

## Kids speak out about siblings with hearing loss

Kids who have siblings who are deaf or hard of hearing say they see them first as a brother or sister; the hearing loss is secondary—although they admit it can get trying at times.

“I used to hate to go to restaurants as a family because people would always stare at us because we sign,” said Caitlin, 17. “I used to make faces at people who stared too long. Now I just ignore their rudeness.”

Anna, 13, also feels awkward at times in public.

“With a deaf brother, I’m sometimes nervous to go to public places because he can sometimes be embarrassing,” she admitted. Still, she advises other hearing siblings to “accept your sibling the way that they are and don’t be embarrassed about what your friends think about your sibling.”

**The sibling relationship is potentially the longest relationship in our lifetime.**

Psychologists say it’s common for kids to feel embarrassed about a sibling who looks or acts “differently” for whatever reason. It’s also common for kids to feel guilty that their sibling has hearing loss and they don’t. Jealousy is another common emotion for these kids.

“When we were little, I would get jealous at big family gatherings because my sister got a lot of attention,” Caitlin said. “Now that we’re older, and relatives have a hard time talking to her, I feel bad for her.”

Caitlin and hearing siblings like her often find themselves thrust into the role of interpreter for the sibling that has hearing loss. While this sometimes can’t be avoided, psychologists warn against making it a habit. Donald Meyer, Director of The Sibling Support Project at Children’s Hospital and Medical

Center in Seattle, says the responsibility becomes overly burdensome and can make siblings resent one another.

For Carina, who is 13, having a 6-year-old brother who is deaf, makes her want to protect him.

“One reason is because he wouldn’t be able to hear a car very well,” Carina explained. “I’m also really protective, though, as to how other people treat him or if they look at him like he’s weird.”

Other hearing siblings emphasize that they treat their deaf sibling the same as their other hearing siblings.

“Having a sibling who has hearing loss is

to me no different than having a sibling who can hear,” said Madeline, 11. “I can still express my feelings to her just in a different way. I feel that the only thing that I do differently is communicating with her.”

All of the kids who talked to us for this story had to learn to sign or cue to communicate with their siblings who have hearing loss. They all said they found that rewarding.

“To communicate with my brother, I have learned Cued Speech,” Carina said. “It has helped my brother and me a lot because I can communicate with him and ... he doesn’t feel left out.”

Anna has learned both sign and cue. While she prefers to sign, she says she appreciates her cue teacher who helped her see that cueing can be fun, too.

“Go to cue camp,” she added. “It helped me a lot.”

Marcus, who is 16, learned to sign at camp, but now just speaks to his little sister, who has two cochlear implants.

“Be patient because it takes time for your sibling to be able to communicate,” Marcus recommended to other hearing siblings.

His brother, Daniel, 14, also encourages patience in learning to communicate with a deaf sibling.

“Things will benefit more than it will

hurt you,” Daniel added.

Another brother, Jon, 12, has a similar philosophical attitude about having a sister who is deaf.

“Basically everyone asks what’s wrong with my sister’s hearing and I have to explain it,” Jon said.

Joe, who is 22 and has a 6-year-old brother who has hearing loss, shed light on how that relationship has influenced his attitude toward others.

“I never thought much about kids or adults with disabilities before my brother was diagnosed with hearing loss,” Joe said. “It wasn’t that I would be insensitive if I met someone—but more that I never put much thought to it. Now,

I empathize a lot more.”

Joe said he can also see how his younger siblings have to compete with his brother for attention. He encourages them to view their brother’s hearing loss as an opportunity instead of an obstacle.

“My brother makes our family more special, and that’s a good thing,” he said.

### Tips for parents:

- Listen to your kids and let them know it’s okay to share their feelings.
- Avoid comparing siblings.
- Admit you don’t have all the answers.
- Give equal responsibilities to all your children; don’t make exceptions for the child who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Reinforce positive interactions between siblings.
- Find time alone with each child.
- Provide information about hearing loss to everyone in the family.
- Role play ways kids can respond when asked about their sibling’s hearing loss.
- Attend conferences on hearing loss so that all family members can connect with peers.

Source: Adapted from “Knowing the Ropes” by Carolyn Anderson

## What's Happening Around Town

- Saturday, Sept. 16** **Aware Fair 2006**, with information and activities for people who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, runs from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Brookdale in Brooklyn Center.
- Tuesday, Sept. 19** **Practice Cue Clutch** meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Java Jacks, 818 W. 46th St. in Minneapolis. Meet CSAM Board members and others for directed activities to increase cueing fluency. For more information, contact Katherine Burns-Christenson at 952-929-3965 or e-mail kbc29@aol.com.
- Friday, Sept. 22** **Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf and Sertoma Club host a fundraising golf tournament** at Legacy Golf in Faribault beginning at 11 a.m. For details, call 507-332-5478 or e-mail david.olson@msad.state.mn.us.
- Saturday, Sept. 30** **Carolyn Anderson of PACER discusses changes to IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) that affect children who are deaf or hard of hearing in a free workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Lifetrack Resources.**
- Saturday, Sept. 30** **The Raptor Center's Annual Fall Raptor Release** goes from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, County Road 50 in Rockford. Opportunities to photograph eagles, hawks, owls and falcons, visit the swan refuge, tackle a climbing wall and more. ASL interpreters are provided. For more information, contact Krista Erickson Anderson at 612-624-2756 or erick254@umn.edu.
- Sunday, Oct. 1** **An ASL-interpreted tour of world ceramics** begins at 2 p.m. in the lobby of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. For details, call Visitor and Member Services at 612-870-3131 (v) or 612-870-3132 (tty) or e-mail dhegstro@artsmia.org.
- Friday, Oct. 6** **Swim and Gym** nights run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Wellstone Elementary School, 65 E. Kellogg Blvd. in St. Paul. Swimming is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under, and \$1 for spectators. Pool depth is 3 1/2 feet to 9 feet. Lifeguards are on duty. Teens and adults can play volleyball for \$1 per person. For more information, e-mail Mary.Livingston@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call 651-266-6366 (v), 651-266-6378 (tty).
- Saturday, Oct. 7** **CSD and St. Paul Parks and Rec sponsor a Potluck And Cookout** from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at Newell Park, Fairview & Pierce Butler Route in St. Paul. Cost is \$3 per person or \$10 for family of 4 or more for hotdogs, drinks, plates, utensils, marshmallows, and firewood/charcoal. Each family should bring a dish to share. Register by Monday, Oct. 2. For a registration form, e-mail Mary.Livingston@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call 651-266-6366 (v), 651-266-6378 (tty).
- Saturday, Oct. 7** **The St. Paul Public Library presents Deaf Storytime** with Estella Bustamante at 10:30 a.m. at the Merriam Park Branch Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. For details, call 651-642-0385 (v) or 651-298-4184 (tty).



## ASL-Interpreted Performances

### ***To Fool the Eye***

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2 p.m.  
 Tickets reduced to \$10.  
 St. Mane Theatre, 206 Parkway Ave. N., Lanesboro; 800-657-7025;  
[www.commonwealththeatre.org](http://www.commonwealththeatre.org)

### ***A View From the Bridge***

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2 p.m.  
 Tickets reduced to \$10 for ASL patrons;  
 Reg. \$18, \$16 student/senior.  
 Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Rd. St. Paul; 651-645-3503; [www.startinggate.org](http://www.startinggate.org)

### ***Tea at Five***

Friday, Sept. 29, 8 p.m.  
 Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, 345 Washington, St. Paul; 651-224-4222,  
[www.ordway.org/services/access.asp](http://www.ordway.org/services/access.asp)

### ***The Watsons go to Birmingham....1963***

Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 4, 10:30 a.m.  
 Mention the VSA Offer for \$13 tickets.  
 Children's Theatre Co., 2400 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-874-0400;  
[www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org)

### ***Junie B. Jones & A Little Monkey Business***

Oct. 8, 2 p.m., Oct. 11, 10 a.m.  
 Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins; 952-979-1111;  
[www.stagestheatre.org](http://www.stagestheatre.org)

### ***The Big Friendly Giant***

Oct. 25, 10:30 a.m.; Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.  
 Mention the VSA Offer for \$13 tickets.  
 Children's Theatre Co., 2400 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-874-0400;  
[www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org)

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Our mission is to build better lives for children who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing parent-to-parent support.

Newsletter Editor: Audrey Alwell

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## In Your Corner

By Candace Lindow-Davies,  
Family Support Coordinator

My kids are back in school, and I am still waiting for that peace that comes with being back on a regular routine. I'm hopeful it's right around the corner! Hope your house is feeling peaceful.

Last month, we had a wonderful turnout for our Annual Family Picnic at Como Park. 160 people attended, socialized, listened to an inspiring presentation by Miss Deaf Minnesota, and no child left without some kind of door prize. It was so terrific to see all the children, how much they have grown, meet our newer families, and enjoy a summer evening together. For next year, we are looking for a corporate sponsor and are hopeful that we can expand the picnic to include formal entertainment for the kids and a hot meal. If anyone has any great contacts, be sure to let us know.

This month, we are discussing how siblings respond to being the sister or brother of a child who has hearing loss. The children who responded to our interview questions were so insightful and quite honest. Sometimes we forget how much they are influenced by what goes on around them, and although the interactions with their siblings are not always...pretty...they do make us pause and sometimes redirect.

In our house, my son who is deaf is the first-born. My daughter came along almost four years into our journey, and this is the only life she has known. She grew up in speech appointments, St. Paul Schools' family functions, sign language and cued speech camps, and many other hearing loss-related events.

There have been many sweet times tied to hearing loss, too. I remember my young son trying to make his cochlear implant stick to my daughter's head and being puzzled why he couldn't find the "bump" where it attached. Then, he announced, "She has to have hearing aids first. So, when does she get her implant?" That led to a whole confusing discussion of how you can tell if a person is deaf or hard of hearing.

I fondly recall my daughter's first sign, which just happened to be my son's first sign, "light." I remember becoming emotional over how sweet it was that they shared that. I recall my daughter being a wonderful signer at a very young age, only to drop signing all together when she started to talk. Later, she would come up to me and ask me how to sign this and how to sign that. I would always say, "You try on your own first." She typically could come very close to the right signs.

I will always be thankful for her becoming my son's best natural speech teacher, as the two of them fought over toys or argued over who had to take a bath first. They met each other half way, and sometimes I would just sit and listen to the two of them argue because

I realized that they did, in fact, have great communication...and they were as typical as any brother and sister.

I witnessed my daughter proudly announce to a group of kids she didn't know, "My brother is deaf, and if you want to talk to him, you have to go through ME!" I also remember my daughter asking me if she was going to have a deaf baby or a hearing baby. When I asked her why she wanted to know, she said because it would be harder to communicate with a deaf baby. And, my heart broke. A few months later, she said she wanted a deaf baby *and* a hearing baby, and she was going to become a deaf/hard of hearing teacher. So, things change.

And, just a few days ago, I asked her again what it was like to have a brother who is deaf. She gave me "double thumbs up" and said, "cool." I pressed her for why, but she couldn't explain. I think I'll leave it at that. There may be challenging days ahead, so why not leave well enough alone.

*I hope to see you at the Aware Fair next Saturday (see story below). If not then, please join us for the last in our 2006 PACER Workshops with Carolyn Anderson Sept. 30 here at Lifetrack. She will discuss the very important topic of educational rights under the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA) and recent changes to the law that affect our kids.*

*Have a great September!*

## Visit with us at Aware Fair next Saturday

The Family Support Connection will have a booth at the 2006 Aware Fair Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Brookdale in Brooklyn Center. Aware Fair is a biannual event that offers free information and entertainment for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind and hearing.

Throughout the day, entertainers will be signing or cueing stories and performing skits. Interpreters and cue transliterators will be on hand at each performance. There also will be dozens of booths with information and offers from organizations and businesses that serve people who have hearing loss.

Aware Fair is sponsored by Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Metro of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. To see the day's scheduled events, go to [www.dhs.state.mn.us/ECS/dhhs/](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/ECS/dhhs/), click on What's New (left column) and scroll way down to Aware Fair information or e-mail [marie.koehler@state.mn.us](mailto:marie.koehler@state.mn.us) or call 651-297-3640 (v) or 1-888-206-6513 (tty).

## Starkey gives aids to qualified applicants

The Hear Now Program of the Starkey Hearing Foundation offers help paying for hearing aids to people who meet financial qualifications.

The program has provided over 47,247 hearing aids to 27,500 Americans since 1999. Applicants must meet the program's financial criteria, complete the application process and be approved for hearing aids. Verification of the applicant's financial situation and proof of a need for hearing aids are a part of the application process.

Hear Now works with licensed practitioners who give of their time and talent to assist clients with the fitting and follow up processes. The applicant is responsible for the cost of the hearing evaluation and a nominal processing fee to the program. The recipient is also financially responsible for the cost of batteries and repairs. Once an application is approved, the aids are given to the applicant at no additional cost.

To learn more about the Hear Now program, call 1-800-328-8602 or see the website [www.sotheworldmayhear.org](http://www.sotheworldmayhear.org).



## The View from Here

### Northwest:

An **ASL class** is offered at North Dakota State University free of charge. Classes run Sept. 5 through Dec. 15. It's still possible to join. For details, e-mail [lilia.bakken@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:lilia.bakken@sendit.nodak.edu).

Make friends at a **monthly social get-together** for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Socials are offered on the second Saturday each month from 1 to 3 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 619 Broadway in Fargo. For more information, contact Shawnda Mickelson at 701-298-7667.

### East/West Central:

**DHHS & MCDHH Community Forum** takes place Tuesday, Oct. 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at North Junior High School in St. Cloud. Topics include employment, education, and communication access (interpreting services, assistive listening devices, CART, and captioning of news, weather, emergency information). Interpreters and CART provided. Refreshments start at 6 p.m.

**2006 Reason For Hope Retreat** will be Nov. 10-11 at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud for parents and caregivers of children who have any disability. For details, see [www.reasonforhope retreat.org](http://www.reasonforhope retreat.org).

### Southwest:

**Barnes & Noble in Mankato** hosts **ASL Storytime** with Donna Thompson at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 in the children's book section.

## Baseball league to provide interpreters

In an agreement with the Justice Department, the PONY Baseball and Softball league will not only allow but also provide sign language interpreters for deaf or hard-of-hearing players during games.

The agreement stems from a civil rights complaint in which Justin Tokioka of Hawaii was not allowed to have his father/interpreter inside the dugout to sign to him during the PONY state regional tournament in Hawaii in July 2005. Justin was playing in a Mustang league for nine- and 10-year-olds, and his father had acted as his interpreter.

PONY also agreed to modify its rules and practices to allow disabled children an equal opportunity to participate. The league also will pay Justin \$30,000 in damages.

There are 3,500 baseball and fast-and-slow-pitch softball leagues organized around the nation by non-profit PONY Baseball Inc., headquartered in Washington, Pa.

## Driving schools must pay for interpreters

A federal judge has sided with five high school students and their families in St. Cloud in a settlement agreement that requires the area's drivers education schools to provide ASL interpreters for classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction.

The five students, Heather Breitbach, Amelia Boos, Ashley Antonelli, Craig Roering and Charles Schumacher, had tried to attend private driving schools (their high school cut drivers education due to lack of funding). When the driving schools failed to provide ASL interpreters, the students sought help from the Minnesota Disability Law Center, which provides free legal assistance to people with disabilities.

Under the terms of the court order, the driving schools will offer classes with qualified interpreters for three of their classes every year. In addition, if at least two deaf or hard of hearing students request an interpreter at a different time, the schools will provide the interpreter at that time. The schools will also provide interpreters for behind-the-wheel instruction. The agreement also provides for reimbursement for the cost of interpreting that two families had already paid.

The Consent Decree is available on the US District Court website: [www.mnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.mnd.uscourts.gov). Select CourtWeb and enter District Court for the District of Minnesota in the District field, then enter the case file number (06-CV- 1222).

## Public meeting sheds light on IDEA changes

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) is hosting public meetings across the country to explain the new regulations in the updated Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The meetings also provide information about the resources OSERS offers to help implement these regulations.

Each participant will receive a copy of the regulations on a CD, a copy of the CD Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Students With Disabilities, plus copies of the three model forms required under the reauthorization: Individualized Education Program (IEP), Notice of Procedural Safeguards, and Prior Written Notice.

A public meeting is set for Minneapolis on Oct. 25 (the location has not been determined yet). The meeting is open to parents, teachers, school administrators and related service providers. For more information, see [www.ed.gov/IDEA](http://www.ed.gov/IDEA).

## Video describes Hands & Voices

A video explaining the mission of Hands & Voices can be viewed online or checked out free at the Captioned Media Program website ([www.captionedmedia.org](http://www.captionedmedia.org)).

Hands & Voices is the national parent-driven organization for families that have children who are deaf or hard of hearing. It's the group with which the Family Support Connection has made ties.

"We Are Hands & Voices" is available through the Captioned Media Program, which offers thousands of titles of movies and films with captions. Instructions for online viewing or requesting mailed materials are on the website.

Since Hands & Voices has grown so much since the video was made in 1999, production is underway for a new video.

## MDS begins building project

Renovations have begun on the building that will house Metro Deaf School (MDS) beginning in January.

The building, 1471 Brewster St., has been purchased by 1House, 2Hands, Inc., a non-profit organization that is overseeing the renovations. MDS' website has details and photos of the building progress at [www.metrodeafschool.org](http://www.metrodeafschool.org).

## Activities for families include cookout, swimming

St. Paul Parks and Recreation is continuing its partnership with CSD of Minnesota to provide activities this Fall for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

This Fall's calendar includes a potluck cookout at Newell Park on Saturday, Oct. 7, roller skating at Saints North on Friday, Oct. 20 and bowling at Midway Pro Bowl on Sunday, Nov. 19. CSD and St. Paul Parks also offer adult fitness classes, most of which are conducted in ASL.

Family Swim Nights are moving to a new location: Wellstone Elementary School, 65 E. Kellogg Blvd. in St. Paul. The monthly open swim will be known as Swim and Gym nights, with volleyball for teens and adults who don't want to swim. Swim and Gym nights are the first Friday of the month from October through May.

The partners have created a brochure detailing their shared events. You can get a copy at the Aware Fair Sept. 16 at Brookdale or e-mail Mary. Livingston@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

## PACER presents workshop on finding work for teens

PACER is offering a free seminar titled "Solving the Employment Puzzle for Youth with Disabilities." The seminar will be offered at several locations:

**St. Paul**—Monday, Sept. 18, 7 to 9 p.m. at Minnesota Diversified Industries

**Duluth**—Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Ordean Building

**International Falls**—Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Thunderbird Lodge

To register for one of these workshops, see [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org) and click on workshops to choose the location. Or register by phone at 952-838-9000 (v), -0190 (tty), or 800-537-2237.

**Annual Oral Deaf Education Conference comes to St. Paul Oct. 19 with Warren Estabrooks, renowned expert on Auditory-Verbal therapy. Look for details next month.**



## A Little Grin

By Melissa McNamer

Recently, a friend shared this story with me about her two kids and a little twist on the way a younger sibling looks up to an older one:

"My daughter didn't understand why her big brother got to have a cool, brightly colored hearing aid with a matching, equally cool, ear mold. We explained that her hearing was different than her brother's. She didn't need one, and that her brother did in order to hear what she heard.

"The audiologist we worked with was so tickled by her insistence that she should have one, too, that she gave her one of the fake ones she used as a demo. It was bright pink, her favorite color.

"From time to time, we'd look over and there she was, donning her bright pink hearing aid. We'd just have to chuckle.

"Now that she's learned you can get a hearing aid for your 'Build a Bear' stuffed toy, guess what she wants for Christmas?!"

*Please send us stories about your kids that make you smile—e-mail [fsc@lifetrackresources.org](mailto:fsc@lifetrackresources.org).*

## Colorado camp plans year-round activities for deaf

Aspen Camp School for the Deaf in Colorado cancelled this year's summer programs to work on plans to launch a series of new programs year-round.

The camp celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2007. The new offerings will include retreats for families and employers of the deaf, opening its ropes course to the public and winter facilities for the U.S. Deaf Ski Team. For more information about changes at Aspen Camp, see [www.acsd.org](http://www.acsd.org) and click on 2006 Summer Newsletter.

## U of M hosts open house for DHH students

The University of Minnesota invites high school students who are deaf or hard of hearing to visit the campus Oct. 2 for a day of special presentations.

Billed as the "First Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day," events run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. SE in Minneapolis. (For directions see [www.coffman.umn.edu/about/directions.php](http://www.coffman.umn.edu/about/directions.php).)

Among the day's events are signed campus tours, demonstrations of interpreting and captioning services, a deaf and hard of hearing student panel, and presentations by Disability Services and the Office of Admissions. Students also will have a free lunch.

Reservations are needed by Monday, Sept. 18. Space is limited to 125 students. To reserve a spot, e-mail [dsdhhday@umn.edu](mailto:dsdhhday@umn.edu) or call 612-624-7338.

## Career fair offered to high school, college students

High school and college students who have disabilities are invited to a career fair Wednesday, Oct. 4 at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center.

The fair is part of the US Business Leadership Network annual national conference. This event also will be the official launch site for the American Association of People with Disabilities 2006 National Disability Mentoring Day. This is a national effort that focuses on promoting disability as a central component of diversity recruitment and offers students the chance to explore career opportunities in their area of study.

There will be two separate sessions for students. The morning session, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., is for high school and transition program students. The afternoon session, 1 to 5:15 p.m., is for college/university students and recent graduates. Pre-registration for either session is required.

Event and registration information is located at [www.mnbln.org/career](http://www.mnbln.org/career).

**VSA arts of Minnesota offers \$1,000 grants to Minnesota artists who have disabilities. See [www.vsaartsmn.org](http://www.vsaartsmn.org).**



## Off the Shelf

By Robin Coninx, FSC Specialist

We have several books that help brothers and sisters understand their sibling who has hearing loss:

"I Have a Sister, My Sister is Deaf," by Jeanne Whitehouse Peterson, is written from the perspective of a young girl who is explaining her sister's hearing loss to others.

"A Screaming Kind of Day," written by Rachna Gilmore, tackles the frustrations of a child with hearing loss whose brother has gotten on her nerves.

"A Very Special Sister," by Dorothy Hoffman Levi, tells how Laura, a young girl who is deaf, reacts to the news that her mother is expecting a baby. Laura is excited at first, but then worries her mother will love the baby more if it can hear. Her mother helps Laura feel happy again about being a big sister to the new baby.

"Elena's Ears: or How I Became the Best Big Sister in the World," by Gloria Roth Lowell, takes a different approach—the story is told from the point of view of the family dog as she comes to terms with a new baby in the house. With wry commentary, Lacey (the dog) offers a funny yet honest glimpse at parents, new babies, and growing toddlers. The book includes advice for parents on introducing a new baby into a household.

Parents of children who have more issues than hearing loss will find advice on fostering good sibling relationships on the Web at <http://ericec.org/faq/siblings.html>. This article was written by the Council for Exceptional Children.

To request a book from our library, please contact us at 651-265-2435 (v), -2379 (tty), or toll-free 866-DHOHKID (v) or 866-857-2379 (tty). Or, make a request on-line at [www.familysupportconnection.org](http://www.familysupportconnection.org).

## • Aware Fair 2006 • Saturday, Sept. 16 • Brookdale • *See you there!*

### Documentary shows history of deaf people in US

A two-hour documentary exploring the experience of the Deaf in the United States from 1814 to now currently is in production and is tentatively set for broadcast on PBS next Spring.

Filmmakers Lawrence Hott and Diane Garey, who created PBS' recent offering "Niagara," are making "Through Deaf Eyes," which builds on the traveling exhibit created by Gallaudet University. The film explores education, the formation of a community, cultural identity and revolution, including a segment on the historic 1988 Deaf President Now protest. The filmmakers use compelling first-person accounts to show what it is like to be deaf in America.

An educational outreach campaign is being developed to go along with the show. Materials will include educators' guides, viewer guides, an interactive DVD and a companion book. The project's core outreach partners include the National Association of the Deaf, Gallaudet University, and California State University.

"Through Deaf Eyes" is a co-production of WETA Washington, D.C. and Florentine Films / Hott Productions, in association with Gallaudet University.

The project has commissioned six works by deaf filmmakers that will be woven throughout the historical documentary. These short films underscore the themes explored in the film.

One of the films, "Vital Signs," is a four-minute film about a man who is told he has a week to live. The film's on-screen narrator uses ASL classifiers to express the man's emotional journey. The producer, Mösdeux, has created a DVD that pairs the four-minute film with bonus features including a signed interview with the producers and a section for viewers to practice using classifiers. The website, [www.mosdeux.com](http://www.mosdeux.com), shows a preview of the film and offers the DVD (which the site says is great for ASL classes) for \$9.95.

To learn more about "Through Deaf Eyes," see [www.florentinefilms.org](http://www.florentinefilms.org).

## IDEA and the Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child

**Saturday, Sept. 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
**Lifetrack Resources, 709 University Ave. W., St. Paul**

The federal regulations for IDEA, the Individuals with Disability Education Act of 2004, were recently released. Come and learn:

- what has changed for IEPs and special education
- the essential components of the special education process
- how this might affect your deaf or hard of hearing child

Carolyn Anderson, Parent Advocate at PACER Center and parent of an adult deaf son, will lead the workshop. This free workshop is open to all parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Funding is provided by a Minnesota Department of Education Parent and Family Training Grant.

Please pre-register for the workshop with Family Support Connection, Lifetrack Resources, 651-265-2435 V, 866-346-4543 V Toll-Free, 651-265-2379 TTY, or 866-857-2379 TTY Toll-Free; or e-mail: [fsc@lifetrackresources.org](mailto:fsc@lifetrackresources.org).

Child care is provided, but space is limited. Communication facilitators (interpreters or transliterators) also are available on request. Please request child care or interpreters by Tuesday, Sept. 26.