



The Arizona Deafblind Project

NEWSLETTER

May 15, 2020



Image: A close up image of a desert tortoise in the wild [Image Credit: Daniel Elsbrock, National Park Service]

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

What Now?

Just when we feel like we are getting the hang of all this, it's time for another transition. Summer Break is approaching for most Arizona school-aged children, youth and their families. This so-called finish line leads us to the question: **“What Now?”** Here are **Six Ideas** to fill the days as home-school ends and home-home begins.



Play on a SplashPad

If you know a kid that loves water, reflection, and movement, they may like any number of commercially available “splash pads” that can be placed in a yard, under a shady patio, or even inside the home.

[Image: 4 small children lying across a square shaped, aqua-colored clear plastic pad filled with water in a grassy yard, Credit: [Link](#)]



Make Smoothies

Our friends at Washington Sensory Disability Services model how to make smoothies using Hand-UNDER-Hand technique in [this short YouTube Video](#). [Image: A young adult grasps the hand of another person as he tilts his head, smiling at the camera]



Loom!

Gretchen Bettes at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI) is inspiring her students to weave using colorful DIY designs. You can easily make your own loom and model the technique using [her clear photo instructions](#). [Image Description by TSBVI: Lacey B. holds up her beautiful weaving that she made at home with her art kit. She included some strips of fabric in her weaving to add an interesting twist.]



Care for a Sensory Garden

Mom, blogger, and TVI Sandy Kenrick [describes how she made a sensory garden](#) with her son Liam, who is deafblind. The website Paths to Literacy is full of lots of accessible summer activities and ideas.

[Image: A young boy stands next to a wooden flower bed on stilts. The garden contains soil and different green, leafy plants]



Jam to your favorite Tunes

We've heard many of our families have enjoyed favorite music on a bluetooth speaker, sometimes placed on a resonance board for maximum amplification and vibration! [Image Credit: [Link](#); Description: A young child sits up on a small square wooden surface. Speech bubbles label "resonance board," a "resonance speaker" and "me"]



Tour a zoo, museum, space, or aquarium

Have you taken a virtual tour of an aquarium, space, zoo, or museum yet? Connect curiosity with observation! This website [compiled 24 possibilities!](#)

[Image Credit: [Link](#) and Description: The head of a penguin underwater.]

3 more Resources for Families

Feeding Matters will be offering virtual support groups for parents whose child is struggling with pediatric feeding disorder (PFD). These meetings will take place every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month throughout the pandemic. [Register here!](#)

Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) has announced their **Virtual Summer SHARP program**, scheduled to kick off on Monday, June 1st. This year SHARP is going 100% virtual and will utilize project based learning opportunities. For more information or to register, click [Here](#).

The **Family-to-Family Community** is hosting Virtual Drop-In meetings for Parents, Guardians and other Family Members of Individuals with Deafblindness. You do not need to be previously registered with F2FC. More information is located [here](#).



Join other parents, caregivers, and guardians as mother Heather Joy Magdelano once again facilitates a Family Drop-In Zoom. Share, listen, and just “be.”

Image Description: Graphic with a background of succulents and logos for Arizona Deafblind Project and ASDB with the text “The Arizona Deafblind Project invites you to our Family Drop-In Zoom* at 3:00 pm; zoom.us/join; mtg ID: 985 8338 0344; Password: AZDBP *Spanish Interpretation Provided

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.

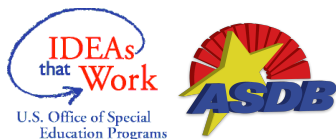
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