



# Partners for Success Family Support and Resource Center

**Family Support and  
Resource Center**

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## **VRS-What is it and how can it help your family?**

Video relay service (VRS) is a free service that enables the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community to communicate easily and naturally with the hearing community through the use of American Sign Language. Audio and visual connection is made via the internet with the use of a video phone and TV or a web camera, software and a personal computer. Certified ASL video interpreters provide the link by interpreting the visual language (ASL) of the deaf caller and providing the spoken/auditory language of the hearing caller. Services are also available for Spanish speakers. Using a high speed internet connection such as DSL, cable, or T-1 lines and a standard telephone, deaf and hearing people everywhere, can contact each other at any time.

Now your child/student/family member can communicate easily with grandparents, other family members and community services using ASL through VRS. Think of the freedom of communication and the variety of uses that will be available to your student to communicate with ASL. Chat with Dad while away on a business trip, call the grandparents to wish them a happy anniversary, or call to order a pizza!-the possibilities are endless. Are you interested? Read on.....

There are a variety of VRS (video relay service) providers and several have programs that provide free video phones to qualified applicants. VRS is one of the newest ways for the deaf and hearing to communicate effectively with each other. Please read the adjacent column for a list of VRS service providers and information about on line application for video phone equipment.

**AT&T Video Relay Service** - Website: [www.attvrs.com/vrs](http://www.attvrs.com/vrs)

**Communication Access Center for the Deaf**

Website: <http://www.cacdhh.org> - V/TTY: 810-239-3112

**CSD-Community Services for the Deaf-(APPLY ON LINE FOR FREE VIDEO PHONE)**

Website: [www.CSDVRS.COM](http://www.CSDVRS.COM) - Phone: 800-296-3808

Services available in Spanish also

**Hamilton Relay, Inc**

Website: <http://www.hamiltonrelay.com>

Phone: V/TTY-402-694-3656

**Hands on Video Relay Services** - Website <http://www.hovrs.com>

**Snap Telecommunications, Inc.** (APPLY ONLINE FOR FREE OJO VIDEO PHONE)

Website: [www.snapvrs.com](http://www.snapvrs.com) - Phone: Voice-845-652-7010

**Sorenson Video Relay Service** (APPLY ON LINE FOR FREE VIDEO PHONE)

Website: [www.sorensonvrs.com](http://www.sorensonvrs.com) - Phone: 802-287-9400

More information can be found online by searching video relay services and video providers.

### **Parent Support Group**

Thursday, June 7, 2007

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

DILA

806 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury MD 21804

(410) 742-5052 or [dila@dila.org](mailto:dila@dila.org)

Free childcare provided during meeting

Parent of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children Support Group, typically meets the first Thursday of every month. This group offers guidance, support and topic discussions.



### **Maryland's Online IEP Demonstration Site**

Effective July 1, 2007 all public agencies are required to use the Maryland Statewide IEP form. The Maryland Online IEP Demo Site provides a user's view of the Maryland Online IEP. It provides access to the functions and fields of the tool. This site does not contain any live data. This online resource provides directions and explanations to guide users through the IEP application.

If you would like to see the new Online IEP visit <http://olms.cte.jhu.edu/olms/output/page.php?id=1344>



**Family Support and Resource Center**

Steiner Building, Room #100  
8169 Old Montgomery Road  
PO Box 894  
Columbia MD 21044

Phone: 410-480-4597 (v/tty)  
Fax: 410-480-4598  
E-mail: partners@msd.edu

A statewide support service for families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and the professionals who support them

## 2nd Annual ASL Fest Saturday, July 28, 2007

The Center for American Sign Language Literacy (CASLL) at Gallaudet University is pleased to present the 2nd Annual ASL Fest which is scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 28, 2007. The day will include educational presentations, hands-on activities, vendors, refreshments, evening entertainment and much more!

This event is for people who continue in their ASL language learning (from novice to conversational skills), but skilled signers who would like to attend are welcome.

For more information about this event and how to register visit

<http://gradschool.gallaudet.edu/casll/>

### 2007 Summer Institute at Gallaudet University

This summer the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. is offering professionals who work with deaf and hard of hearing students and families with deaf and hard of hearing children a series of dynamic workshops and trainings on a variety of topics.

Workshop topics include: play therapy and sand tray therapy, sexuality education, bully prevention, literacy development, portfolios, cochlear implants, visual phonics, digital storytelling, science teacher training, lego robotics teacher training, and family learning vacation.

For more information or to register visit  
<http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/TPD/summer-institute/index.html>



The Family Support and Resource Center wishes you a happy and healthy summer

### Research Project on Cochlear Implants for Children with Combined Hearing and Vision Loss

If your child has...

- a cochlear implant or is being considered for a cochlear implant,
- and a known or suspected vision impairment,

Then you are eligible for a new research project being conducted.

This project will look at the different ways that children who have both vision and hearing loss may be helped by having a cochlear implant.

A variety of assessments and questionnaires will be used to evaluate a child's listening, talking, and communication skills.

This study is being funded by the US Department of Education to answer questions about the types of outcomes that may be achieved. These outcomes may include:

- Identification of environmental sounds
- Identification of speech sounds and words
- Understanding of phrases and sentences
- Use of intelligible speech

For more information or to participate in this study contact:

Diane Kelly, Ph.D. at Connections Beyond Sight and Sound  
(301) 405-7915 or [dmkelly@umd.edu](mailto:dmkelly@umd.edu)

### DeafCensus.org

[www.DeafCensus.org](http://www.DeafCensus.org) is one of the premier sites on the web for deaf and hard of hearing communities, it has a new site offering a carefully compiled database of deaf and hearing loss related organizations. The sites spearheaded by Robert Plubell.

DeafCensus.org is pleased to provide information that will empower deaf and hard of hearing individuals and organizations with up-to-date, accurate data that will improve the lives of those with hearing loss.

### SAVE THE DATE - OCTOBER 6, 2007

Plans are underway for Deaf Independent Livings Association, Inc. (DILA) upcoming deaf awareness event on Saturday, October 6, 2007, at the Salisbury office. Members of the event's planning committee are hard at work preparing a fun, educational day filled with exhibits, seminars, children's activities, food and more.

For more information contact DILA at (410) 742-5052 or email at [dila@dila.org](mailto:dila@dila.org)