



Fall 2025

MN DeafBlind Project News

Happy Fall!

We were treated to an unseasonably warm fall this year! The leaves are just passing their peak, but they were beautiful while they lasted!

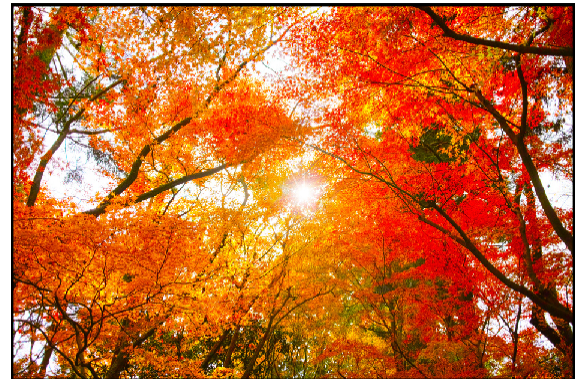
In this newsletter, you'll see fun photos from our Camp Butterscotch family event, this newsletter's Family Spotlight, upcoming events, and two resource highlights for families!

As always, I'm available to connect with families via email, phone call or text. I am happy to discuss strategies, help you brainstorm or problem solve, and share resources to support your family and child with combined hearing and vision loss.

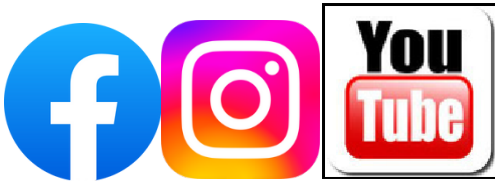
-Brandy

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Find and follow us on social media!



This resource was developed with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education. The source of the funds is from federal award – 84.326T, H326T230026 PL 108-446 PT. D IDEA. Special Education - Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities. The contents of this training do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal or state government.

MNDBP Highlights

Camp Butterscotch!

Camp Butterscotch is an amazing little hobby farm south of the Twin Cities that is owned by two teachers of the blind/visually impaired. They have thoughtfully created a beautiful space that is accessible and provides hands-on and immersive experiences for individuals who are blind or DeafBlind.

This year, families were able to paint pumpkins, pet two cows and a bunny, experience a sensory garden, play games, and build connections!



Family Spotlight

Elazab Family

Can you tell us about your child and their favorite activities or interests?

Zayn is 8 years old, and he attends the Metro Deaf School. He enjoys traveling, the outdoors and any type of water related activities. He is smart, silly, brave and such a determined guy!

What has been the most rewarding part of your journey as a family raising a child who is DeafBlind?

The most rewarding part about raising a child that is deafblind is that it has forced us to look at the world in a different light. It is truly an enlightening experience that I enjoy every day. We definitely celebrate the small victories. I love watching Zayn explore and navigate the world in his own way.

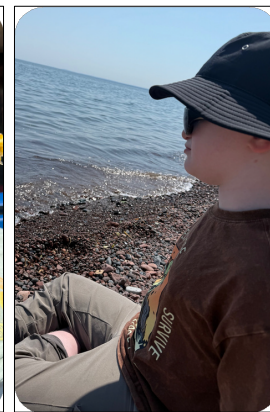
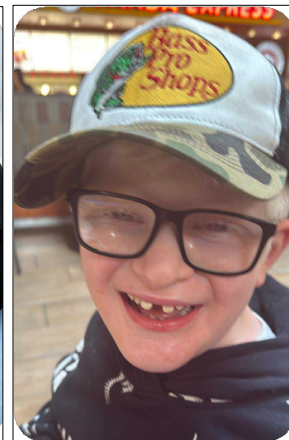
Are there any strategies, tools, or resources that have been especially helpful for your child's growth and learning?

Zayn's school has definitely helped us along the way. They have helped us feel a sense of community and have guided us when we had questions. They provide ASL classes for families of students at the school. They also host a lot of fun events throughout the year.

How has the MN DeafBlind Project supported your family?

The DeafBlind Project has been an excellent resource. Especially after Zayn was first born and before he was at the age where he could start school, they were there for us. I remember meeting with Deanna shortly after Zayn was born, and how comforting it was to meet another parent who had a DeafBlind child. I will never forget her talking about the importance of hand-under-hand signing and not taking a DeafBlind child's hands and moving them for them. That advice is something I've kept in mind throughout the years. We utilized the toy library often when Zayn was young and attended conferences.

We are so grateful that I can reach out to Brandy or others at the DeafBlind Project, and they will make time to meet with me and address any concerns that I have regarding Zayn and help me find solutions and more resources. It's a comfort knowing this organization is there.



Upcoming Family Events

Family events hosted by the MN DeafBlind Project are FREE to families of DeafBlind children/youth.

Empowering Families Through DeafBlind Training

4th Tuesday of each month

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. OR 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Each month, we'll meet online to learn and connect. Meetings will include family requested topics, guest speakers, and simple strategies or activities that you can try at home. You'll also get access to a monthly self-paced learning module (about 4 hours) to help you better understand and support your child with combined hearing and vision loss.



Don't miss this opportunity to build community, make meaningful connections, and learn from both experts and fellow families!

[RSVP Here](#) to get more details and meeting information.

Winter Party

Sunday, January 18, 2026

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Join the Minnesota DeafBlind Project and DeafBlind Services Minnesota for a fun afternoon family event! There will be a variety of winter-themed interactive activities and experiences. It's a great chance to get out of the house and meet other families during the cold winter months!



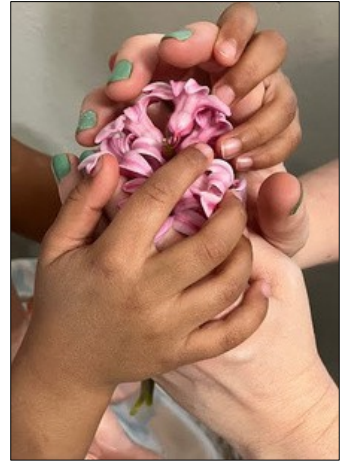
[RSVP Here](#) by Sunday, January 4, 2026.

Resource Highlight

Hand-Under-Hand for DeafBlind Children

Amanda mentioned in her family spotlight how she learned about the concept of hand-under-hand when Zayn was very young. This is a powerful strategy that provides respectful, tactile support to encourage children to interact and communicate. Below are a few resources to learn more and share with your child's educational team.

- [Hand-Under-Hand Technique, NCDB Practice Guide](#)
- [Hand-Under-Hand Technique, Module Video](#)



Ideas for the Holidays

The holiday season is just around the corner. There are many wonderful resources out there to help families have fun and learn together while considering the need for access. This [Ideas for the Holidays webpage](#) from the National Center on Deafblindness is filled with hands-on ideas and activities for children.



The Butterfly Pig

[The Butterfly Pig](#)

The mission of this organization is to make healthcare more child-friendly and to empower kids who have unique medical needs through realistic and educational medical toys.

This is also a great way to increase representation. For example, there are hearing aids, cochlear implant headbands, and AFOs that can be added to your child's favorite doll or plush animal to help them feel included, represented, and more confident!

Siblings might also enjoy this opportunity for play!

