SUMMER SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

(Excerpt from Raising Deaf Kids found at www.raisingdeafkid.org)

**WATER SAFETY**

- Hearing aids and cochlear implants are not water resistant. Help your child to understand this and how to care for these devices.
- Communicate with the lifeguard on duty that a deaf child is present.
- Sun block is very important to protect your child against harmful rays. Water resistant sun block is the best for long term water fun.
- A common mistake that we make is forgetting certain spots when putting on the sunscreen. Ears, feet, behind the legs are places that we tend to forget.

**BE STREET SMART**

Kids think that if they can see a car, the driver can see them. They also have trouble understanding how fast a car is going. Your child may not hear the sounds of cars coming towards her. Teach your child to be street smart.

**PLAN AHEAD**

- Make sure your child knows who to call and how in case of an emergency
- Talk about how to contact an interpreter if your child needs one
- Make sure your child carries a card with emergency numbers with him at all times
- Make sure your child’s school, coaches, and child care providers know how to reach you
- Prepare an emergency kit with water, flashlights, hearing aid batteries, and other things your child may need
- Make sure your home is safe inside and outside
- Practice the plan with your family

*Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows ~ Helen Keller*
SAVE THE DATE: Sunday
June 29, 2014
We invite your family to a very special afternoon
A picnic lunch, a fabulous Splash pad and playground, and the opportunity to meet and network with other families who have children with hearing loss.
Lakeview Community Park, Middleton
6300 Mendota Ave (at Allen Ave)
11:30am – 2:30pm at the pavilion by the Splash Pad
The Splash Pad is fully accessible and safe for all ages (view it online at http://wi-middleton-civicplus.com/gallery.aspx?pid=98)
Please bring a dish to pass
Hamburgers, brats, and hot dogs will be provided

EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND BY JODI ANDERSON
This last article of the series on deafblindness will focus on practical strategies to use with individuals with combined vision and hearing loss.

Anticipation:
- Cueing using touch, smell, taste, picture cues, signs, voice, Braille, print, or whatever is appropriate to help the child be prepared for an event or activity;
- When interacting, letting the deafblind children know that you are there and who you are before you interact;
- Approaching the child in a non-threatening, non-startling manner;
- Touching the child when he appears ready;
- Using the same manner of approach each time and a consistent name sign or gesture so that the child can recognize them;
- Letting the child know they are leaving at the end of the interaction.

Develop Communication:
- Making sure the child who is deafblind has a reason to communicate and something to communicate about;
- Communicating in a way the child can understand using a variety of communication techniques to get the message across;
- Watching for all attempts at communication and responding accordingly;
- Helping the child expand his experiences with the world whenever possible and labeling new things in the environment thereby expanding vocabulary;
- Being clear and consistent and seizing any moments that allow for communication development;
- Allowing enough wait time for the child to process & respond;
- Providing opportunities to interact with a variety of communication partners.

Social and Emotional Well-Being:
- Interpreting and responding to the child’s emotional needs for safety and understanding;
- Increasing and strengthening the child’s positive interactions with others;
- Helping others understand and honor the child’s need to gather information through touch and close personal space;
- Encouraging independence at the level appropriate for the child;
- Structuring activities so that the child can be successful in a reasonable amount of time and know that he is successful;
- Permitting the child to decide whether she wants more or wants to stop;
- Giving the child more time to take in information, process it, and respond.

Access to Environmental Information:
- Teaching concepts directly as new skills are learned;
- Using routines to teach practical skills in natural settings;
- Emphasizing the beginning, middle, and end of activities and routines so as to provide structure;
- Providing feedback to help the child repeatedly understand the effects of his action;
- Promoting concepts and skills that will help establish a positive self-image, a feeling of worth, and an ability to contribute to the world;
- Providing choice making opportunities throughout the day to help the child have a sense of control.
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.
**Save the Dates for These Upcoming WESP-DHH Outreach Events!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 11 &amp; 18</td>
<td><strong>College and Transition Fair</strong> @ WI Lions Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 17 &amp; 18</td>
<td>WDBTAP’s <strong>Tips &amp; Tools</strong> Workshop in Baraboo</td>
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<td>August 4-7</td>
<td>Summer Institute&lt;br&gt;Teachers of the Deaf in Pewaukee&lt;br&gt;Registration is live!</td>
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<td>Educational Interpreters in Appleton&lt;br&gt;Registration is live!</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12-13</td>
<td>Spanish-Speaking Families Weekend&lt;br&gt;Registration Deadline: August 29th, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 24-25</td>
<td>Partners in Listening Workshop&lt;br&gt;More information to come soon!</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 7-9</td>
<td>Teen Getaway Weekend, Jr.&lt;br&gt;WI Lions Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22-23, 2015</td>
<td>Annual Statewide Professional Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 23-25, 2015</td>
<td>Annual Statewide Family Conference</td>
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**Renew Your Membership or Become a Member Today!**

**2014 Hands & Voices WI Membership**

Please circle one of the following:
- Parent of a deaf/HH child $25.00
- Deaf/HH Adult $25.00
- Student $25.00
- Professional $40.00
- Organization/agency $75.00
- Additional Donation $___

Name____________________  
Address___________________  
Phone ________________  
E-mail___________________

Method of Payment  
Check ____ Scholarship ____

**Become a Member/Renew Online!**

Credit Card Payment NOW Accepted!

Please Visit:  
http://www.handsandvoiceswi.org/

Or clip and mail to:  
WI Families for Hands & Voices  
PO Box 9644  
Green Bay, WI 54308

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**HELP OTHERS BY DONATING USED HEARING AIDS!**

WI Families for Hands & Voices is now accepting hearing aids donations as part of a partnership with Starkey. If you have hearing aids that are not being used and would like to make a charitable donation to help WI Families for Hands & Voices, please return them to WI Families for Hands & Voices.  
Recycle now! Contact Hands & Voices at handsandvoiceswi@yahoo.com for a self-addressed, stamped envelope.