



THE BOOK OF CHOICE--COMING TO IDAHO FAMILIES SOON!

For years, Idaho Hands & Voices Parent Consultants have been loaning a book called *Choices in Deafness* to families of newly-identified children; it included first-person stories from families who had chosen different approaches to communication, as well as basic information about the methods available. The book was published in 1996, and becoming dated. Recently, Hands & Voices National published *The Book of Choice*, and thanks to Idaho Sound Beginnings, it will be very available to Idaho families. With money they had left in their budget, they have ordered enough copies to distribute to Hands & Voices PCs and early interventionists around the state, AND directly to families for the next year or so. The book is an excellent starting point for parents just beginning to learn about hearing loss and explore their options, offering basic information in a very browseable format with references for further reading.

SUSIE JONES RECEIVES AWARD FROM NCSA

Susie Jones, a founding member of Idaho Hands & Voices, recently received the Cueing Service Award from the National Cued Speech Association. This is an annual award given to an individual who goes above and beyond the call of duty on a local and/or regional level to provide invaluable support to Cued Speech users. Susie, a speech-language pathologist working in the Boise area, has facilitated workshops and practice sessions for families, and reaches out to families and professionals interested in learning more about Cued Speech. While Hands & Voices does not support any particular communication method, we do support having as many choices as possible available so that each family can find what works best for their child; thanks to Susie, Idaho families have one more choice.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ALERT

A bill to reauthorize the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act has been introduced in the U. S. Senate. Ten years ago the original Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act mandated that all hospitals provide newborns with a hearing test within the first three days of birth. This was significant in having all babies undergo screening. However, only 50% of the follow-ups of the babies who failed newborn screening come through. This is generally due to lack of resources. The current bill (S. 3199, the EDHI Act of 2010) increases funding and resources for all the states to provide greater follow-up services. Follow-up and intervention that begins in the first six months of a child's life makes a huge difference--please write Idaho's Senators, Mike Crapo and James Risch, and urge them to co-sponsor and support this legislation. This is easily done by going to www.asha.org and following the links to "Advocacy" and "Early Hearing Detection and Intervention."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lots of summer stuff in this list! If nothing is happening in your area, take the lead--contact Lorna about having some local Hands & Voices gatherings. We'll put you in touch with other families.

Cache Valley Sound Beginnings Summer Camp for children with hearing loss aged birth to 13 and their families at Sherwood Hills Resort (Wellsville, Utah, near Logan) June 9-11 2010. This is for families who are emphasizing spoken language; for more information contact Liz Welker at 435-797-1374 or lizwelker@usu.edu.

Camp Taloali information for 2010 is now available at www.taloali.us. Several Idaho kids have enjoyed a stay at this camp, located in Stayton, Oregon. They can go for one, two or three weeks; the first week is only \$50. If more than one family contacts us to say they're interested in a carpool, we'll put you in touch with each other. (see contact information on following page)

Toddler Early Listening and Language (TELL) group for children ages 18 to 36 months with hearing loss (using hearing aids or cochlear implants) and their parents, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00-11:30 am July 6 to 29, at the ISU Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Education of the Deaf, 1311 East Central Drive, Meridian. The program will include social skills, listening skills, speech and language therapy, music therapy and parent education and support. Call Cyndi at 208-373-1725 to enroll.

Toddler Play Group sponsored by Elks Hearing and Balance Center, Sunday May 23 3:00 to 5:00 pm, at the small shelter at Tully Park, 2500 N. Linder Road, Meridian. Children with cochlear implants and/or hearing aids ages 1-5, their parents and siblings are invited to share "Music and Movement." There is no charge; please feel free to bring snacks and refreshments. RSVP by May 15; call 489-4739 or email kweightman@elksrehab.org

IESDB Summer Play Group will meet Tuesdays at various times and locations (June 15, Zoo Boise; June 29, MK Nature Center & Municipal Park; July 13, Julia Davis Park and Discovery Center; August 3, West YMCA) for some great activities. All families with deaf or hard of hearing children or adults are available; for more information about times, entry fees (discounted or waived with password), etc. contact the staff at the Meridian Outreach office: Jill Muir 914-3728/ jill.muir@isdb.idaho.gov, April Nelson 963-0111/ april.nelson@isdb.idaho.gov, or Steve Birkby 914-0754/ steven.birkby@isdb.idaho.gov.

Region 5 (Magic Valley) Hands & Voices Activities: Officially in a rut (but an enjoyable one) we will be having the usual picnics at Dierkes Lake near Twin Falls (Wednesday, June 30, probably 11:00 or noonish) and Story Book Park in Burley (Saturday, August 21 at around 4:00 pm.) Mark your calendars now--Magic Valley families, watch for a postcard in the mail closer to the date or call Lorna Irwin (324-7544) or Beth Cram (934-4346) for more details.

Eastern Idaho Hands & Voices Play Group Tuesdays 10:00 am until noon, June 15 through August 3 at Caldwell Park, 8th Ave. & E. Center St. in Pocatello. Parents can enjoy socializing/networking with parents who have children with hearing loss, learn more about ID Hands & Voices and your kids can have a great time playing together, too! For more information, contact Renee Higbee at 850-5348 or higbren2@isu.edu.

Idaho Shakespeare Festival will once more offer sign language interpreted performances, and discounted tickets for members of the deaf and hard of hearing community (\$15.90 each, including sales tax; please reference code 2874 with your order.) For tickets, visit or contact the Festival box office--(208) 336-9221, fax (208) 336-4924, or mail: Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Attn: Tickets, PO Box 9365, Boise, ID 83707.)

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare, Tuesday, June 29, 8:00 p.m. curtain

An Ideal Husband by Oscar Wilde, Tuesday, July 20, 8:00 p.m. curtain

Othello by William Shakespeare, Tuesday, August 17, 8:00 p.m. curtain

The Woman in Black by Stephen Malatratt, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. curtain

(Greenshow begins at 7:30 p.m. June-August, and will be interpreted!)

Signed performances generously sponsored by the Deaf Center of Idaho, the John William Jackson Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation, and Bahner-Fiedler.

We asked Cynthia Carlin of Idaho Sound Beginnings to share with us some of the highlights from this year's EDHI conference. She says that she could easily spread the sharing out over two or more issues. Here's a start:

REACHING PARENTS VIA SOCIAL NETWORKING

by Cynthia Carlin

My first thought is what a great large group of Idaho attendees we had this year- in spite of the fact that the conference was in Chicago in late February. Although this was one of the few years where we did not have a parent partner attending, we managed to get together representatives from Idaho EHDI, the Program Manager for the Part C Infant Toddler Program, the Director of Outreach Services for IESDB and 4 audiologists: our state EHDI consultant, the NW EHDI consultant and two Idaho audiologists who requested assistance with attending in order to provide better services to their pediatric patients. With such a large state team we did manage to cover many of the excellent sessions offered.

The opening plenary session set the tone for the conference by giving us a taste of what's available in social media for networking. According to the opening speaker, "Social media such as Facebook can be the best way to connect with 'millennial parents' who are experiential type learners." Unlike other generations, they are more comfortable sharing information in groups, have been brought up on organized team building, they want to know what the big picture is, and they expect learning to be fun, and most of all they really like using technology. Since many of us in the audience were, let's just say from 'other' generations (with our own wonderful qualities) we were encouraged to look more to the younger parents to guide our outreach efforts. I also attended a small group session on using social media which expanded into the areas of twitters and tweets and widgets, etc.

In keeping with this theme I would like to invite all of you to visit our Facebook page. Type "Idaho Sound Beginnings" into the search box, and when you get there, hit the "like" button to become a fan and leave comments. It's only in its early beginning stages, but with lots of parent help I'm envisioning it developing into a useful support site for parents. Please send us comments and suggestions either through the site (Andrea Amestoy, our EHDI parent follow-up consultant will be checking it regularly) or directly to Lorna or myself, Cynthia Carlin (carlinc@dhw.idaho.gov). Unfortunately, since we can't log on to social networking sites from work I'm only able to check it occasionally at home, so for a faster response you can contact me directly.

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The following article is the second in a series, "Fun Stuff to Do with Your Kid." I asked my daughter for this one--the activity she chose surprised me a bit, until I read her story (here edited for length!) I also now understand why, when we moved to a new house, we had to devote an entire day to taking the playhouse with us. I'm now searching for a third story for the series; someone, send me an idea. Write the article yourself, or I'll interview you and write it subject to your approval prior to publication. With these stories, we want to go beyond hearing aids, implants, speech therapy, sign language, etc. and focus on activities that have little to do with hearing loss and everything to do with developing new skills, learning, and time spent doing things together.

THE PLAYHOUSE

by Mavis Irwin

My hands were blistering. My arms were aching. I was tired. I stopped sawing halfway through the grudging 4x4 white pine wood. I invited my father to finish the job. My father wouldn't, instead telling me to saw at angles to make it easier. I gripped the saw and labored, shifting from one angle to another often. Finally, after what felt like two hours to a seven year old girl, I successfully sawed through the entire 4x4 all by myself. "Let's do three more!" my father said. I groaned.

I don't know how I did it, but I did all four 4x4 corner posts as well as sawing through four 2x6 boards. We then bolted the wood pieces together and onto a cement foundation with the help of some of the neighborhood teenage boys. Once this step was done, we never rounded up extra hands again. Instead, I was the one who did nearly all the work, learning to measure and use tools--my father took over only when we needed to use the big circular saw.

I am not sure what started this playhouse building project, but I remember sitting with my father while he drew the plan. He had me draw the parts of the playhouse on graph paper, drawing everything to scale. I don't think I fully understood why we did all the drawing and planning. Looking back, I realize that I learned some valuable practical and life skills:

Measuring and using tools: Oh how I wanted to just cut the wood pieces for the playhouse! I liked to cut, not plan the cuttings. I would try to mark the lines by eye. My father made me measure them all out and my guess was often off by about an inch. "No short cuts, young lady!" Then I was allowed to use all his power tools except the circular saw. Of course, I found it hard to drill straight holes and keep my jig sawing lines straight. Yet, I got better with practice. The same went for pounding nails using hammers, driving screws straight into the wood with screwdrivers, and using wrenches. These skills carried on to being able to build and fix almost anything by high school. Today I am able to do a lot of car and house repairs myself, and enjoy woodworking in my spare time. I can't imagine not being a handywoman because this gives one lots of independence.

Work ethic, focus, responsibility, courage: Naturally, I wanted to do something easy and fun such as playing in the backyard instead of the challenging tasks. I remember how I would be sitting at the dinner table, whining that I didn't want to work. My father, who had time constraints, would look right at me and say, "If you want to get the project done, we need to push on and do the work." I would groan and drag myself outside and try to find the strength to start the tasks. From time to time, I would lose my focus and not complete something I was supposed to finish on my own time. Then my father would say he couldn't help me do the next step until I finished the work. By finishing tough tasks on my own, I found the courage to tackle more of them. I have to credit my father for being so patient, never taking over the tasks when I got tired and discouraged. In college, I completed a double major in Biology and Biomedical Physics, which required every bit of the work skills I'd learned first from the playhouse project, especially courage.

Self confidence and problem solving: In addition to not letting me take the easy way out by doing the work for me, my father put me in control of the playhouse project. He did give me guidance, but he would ask me what I thought we could be doing when we got stuck with problems. The problems ranged from not having enough nails to construction design problems we hadn't foreseen in the drawn plans. Sometimes my suggestion worked, sometimes his methods worked. We were a great team and I got to take an active role in solving the problems. I'm now in graduate school, doing research in a lab, which requires a lot of both problem-solving and teamwork.

Once the playhouse was finished, it stood for years as a visual reminder that I was capable of doing anything I put my mind to. I was proud of what I had accomplished as a seven year old. If I someday have children or "adopted" children who are interested in a big project, I will remember the playhouse and like my father, put the kids in charge while I guide them.

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To contribute to the newsletter, share an activity announcement, etc, contact Lorna Irwin at 208-324-7544 or niwri2@msn.com.

--and don't forget to send in your membership renewal and family directory update! Check the November issue for forms, or contact Lorna.