

South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

Informational Items

October 3 - 5, 2017



Partnering with Schools



SDSD school-based services are provided for children who are deaf or hard of hearing receiving educational services through any school program. Services are designed to support school professionals, parents, and students in their educational settings.

Services may include:

- Staff in-services to share information about hearing level and its educational impacts
- Technical assistance and orientation with hearing aids, cochlear implants, FM and soundfield systems, interpreters, and other technology
- Participation in the development of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan
- Classroom peer presentations about hearing loss
- Educational strategies and materials

Throughout the year, we ask educators about their experiences with SDSD Outreach. Megan McAreavey, a speech-language pathologist for the Tri-Valley School District, shares her experiences.

How did you learn about SDSD Outreach?

I learned about SDSD Outreach while providing speech-language therapy services for a student at a new job. The SDSD Outreach consultant had already been working with the student and she was wonderful at providing information to get me up to speed with the student's needs. Any questions I had regarding hearing aids, FM systems, audiograms, or further referrals, she was there to help.

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How has SDSD Outreach's involvement benefited your deaf/hard of hearing student(s)?

The involvement of SDSD Outreach has benefited my students as they help the student's team focus on how the hearing loss may affect the child in each area whether it is math, reading, social, etc. While I try to think through how the student may need assistance across the school day, I sometimes don't know what to expect or what the best solution may be for a problem. SDSD Outreach targets those needs with the hearing loss perspective in mind.

What would you tell other educators about using SDSD consultative services?

As a speech-language pathologist, I have too many things on my plate and it is always a balancing act. SDSD Outreach ensures that I am keeping the entire student in mind when planning for his or her education.

Friends of SDSD

Submitted by **Kerry Ruth & Nina Ringstmeyer**



SDSD has some truly amazing partners across the state! Because of that, we want to give a “shout out” to those individuals or organizations who have been strong supporters of SDSD’s mission.

In this issue, we would like to recognize Dr. Jessica Messersmith (Associate Professor at the University of South Dakota in the Communication Sciences & Disorders Department) and Todd Christensen (Rapid City Area Schools). These two individuals have been key in West River cochlear implant collaboration.

In 2012, Nina Ringstmeyer, SDSD Outreach Consultant, contacted Dr. Jessica Messersmith at the University of South Dakota to discuss how cochlear implant patients living on the western side of the state had no local services for their implants. Families traveled a minimum of six hours one way for appointments. An idea for services on the western side of the state was born.

During that initial phone call and many subsequent conversations, a decision was made that Dr. Messersmith would travel to Hot Springs, SD for the first West River Cochlear Implant Outreach Clinic. The team saw one SDSD client during that first clinic. Nina Ringstmeyer and Dr. Messersmith recognized that there was a need and scheduled the second clinic for October 2012.

Through a collaboration with Rapid City Area School District employees, Special Services Program Director Todd Christensen and Audiologist Julie Hintgen, the Outreach Clinic was able to utilize the school district’s sound booth for audiology testing. In October 2012, SDSD Outreach Consultants, Kerry Ruth and Nina Ringstmeyer, scheduled six children that had their cochlear implants mapped, serviced, and repaired. One father was brought to tears. His children had not received any services for their cochlear implants for over two years because of the inability to travel such a long distance.

The Outreach Clinic has continued to provide services twice a year in Rapid City. Since 2012, a total of ten clinics have been held. The Outreach Clinic currently serves an average of 40 SDSD clients throughout a three day period. This clinic would not be possible without the collaboration of South Dakota School for the Deaf, University of South Dakota Scottish Rite Speech Language and Hearing Clinic, and the Rapid City Area School District. SDSD’s mission is “Partners in Educational Success”. Our mission is only accomplished through collaboration and “Friends of SDSD”!



SDSD Outreach Professional Development Days

Submitted by Laura Scholten



Celebrate...it's a new school year! On August 8-9, the SDSD Outreach team had a great time during our Professional Development Days. We learned a lot and look forward to putting it to use with our students, families, and schools. But even more importantly, we celebrated the fact that so many individuals across our state have allowed SDSD to be part of their children's lives!

In addition to our learning, we took time to honor those who have been a part of the SDSD team for quite some time...we have such great jobs that we stick around! We celebrated three staff work anniversaries.



Kim Wadsworth
20 Years of Service



Eileen Anderson
15 Years of Service

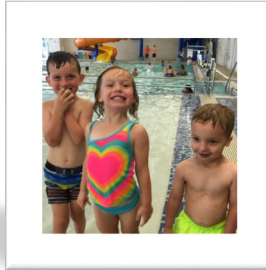


Kerry Ruth
5 Years of Service

You Make a Difference
Thank You for all you do!

Hands in Motion

Submitted by Julie Luke

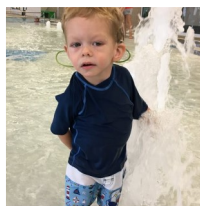


This was Hands in Motion's 9th summer, and it was an exceptional month. One of the reasons it operates so well is the successful partnership and collaborative efforts between the South Dakota Department of Education, South Dakota Parent Connection, South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD), and teaching and support staff consisting of 3 SDSD Outreach Consultants and 3 public school deaf educators. The SD Department of Education provides the funding to pay for staffing, supplies, and the daily operation of the program. SD Parent Connection provided staff to help with administrative responsibilities. SDSD provided the classrooms and funding for field trip transportation.

Twenty-nine students enrolled in the month's program. Five students travelled from West River with grant money paying for their transportation and dorm rooms.

In keeping in mind the importance of deaf and hard of hearing students meeting other deaf and hard of hearing individuals, the theme, was "Deaf Can!" We wanted to show the students they CAN do anything they want – they have to work hard, but they CAN do it! We invited various deaf adults in different professions to come meet our students! We had a baker, pilot, mail carrier, ASL teacher, community support specialist, nurse, racecar driver, Gallaudet University basketball player, and a Deaflympics track star. We also utilized technology and Skyped with a NASA engineer from California! The students loved seeing these professionals, seeing their hearing aids or cochlear implants, or seeing them use ASL. It's a wonderful experience for students to actually meet professionals in their field and start thinking about what they want to be when they grow up.

It was a highly successful month, and we requested SD Department of Education to continue to provide funding for this much needed program.



Peer In-Service

Submitted by Kerry Ruth



Many students who are deaf/hard of hearing are the only child with hearing loss in their class or school. As a South Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Consultant, it's part of my job to bridge that gap. Peer in-services are a great way to educate students about hearing status and devices as well as to empower my clients themselves. The SDSD Outreach staff has created a hands-on activity where students are part of an ear using a variety of props. We talk about the parts of an ear, how ears work, and the different technology to help people hear.

Over the past six years, I have conducted this in-service for many students. But this year, I had a pretty special helper. Clancy is a first grader who uses two cochlear implants. He is what we call an "excellent reporter". Meaning, he can tell us if one of his cochlear implants isn't working or if it is not connected to his assistive listening device. He also is able to report if the sound is too loud or if he can't hear the teacher. His cochlear implants are very important to him and he knows what sounds right.

Before the in-service, I asked Clancy if he wanted to be my helper. He was very excited. He picked kids to be different parts of the ear, passed out the props, and helped line up his classmates. When we talked about different devices for hearing, Clancy was eager to show the kids his cochlear implants. At this point, Clancy took over the in-service. He told his new friends (it was the first day of school) all about his experiences:

He went to Mayo Clinic and had surgery. He had to have stitches and a white bandage on his head. He got to choose the color of his implants (he almost picked blue but decided on brown). He charges his batteries every night. He doesn't wear the cochlear implants when he is sleeping. He has special implants for swimming. He has special earmolds made for his ears. The teacher uses a microphone that talks to his receivers, so he can hear her voice.

His peers were fascinated, sitting quietly and listening attentively. They raised their hands and asked questions as they were as enthusiastic to learn as he was to share. At the school's open house the day before, Clancy had been too shy to talk to his teacher. Now, he was giving a presentation to his class.



A Partnership with Families

Submitted by Julie Luke



We asked Dana Schmitz about SDSD Outreach services. Keep reading to learn how SDSD has impacted her family.

How did you learn about SDSD Outreach?

The day after my baby was identified as Deaf, I emailed SDSD inquiring about family sign classes. Immediately upon learning why I was asking about classes, SDSD set us up with an outreach consultant and our first meeting with her was a few days later! I didn't know about SDSD Outreach Services before that point, but was so happy to learn they were available.

How has SDSD Outreach's involvement benefited your child?

The services we have received from our Outreach Consultant, Julie Luke, have benefited my child in many, many ways. Julie's involvement has directly benefited my child by having a language model in our home weekly, showing her books and toys and describing them in American Sign Language (ASL), advocating for her during early intervention meetings, and incorporating her siblings in the visits as well. The services have benefited our family by teaching us ASL, directing us toward a countless number of resources and classes, giving us tips on how to best interact with our child (tips for reading, tips for rhyme/rhythm play, tips for incorporating different language themes and then expanding on the vocabulary our daughter was learning, etc.), and connecting us with other families. The support and encouragement we have received have allowed us to be the best parents we can be for our daughter. My daughter's face lights up when she sees Julie and she usually cries when she leaves. She loves SDSD Outreach Services!

What would you say to other families who are considering SDSD services?

SDSD's Outreach Program is truly the most valuable resource we have ever been given as parents. I have been beyond impressed by how well of a teacher, support system, and advocate our outreach consultant has been. At first, I wasn't sure what an outreach consultant did or why one was needed, but 18 months later, I know without a doubt I would have felt lost raising a Deaf child without the wisdom and support Julie has given us. It's very nice having someone "hold your hand" through a new parenting journey, having someone be there to make sure your child has all the resources they need to succeed. You won't regret starting services with SDSD, they are worth their weight in gold!



Outreach Services Update



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu

Audiology Department News

Submitted by Greg King

Mobile Hearing Labs ■ = West River Lab ■ = East River Lab

August	October- Cont.
15- Inter Lakes Head Start- SF	10- Huron
17- Inter Lakes Head Start- SF	11- Huron
22- St. Joseph Indian School	11- Lead/Deadwood
24 -Dakota Valley	12- Huron
25- Hanson School Dist./Ethan	13- Huron(Tentative)
28- Montrose/ Canistota	16- Lake Andes
29- Freeman/Bridgewater/Emery	17- St. Francis/Todd County
30- McCook Central	18- Todd County
31- Parker/Marion	19- Wagner
September	24- Avon/Tripp
6- Armour /Platte	25- Pierre
7- Kimball/White Lake	26- Pierre
11- Harrisburg PK Screening	31- Northeast Cooperative
12- Harrisburg PK Screening	November
13- Gregory	1- Northeast Cooperative
14- Colome /Burke	2- Sisseton (Tentative)
18- Mt. Vernon	2- Crazy Horse / Wambles
19- Wessington Springs/ Wolsey	7- Northeast Cooperative
19- Wolf Creek	8- McLaughlin/McIntosh/ Wakpala
20- Stickney/Corsica	8- Porcupine/ Our Lady of Lourdes
21- Plankinton	9- Northeast Cooperative
25- Kennebec/ Presho	14- Tea
26- Douglas School Dist.	15- Mitchell Early Childhood
27- Douglas School Dist.	16- Tea
28- Douglas School Dist.	16- Eagle Butte
29- Douglas School Dist. (Tentative)	20- Harrisburg
October	21- Harrisburg
3- Ft. Thompson/Chamberlain	27- Harrisburg
4- Chamberlain	28- Harrisburg
5- Wagner (EC Screening)	29- Harrisburg
	30- Harrisburg
	December
	6-Custer
DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE	

2017-2018 Outreach Clients

Serving Over
500
Clients Across
South Dakota



SDSD offers early intervention services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. Additionally, school-based services are provided for children who are receiving educational services through any school program and are designed to support school professionals who work with students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The Audiology Department is off to a busy start of the school year! In the last two weeks, the Mobile Lab has visited 8 sites and screened over 1,000 students. It doesn't look like things will slow down either. Check out where the Mobile Labs will be for the next few months!