



The Arizona Deafblind Project

NEWSLETTER

April 10, 2020



Image: Landscape of Monument Valley, Arizona (Navajo Nation) with a sun setting behind rock formations

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 **Active Learning “Hacks”**

Our friends over at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Outreach shared several ways to turn home environments into [Active Learning spaces](#) to promote movement and varied sensory experiences. Don't worry...You don't need to be a super-creative person with lots of fancy equipment.

***Note:** [ActiveLearningSpace.org](#) reminds us that with all activities, safety comes first. These activities need to be supervised by an adult and may need to be modified if your child has a lot of hand and arm strength.



Find a laundry basket or crate and place items inside, letting the child pull them out through the holes. Leave part of the item hanging out to help your child get started.

Find more kitchen and home ideas [here](#)

[Image: A black plastic crate upside down with plastic grocery bags poking out of holes on the top]

What does your child find interesting about the color, size, shape, texture of materials in your kitchen? Try hanging interesting items using rubber bands from a lower cabinet using an over-the-door hook set. Find more kitchen ideas [here](#)

[Image: Four kitchen utensils with long handles are each suspended by a rubberband from an over-the-door towel/robe hook placed on a kitchen cabinet]



If you have a transition-aged youth or older student, there are still many ways to incorporate Active Learning spaces in your home. What kind of experiences might help them prepare for life after school? Click [here](#) for ideas.

[Image: A young person pulls a carabiner hook at the end of a string, attached to a salad spinner]

You can make Active Learning Spaces in your [Bathroom](#), [Yard](#), or [Shed](#) too!



Deafblind Specialist Pat Jung lists several materials that make great Active Learning Spaces: Christmas lights, wrapping paper, ribbons and bows, rice, popcorn, different size and shapes of crackers, jello, whipped cream, beans, bubble bath, pots, pans, mylar balloons old and new, scarfs, plastic containers with beans and rice inside, wet and dry clean sponges, various scents, crumbled pieces of magazines, cotton balls, and anything else you find in your closets that can make noise or have different textures that are SAFE for your child.

[Image: A young child in a side-lying position reaches out to touch red mardi gras beads in front of a light box]

Just a couple more things...



If you have a child with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI), Christine Roman and Diane Sheline share at-home activities to keep busy during quarantine. Click [here](#) to see activities separated between Phases I, II, and III.

[Image: An empty jar next to garland with lights]



Do you have a Deafblind child or youth who needs to access interpreters remotely? The National Deaf Center [answers frequently asked questions](#) about accessing instruction and communication through interpreters and assistive technology.

[Image: an overhead view of hands accessing a refreshable braille display next to a computer keyboard and screen]



A reminder that TSBVI Outreach presents Coffee Hour every M/W/F at 8 am Arizona time.

Attendance is free and all are welcome! Please note there will be a different Zoom link for each meeting in order to accommodate the large number of participants.

Click [here](#) for a schedule of topics and links to the meetings.

Deaf Mentors in Arizona host **ASL classes every Saturday at 10am Arizona time on Zoom**. This class is specifically for families. To join this Saturday, click <https://zoom.us/j/115309313> Or enter Meeting ID# 115 309 313. If you are interested in **Advanced ASL classes**, they take place on Saturdays at 7pm on Zoom. For registration, please contact Christina.Vorreyer@asdb.az.gov

If you have needs the newsletter does not address, Deafblind Project Specialists can be available by phone or through video conference during school closures in Arizona.

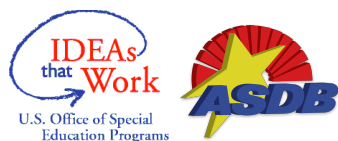
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