

Statewide Family Support Center NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 • Issue 5

MAY 2005



*Serving Kentucky's
Families with Children
Who are Deaf and Hard
of Hearing*

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Click on "Family Education Newsletters"

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<http://office.microsoft.com/clipart>

The SFSC is part of the Kentucky School for the Deaf's Outreach Services and the Statewide Educational Resource Center on Deafness, components of the Kentucky Department of Education.

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Write to us at:

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Danville, KY 40423



KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) was established by appropriation from the Kentucky legislature during the 1982 session. The KCDHH acts as an advocate for deaf and hard of hearing persons on legislative issues as well as a consultant to the Governor, General Assembly and various state and local government agencies concerning policies and programs that pertain to deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

The KCDHH has several on-going programs and projects that support the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing of any age. Some of these services are listed below:

- provides services to any person in the state affected by any degree of hearing loss can contact KCDHH for information.
- maintains files of information on a broad spectrum of deaf and hearing loss related topics.
- refers consumers to the appropriate resources in situations where the information is not on-site.
- intervenes on a case-by-case basis to provide empowerment and advocacy to persons and their families where discrimination may have occurred.
- provides workshops on deafness-related topics.
- publishes a quarterly newsletter, biennial Directory of Services, and other flyers, brochures and documents.
- maintains a

web site with information about all of the happenings at KCDHH, reports,

frequently requested packets, etc. You can find this web site at: www.kcdhh.ky.gov.

- distributes materials from their Deaf Resource Library, one of the most comprehensive collections of deafness related materials. Families, professionals, and other people may check out these materials in person or via phone, mail, email, or the KCDHH web site.

- plans and coordinates the biennial DeafFestival, a true celebration of the language, culture, diversity and arts of the deaf and hard



of hearing community.

- supports the Deaf Access Stations. This interactive, digital, statewide network (28 sites) allows digital access to state services, educational and employment opportunities for the more than 440,000 deaf and hard of hearing persons even in Kentucky's most rural areas.
- manages the TDD Distribution Program which provides equipment to deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired consumers.

The mission of the KCDHH is to provide effective and efficient leadership, education, advocacy, and programs to eliminate barriers and to meet the social, economic, educational, cultural and intellectual needs of deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.

Families are welcome and encouraged to contact KCDHH with



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KCDHH (continued from Page 1)

questions about any of their services and/or programs. Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins is the Executive Director.

Kentucky Commission on the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
632 Versailles Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-573-2604 or 800-372-2907
kcdhh@kcdhh.ky.gov
www.kcdhh.ky.gov

Editor's note: The information in this article was compiled from KCDHH brochures, flyers, and their 2003 Directory of Services.



THE SUPPORT NETWORK for FAMILIES

The Support Network for Families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children met in April. They are planning a Family Festival for August of this year. Several different school programs, agencies, and service providers will be asked to set up booths and share information with families. Companies with products for the deaf/hard of hearing community will also be invited. FUN family booths will be included. Plans also have Ky-SPIN listed as possibly providing some important information for families. Finally, a potluck supper will close out the day. Although the first Family Festival will be held in Danville, the Support Network hopes other areas of the state will invite them to repeat this fun, family event.

They have been selling items from The Body Shop. Elizabeth Dick, a Body Shop consultant from Somerset agreed to sponsor this fundraiser. They recently finished and have over \$1500. in sales with a profit of over \$300. They also received several free items and will use these as door prizes at their Fall Family Festivals.

The next meeting of the Support Network will be Saturday, June 11th. Morning munchies will be provided starting at 9:00 with the meeting starting at 10:00. Come join this dynamic group as they plan their Family Festivals!

If you want to participate in their list serv and receive/reply to emails, read notes of the

meetings, and download other documents, email Cindy Freer at TCLMBFreer@aol.com or call her at 606-875-3295.



THE LITERACY CORNER !

By Heidi Givens

Last month I shared with you ways you can incorporate literacy activities into your daily routine. I sure hope many of you have tried them. You might have noticed that even though these activities were targeted for younger deaf/hard-of-hearing children, you can modify them and use them with your older children.



The following is good information that was submitted by Rebecca Dabney, Education Director, Heuser Hearing Institute/Louisville Deaf Oral School. If you notice, her tips work for any family, regardless of communication method used.

Tips for Families: Reading to Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

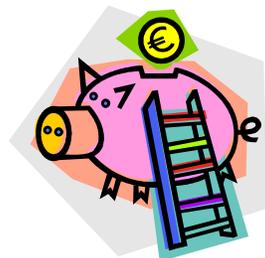
Reading to children helps because:

- Looking at books develops concentration and attention span
- Reading and rereading books reinforces newly learned words
- Reading helps the child learn about things not in the immediate environment (elephants, kings, Canada)
- Reading helps the child understand that written language is not the same as "spoken language written down"

What you can do:

- Talk about the pictures. You may want to disregard the print at first to keep your youngster interested in the book or to simplify the language if the child doesn't understand it.
- Talk about more than just the objects pictured, but also what's happening, how it makes you feel, etc. ("Ah oh!" "It's a nice doggie." "Look out!" "Up, up, up." "I'm scared.")
- Don't feel you have to "read" every page. Less interesting pages can be passed over quickly.

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The Literacy Corner *(continued from Page 2)*

- before showing your child, be theatrical: gasp, "What do you think will happen?")

Next month, I would like to take the opportunity to answer the question for you: how can I read a book to my deaf/hard of hearing child? The answer is easier than you think.

Heidi Givens is a teacher of the deaf and hard-of-hearing in Owensboro, KY. She has been teaching for ten years. For four years, she was the reading specialist for deaf and hard-of-hearing programs in Miami, FL. She can be reached at heidigas@aol.com.



AROUND THE STATE

Tuesdays in May – **Owensboro area parents** are welcome to attend from 5:00-6:30 at Country Heights Elementary School on Highway 54. They learn ASL and focus on different topics of interest. Childcare up to age 12 provided.

May 10 and 24 – **Bowling Green area** Community Sign at Greenwood Mall, from 5:30-7:00. Hope to plan some parent education activities from this group.

May 13-14 - **Louisville Deaf Oral School Family Learning Weekend** at Cedar Ridge Camp in Jeffersontown. Families come together in a relaxed camp setting to learn about various topics that touch their lives as families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is a time to just get together with your own family and with others to socialize and have a great time outdoors. There will also be educational programs for adults and planned activities for children. For more information contact Rebecca Dabney at (502) 636-2084 or rdabney@ldos.org.



May 23 – **Northern Kentucky;** Community Services for the Deaf will host its Third Annual Awards Dinner at the Marriott River Center in Covington. The gala event starts with a Social Hour and Cash

Bar at 6:00 pm. The dinner activities start at 7:30. Phil Bravin is the featured speaker.

May 24 – **Paducah area;** Silent Dinner at 6:00pm, at Pizza Inn - 1001 Joe Clifton Dr (Paducah). All signers are welcome ...just let Paula Humphreys know if you are coming by at least the day before at (270) 443-3055 (V/TTY) or Humphreys@ksd.k12.ky.us.

June 3 – **West Kentucky;** Student Social with Andy Lange, the President of NAD. Andy is coming to Ky Dam Village to meet with students who are deaf or hard of hearing, ages 12 and older! We will begin at 10 am and go until 3 pm. Parents are welcome! It is our end of the end-of-the-year event. What an opportunity to have the president of NAD! To register, contact Artie Grassman at 270.293.8193 or email artierod@bellsouth.net

June 3-4 – **The Kentucky Association of the Deaf** will have its 40th Biennial Convention, "Hope, Opportunity, Courage to Make Change." Contact David Wylie at dwyllie@adelphia.net or visit the KAD website, www.kydeaf.org, for more information. Friday evening, "Magic Morgan" and the Miss Deaf Kentucky contestants will perform. This is open to the public and only costs \$5. for children and \$8. for adults.

June 11 – **The Support Network for Families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children** will meet in Danville at the Statewide Family Support Center in Lee Hall on KSD's campus. Breakfast foods will be served at 9:00 and the meeting starts at 10:00. Childcare provided.

July – **Louisville area;** The Kentucky Shakespeare Festival will present "A Comedy of Errors" (July 13-14) and "Macbeth" (July 15-17) with shadow sign interpreting. All performances are free in Louisville's Central Park at Fourth Street and Magnolia. For directions and more information, check out their website: www.kyshakes.org.

Elizabethtown area families of children with hearing loss who are interested in learning more about hearing loss and the needs of students, families, and schools, please contact Andy Hensley. Call him at 270-339-8376 or email him at ahensley@ksd.k12.ky.us

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Thoughts for today: *Families are like fudge... mostly sweet with a few nuts!!! ☺*
Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground

TEACHERS of the DEAF and HARD of HEARING

Christi Bailey is compiling a statewide list of *certified* teachers of the Deaf or Hard of Hearing (TDHH) for the purposes of keeping you abreast of current happenings and training opportunities. This list will include ALL certified teachers even if you are not currently working with d/hh students. Please contact her through email (cbailey@ksd.k12.ky.us) if you have not already. Include your name, mailing address, and school district.



SIGNING EXACT ENGLISH SKILLSHOPS

These skillshops will be conducted by certified instructors from the SEE Center. For registration and more information, refer to <http://www.seecenter.org>.

Dayton area – April 22-24, 2005

Indianapolis area – June 24-26, 2005

Eastern Kentucky area – Nov. 4-6, 2005



YOU ARE INVITED TO "CONNECT WITH KDE"

KY-SPIN is coordinating several workshops for families. They will be discussing current KDE initiatives for children and youth with disabilities. These full-day workshops are for parents and professionals. Lunch will be provided. Although there is no registration fee, you do have to register. Contact KY-SPIN at 1-800-525-7746 or 502-937-6894 or email them at spinin@kyspin.com.

May 2nd – Carl Perkins Community Center in Morehead (Rowan Co.)

May 10th – Jefferson Community College Campus in Shelbyville (Shelby Co.)

May 11th – Christian County Board of Education office in Hopkinsville



LEARNING TO LISTEN and LISTENING TO LEARN THE AUDITORY- VERBAL APPROACH

by Shelby Rutledge

The Auditory-Verbal approach is based upon a logical and critical set of guiding principles, such as early detection of hearing loss and aggressive audiological management, which enable children who are deaf or hard of hearing

to learn to use even minimal amounts of amplified residual hearing or hearing through electrical stimulation (cochlear implants) to listen, to process verbal language, and to speak. The goal of the Auditory-Verbal approach is for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to grow up in typical learning and living environments and to become independent, participating citizens in mainstream society. The Auditory-Verbal philosophy supports the option for children with all degrees of hearing impairment to develop the ability to listen and to use verbal communication within their own family and community constellations (Auditory-Verbal International, Inc.).

Auditory-Verbal therapy is a specialized type of therapy provided by a certified Auditory-Verbal therapist. It is designed to teach a child to use the hearing provided by a hearing aid or a cochlear implant for understanding speech and learning to talk. The child's speech and language skills are allowed to develop in a natural way following normal developmental stages. Auditory-Verbal Therapy is parent and child centered. The therapist and the parents work together during each session to facilitate the child's auditory skills. Parents learn, with the guidance of the therapist, how to create a listening environment through play and daily routines with their children.



Auditory-Verbal therapy is different from traditional speech/language therapy utilized for deaf/hard of hearing children in that it does not use formalized visual communication systems such as speech reading or sign language in training children. The A-V therapist focuses on the use of sound (audition) as the primary channel for learning and gaining meaning from the environment. The Auditory-Verbal therapist is a cross-disciplinarian trained in the areas of audiology, speech and language development, child development, and family therapy.

Through advanced technology via hearing aids or cochlear implants, hearing impaired

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The Auditory-Verbal Approach *(con't.)*

children can learn speech and language through listening without visual cues. The Lexington Hearing & Speech Center offers the Auditory-Verbal therapy approach as a communication option. Two of our speech/language pathologists have been working toward their Auditory-Verbal certification, which includes intensive training in Auditory-Verbal theory and practice, by participating in the Auditory-Verbal Mentoring Program at the Alabama Ear Institute in Birmingham.

If you are interested in further information on the Auditory-Verbal approach as a communication option for your child, please contact the Lexington Hearing & Speech Center, (859) 268-4545 or Auditory-Verbal International, Inc., www.auditory-verbal.org.



"RIDING THE BUS WITH MY SISTER"

This Hallmark Hall of Fame movie will be shown on Sunday, May 1st on CBS. "Riding the Bus with My Sister" celebrates the many important roles brothers and sisters play in the lives of their sibs who have disabilities. Grab a bag of popcorn and enjoy the movie!



SUMMER ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

For High School Students

The Statewide Comprehensive Resource Center for the Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students will offer its 1st Summer Enrichment Program for high school students this summer. It will be held the same two weeks as the regular summer school program, on KSD's campus in Danville June 5th-17th, 2005.

The following enrichment opportunities will be offered during that time:

- 1) A Walk Through the Kentucky Drivers' Manual which is designed to assist students who will be taking their driver's permit (written) test in the near future and will offer them with the vocabulary, reading and test-taking skills that will enable them to pass the written permit test.
- 2) Transportation Choices/Careers - is designed to explore various forms of transportation as well as career opportunities available.
- 3) Practical Living Skills/Independent Choices - will include such living skills as maintaining an apartment, money planning and management, food planning and preparation, etc.

- 4) Basics of Construction/Careers – will address safety on job sites, use of basic hand tools and the design and/or construction of a special project.

All courses will be held in either morning or afternoon classes for the two weeks of summer school so students will have two choices of what they would like to do.

For additional information, please contact Ruth Sigler rsigler@ksd.k12.ky.us or call Ruth at (859) 239-7017, ext. 2158

CAPTIONED MOVIES...

IN A THEATER NEAR YOU!

Opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing people to "go to the movies" are increasing! Both Lexington and Louisville have had frequent open-captioned movies for a while. Open-captioned movies are shown so that anyone in the audience can see the captions. Open captions are limited to only a selected movies, shown on specific days.



Soon, movie patrons in the Louisville area will have two theaters using the new MoPix Systems of "rear window captioning." RWC is where you request a reflector at the box office. You can use it in any seat to view the captions. Only one movie per week will be available.

Lexington: Regal Hamburg Pavilion 16

- www.insightcinema.org/

Danville: Danville Cinemas 8

- www.danvillecinemas8/cincode.htm

Louisville:

- Showcase Cinema Stonybrook

Okolona:

- Showcase Cinema 16 de Lux



KDE-ParentInfo

Did you know that the Kentucky Department of Education has a web-site just for families??? It's called "ParentInfo". You can find it at <http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/>. Click on "Parents & Families" in the left-side column. Then click on "ParentInfo Archive" (also on the left side of the page). The current issue is highlighted on that page. Click on that (at the time of printing, it was dated April 18, 2005). This issue has information about

- CATS testing,
- Private College Week in June, and
- Help with Math

KSD Happenings

April/May 2005

Kentucky School for the Deaf

Walker Hall News

- CATS TESTING during the weeks of April 18 and 25!!! Please be sure your children are well rested and have an extra hearty breakfast during those two weeks. Walker Hall is using the movie, "The Incredibles" as the motivational theme for assessment. Students are being encouraged to be "incredible" testers and make "incredible" scores!
- Students in kindergarten through third grade have made their annual trip to the zoo this month. Students are currently studying habitats and various categories of animals.
- During March and April, students have been exposed to a variety of artistic elements through mini-classes each Friday. The children have attended sessions on Visual Arts, Dance, Music and Drama. A cumulative performance will take place in May using the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and will incorporate all aspects of the Arts.
- Star Day for Walker Hall will be on Wednesday, May 25th at 10:00 in the elementary cafeteria. Parents are encouraged to come and see the awards program and applaud their children's achievements.

Middle School News

- ❖ The KSD Middle School invites you to their MIEVEAL FAIR on Friday, May 6th. (If it rains, they will postpone until May 13th). The Schedule is:
 - Procession/Performance 9:00-9:45 and 10:30-11:45
 - Booths/Information 9:45-10:30 and 11:15-12:00
 They will have Knights, Jesters, Dancers, Musicians, and Beggars!
 Come and join the fun!

High School News

Prom: Saturday, May 14
 Graduation: Thursday, May 26

Sports News

*** KSD will host its annual Sports Awards Banquet on May 12th. The festivities begin at 6:00 in Grow Hall. Former KSD student, Chris Miller will be the Guest of Honor and Speaker. Chris is now a successful basketball official. Contact Paul Smiley for tickets and more information.

*** The Spring 2005 schedule for Track and Field:

Monday, May 2	MS	Danville-Bate Invitational	Home
Tuesday, May 3	HS	Pulaski County Invitational	Away
Wed. May 4	MS	Model Invitational	Away
Monday, May 9	MS	Harrodsburg Invitational	Away
Tuesday, May 10	HS	Harrodsburg Invitational	Away
Tuesday, May 17	MS	West Jessamine Invitational	Away
<i>All meets are scheduled to begin at 5:00 pm.</i>			
Monday, May 23-28	HS	KHSAA Regional Track Meet	Away
Monday, June 3-4	HS	KHSAA State Track Meet	Away (at UK)



PLAN AHEAD: The KSD Alumni Association will have its Annual Picnic on Sunday, July 31, beginning at 11:30 am. They will have Door Prizes, food and drinks, and LOTS of time for seeing old friends. Cost is \$6. for adults, \$3. for children, 12-17 with kids under 12 free.



*Serving Kentucky's Families with
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Hearing*

**PO Box 27
Danville, KY 40423**

The Statewide Family Support Center is located in Lee Hall on the campus of the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville. Families from across the state are welcome to call, visit, or email us with questions.

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