



The Arizona Deafblind Project NEWSLETTER

March 27, 2020



Educating Learners with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss during COVID-19

The field of deafblind education places a high value on interaction, closeness and hands-on learning. During a time of school closures, distance and virtual learning can seem like a mismatch for our unique and diverse group of learners.

The Arizona Deafblind Project acknowledges

- Most of us are dealing with an overwhelming amount of incoming information
- New formats for learning will take time and patience
- We can try and do a little when we feel ready

Tip of the Week

Establishing a Predictable “School-Like” Schedule at Home

During a time of uncertainty, a predictable schedule can be a great way for children and youth who are deafblind to establish that much-needed sense of security. Consider tailoring the following sample schedule for your own needs. The times on the schedule are not important. Just try to keep your daily activities in the same order and do the best you can. Many of the links included can be shared across learning styles and levels.

	Daily Schedule for an Early Learner/Communicator	Daily Schedule for a Proficient Learner/Communicator
7:00-8:00	Toileting, Teeth-Brushing, Get Dressed, Hand-Washing Wonderbaby Tips: Brushing Teeth and Dental Hygiene tips for Blind/VL learners	Hygiene/Teeth-Brushing, Get dressed, Make bed, Hand-Washing Chompers for Teeth-Brushing
8:00-8:30	Breakfast/Mealtime	Breakfast/Mealtime
8:30-9:00	Reading Time Read with a Caregiver/Partner with a focus on bonding and togetherness	Reading Time Audible has free access to their kids library while schools are closed Tarheel Reader is a free collection of easy-to-read and accessible books on a wide range of topics. Switch-Accessible and Speech-enabled!
9:00-9:15	Body Work/Stretching Cosmic Kids Yoga	Get Moving Go Noodle games, songs, and activities are a favorite across classrooms of all kids
9:15-9:45	Go Outdoors	Go Outdoors
9:45-10:15	Wash Hands Snack/Mealtime	Wash Hands Snack/Mealtime - Remember to clean up!
10:15-11:00	Something your child can do independently Does your child have a space for active learning?	Independent work: Check in with your child’s teacher for suggested educational opportunities
11:00-12:00	Connect with a trusted caregiver or partner Reinforce existing bonds if you can	
12:00-1:00	Lunch/Mealtime	Lunch/Mealtime
1:00-2:00	Down-Time: Yoga, massage, reading together, stretching, listening to music or singing, watching a video, snoozing	Down-Time: Yoga, massage, reading together, stretching, listening to music or singing, watching a video, snoozing
2:00-8pm	Be with your Family	Be with your Family

10 Resources for Service Providers and Families of Children and Youth during School Closures

The New York Deafblind Collaborative is offering regularly-scheduled [free conference calls and webinars](#) for both Service Providers and Families. Mark your Calendars! Also check out their [Tip Sheet](#) on providing sign language and text access during COVID for DB learners.

The Family 2 Family Communities (F2FC) project has decided to offer some [additional support opportunities for families](#) during this unsettling time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Calls in both English and Spanish.

OHOA intervener training modules are [available for free on YouTube](#) if you find yourself available for high quality training in deafblindness.

Paths to Literacy Stay at Home Activities [A great collection of ideas](#) for children with Visual Impairment (and additional disabilities, including deafblindness)

The Arizona Department of Education has developed a [Special Education Guidance for COVID-19](#) webpage that is an extension of the main ADE [Guidance to Schools on COVID-19](#) webpage. There are very helpful Frequently Asked Questions and Answers regarding SPED services and evaluations.

The Virtual Expanded Core Curriculum Academy has [LIVE online activities during school closures](#) for students with Visual Impairment. Many activities are worthwhile for all students. Check them out!

Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing during COVID [Facebook Group](#)

Archived Webinars and Training through [TSBVI Distance Learning](#)

Signing Time [videos on YouTube](#) (note the limited selection)

LyftUp [Lyft is donating free rides to those in need](#), including rides to/from medical appointments, grocery pick ups, etc.

REMINDER: Our 4th Annual Family Music Experience (originally scheduled for April 4th) has been postponed. Keep updated with the Arizona Deafblind Project's Events and Activities on our [Website](#) and [Facebook Page](#).



