

January 2023



South Dakota School for the Deaf

What's Happening at SDSD?



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Rapid City Halloween Bowling Party

SDSD Outreach Consultants, Kerry Ruth and Nina Ringstmeyer, organized a Halloween Bowling Party on Friday, October 22nd, at Meadowood Lanes in Rapid City for West River SDSD clients and their families. Consultants, Kerry Ruth, Nina Ringstmeyer, Denika Boomsma, and SDSD Audiologist, Dr. Carly Johnson, interacted with families as they bowled and enjoyed pizza courtesy of the SDSD Foundation. The event was enjoyed by families from Rapid City, Sturgis, Piedmont, Faith, Spearfish, Box Elder, and Pine Ridge. SDSD clients who were 12 and older could also tour the Haunted Broken Boot Gold Mine in Deadwood.

SDSD Presents to Daycare Staff

On December 1st, Julie Luke, Laura Scholten, Jodi Schnider, Katie Janssen, and Alissa Hutchinson presented to approximately fifteen Truks-n-Trykes daycare staff. The presentation focused on language strategies the providers can incorporate into their daily routines. We also added instruction of some beginning ASL signs. The providers enjoyed a time of learning and enhancing what they know about children and language. The SDSD outreach staff appreciated the collaboration with the daycare and continue to provide outreach services and visits to reinforce the practices and instruction that was provided during the training.



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SDSD Collaborates with STI

On October 12th and 17th, Laura Scholten and Jodi Schnider presented to Southeast Technical Institute (STI) students majoring in Early Childhood. The presentation covered the importance of consistent language exposure through talking or signing, strategies to promote language learning, and functional sign language during routines and singing. Suzy Jones, STI instructor, and SDSD are looking forward to more teaming in the future.



SDSD, From Fun to Business

From Friday night SDSD bowling fun to all business on Monday, SDSD West River Clinic Audiologist, Dr. Carly Johnson, and SDSD Outreach Consultant, Denika Boomsma, team up to ensure children have appropriate access to communication throughout their school day! In the photo to the left, a Phonak Roger remote microphone system is being fit and verified with the child's CROS hearing aid system!

SDSD Collaborates with LifeScape

SDSD Outreach Consultants, Laura Scholten and Julie Luke, presented to a team of LifeScape therapists. LifeScape provides therapy services as well as school services for students with disabilities. The topic of the presentation was Communication Considerations. Laura and Julie shared information about SDSD services, the importance of language access, and what LifeScape staff can do to optimize that language access. The presentation was recorded to share with professionals to watch on their own time. SDSD appreciates the partnership with LifeScape to provide training and consultative support for their students who are deaf or hard of hearing.



SDSD Presents at DWU

On November 15th, Laura Scholten and Jodi Schnider were invited by Mindy Childs to present at Dakota Wesleyan University (DWU). The class consisted of 19 undergraduate students seeking elementary or secondary education degrees. The "Brain Access Tools" presentation focused on hearing level information, technology regarding instructional access, educational considerations, and American Sign Language. Following the presentation, the instructor was already planning a subsequent presentation for the Spring 2023 semester—a great beginning to a new partnership!



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Congratulations, Laura Scholten!

Congratulations to SDSD Outreach Consultant, Laura Scholten, for being awarded the SDSLHA 2022 ASH Foundation Rolland J. Van Hattum Award for Contribution in the Schools! Laura was recognized at the SDSLHA State Convention in Deadwood in October. Her state nomination will be forwarded to the national level in the spring. The school speech-language therapist who nominated Laura said, "Laura is a vital part of the team for several students/children we serve. As an SLP working in a school district with a high caseload and wide variety of disorders, I am continuously grateful for her expertise and knowledge. She is always willing to brainstorm and share her experience and guide the team to meet the needs of the student/child." Congratulations, Laura!



Winter ASL Classes

SDSD offered two sessions of winter ASL classes. Julie Luke taught four sessions of lunchtime sign language classes, and Tanya Miller taught the four evening classes. The lunch-hour classes were geared toward working professionals and family members who have students who are deaf and hard of hearing, and the evening classes had more families attend. Winter sign language vocabulary was taught, and the classes ended with everyone learning how to sign "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer." Participants are looking forward to signing up for more classes in the future!

Augustana's Deaf Awareness Carnival

SDSD Outreach Consultants, Angela and Katie, ran a booth at Augustana University's Deaf Awareness Fall Carnival in October. Their booth was the Prize Wheel, and their prizes definitely did not disappoint! The evening was packed full of fun for individuals of all ages! Attendees enjoyed face painting, games, food, and a cake walk. Everyone left the night with their pockets and their bellies full! We are already looking forward to next year's carnival!



Lunchtime Functional Sign Language Class

SDSD Outreach Staff, Julie Luke and Kami Van Sickle, offered sign language classes during the lunch hour via Zoom in the fall. Teachers, speech-language therapists, and parents attended the sessions. Classes were offered at this time to provide more opportunities for working professionals who have a challenging time attending SDSD's regularly scheduled evening sign language classes. This has been a popular time for class, so SDSD plans to offer more sign language classes over the lunch hour in the future.





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SDSD's Ongoing Partnership with USD

For over a decade, SDSD and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of South Dakota have partnered to further knowledge about working with students who are deaf and hard of hearing. On November 7th, Laura Scholten shared information about language development and facilitation with students enrolled in a Language Disorders of Children course. Early identification and consistent language access were emphasized to maximize language outcomes. The students learned not only about language but how SDSD Outreach can support them when they have clients who are deaf and hard of hearing.



Congratulations, Chevelle Puckett!

Chevelle Puckett, a graduated SDSD Client attending the University of South Dakota, received the Ullyot Lakota Scholarship.

Ullyot Lakota Scholarship is valued at \$20,000 (\$5000 per year). The Ullyot Lakota Scholarship is awarded to American Indian students who are members of federally recognized tribes based on academic merit. Recipients must maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average and be enrolled full-time.

We are so proud of you, Chevelle!

Student Evaluations in Rapid City

In October, SDSD's student evaluation team traveled across the state to complete a round of student evaluations. SDSD partners with school districts across the state to conduct evaluations. Evaluations are designed to look at the whole child and assess achievement across several areas, including cognitive, speech/language/listening, behavior/social skills, audiology, academics, transition, American Sign Language, and sensory. The SDSD evaluation team is comprised of highly qualified professionals who have substantial experience in the areas of hearing loss and additional disabilities. For more information on scheduling external evaluations, contact Kami Van Sickle, SDSD Service Coordinator, kami.vansickle@sdsd.sdbor.edu.





SDSD Numbers

Audiology Numbers

of children screened by SDSD's Audiology Assistants = 12,389

of sites visited by SDSD's mobile lab and audiology outreach services = 118

of hearing evaluations in the mobile lab = 16

of hearing evaluations completed by SDSD's Rapid City Clinic and Sioux Falls Clinic = 603

The table to the right details audiology services provided to South Dakota children from July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, at SDSD's Sioux Falls Clinic, Rapid City Clinic, and via the mobile lab.

OUTREACH NUMBERS

of Children Currently Being Served by SDSD Outreach Consultants:

618

In-services and guest lectures are provided by members of the SDSD Outreach and Audiology teams as an extension of support for children with varied hearing levels. These in-services relate to varied hearing status and its educational impact, technical assistance and orientation with hearing aids, cochlear implants, FM/DM systems, sound field systems, and/or interpreters, or educational strategies and materials that may benefit SDSD clients. The information to the right details trainings provided by SDSD staff August 2022 through December 2022.

OF INSERVICES AND TRAININGS:

101

OF SOUTH DAKOTANS EDUCATED:

1,514