



Partners for Success Family Support and Resource Center

**Family Support and
Resource Center**

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Deaf Culture Notes

If you were late for a history class, what would you do when you entered the classroom? Most people would quietly take their seat. That would be considered courteous behavior.

In a sign language class, however, that would not be appropriate. In addition to entering quietly you would be expected to take a moment to explain why you were late. You might say as briefly as possible, "Sorry for being late. I was talking to my friend Sarah." Sharing information is the norm in the Deaf community. Especially when there is a change in the routine or expectations, an explanation is warranted.

Why is this? Deaf people have formed a cohesive and mutually supportive community. As one would expect, this close-knit community encourages a greater sense of familiarity. This is evidenced in the kinds of information shared. Deaf people in everyday conversations share a great deal of information about their day-to-day lives talking about family, friends, what they've been doing, community news and events.

You will need to teach yourself to share more information about yourself when talking with Deaf people than you normally would with hearing people who are not close friends. This may seem like a small difference between hearing and Deaf cultures, but it is not. As you become more proficient in ASL, you will begin to appreciate how keeping others informed will affect how well you get to know Deaf people and how much of the Deaf community you will experience.

Begin by developing the following habits of informing others:

- If you are late or need to leave early, inform the other people and include an explanation.
- Let people know when you are leaving a group situation, not just one person or the host, but most people that you know.
- If you're leaving for a short while, tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back.

If you get up and leave a casual conversation, even if you are not directly involved, someone is likely to ask the group where you went. If you've told someone, that person will inform the group and the conversation will continue normally. In this way the expected level of information sharing is maintained.

Reprinted from *Signing Naturally, Level 1*
By: Cheri Smith, Ella Mae Lentz, Ken Mikos

Deaf Camp

Ages 7 - 16

August 3 - 8, 2008

Get ready for the fun of Deaf Camp in an all new setting! Campers will participate in swimming, rafting, hiking, arts and crafts, low and high ropes, and other great camp activities. All activities will be conducted in American Sign Language.

American Sign Language Camp

Ages 8 - 15

August 3 - 8, 2008

Ready, set, sign! Campers will learn the basics of American Sign Language through daily lessons, and then have the opportunity to practice what they learn through shared activities with Deaf campers. In addition, ASL campers will participate in swimming, rafting, hiking, arts and crafts, low and high ropes, and other great camp activities.

Both camps cost \$375.00 for the week per person and are being held at Manidokan which is located 20-miles west of Frederick, on the Potomac River across from Harper's Ferry, WV.

For more information or to register contact the camp at 800-922-6795 or visit their website at www.bwcumc.org/camping

The Internet and Your Child

March 18, 2008 - 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Maryland School for the Deaf – Frederick Campus

Ely Building - Seminar Room

101 Clarke Place, Frederick MD 21705

A must for all families with children who use or will be using the internet

Learn how to keep children safe on the internet

The websites your children are visiting are they safe?

How much information is too much to share?

Presented by: **Frederick County Sheriff Department**

For All Parents and Children over 10 years old

For more information or to register contact:

Cheri Dowling or Pat Timm,
Family Support and Resource Center
(410) 480-4597 v/tty or (410) 480-4598 fax or
partners@msd.edu



Rochester Institute Of Technology Offers Summer Camps

RIT Offers Summer Camps for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Middle School and High School Students Three Rochester Institute of Technology summer camps for deaf and hard-of-hearing students combine self awareness, career exploration and fun for middle and high school students this summer.

Explore Your Future (EYF) is a six-day career awareness program that gives deaf and hard-of-hearing college-bound high school students, who are beginning their junior or senior year in fall 2008 the opportunity to experience college life and perform hands-on activities related to different career choices.

There are two EYF sessions: July 19 – 24 and July 26 – 31. Each year, more than 200 students get a taste of real-world careers in business, computing, engineering, science and art; meet other students from around the country and participate in organized social events like dances and visits to local points of interest. On the final day of each session, parents attend a workshop that helps them prepare their student for life after high school. Cost is \$650 and includes everything but spending money and transportation. For more information or to apply, go to www.rit.edu/NTID/EYFLS, call 585-475-6700 (voice/TTY) or e-mail EYFinfo@rit.edu.

Deaf and hard-of-hearing girls interested in science, technology, engineering, and math who are entering 7th, 8th or 9th grade can attend **TechGirlz** August 3 – 9. The girls learn about careers in science and technology through hands-on activities like building a computer, discovering the secrets of roller coaster design and becoming a commander on a simulated mission to Mars. Camp classes are offered in English and in sign language, are certified by the New York State Department of Health and incorporate National Science Education standards. The cost is \$650 and includes tuition, housing in a residence hall on campus and meals and snacks for the week. Parents are invited to opening and closing activities. For more information or to register, visit www.rit.edu/NTID/TechGirlzLS, call 585-475-7695 (voice/TTY), or e-mail at TechGirlz@ntid.rit.edu

Deaf and hard-of-hearing African-American, Latino American or Native American students who are entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade can attend Steps to Success, a career exploration mini-camp August 8 – 10. Students can explore career options through hands-on activities such as working with robots and doing science experiments, make new friends and begin to see options for after high school. Students stay in a college residence hall and all meals are provided. Parents or guardians are encouraged to attend and can get tips to support their student through this time of transition. The cost is \$50, and limited scholarships are available based on financial need. Experienced counselors and instructors use both English and sign language. The camp is certified by the New York State Health Department.

For more information or to register, visit www.rit.edu/NTID/StepsToSuccessLS, call 585-475-7695 (voice/TTY) or e-mail StepToSuccess@ntid.rit.edu

Eastern Deaf Timberfest - 9th Timbersport Event

Yogi Bear's Tall Pines Campground
Elmer, New Jersey
June 24 - June 29, 2008

Fun for the entire family

Magic Show * Comedy Show * Door Prizes *

Lake Fishing * Playground * Swimming Pool *

Volleyball * Horseshoes * Outdoor Movie Theater

Bike & Walk Paths * Mechanical Bull Rides * Dingo

ASL Contest * Bonfire * Mud Wrestling *

Water Activities * Children Activities *

And Much More!!

For more information contact

Allen Market at timbersport@easterndeaftimberfest.org

www.easterndeaftimberfest.org/timbersport

A Complete List of Summer Camps
for Deaf
and
Hard of Hearing Children
can be found at

<http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/InfoToGo/142.html>

If you would like to receive a hard copy of this list contact Cheri or Pat at the Family Support & Resource Center, (410) 480-4597 (v/tty) or partners@msd.edu, and we would be happy to send this to you.





What To Do About Lying

A primary rule for parents when dealing with lying is don't badger or corner children. Imagine you give a child the third degree about whether or not he has homework. He denies it six times and finally, after your seventh question, he admits that he has some. What has happened? By this time, of course, you are furious. More important, however, you also have given your child six times to practice lying. You may think to yourself, "Sooner or later he'll realize he can't fool me and he'll give up." Wrong. Many children will continue to take the easy way out: they will simply attempt to become better liars.

Look at it this way: you either know the truth or you don't. If you don't know what is going on, ask once and don't badger. It's a good idea here not to ask "impulsively". Many kids simply respond back impulsively. They lie, but their real desire is just to end the conversation, get rid of you, and stay out of trouble.

If you are going to ask, you might say something like, "I want you to tell me the story of what happened, but not right now. Think about it awhile and we'll talk in fifteen minutes." If he tells you the story and you find out later that the child lied, punish him for whatever the offense was as well as for the lie. No lectures or tantrums. Deal with the problem and try to fix things - as much as you can - so that lying does not seem necessary to the child.

If you do know what has happened, tell him what you know and deal with it. If he has done something wrong that you know about, simply punish him reasonably for that and end the conversation with, "I'm sure you'll do better next time."

Some parents still prefer to ask a child what happened - even when they already know what it was. This is OK if you do it right. You should say something like, "I got a call from the school today about an incident at lunch. I'm going to ask you to tell me the story, but not right now. I want you to think about it for awhile, and then when you're ready you can tell me, but remember I already pretty much know what happened."

Lying is not good, but it certainly isn't the end of the world either. It happens from time to time. It doesn't mean that your kids don't love you or that they are bound to grow up to become professional criminals. Over the years, however, frequent emotional overreactions on your part - combined with badgering and cornering - can produce an Accomplished Liar.

Reprinted from ParentMagic Newsletter, February 2008,
www.parentmagic.com

The Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and the state Rehabilitation Council invite consumers, colleagues and other interested people to public meetings. They will discuss and hear your concerns about DORS' future plans in light of decreased federal funding and increased demand for services. They will provide information about governor O'Malley's recent proposal for a \$2.3 million addition to the state budget for DORS.

They will also provide details about the 2009 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Possible topics include:

- DORS current waiting list for services and its implications
- Cost-containment measures
- Proposed changes about priority for services and vehicle modification services.

The meetings will be held:

Tuesday, March 11	Thursday, March 13	Tuesday, March 18	Thursday, March 20
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Deaf Independent Living Assoc 806 Snow Hill Road Salisbury MD 21804	Prince George's One Stop Career Center 1100 Mercantile Ln #120 Largo MD 20774	Arundel Lodge 2600 Solomons Island Rd Edgewater MD 21037	Orleans St. Branch Library 1301 Orleans Street Baltimore MD 21231

You can read about the above topics at www.dors.state.md.us. To provide comments you can 1) attend a DORS public meeting 2) email at dors@dors.state.md.us or 3) call DORS at 410-554-9435, 1-888-554-0334 or 410-554-9411 ty

After each meeting, DORS staff will be on hand for individualized assistance. Sign language interpreters will be present, contact DORS at least one week in advance if a foreign language translator is needed.



**Family Support and
Resource Center**

Maryland School for the Deaf
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



BABY SIGNING DAY

Saturday, April 26, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Enoch Pratt Library

Canton Branch

1030 South Ellwood Avenue

Baltimore MD 21224

(410) 396-8548

Story time that introduces the benefits of signing with babies. Presented
by Kathy MacMillan. For children up to age three with a caregiver

Super Sidewalk Paint

Spring is coming and children will be outside playing before you know it. Here's a fun recipe for sidewalk paint from the February issue of Family Fun Magazine.

Items Needed:

- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/4 cup cold water
- Food coloring
- Paintbrush

Directions:

In a small bowl, mix together the cornstarch and cold water. Stir in as many drops of food coloring as you need to get your desired color. Use a paintbrush to make fun designs on the sidewalk or driveway. To wash the paint off, simply spray the area with water.

For more summer fun activities visit www.familyfun.com

National Aquarium in Baltimore

Celebrates

Deaf Awareness Day

On

Saturday, March 8, 2008

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Sign Language Interpreters will be signing at

11:30, 1:30 and 3:30 Dolphin Shows,

Sting Ray and Puffin Feedings

For \$3.00 off discount coupons or more

information contact Jenny Maddern at

jmaddern@aqua.org or

(410) 659-4291 voice or (410) 727-3022 tty