Summer is right around the corner (really, it is!) and a time for fun and family. Don’t let summer brain drain lead kids to losing what they learned in school. Here are some tips...

**Use Summer Fun to Build Background Knowledge**

You don’t need to have a book in hand to help your child become a better reader. Interesting experiences give kids a broader framework for new information they might encounter in books. When kids have lots of experiences to draw on, they have a better chance of making a connection with what they read! How can you help build background knowledge this summer?

**Step 1: Take summer field trips**

Go to the park, the zoo, the aquarium, a sports event, a historical landmark, or a children’s museum. Go on a hike or to a natural attraction in your area. When you’re indoors, watch a TV program about volcanoes or the rainforest or marsupials, or use the web to take a virtual field trip to a faraway place.

**Step 2: Talk about it**

Talk about the plants and animals you see, or the rules of a game, or the history of your town, or the new things you learned. Ask questions that get your child to talk, like “If you could be one of those animals we saw today, which one would you be?” or “Why do you think those boulders were shaped like that?”

**Step 3: Follow up with a book**

Find out what interests your child, and visit the library to get more information. Check out books about butterflies or basketball players or whatever caught your child’s attention. Encourage their learning with comments like, “That was cool to see the inside of a computer at the museum today. Let’s learn more about that.” You could even have your children create their own book, with photos or illustrations of your activity and their own commentary. This is great writing practice and makes a wonderful summer memory book.

Building background knowledge isn’t just fun, it’s also a great way to spend your summer!

Remember children learn by example. They need to see and/or hear good readers read. That can be you, a family member, or story time at the local library. Thanks to technology it can also be on a recording! Here are some videos of books read translated into sign language.

(Tips for reading with a deaf child):

[http://www.gallaudet.edu/Clerc_Center/Information_and_Resources/Info_to_Go/Language_and_Literacy/15_Principles_for_Reading_to_Deaf_Children/1_Deaf_readers_translate_stories_using_American_Sign_Language.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/Clerc_Center/Information_and_Resources/Info_to_Go/Language_and_Literacy/15_Principles_for_Reading_to_Deaf_Children/1_Deaf_readers_translate_stories_using_American_Sign_Language.html)

**Wisconsin Sound Beginnings** is the State’s Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program, ensuring that all babies born in Wisconsin are screened for hearing loss, receive timely diagnosis of hearing loss and receive quality early intervention. WSB strives to ensure Wisconsin meets the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing recommendations for newborn hearing screening and intervention. These goals are known as the **1-3-6 model**: babies are screened by 1 month of age; diagnosed by 3 months of age; and receive early intervention services by 6 months of age. WSB monitors, manages and measures Wisconsin’s hearing screening, loss-to-follow-up and diagnosis rates through the web-based data system, **WE-TRAC**. WSB is administered collaboratively through contracts between the Department of Health Services and the University of Wisconsin-Madison State Laboratory of Hygiene and Waisman Center University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

**Wisconsin Sound Beginnings** works to:

**Ensure All Babies Are Screened or Have Documented Refusal**

Hospitals and midwives continue to screen 99 percent of babies born in Wisconsin. WSB, along with its newborn screening partners, have embarked on a project to analyze whether all babies born in Wisconsin received or have documented refusal of one or more newborn screenings.

The majority of babies who do not receive a hearing screening continue to be those who are born at home or a free-standing birth center, not hospitals. To increase the number of babies screened, WSB provides outreach, education and support to midwives and traditional birth attendants who serve babies born out-of-hospital (OOH) and their families. WSB provides direct services to families and community partners to provide hearing screening to families choosing an OOH birth.

**Reduce Loss to Follow-Up (LTFU) for Babies Who Did Not Pass their Newborn Hearing Screening**

WSB continues to systematically reduce LTFU through its 3-Step-Follow-Up process for babies who **did not pass** their newborn hearing screening. WSB works with hospitals, medical homes, families and local partners to help ensure accurate documentation in WE-TRAC, encourage audiological follow-up for those families who need it and provides in-home or in-community re-screens.

**Reduce the Time to Diagnosis for Babies Who Need Diagnostic Services**

WSB collaborates with audiologists and health care systems to decrease the age at diagnosis and provide case-specific and quality improvement support as needed or requested.
Reducing Loss to Follow-Up and Improving Outcomes for Babies Referred to Early Intervention

WSB created CARES — Coordination, Assistance, Resources and Evaluation Services — for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Currently, a CARES Specialist supports both families and Birth to 3 early intervention providers serving children who are deaf or hard of hearing in the Southern Region.

WSB also conducts the Assessment of Early Intervention Outcomes (AEIOu) study that tracks developmental outcomes of early-diagnosed children who are deaf or hard of hearing in the areas of general, communication and social-emotional development; the early intervention they receive; and the variables that affect positive outcomes.

H & V BOARD MEMBER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD

Dr. Elizabeth Seelinger, was named the 2015 winner of the prestigious Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence. The Maxon Award is presented each year at the National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Conference to honor an individual or group of people who have made a noteworthy accomplishment in achieving excellence in EHDI programs nationally or in a particular state or region of the country. Seelinger received her award during the 2015 conference, held in Louisville, KY. She was selected from among five individuals nominated to receive this award, which was first presented in 2008.

As Program Director, Dr. Seeliger has led the Wisconsin Sound Beginnings (WSB) EHDI program since its inception. Along with a strong system of collaborators, she successfully created systems and programs to establish UNHS and reduced loss to follow-up (LTFU) by engaging stakeholders, which included families, health care systems and early intervention programs.

Dr. Seeliger is a strong believer in family involvement and support. She collaboratively developed programs and materials that have been replicated by others: the Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program, Parent Resource Notebook for families of newly diagnosed children, and the web-based EHDI Toolkit. She also serves on the boards of Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices and Hands & Voices Headquarters. Dr. Seeliger has worked to build a system of care that truly meets families where they are at, developing a team of Regional Outreach Specialists who provide in-home and community screening to families who are experiencing barriers to traditional care and creating culturally sensitive educational materials to be shared with families. She also strives to ensure that the WSB program is learning and growing through participation in conferences, trainings and other opportunities, such as the National Center for Cultural Competence EHDI Community of Learners.

Dr. Seeliger is a true innovator who has helped Wisconsin become a leader in ensuring that all babies born in Wisconsin are screened, diagnosed and receive timely, culturally appropriate and family-centered early intervention.
Join us for the
2015 D/HH Olympic Day!
Thursday, May 7, 2015

CESA 4 and WESP-DHH Outreach are partnering to bring deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind students from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa a day full of fun and socializing!

Deaf professional UFC wrestler, Matt Hamill, and Deaf magician, Magic Morgan will give presentations that will wow the audience. You don’t want to miss them!

Bring gym shoes, a swim suit, towel, and lunch.

This event is free to all D/HH/DB children, their families, and professionals who work with them.

Interpreters will be provided.

Please pre-register at: [http://goo.gl/qixL3Z](http://goo.gl/qixL3Z)

YMCA-North
400 Mason Street
Onalaska WI 54650

10:40 AM to 2:00 PM
(Check-in begins at 10:30 AM)
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
UWM’s D/HH Preview Day

Please join us on: **Thursday April 23rd, 2015**

**Where?** Sandburg Hall Flicks Theater
3400 N Maryland Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53211

**WHO SHOULD COME?**
- Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors that are:
  - Deaf
  - Hard of Hearing
  - D/HH plus other disabilities
- Transition Coordinators for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Parents

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**
- 8:30 - 9:00am Welcome/register
- 9:15 - 10:00 DHH presentation
- 10:00 - 10:15 Break
- 10:15 - 11:00 Student Panel
- 11:00 - 12:00 Tours
- 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch (on your own in Union)
- 12:30 – 1:30 Resources from Career Development Center, Financial Aid, and more
- 1:30 pm Program Concludes

**RSVP Now**
To register, please email the D/HH advisor Jason Anderson at Anders96@uwm.edu or 414-937-5875 (VP) and include all of the below:

1) Students full name and email address
2) School, City and State
3) Students email address/phone number
4) Names of those accompanying student
5) Accommodations such as:
   - Interpreter- please indicate student preferences for ASL, SEE, PSE? Does student voice for self?
   - Real-Time Captioning
   - Cued Speech

The ARC D/HH program looks forward to seeing you there!

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HLAA’s Walk4Hearing is a national program designed to raise awareness about hearing loss and funds for both national and local programs and services for those with hearing loss.

The Milwaukee Walk4Hearing will be held on **May 30, 2015**. This 5k Walk event will be held at **Veteran’s Park** in Milwaukee.

Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices is an affiliate which means that 40% of the money our team raises will come back to our organization.

Won’t you consider joining our team and walk with us to help raise money for this worthwhile cause?

Can’t join us on that day? You can still make a tax-deductible online contribution to our team:

Website: http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR?fr_id=2285&pg=entry
Look up Team: WI Families for Hands & Voices
Or Direct Link: http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR/Teamraiser/MilwaukeeWalk?team_id=39439&pg=team &fr_id=2285

Thank you so much for your support!
Please join us for our ...
"Spring Moms Brunch"
For Moms of Kids with Hearing Loss

WHEN: SUNDAY, April 19, 2015
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
WHERE: N6832 Donlin Drive, Pardeeville, WI

Please bring a favorite dish or beverage to share

Come join other moms, like yourself, of kids with hearing loss as we relax and share the thrills and challenges of raising our incredible children, and everything else, too!

Contact Laurie Nelson at lcpnelson@gmail.com or call/text 608-574-0747 with questions or comments. Please RSVP to Laurie by April 12 if you are able to join us.

Our Mission:
Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families statewide who have children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind without bias around communication modes or methodology. We are a parent-driven organization providing families with the resources, networking and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind children to reach their highest potential.