identified children fall through the cracks.

We are conducting trainings for new contractors and bringing on new staff in the coming months that will allow us to keep up with the growth in our Early Intervention services and to fully implement regional centers in the northeast and southeast. In Assessment and Audiology, we continue to make a difference by sharing results of comprehensive evaluations and assessments conducted by professionals who are leaders in their fields. In Deaf Education,

(continued on page 2)

(From the Director—cont. from page 1)

we bring teachers around the state together to provide forums for growth, professional development, and comradery through DHH Roundtables and the online learning community.

Additionally, we are holding regular opportunities for families to come together for learning or simply to be inspired by deaf adults while also giving a fresh look and strong branding to our Center through updated signage and marketing materials. Families are learning that we are The Center.

Changes to the Hearing Aid Assistance Program (HAAP) will become effective July 1st. This program will now be available to children starting at age 3. Please keep your eye out for the statewide press release and details of the changes beginning on July 1st on the website at www.HAAPIndiana.org. We have also updated Memorandums of Understanding with some of our key stakeholders effective July 1st and are working toward improvement of child/student outcomes.

Lastly, this month I want to focus on the most valuable resource we have at the Center, and that is our staff and contractors. Starting with this newsletter and in future newsletters, we will highlight one or two of our staff members. This month, the featured staff member is Pam Burchett. Pam Burchett has dedicated her life to deaf and hard of hearing children and their families. She is retiring July 1st and clearly the words “thank you” would never be enough. She has truly left an impact and a legacy; we will miss her at the Center tremendously. We will have an open house on June 21st from 3-5 p.m. here at the Center to honor her dedication and 38 years.



ARE YOU PREGNANT?

Learn how to protect your unborn baby from CMV (cytomegalovirus), the leading viral cause of birth defects and developmental disabilities. CMV can result in hearing loss, vision loss, and cerebral palsy.

CMV is an often symptomless virus that is spread through saliva, mucus, and urine. Healthy babies, toddlers, and young children can get CMV from their peers and pass it to their pregnant mother.

Tips to protect yourself and your unborn baby from CMV:

- When you kiss a young child, try to avoid contact with saliva. For example, you might kiss on the forehead or cheek rather than the lips.
- Do not put things in your mouth that have just been in a child's mouth, including food, cups, forks or spoons, and pacifiers.
- Wash your hands after wiping a child's nose or mouth and changing diapers.

Learn more at: www.NationalCMV.org



Do you know a child who needs hearing aids?

The Hearing Aid Assistance Program of Indiana Can Help

For more information, visit HAAPIndiana.org

haapi hearing aid assistance program of indiana
administered by **hear** indiana

Phone: 317-828-0211
Fax: 888-887-0932
Email: Info@HAAPIndiana.org





SOUND ADVICE

Audiology



Tips to Remember for Fun in the Sun

By Dana Ramsey, Audiologist

Vacation: Many families travel during the warm summer months. It is always a task to remember what to bring with you while traveling. Here is a brief list to help you remember the **things you need**:

- ⇒ Your devices (hearing aids, cochlear implants, BAHA, etc.)- Don't leave without those!
- ⇒ Storage container (hearing aid box, pouch, etc.)
- ⇒ Dehumidifier
- ⇒ Extra batteries/Charging cables and accessories for rechargeable batteries
- ⇒ Cleaning/ checking tools (wax loops, listening scope and don't forget that earmold blower!)
- ⇒ Retention accessories
- ⇒ Water accessories (if applicable)
- ⇒ Spare parts (coils, cables, etc.-if applicable)



Extreme temperatures: Extreme temperatures are not good for any electronic devices, including hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other type of assistive technology. As you are traveling in the hot summer temperatures, be sure to remove your technology devices and batteries from the car and **store them in a cool, dry place**, especially if you will be leaving them off for an extended period of time. Also, if outdoors, do not leave them in direct sunlight, even in a storage container. Instead, place the storage box inside of a bag in a shaded area.

Water resistance: You're probably already used to removing your child's hearing aids before baths, but what about water play and swimming? There are Ingress Protection (IP) ratings assigned to each device to let you know how "water resistant" your devices are. Take a look at your instruction manual or contact your audiologist to find out what measures are necessary to care for your child's devices. **If your child uses a different battery door for FM access**, check with your audiologist to find out whether this may cause them to be less resistant to water and if the original battery doors need to be replaced before enjoying wet summer activities.

Moisture/humidity: Moisture does not always mean swimming or rain. Humidity can also create moisture, which can be detrimental to hearing devices. Humid environments and sweaty ears can introduce moisture into the hearing aid that can often be seen in the earmold tubing. **If you see moisture in the earmold tubing**, detach the earmold from the device, use your earmold blower to clear the tube and reattach the dry earmold to the child's hearing device. If you have not done this before, there is a short instructional video available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCOUt7K7k34>

Water, sand, dirt and sweat are common ingredients for summer fun! Don't forget to give your summer caregivers an **overview of your child's devices**. Or better yet, let your child practice *developing self-advocacy skills* by explaining with your assistance as needed!





BRAIN BUILDERS' CORNER

Early Intervention

The CDHHE Network - Coaching Families and Providers

Cindy Lawrence, Early Intervention and Transition Coordinator

Why should we as a family or agency choose services from the CDHHE Network for First Steps Early Intervention Services?

The Early Intervention Team administered by the Center is passionate about coaching families and helping other providers coach families to build the neural connections and language skills of children identified as deaf or hard of hearing.

Research and experience has shown that 700 new connections are made in the brain of an infant or toddler daily, according to the Zero to Three website: www.zerotothree.com. Parents and caregivers who provide loving, nurturing caregiving provide babies with an ideal environment for learning new connections. Stimulating language development, signed and or spoken, is so important during this time of rapid brain growth. The critical age for learning language is considered to be during the first five years of life.

The CDHHE Network is a First Steps agency with specialized providers, all of whom are skilled and have the core knowledge about deaf and hard of hearing children and child development. They can impart knowledge and expertise with children who have any level of hearing. The providers in our EI Network include audiologists, speech therapists, deaf educators, and early childhood educators. We also have access to an occupational therapist and physical therapist who are experienced with deaf or hard of hearing children.

These providers are specifically skilled at helping families make the most of that critical time for language learning and are trained and licensed in various disciplines. All of our providers share best practices for development and language acquisition, suggest and model strategies, and empower families with information to allow parents to do what parents do best: nurture, love and provide stimulation for the normal growth and development of their child.

We call this a coaching model, knowing that the parent and other caregivers are with the child during all of his/her waking hours, while the provider is just there for a short visit on a weekly, biweekly or monthly basis, depending on the Individualized Family Service Plan. During that visit, our goal is to empower the parent with knowledge and skills to help their child develop those brain connections.

The CDHHE Network, a partnership with St. Joseph's, is the only statewide First Steps agency for deaf and hard of hearing children and utilizes staff and contractors specialized in their respective disciplines who work every day with deaf or hard of hearing children and their families. We are also able to connect families with other families and direct them to additional information and resources unique to this population.

If you know of a family in need of specialized services available through the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Network, contact us at 1-855-875-5193 or email cdhhenetwork@isdh.in.gov.



TEACHERS' DEN

Teachers' Deaf Education Network

IEP's, Audiograms, Progress Reports ... Oh, My!

Sarah Kiefer, Deaf Education Coordinator



Ever feel like there are too many papers to keep up with it all? Having one location to file away all the documents can be a useful tool for parents and students as they navigate the education system. As the school year is wrapping up for the summer and case conferences have been held, now is a perfect time to organize documents in one place.

Many families have found that creating a three-ring binder makes locating documents much easier when they are needed. IEP binders can help students and their families quickly have information available to collaborate with IEP team members.

There are several sections that can be included in the binder. The most important thing is that it is functional. The binder can help families and students prepare for their IEP meetings. It can also help track student progress. Helpful sections may include: Communication, Evaluations, Current IEP, Previous IEPs, Report Cards/Progress Notes, Sample Work, and Behavior. Understood.org has some great printable documents to start the process.

Individualizing the binder can also help students "own" their story, the contents of the binder, and help develop self-advocacy skills. Young students can pick the binder color, create the dividers, add pictures of themselves doing things they enjoy, and decorate the binder. Young students can also have an active role in their case conferences and in-services. It is important for students to feel like they have a say in their educational process. Using this binder, families and/or teachers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing can help students become more involved in the entire process.

As students mature and become more involved, it is helpful to start allowing them to lead all of a portion of their in-services and/or case conferences. This is what is referred to as a student-led or student-directed IEP or in-service. This helps students prepare for life after high school. Then, the Deaf Education Team at the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education likes to start incorporating the 'Life' Binder, a binder that serves as a portfolio of student information and experiences, as students enter high school to prepare them for their bright futures!

How to Organize You Child's IEP Binder <https://goo.gl/r07PAa>

IEP Toolkit for Parents <https://goo.gl/SqIusU>

How to organize IEP paperwork <https://goo.gl/oB19eJ>

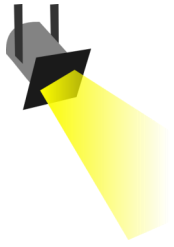
Student-Led IEP Toolkit <https://goo.gl/j1vNmI>

Life Binder <https://goo.gl/IH8Ma2>

For more resources, please check out the Deaf Education Resources LiveBinder <https://goo.gl/xqr2gz>

Access Code: **IndianaDHH**

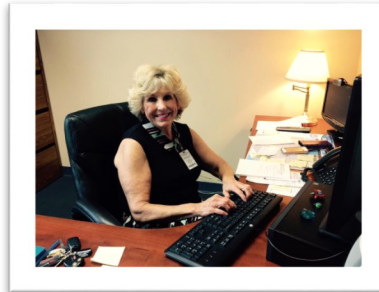




Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education

Staff Spotlight

Pam Burchett, Assessment Social Worker/Intake



Moving on to a new chapter called “Retirement”

Thank you, Pam, for 38 years of public service!

In 1986, Pam Burchett began her journey as a dedicated social worker at the Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD). As a social worker who had previously served at Central State Hospital for 8 years, she interviewed families who brought children to ISD for multi-disciplinary assessments to gather important social and developmental background information that helps to share each child’s story so the team can identify needs and learn how best to serve children. She also educated ISD staff and administrators about prevention of child abuse and working with Child Protection Services (CPS) while being the liaison to CPS when necessary.

Pam worked with the Castleton Sertoma Club when it started its “clothe a child” program for needy children from ISD at Christmas and eventually became a member of Sertoma as it grew the program to add a back-to-school version as well. In 1996, Outreach Services opened the Eliza Willard Assessment Center to become a statewide resource for all Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, providing assessments referred from public schools and parents. Pam was the contact person and became known as the welcoming go-to person.

When the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education opened in 2012, Pam didn’t miss a beat and continued being the voice and face of the assessment team, ensuring a very smooth transition from the former Outreach Services to the new Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education.

Pam has welcomed hundreds of families, public school representatives and other visiting professionals and will be missed by all of us. Her energy, compassion and positive regard for all who enter the building and respect shown to everyone will leave a lasting impact. She is a dedicated social worker and role model public servant who brings the best out of all of us and who deserves to enjoy the next phase of life after 38 years of service.

Thank you, Pam, for all you have done for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and their families!



FAMILY & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Making the Most of Summer

Sandi Lerman, Family and Community Education Liaison

Summer can be a GREAT time for families!

Most kids look forward to a relaxing time off of school to do fun outdoor activities, camp, playing with friends, or just hang out with the family at home. It's a great time to bond with your child and make some memories together while also encouraging your child to explore special interests and build independence through creative adventures. Even though school is officially out for most kids, summer can also be a great time to enhance your child's language and academic growth! As the parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child, you may need to put a little extra thought into planning summer activities to ensure everything goes smoothly and to make the most of a great opportunity for fun and learning.

Communication and Safety Tips

Regardless of language or communication mode, it's so important to make sure that communication is clear so that your child can participate fully and feel a part of your family and all the special events planned in the summer. Talk to your child ahead of time about any new activity and before traveling to a new place. Explain what your child can expect to encounter, the schedule for the day, and any other important details so that there are no surprises. You can create a written schedule of events together, or create a book with pictures and names of people such as extended family members and others your child may only visit during the summer months.

When traveling or going to special events and activities, make a communication plan with your child. For example, decide ahead of time how you will get your child's attention if she is swimming in the pool without a hearing aid or cochlear implant. Use a buddy system, and alert the lifeguard ahead of time of any special communication needs. Tell your child what to do if she becomes lost or can't find you in a crowd. Also, come up with a plan for communicating on long car and plane trips! Once you have a safety plan in place, you and your child will both feel better about trying new adventures and developing independence.


Summer Learning Tips

In addition to more conventional learning activities such as summer tutoring, summer reading, and doing workbooks, summer learning can be part of everyday activities! Encourage your child to read and write by taking pictures of special summer activities and turning them into a written language experience book. Seeing pictures of themselves and reading stories together about summer activities is engaging and fun!

You can also encourage your child's language development by encouraging conversation about EVERYTHING you do—summer is a great time to develop vocabulary because you have more opportunities to see and experience things you normally might not encounter at home and at school.

Before you know it, summer will be over and the kids will be back to school. ... Until then, make the most of it!

Family Events and Activities



Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education

First Friday
FOCUS
Group

FAMILIES ONLINE FOR COMMUNITY, UNDERSTANDING, AND SUPPORT

Every First Friday
from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST
Find the Link on Facebook:
[Facebook.com/CDHHE](https://www.facebook.com/CDHHE)



Indiana Hands & Voices Polo Party
Saturday, July 29th

For more information about Indiana Hands and Voices events for families, visit the website at www.inhandsandvoices.org



Parent & Child PLAYGROUP!



Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education

PLAY

CONNECT

LEARN

Monthly Topics Include:

- * Outdoor Play *
- * Communication Opportunities and Strategies *
- * Importance of Play *
- * Transition to School Age *
- * Toys: Back to the Basics *
- * Self-Care for Parents *
- * Potty Training *
- * All about Reading to Littles *
- * Indiana and National Resources *
- * Parent & Child Temperament *
- * Male Role Models *
- * What Comes Before Words? *
- * Routines: Why Routines are Important *
- * Audiology: People & Vocabulary *

Come together to meet with other families who are raising a deaf or hard of hearing infant or toddler, ask questions, and, of course, have fun! All family members and friends involved in your child's life are welcome.

1st Saturday of each Month
(Some exceptions for State Holidays)
Ages: Birth to 5 years old
From 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Raney South, Room 126
1200 E. 42nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Kjari Newell: knewell@isdh.in.gov 317-232-0690

*Please RSVP Monthly.
If no RSVPs are received by Wednesday before, Playgroup will not meet.

Tickets are still available! Sign up TODAY at EventBrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/theres-music-in-the-house-tickets-33861793536>



The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education presents

There's Music in the House!

Fostering music and language development in the home life of deaf children

featuring

Chris Barton

Join us for a fun Saturday at the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education!

There will be an educational workshop for parents, followed by an interactive concert for children and their families!

The activities and concert are designed for preschool and young elementary children.



Chris Barton is an award-winning composer and performer.

A board-certified music therapist (MT-BC), she currently directs Central Canal Creative Arts Therapies in Indianapolis and primarily sees young children who are deaf and those who have speech or autism spectrum disorders.

Saturday, June 17, 2017

Raney Hall ~ Multipurpose Center

8:30 – 9:00 Meet and Greet
9:00 – 10:30 *Parent Workshop
11:00 – 11:45 Family Concert
11:45 – 12:30 Pizza Lunch

*Children (age birth – 12) will go to classrooms for activities during the parent workshop.

ASL and English interpreting will be provided.

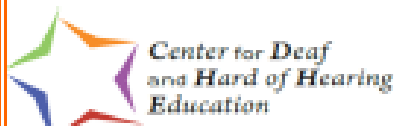
Request other language interpreters at least one week prior to event.

Sign up link at Event Brite: Free tickets for parents and children! Limited seats – sign up today!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/theres-music-in-the-house-tickets-33861793536>

For more information, contact: **Sandi Lerman**, Family and Community Education Liaison

E-mail: slerman@isdh.in.gov Phone: 317-232-2826



Be Inspired

The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education

invites parents and guardians of
deaf and hard of hearing children to a **BOOK SIGNING** at Barnes and Noble
with our special guest

ROZ ROSEN



Dr. Roslyn "Roz" Rosen was born to a Deaf family in the Bronx, NY. She attended the Lexington School for the Deaf and Gallaudet University. Currently retired, her career included being director of the National Center on Deafness at CSUN, and faculty, Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Gallaudet University.

Roz has served as a NAD board member and President and a WFD board member. She currently is on the core team for LEAD-K, board member of WVSDDB and board member of Discovering Deaf Worlds. In her spare time, Roz writes and dabbles in the arts.

Roz will be autographing copies of her new book *Deaf Culture Fairy Tales*. Roz says this about her inspiration for the book:

"Growing up, I was a bookworm, but there was a disconnect between the books I devoured and my reality. None of the classics or

Friday, June 23
7:00—9:00 p.m.

BARNES & NOBLE
The Shops at River Crossing
8675 River Crossing Blvd
Indianapolis, IN 46240

*This event is part of our **BE INSPIRED** series, providing inspiration for the future for parents of deaf and hard of hearing children by featuring adults in their careers/passions.*

ASL/English Interpreting will be provided.

Questions? Contact **Sandi Lerman**, Family and Community Education Liaison
slerman@isdh.in.gov 317-232-2826

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