



Canadian Deafblind Association British Columbia

Working with a Pandemic

What a year and what a summer! Theresa had a wonderful article that was published in the National Intervention Magazine which summarizes how this unique year has affected deafblind intervention! Here's an excerpt from it:

"The pandemic of 2020 certainly put us in a 'tizzy'! Those with deafblindness had difficulty navigating this new world of online teaching – Zoom, Teams, Google Meet, Facetime, and so on. How does someone with a dual-sensory loss manage to benefit with virtual teaching and communication? Our Spring Intervention Program had a decrease in participation, due to COVID-19. Direct support was not an option. However, what began as a potential limitation has become a new way of support for CDBA-BC!

...I cannot tell you how heartwarming this whole process has been – to be able to include families from all over our province for these Summer Recreation Zoom Activities has been wonderfully rewarding. We have decided this form of activity will always be something we offer, as well as our face-to-face activities (when we are able to resume them). We are already thinking about an October Harvest Series and a Winter Series!"

As mentioned in the article, online Intervention cannot, and will not, replace direct Intervention support, but it has been a great learning experience and does offer many unique opportunities and benefits. If you want to read more, you'll have to check out the magazine!

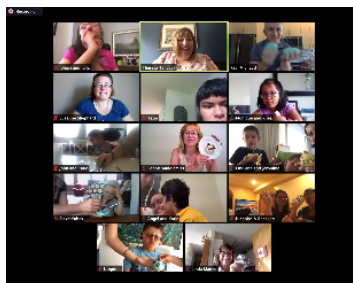
Inside this issue:

Working with a Pandemic	1
Zoom Activities	2
Sunny Hill Hospital	5
Intervenor Resource Team	6
Things We've Learned	6
Deafblind Awareness Month	8
Membership Benefits	9
ASL Signs of the Week	10
More Pics	12

What Happened This Summer?

With summer having drawn to a close, it is the perfect time to look back on everything that has happened. First of all, we are happy to announce that our Summer Zoom Activity sessions were a complete hit this summer! The number of attendees for each session were growing and we would like to say 'Thank You' for making that happen. It is thanks to all the families and members attending that we are continuing with a fall and winter zoom series!

In July, we began offering our Zoom Activity Sessions on Wednesdays. The Summer Intervention Program was still mainly in-person with the Intervenors supporting the children and youth directly throughout the



week. And every Wednesday, there would be a themed zoom activity for all the families to gather together from their own homes!

Boxes full of craft materials were organized and sent out early in the summer (Thank you Theresa!). The Zoom Activities began to take a wonderful shape, with the four features of Successful Intervention in mind: Anticipation, Motivation, Communication and Confirmation. Each Zoom activity, presented by Intervenors from our newly formed Intervenor Resource Team, begins and ends with Hello and Goodbye songs and includes 'ASL Signs of the Week'; each week, having its own theme and activity.

By Eric Ho (Summer Office Assistant)

Zoom Activities



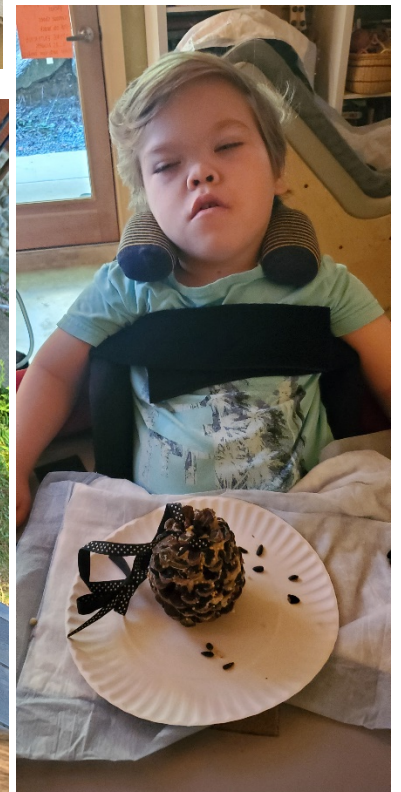
The first Zoom Activity session to kick off the summer was making bread people! With just a few simple ingredients, materials, time, and a whole lot of creativity, a bunch of beautiful (and tasty) bread people were baked. It was the first zoom session of the summer and it was great getting to see many familiar faces. Throughout the activity, interactive songs and videos were played – so much fun! Following the success of the zoom activity, the zoom sessions kept growing as each week new and exciting activities were planned like making pine cone bird feeders and oceans in a bottle!



Zoom Activities



Zoom Activities



NEW Sunny Hill Hospital



Sunny Hill Hospital has moved. As of August 30th, 2020 Sunny Hill Hospital has been relocated from its East Vancouver location into a state-of-the-art facility at the BC Children's Hospital campus on Oak Street.

New Address: 4500 Oak Street, Vancouver
New Phone Number: 604-975-2345
or toll-free: 1-888-300-3088

The Sphere, a sculpture designed by Victoria-based artist Nathan Scott, greets patients, their families and staff as they arrive at the new Sunny Hill Health Centre facility.

*It features six words.
Perseverance. Strength.
Courage. Community.
Resilience. Healing. Nowhere
are these qualities more
apparent than within Sunny
Hill's remarkable community.
Facing unique challenges,
children at Sunny Hill embody
these words with spirit and
determination.*

*This sculpture is just one of
countless examples of the
healing artwork at Sunny Hill
that helps create a calming
and engaging environment for
kids and families there.*



Intervenor Resource Team

The addition of an Intervenor Resource Team has greatly benefitted this new program. Each week, this group of experienced Intervenors would meet to plan and coordinate the activity for that week. Then, following the week's activity session, they would meet to discuss how the session went, what could be improved, what worked well/didn't work well. Together we have discovered the many Silver Linings of Virtual Programming – wonders that we never imagined could have come from this and benefits that we never thought possible in the world of deafblindness.

I am so very thankful for this team, as they brought to the table a potpourri of experience and amazing insight that ensured a wonderful sensory experience for each participant. Many thanks to our team: Katie Carter-DesBiens, Mary Hennig, Paul Michaud, Bonnie Middlemiss, Suzanne Shephard, Joleen Turgeon, Tracey Vath and Linda Mamer – this program could not have happened without your expertise and dedication.

Things We've Learned About Remote Online Instruction

The following is a compilation of what we have learned through our Virtual Programming.

ROUTINE

- AMCC – Anticipation, Motivation, Communication and Confirmation: allows for Successful Intervention.
- ANTICIPATION/CONFIRMATION: consistent beginning and ending, as with the Hello and Goodbye songs.
- ANTICIPATION/MOTIVATION: shipping boxes of craft supplies to child's home – builds excitement.
- ANTICIPATION/COMMUNICATION: ASL 'Signs of the Week' to be introduced at same part of each activity – allows for review of previous signs, tying activities together and creating a memory of each experience.

PREPARATION

- COLLABORATION: creation of an Intervenor Resource Team to discuss and plan activities – ensures the activities will meet the dual-sensory needs of the participants.
- PROCESS vs. PRODUCT: sending supply lists prior to activity allows for preparation and planning.
- Shipping craft supplies and supply lists to child's home prior to activity allows for review of supplies and discussion around preparation – "What do we still need?" "What do we already have?"

MULTI-SENSORY

- Diversity of activities and supplies to meet the needs of all participants at one time or another.
- Including an Intervenor to sing and play guitar adds another sensory element.
- Allowing participants to take leadership, such as introducing the ‘Signs of the Week’, sharing a story, playing piano.
- Allowing and encouraging different methods, ideas and strategies during the activity – think ‘outside the box’.

TOTAL COMMUNICATION

- Including ASL ‘Signs of the Week’.
- Adding an ASL Interpreter.
- ‘Do with, not for’ – allowing time for everyone to complete each step before moving on.
- Allow for sharing of stories, activities of the week, exciting events. – Networking.
- Animate voice, actions and sounds to ensure participants maintain interest.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

- Keep atmosphere fun and light.
- Ensure background and working space is simple – not cluttered.
- Wear simple, bright clothing.
- Taking turns with presenting – allows for continued interest of participants.
- Never assume something won’t work – we have been pleasantly surprised through all of our sessions, never anticipating the wonder of these sessions.

Deafblind Awareness Month



June is National Deafblind Awareness Month. Many people take for granted how we receive information through our eyes and ears - whether it's conversation, news articles, or the television - but these ways of receiving information that most take for granted can have many barriers for a person that is deafblind. Deafblind Awareness Month is decidedly in June to mark and celebrate Helen Keller's birth month as her journey with the help of her Intervenor, Annie Sullivan, diminished many of these barriers.

Since 2015, we have celebrated Deafblind Awareness Month across Canada and this year in recognition of National Deafblind Awareness Month, five B.C. landmark buildings were lit up in blue – BC Place, Surrey Civic Center, Anvil Centre, Vancouver City Hall, and Rogers Arena. We sure missed meeting for dinner before the lighting and the photo-op and we greatly missed our annual Bowling event that typically pairs with our AGM. Our Annual General Meeting was done via Zoom - a first for us! It was neat to see the 'screen of red', and we even had the pleasure of attendance from our CDBA National President, Carolyn Monaco - all the way from Ontario!



CDBA Membership Benefits

Below are a list of the benefits for joining CDBA-BC Chapter and CDBA National, respectively. Membership forms may be found on either website: www.cdbabc.ca or www.cdbanational.com.

CDBA-BC

Hospital Intervention Services Program (HISP)

This program provides the support of an Intervenor to individuals with deafblindness within a hospital setting, facilitating communication and access to information within their environment.

Relief Intervention Services Program (RISP)

This program provides the support of an Intervenor to individuals with deafblindness during a time when the family may be in an emergency or crisis situation, to facilitate communication and access to information within the environment.

Summer Recreation Program

This program provides opportunities for individuals with deafblindness to explore new activities and develop social relationships with other individuals who are deafblind during the summer months. In the past, it has been offered in the Lower Mainland, on Vancouver Island and in the Okanagan



Canadian Deafblind Association
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Email: info@cdbanational.com
Website: www.cdbanational.com



For AGM voting privileges, all memberships must be received at least 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, which is held each year on the 3rd Saturday of September

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Membership year runs from April 1 – March 31

PLEASE CHECK ONE:	1 year	2 years
Individual Membership (voting member)	\$ 30.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Associate Membership (CDBA staff)	\$ 25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 40.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family Membership (one vote per family)	\$ 35.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 60.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Membership (one vote)	\$ 65.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 120.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

OPTIONAL DONATION (a charitable receipt will be issued for tax purposes)

\$25.00 \$50.00 \$75.00 Other \$ _____

CDBA National sincerely appreciates your generous support!

PLEASE CHECK the CATEGORY THAT MOST ACCURATELY DESCRIBES YOUR AFFILIATION:

Deafblind Consumer Parent Sibling CDBA Staff Intervenor
Interested Party Teacher/Therapist Agency Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: () _____

E-mail: _____

Type of Payment: Cheque Money Order Visa MasterCard Cash

If paying by credit card, all of the following information must be completed.

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE mail, or scan and email, a completed form with payment to the CDBA National Office

CDBA NATIONAL

Share the Mission

Join with families, consumers, professionals, advocates and Intervenor to assist all persons who are deafblind to achieve, with Intervention, the best quality of life.

Be an advocate

Participate in a wide range of activities on behalf of individuals with deafblindness, including political action, public awareness, communications, and fundraising.

Enjoy "Intervention" News Magazine

Receive the acclaimed CDBA news magazine "Intervention". Each edition is packed full of articles from Chapters and facilities across Canada, personal profiles, professional information, and news from the international scene.

Network

Share knowledge and ideas with fellow family members, advocates, professionals, peers, and Intervenor at meetings and conferences and through the Internet via Facebook, Twitter and the CDBA website.

Support educational opportunities

Involve yourself in provincial workshops and seminars on deafblindness as a delegate, planner, volunteer, sponsor and/or donor.

Receive information

Via CDBA National's quarterly e-newsletter; "Fact Sheets" on a variety of topics such as Congenital Rubella, CHARGE Syndrome and Usher Syndrome, as well as a "CDBA e-Bulletin" delivering deafblind news directly to your inbox each month. Membership also gives you complete access to CDBA archived presentations, articles, reports and more.

Belong to a provincial Chapter

Benefit from automatic membership in the provincial Chapter where you reside. Through a Chapter you can be involved in 'grass roots' activities and service programs, participating hands-on in improving the lives of individuals who are deafblind. Provincial CDBA Chapters also regularly publish a newsletter loaded with stories, articles and pertinent information about deafblindness.

Benefit from CDBA's international connection

Opportunities to meet and learn from professionals, consumers and family members from around the world and discover similarity of goals through CDBA's international connection with Deafblind International (DbI)

Learn from deafblind research efforts

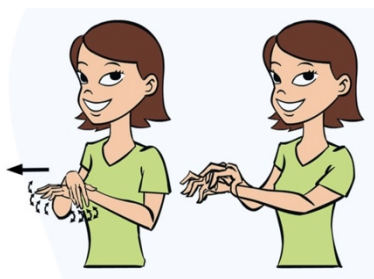
Discover the latest research on deafblindness, including Congenital Rubella, CHARGE and Usher Syndrome, and even explore opportunities to participate in new research

Signs of the Week

As well as including the consistency of our Hello and Goodbye songs, we also learned new signs each week, with our 'ASL Signs of the Week'. We included signs that corresponded with the theme and craft activity of the week, as well as corresponding colours. Below is a list of the many signs we learned this summer, along with some of their pictures!

Themes/craft words:

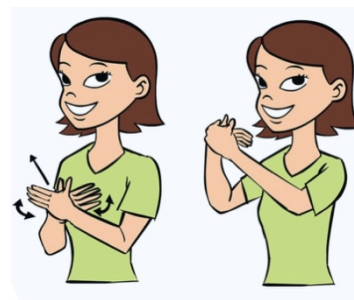
Wind chimes	tin can	string	bird	spider
feed	flower	plant	butterfly	ocean
fish	rock	shark	flour	salt
fire	music	paint	summer	



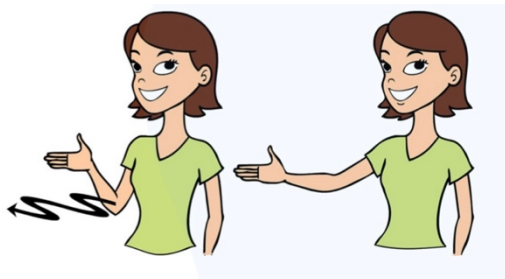
spider



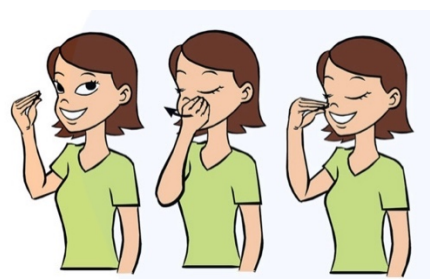
shark



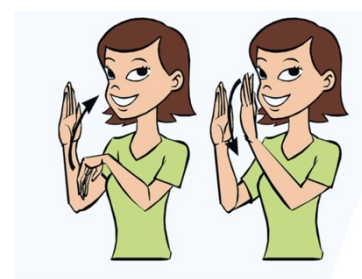
butterfly



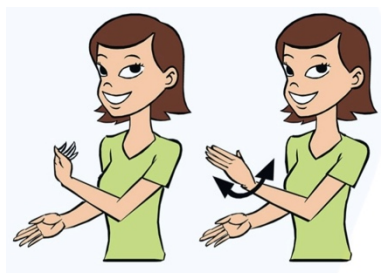
fish



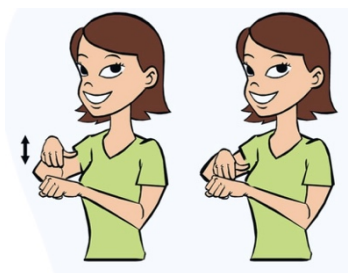
flower



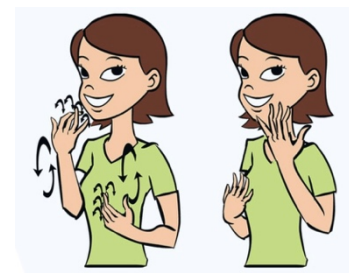
paint



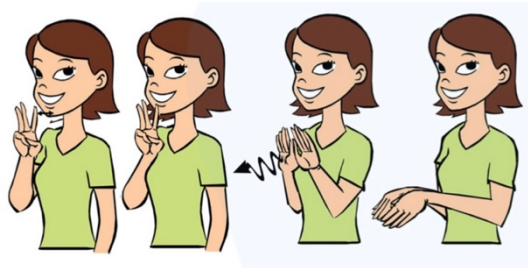
music



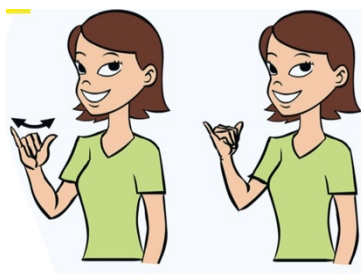
rock



fire

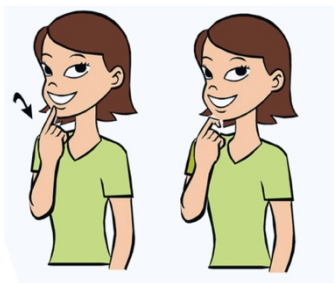


ocean

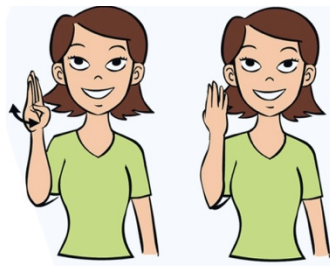


yellow

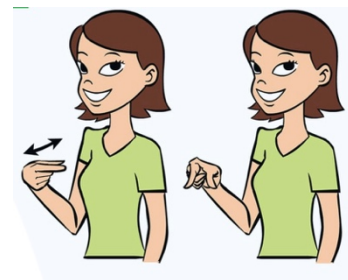
Colours: red yellow blue green orange



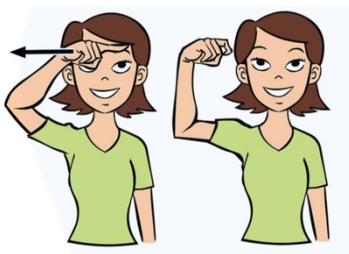
red



blue



green



summer

Shout out!!!

Thank you to Skymart Couriers, Aldergrove, for their kind financial and business support with shipping and boxing of the craft packages for our Zoom activities.





We look forward to continuing to create and have fun with you! Our hope is to get through this pandemic together and look forward to a Hybrid Summer Recreation Program that is combined with this new Virtual Recreation Program. Onwards and upwards!