2010 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

Saturday, June 12, 2010

Special events have been planned for the deaf and hard of hearing, their families and friends.
Spectacular entertainment, educational exhibits and interpreters for many of the Park’s shows and service will make this a memorable day for all.
Tickets are $27.99 in advance.
For more information call 804-876-5340 or email at events@kingsdominion.com

Vacation Bible School
For CODA and Deaf Children
Ages 4 - 12
July 26 - 29, 2010
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Lots of Fun, Bible Stories, Drama, Crafts, Prizes, Games, Refreshments and More
Hampshire View Baptist Deaf Church
360 Ednor Road
Silver Spring, MD 20905
(240) 297-3619 or HVBDC@aol.com

**Transportation available**

Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) Update

The most recent legislative session was a very busy one for ODHH. ODHH is proud to announce that SB68/HB1501 passed both the House and the Senate and was signed by the Governor May 4, 2010, and will go into effect on October 1, 2010. SB 68 was proposed by ODHH. Initially, this legislation required that TVs located in a place open to the public have closed captioning activated at all times when it is open and the TV is on. While in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, it was amended to require that captions be activated upon request.

Delegate Craig Rice cross-filed SB68 in the House, HB 1501, State Government, Human Relations, Closed-Captions Activation Required. HB 1501 was submitted without the Senate’s amendments. Despite the advocacy efforts of ODHH and many constituents and stakeholders, the members of the committee agreed with the Senate and amended the bill to require that captions be activated upon request.

Even with the amendment, this legislation is a step to ensure access for people with hearing loss in Maryland. For the first time in Maryland, if a place of public accommodation does not activate the captions on a television upon request, they have broken the law. This means that the deaf or hard of hearing person can file a complaint with the Maryland Commission on Human Relations and the business may receive a fine of $500.

ODHH Upcoming Town Hall Meetings
May 14, 2010 - 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
DeafNet—Deaf Awareness Day
Valley Mall, 17301 Valley Mall Road, Hagerstown, MD 21740
June 22, 2010 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Northern Senior Activity Center, 29655 Charlotte Hall Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Town Hall Meetings are used to solicit public comment and feedback from the community. Helpful information includes:
Comments on the quality of State services and programs affecting deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals.
ODHH related functions and operations
And other issues affecting the community.
Interpreters and CART will be provided at each meeting. For more information contact Laura Quinn at lquinn@gov.state.md.us
Camp for Middle School Students with Hearing Loss

African-American, Latino American and Native American students with hearing loss who are entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade are invited to Steps to Success, a career exploration weekend camp August 6 - 8, 2010, at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), in Rochester, NY.

The camp invites students to explore career options that can help prepare them for life after high school. Working with experienced counselors and instructors who use both English and sign language, participants construct robots, perform science experiments in high-tech labs, design digital images, and more. Students will stay in residence halls, get a taste of life on campus and meet other new friends from around the country.

Parents or guardians are encouraged to stay for the weekend and can get tips to support their student’s transition from high school to college or a career, as well as share experiences and information with other parents of students with hearing loss.

The cost for students is $50 and includes housing, meals and activities. Limited scholarships are available based on financial need. For parents, the cost is $100 per person for the weekend.

To register or for more information visit www.rit.edu/NTID/StepstosuccessNR or call (585) 475-7695 (v/tty). Registration deadline is May 31, 2010.

The Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPNet)

PEPNet provides resources and expertise that enhance educational opportunities for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. PEPNet regional centers work collaboratively to provide a broad variety of best practices and resources where and when you need them to enhance educational opportunities.

PEPNet recently released a list of Frequently Asked Questions. Questions answered range from:

- What responsibility does a school have for getting uncaptioned video clips captions?
- An incoming student majoring in health sciences program needs a stethoscope, who is responsible for purchasing an amplified stethoscope, and how will the instructor know that the student is accurately reporting information and describing sounds?
- Must a college or university provide an interpreter for study abroad programs?
- The student communicates fine with me in my office; why does he need a sign language interpreter for class?
- Why do some students with cochlear implants request accommodations and others do not?

You can find answers to these questions and the complete list of Frequently Asked Questions at http://www.pepnet.org/faq.asp.

PEPNet also offers online trainings. The online training offers participants flexibility in accessing professional development opportunities; users may have access to some trainings at any time. PEPNet offers several online training programs on a variety of topics, including an overview of providing services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing, developing skills as a notetaker, and addressing transition issues for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Most of the online training programs are provided free of charge, though some courses require a nominal fee to cover the cost of providing the training. You can find a complete list of PEPNet trainings at http://www.pepnet.org/training.asp

Save the Date
June 22 - 26, 2011
American Society for Deaf Children Biennial Conference
Being held at the Maryland School for the Deaf
Dispute Resolution: Solving Problems Positively Helps Benefit the Child

Parents and school staff are partners in sharing a goal of educating children with a disability effectively. Parent-school communication is an integral part of partnerships.

**Tips to help resolve disputes**

When parents and schools disagree, they can make their points without weakening the partnerships. If you are a parent, you can
- Disagree without being disagreeable. Express that you don’t want the disagreement to interfere with your continued partnership.
- Make a positive move to start a process of restoring the relationship.
- Accept responsibility for your own part of the problem or issue and solution.
- Realize that neither parents nor professionals have all the answers.
- Pick the battles. Not everything is worth the effort of disagreement and resolution.
- Consider the risks of facing an issue or avoiding it.
- Assume good faith on the part of those with whom you disagree. Try to understand their perspective.
- Make sure your statements are accurate
- Base discussion on facts and data, rather than opinions or emotions.
- Try to resolve the disagreement as quickly as possible. Don’t wait to see if it will go away by itself.
- Separate the problem from the person.
- Begin where the problem started. Do not go up the chain of command unless necessary. Discuss the problem with the person(s) directly involved.

- Be sure the solutions reached are written into the IEP. Ask who will do it and when. Be sure to obtain a copy of the document.
- Use compromise or a trial period as a key to resolution, such as “Let’s try this until (date) and see how it goes.”
- Monitor what you say in front of your child. This means that parents and school staff should discuss troublesome issues among themselves as adults. If an older child participates in the IEP team meeting, be an example of how to communicate effectively.

**A plan to help parents and schools solve a problem**

- Describe the problem clearly
- Encourage input from all members of the IEP team.
- Brainstorm, without evaluating the ideas.
- Choose a solution by consensus, (all agree).
- Develop a plan. Define who is responsible for an action and when it will be done
- Put that plan in writing.
- Create a timeline and criteria to evaluate success.
- Follow up

If you have tried without success to resolve your concerns through IEP team meetings, there are also formal methods of resolving differences for parents and schools to use. They include, filing complaints, mediation, facilitated IEP (not available in all counties), and due process hearings. You can find information about all these methods at www.marylandpublicschools.org or contact the Family Support and Resource Center at 410-480-4597 or partners@msd.edu

Reprinted from Pacesetter - Winter 2006 - www.pacer.org
Teeth Brushing

Here are three ways to help get your children to brush their teeth.

Use an hourglass sand timer from an old board game. Kids like watching the sand going down as they brush.

Brush your teeth at the same time, and have a competition to see who can go the longest.

Use an electric toothbrush with a built-in timer or a manual one that flashes for two minutes.

Reprinted From Woman's Day, February 2010, womansday.com

Trimming Tiny Nails

Cutting your Baby’s Fingernails helps avoid accidentally scratching themselves and you. With a touch of tenderness and the right tools and know-how, you can do the job.

- **Bath Time.** Cut their nails right after soaking when they’re softer. You may also want to do it when your baby is sleeping.
- **Assistant.** If you have a helper, they can hold or distract your baby as you tackle the job.
- **Bright Lights.** Make sure the room is well-lit and your baby is still if you’re working alone. Hold their hand and finger gently but firmly so they can’t pull away mid-trim.
- **Safety.** Use a clipper specifically for babies or safety nail scissors. Follow the curve of the finger, taking care not to cut too low. If you see blood, not uncommon, stay calm and apply gentle pressure with a gauze pad. Don’t put on an adhesive bandage, they’re a choking hazard.
- **File.** Use an emery board to file down ragged or rough edges. You may choose instead to only file the nails; it takes longer than trimming, but avoids the risk of cuts and bleeding.