

FOCUS is published by the Family Support Connection at Lifetrack Resources. Submissions are welcome and can be sent to the editor via e-mail.

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Please note that information about events, services, or other organizations does not imply endorsement by the Family Support Connection.

The Family Support Connection's mission is to build better lives for children who are deaf and hard of hearing by providing parent-based, unbiased support to families. Please visit our website at www.familysupportconnection.org.

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Mom wins fight to force insurance to cover aids



Diane Wonchoba (left) and Patti Teachout pose with Morgan and Lucas Davies at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Legislative Day at the State Capitol last month.

With twin boys who both have a moderate-to-severe hearing loss, Diane Wonchoba was faced with “four ears” that needed hearing aids and an insurance policy that excluded coverage. The exclusion made her angry, which spurred her into action. And, after everything was said and done, not only did her insurance company need to pay

for hearing aids, but so did every other insurance company in the state.

Diane helped convince Legislators to amend a law this past year to require insurance companies to cover hearing aids/assistive devices for children whose hearing loss is due to a congenital malformation. She and two other moms, Stacie Leeper, and Patti Teachout, were honored last month at the Minnesota Academy of Audiology's annual meeting for the advocacy work they did to get the Hearing Aid Bill passed in the state Legislature.

Diane's road to the Legislature started with phone calls to local and national advocacy groups for the deaf and hard of hearing. She researched laws in other states and found that Maryland, Connecticut and Kentucky had laws covering hearing aids for all children. A contact at AG Bell put her in touch with the person who had recently helped change Kentucky's law so she could learn how the legislative process worked. Then she met Mary Hartnett, the executive director of Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCSDDHH). MCSDDHH had been trying off and on for more than 10 years to push hearing aid legislation.

Mary put Diane in contact with Stacie, a mother from Bemidji who had successfully petitioned her insurance provider to cover her child's hearing aids. Stacie had worked around her insurance company's hearing aid exclusion by pursuing aids as a corrective device for a child born with a malformation, which her insurance policy did cover.

“That was the approach we took with the hearing aid legislation,” Diane

Here's What's Happening

- Saturday, April 3** **Deaf storyteller Estella Bustamante signs stories** for kids at 10:30 a.m., Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, 651-642-0385(V), 651-298-4184(tty).
- Sunday, April 4** **"Roman Portrait Sculpture"** is the ASL-interpreted tour at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The free tour starts at 2 p.m. in the museum lobby. Call 612-870-3131(V), -3132(tty) or e-mail dhegstro@artsmia.org. The Institute's annual **Art in Bloom** exhibit/sale is interpreted Thursday, April 29, at 7 p.m. and Friday, April 30, at 11 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 7** **Cochlear Implant Club Minnesota's monthly coffee** for potential CI users starts at 10 a.m. on the 8th floor of the Phillips-Wangensteen Building at the University of Minnesota. For information, e-mail LSenechal@mn.rr.com.
- Saturday, April 10** **Disney on Ice Monsters, Inc.** is ASL-interpreted at 11:30 a.m. at Target Center. \$17. Call 612-673-1311.
- Saturday, April 10** **North Star Academy hosts a parent meeting** at 6 p.m. to discuss the new school. The school is also offering Teen Nights. For details see mnnorthstaracademy.org.
- Tuesday, April 13** Marriage between hearing and deaf partners as well as marriage where both partners are deaf is the discussion topic for a **Deaf Culture Salon** in ASL from 7 to 9 p.m. at Saint Paul College Auditorium, 235 Marshall Ave., St. Paul. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$3.
- Wednesday, April 14** From 6 to 7:30 p.m. Northeast Metro 916 offers a **Support Group for families with children who have hearing loss.** Capital View Center, 70 W. Co. Rd. B2, Little Canada. To register, contact byoung@nemetro.k12.mn.us.
- April 15, 16, 17** **Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf presents "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"** at 7 p.m. at Noyes Hall Auditorium. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for students.
- Tuesday, April 20** **Toys For Deaf and Hard of Hearing Kids** is the topic of an ECFE discussion from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Dassel/Cokato ECFE. Make reservations at 320-543-2472.
- Saturday, April 24** **Audiologist Kirsten Coverstone** answers parents' questions at The Family Support Connection's Coffee Chat. See flyer.
- Friday, April 30** **Metro Deaf School's 10th Annual Spaghetti Dinner** runs from 4:30 pm - 7:30 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1660 Arcade St., St. Paul. Tickets are \$5, children 2-11 are \$3, under 2 are free.
- Saturday, May 1** **Dr. Ron Lybarger** talks about language, and social emotional development in D/HH kids at 9:45 after MN AG Bell's annual meeting at 9 a.m. at Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka. Sponsored with the Greater Minnesota Assessment Services at Lifetrack Resources.
- Friday, May 7** **"Doors For Sale: Audism and the Deaf World"** features Ben Bahan, ASL storyteller and author, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Saint Paul College Auditorium, 235 Marshall Ave., St. Paul. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$15 for others.



ASL-Interpreted Performances

- Snapshot Silhouette**
Friday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.;
Wednesday, April 14, 10 a.m.
Children's Theatre Co., 2400 3rd Ave. S.,
Minneapolis, 612-874-0400;
www.childrenstheatre.org.
An African American girl and a Somali,
who speak, dress and act differently,
share something lost that's dear to them.
- Rent**
Saturday, April 17, 2 p.m.
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts,
345 Washington, St. Paul, 651-224-4222,
651-282-3100 (tty); www.ordway.org.
- Guys and Dolls**
Friday, April 30, 7:30 p.m. \$12
Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800
W. Old Shakopee Rd., 952-563-8575,
www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org.
- Worldwide Church of the Handicapped**
Saturday, April 24, 3 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Interact Center for the Visual and
Performing Arts, 212 Third Ave. N.,
Suite 140, Minneapolis, 612-339-5145,
www.InteractCenter.com.
Play explores acceptance, dreams,
labels, and the discrimination that exists
within the disability community.
- Miss Saigon**
Sunday, April 25, 1 p.m.
612-373-5650 hotline; 612-373-5637,
612-373-5655(tty); Historic State
Theatre, 805 Hennepin, Minneapolis,
www.hennepintheatredistrict.com.
- West Side Story**
Friday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.
\$8 general admission at the door for
adults, \$6 students & senior citizens.
North High School, 2416 E. 11th Ave.,
North St. Paul, 651-748-6090.
- Free to Be You and Me**
Saturday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.
Half-price for AD/ASL patrons. Youth
Performance Company at Howard Conn
Fine Arts Center, 1900 Nicollet,
Minneapolis, 612-623-9080,
www.youthperformanceco.com
- Saint Joan**
Saturday, May 8, 8 p.m. Half-price for
AD/ASL patrons. Park Square Theatre,
20 W. 7th Place, St. Paul, 651-291-
7005, www.parksquaretheatre.org.
- Sideways Stories from Wayside School**
Thursday, May 13, 12:30 p.m.; Sunday,
May 16, 2 p.m. Stages Theatre Co.,
1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins, 952-979-
1111, www.stagetheatre.org.

MSAD offers summer programs

Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD) offers two summer programs for deaf students.

The Summer Academic Enrichment Program is for students in grades K-7. It runs June 13 - 26. There is a \$60 activity fee for field trips. Contact Janet Pauley at 800-657-3996 (V/tty) or janet.pauley@msad.state.mn.us.

For students in grades 8-12, MSAD offers Preparatory Assistance Summer School (PASS) July 6 - 23 with a \$50 fee. For information, contact Sean Virnig at 800-657-3996 (V/tty) or sean.virnig@msad.state.mn.us.

Both programs can be either day or residential and are open to any D/HH student who has an IEP.

Camp gets girls excited about Science

Girls in grades 6-8 who have a disability can attend EXITE, a free camp focused on science and technology.

EXITE stands for Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering. It is sponsored by PACER and IBM.

The camp has five meetings from July 22 to Aug. 3. Activities include building a circuit board, tearing down a PC, making a webpage and trying science projects. Girls will be paired with a mentor at IBM and will tour IBM's facilities.

Deadline for application is May 25. To register, see www.pacer.org, click on Simon Technology Center and scroll to EXITE camp, or call Kristi Skala at 952-838-9000.

Gallaudet hosts sessions for scholars

Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., offers its Young Scholars Program this summer for gifted and talented deaf and hard of hearing high school students.

"Crimes and Clues" (July 11-July 23) delves into the tools and techniques of forensic scientists as students "solve the crime." Cost for this session is \$1,000.

"Open for Business" (July 11-July 23) focuses on building a "business" through simulations, seminars, and field trips to corporate sites. Cost for this session is \$600.

"Lights! Camera! Action!" (July 25-Aug. 6) provides students with hands-on instruction writing, directing, shooting and editing to create narrative and documentary films for national film contests. Cost for this session is \$1,000.

"Great American Adventure" (Aug. 1-6) invites students in grades 7-8 to visit Gallaudet with a parent for special activities and tours of historical sites. This session is \$1,000.

For more information, see the website ysp.gallaudet.edu or call 800-383-9931 (v/tty).

Consumers' views on D/HH services sought

The state's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing are holding community forums in April and May to discuss services for deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing people.

The Metro Community Forum will be Tuesday, April 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Merriam Park Branch Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., St. Paul. For information on other meeting sites in the state, see www.dhhsd.org.

Summer Conventions

SHHH: June 10-13

The international convention of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) will be June 10 - 13 in Omaha, Neb. The convention features an exhibit hall where visitors can discover and test all the new developments in assistive technology, wireless communication and support services. For more information or registration materials, see www.shhh.org and click on "Convention."

Deaf-Blind: June 14-18

The Great Lakes Area Deaf-Blind Conference will be June 14 - 18 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. The theme is "Deaf-Blind Pride: Facing Challenges Head On and Creating Opportunities." This conference welcomes deaf-blind consumers, support service providers, family members and others interested in the deaf-blind field. For information on registration, see the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division website, www.dhhsd.org, and click on "What's New."

Cued Speech Association: June 24-27

Cue Camp Minnesota offers all levels of classes to teach parents, children and professionals to cue. "Literacy...A Great Catch" is the theme for the camp at St. John's University in Collegeville. Registration deadline is May 15; earlybirds get \$20 off (ends Apr. 15). To register, contact CSAMJO@aol.com or call 612-929-0904.

AG Bell: June 25-29

The 2004 Convention of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) in Anaheim, CA, June 25-29 showcases the latest research in hearing loss, spoken language, and related technologies. "California Dreamin': Hear the Magic in Our Voices" offers educational sessions, networking opportunities, and a variety of social events. For registration information, see www.agbell.org and scroll down to 2004 Conference.

NAD: July 6-10

The 2004 National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conference is in Kansas City July 6-10. The theme of this year's conference is, "Eye to the Future of Deaf America." In addition to workshops and exhibits, the NAD Conference features the Miss Deaf America Pageant. For more information, see nad.org/conf/.

SayWhat Club: July 14-17

The SayWhat Club Convention will be July 14-17 at the Thunderbird Hotel in Bloomington. For information see www.saywhatclub.com/events/mn-con.

Hearing aids ...

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explained. The State had an existing law (since 1973) that protected families that have children who are born with disabilities from being excluded from coverage. Building on that law, Diane and Mary Hartnett of MCSDHH, Stacie, and another mom in the same boat, Patti Teachout, lobbied Legislators to include coverage for hearing aids for children whose hearing loss is due to a congenital malformation.

Testifying before Legislators made Diane nervous at first, she admitted.

“Then I realized I had spoken personally one-on-one with just about everyone in the room,” she said. “I had received so much support from them, I felt like I was preaching to the choir, so I wasn’t nervous anymore.”

She described what she did as “not so much a fight for hearing aid coverage, but more educating people on how hearing aids can change a person’s life—what they can do with them that they can’t do without them.”

She found the debate in the Legislature to be a “nerve-wracking process.” Her “team,” including Mary, Stacie and Patti, testified and then the “opposing team” of insurance lobbyists presented its side. After that, only one person from each team could clarify statements during the debate on the floor.

“Once you say your two-cents, you just sit there and listen, hope and pray,” she said.

The Hearing Aid Bill, as it came to be called, became part of an omnibus bill, which was negotiated behind the scenes in later weeks. So Diane wasn’t present when the bill passed. She received the news in a phone call.

“It was anticlimactic,” she said. Still, she’s happy everything worked out. And, her sons’ hearing aids—one-two-three-four—are covered now.

Diane and her husband, Steve, live in Blaine with their 6-year-old boys, Eric and Cameron, and their daughter, Allison, who is 8.

In Your Corner

By Candace Lindow-Davies,
Family Support Coordinator

Do you work for a company that has a charitable foundation, a history of giving, or matches their employees’ charitable contributions? If so, we need your help!

The services offered by the Family Support Connection are limited only by the resources available. The things we need to do include but are not limited to:

- Information packets for families of newly diagnosed children
- Lending library materials
- Newsletter
- Parent retreat in the Fall
- Booklet with stories and photos showing the range of Minnesota families who have children who are deaf and hard of hearing
- Social events for families
- Parent-to-parent mentor training

With your help and connections, we can continue to offer these services and more. Please check your company’s charitable giving policies and let us know if you can work with us on any of our projects. We will be happy to work with you to meet your company’s requirements. Contact me at fsc@lifetrackresources.org.

Aware Fair date set

The date has been set for Aware Fair 2004, the biennial event offering information, entertainment and socializing for people who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing, their families and professionals in related fields. Aware Fair will be Saturday, Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Brookdale Center in Brooklyn Center. It is sponsored by Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. For information, contact Marie Koehler at 651-297-3640 (v), 651-297-4525 (tty) or marie.koehler@state.mn.us.

Legislative Day draws crowd

The Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind Legislative Day March 15 drew a big crowd to the State Capitol.

Many different organizations were represented, including the Family Support Connection, SHHH, MN AG Bell, the Minnesota DeafBlind Association, the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, and students from many different schools.

The day pointed the spotlight at legislative issues that affect people who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing.

Bills affect deaf, hard of hearing

A couple of issues concerning deaf and hard of hearing children are going through the Legislature this month.

The Classroom Acoustics Bill (SF2296/HF2402) would require school districts to follow new acoustical standards to make it easier to hear in classrooms. A 2002 study showed that about 90% of classrooms have noise levels that exceed recommended standards and result in children not being able to hear everything the teacher says. At this time, the state has ventilation requirements, but no acoustic guidelines.

The new standards address transmission of noise from outside the classroom as well as within the room. They would apply to construction of new schools and major renovations.

The Legislature also is looking at restoring the growth factor for special education services (SF2140 & SF2102), which was removed from the state budget. While the number of students in public schools is down in Minnesota, the number of special education students has gone up. Some school districts have testified that a third to half of the deficits they will face next year are because the growth factor was removed from the budget.

If you are interested in contacting Legislators regarding these bills, you can get more information from the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People at 651-297-7305 (v/tty) or Mary.Hartnett@state.mn.us.

Free service lends captioned videos to families, schools

Since April 18 to 24 is National Library Week, this may be a good time to remind families and teachers that they can borrow captioned videos, CD-ROMs, and DVDs free from the Captioned Media Program (CMP).

CMP is a free-loan library established in 1958 to provide equal access through captioned educational media. CMP is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and run by the National Association of the Deaf.

The only requirement for using the service is that at least one person involved in the viewing of CMP materials must benefit from the captioning. This means that teachers with a deaf student in class, parents of deaf children, deaf and hard of hearing persons, and interpreters qualify. There are no rental, registration, or postage fees for CMP materials. Items are sent through the mail. CMP pays the postage both ways. Items may be borrowed for seven days.

To borrow materials from CMP, you must first complete an application, which is available online at www.cfv.org, or by phone at 800-237-6213 (V); 800-237-6819 (TTY); 800-538-5636 (fax). CMP will mail you a catalog and ordering instructions.

Website features teens' thoughts on cochlear implants

Advanced Bionics, the maker of Clarion cochlear implants, has created a website specifically aimed at teens.

The website (www.ci-4teenz.com) answers teens' questions about CIs: what they are, how they work, who has one. The site includes quotes from teens about their experiences living with a CI. The bright graphics and easy-to-navigate screens should appeal to teens and "tweens."

New service captions phone callers' voices

People who can speak on the phone but have trouble understanding a caller's responses will appreciate a new service that captions what the caller says.

The service, called CapTel™, requires a specially designed phone with a text screen so the user can read along while listening to the voice of the other person. A call from a CapTel phone is dialed in the same manner as a traditional phone, however, the CapTel phone automatically connects to a captioning service as well as the called person. At the CapTel service center, an operator uses the latest in voice-recognition technology to transcribe whatever is said by the other person. The captions appear on the user's CapTel phone almost simultaneously with the spoken word (there's a 3-4 second delay). The caption feature can be turned on or off so that anyone in a household can use the same phone.

To use CapTel, you need the specially designed phone that connects to the captioning service. This phone includes an amplified handset and tone control for clarity. The cost of the captioning service is covered by Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) funds as part of Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). However, the phone costs \$495, plus \$7.50 for shipping. This cost might be covered through the state's Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Program. See www.tedprogram.org or call 800-657-3663 (v), 800-657-3513 (tty) to learn about the program's eligibility criteria.

Orders for CapTel phones must be placed through Minnesota Relay Consumer Relations Office, which provides the captioning service for Minnesota. Currently, a limited number of phones are available due to operator support constraints. Call 800-657-3775 to obtain an approval letter and CapTel order form. The Consumer Relations Office also can offer a product demonstration.

Incoming calls must be routed through the captioning center to be captioned. That means the caller needs to dial the state's captioning center and give the CapTel user's phone number to the operator who then makes the connection.

CapTel phones are produced by Ultratec in Madison, Wis. For more information, see www.captionedtelephone.com.

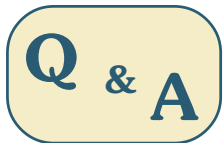


Off The Shelf

By Beth DesMarais, FSC Specialist

Maybe your infant has just been diagnosed with a severe to profound hearing loss and you want to start learning American Sign Language. Or, maybe you have an older child who is hard of hearing and oral but want her/him to learn some sign so they can communicate with deaf friends. No matter what your circumstances or motivation, the Family Support Connection library has books, CD-Roms, and videos that can make learning to sign a fun experience for everyone.

- The "Baby See 'n Sign" video shows a variety of real-life images that relate to a young child's daily life including animals, food, and toys.
- "Sign Songs" is a video with some silly and often hilarious songs (ASL and voiced) that will have the whole family laughing as they learn.
- "ASL Tales and Games for Kids" is a computer disk that takes kids (parents can go, too!) to Woof Woof Way and introduces you to a delightful group of children who are deaf, hard of hearing, multiply disabled, and hearing.
- Learn the alphabet along with animal signs for hippopotamus and pig with the children's book "My ABC Signs of Animal Friends."
- Spanish-speaking families can learn everything from the basics of ASL through translating Spanish stories in a bilingual format with a series of seven videos called "Signing Fiesta."



Ask a Professional

By Kirsten Coverstone, Audiologist Coordinator, Lions Infant Hearing Screening Program

Question: How can I keep my baby from pulling off his hearing aids?

Answer: It is perfectly normal for children to be curious about what is new, and it may be a bit overwhelming at first to hear so many new sounds. So out come the hearing aids. That doesn't mean they don't like them. Some children just need an adjustment period.

After your child takes them out you could try giving him a 5- or 10-minute break before putting them back in. Remember to always try to reinforce in a positive way.

Other than just continuing to put them back in, you could try tricks like toupee tape, super seals, or huggies for hearing aids. A wonderful website to check out with all of these practical solutions is www.listen-up.org/haid/aids-out.htm or ask other parents. What works for one child may not work for the other so you may have to try out several different ideas.

One very important tip for any young child is to use some kind of clip to keep the hearing aids close if they are pulled out. You could try Critter Clips, Kid Clips, eyeglass cords or even string and a pin. It is not fun to look for lost hearing aids on the playground.

If you have more questions, please join me at the Family Support Connection's Coffee Chat on April 24 or e-mail me at mcdan011@umn.edu.

Have a question for this column? Contact fsc@lifetrackresources.org, 651-265-2435 (v) or -2379 (tty).

Swimming lessons offered

A special 8-week swimming program for deaf or hard of hearing children and adults will be offered this Spring by a University of Minnesota ASL student. The lessons will take place at Foss Swim School in Knollwood Mall in St. Louis Park.

If interested in participating, e-mail info@fossswimschool.com or call Dana at 952-935-8732.

Riding lessons in ASL offered

Horseback riding lessons for children who are deaf or hard of hearing are being offered at West Metro Stables (near Buffalo).

The instructor, Katie Saarela, is a University of Minnesota student who is hard of hearing and uses speech and sign language.

For more information, contact Katie at saar0057@umn.edu or 763-574-9929.

Group interprets Bible in ASL

Deaf Missions, a ministry group from Council Bluffs, Iowa, has interpreted the entire New Testament into American Sign Language.

Interpreters appear on camera, signing the New Testament's 7,959 verses. The job took 23 years to complete and included work from more than 60 people.

After editing is completed, the interpretation should be available on DVD and videotape this summer. The ASL interpretation will be sold online at www.deafmissions.com.

Deaf artists' works in exhibit

"Images and Visions of a Culture," a national exhibit of Deaf artists, opens April 3 at aND Gallery, 526 Selby Ave., in St. Paul.

The exhibit features works by nationally recognized artists as well as Minnesota students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The students have created posters that will be displayed at the gallery beginning April 14. The exhibit runs through May 7.

For a complete schedule of events, gallery hours or to schedule a group visit, call 612-824-2753.



A Little Grin

By Candace Lindow-Davies

Last year we took our family on the "pilgrimage" to Disney World. Our son (a profoundly deaf 8-year-old with a cochlear implant) used a handheld captioning device so he could understand the dialog at many of the attractions. He loved the captions—except on one ride.

We were on the "Small World" ride where a small boat takes you slowly through room after room of tiny dolls dressed up in costumes from all over the world. Throughout the ride, the song "It's a Small World" played over and over until we wanted to dive overboard and swim for the exit!

As we floated along, my 4-year-old daughter with bright eyes, pointed to each rocking figure, my husband and I pointed invisible guns to our heads when she wasn't looking, and my son stared at the captioning device in his lap. Finally, he looked up and said, "I don't get it. It's the same words over and over again." Everyone in our boat took a moment to consider this, and then burst into laughter. I guess captioning really does level the playing field. He was suffering just like the rest of us!

Give others a little grin by sending stories about your child to fsc@lifetrackresources.org.

Implant maker partners with Bell

Advanced Bionics, the maker of Clarion cochlear implants, has joined AG Bell's Circle Alliance Partnership to provide resources that promote listening and talking. Advanced Bionics (AB) contributed \$100,000 to the partnership between AG Bell and AB's hearing health advocacy division, the Bionic Ear Association.

If you are the parent of a child who was diagnosed with a hearing loss during the past year, chances are you have a lot of questions...



Coffee Chat

Kirsten Coverstone, an audiologist at the University of Minnesota, Coordinator of Lions Infant Hearing Aid Loaner Bank, and one of the Newborn Hearing Screening Co-Coordinator, will be available to talk to parents and answer questions.

Saturday, April 24, 2004

9:30 - 11:30 am

Como Park Pavilion

1360 North Lexington Parkway, St. Paul
(see attached map)

Whether your child:

- Has mild to profound hearing loss
- Has a hearing loss in one ear or both
- Has a cochlear implant, hearing aids, or no amplification
- Will learn sign, cued speech, oral communication, or a combination

Experienced parents will be there to answer questions, tell stories, and share information and resources.

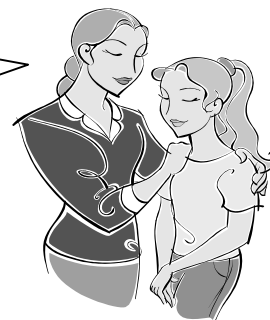


How will I read you a story?

The first cup of coffee is on us!

Bring family photos to share!

What happens when my daughter gets to school?



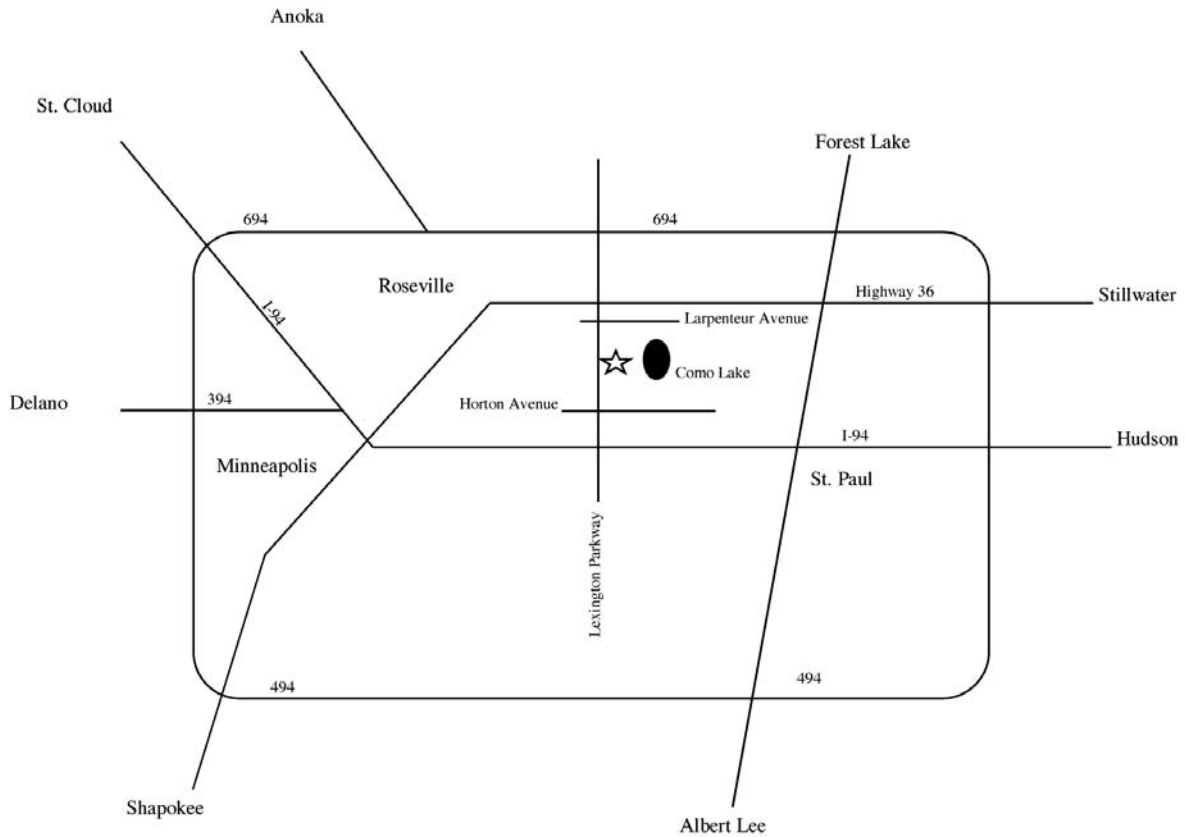
Please mark your calendars for upcoming coffee chats:

- same time, same place July 24th and
October 23rd, 2004.

Sponsored by the Family Support Connection at Lifetrack Resources. Contact 651-265-2435 (voice) or 651-265-2379 (TTY) or fsc@lifetrackresources.org for more information and to reserve your spot.

Build better lives for children who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing parent-based, unbiased support to families.

Map for Como Park Pavilion:



Don't forget to mark your calendars for upcoming coffee chats:

- same time, same place on July 24th and October 23rd, 2004.

Family Support Connection is a program at Lifetrack Resources.



www.familysupportconnection.org