



Summer 2025

MN DeafBlind Project News

Soaking up the summer...

This summer has flown by more quickly than I can believe! I hope that you have all been able to find joy, relaxation, and quality time together this summer!

If your child is or was involved in any summer activities, camps, social groups, etc., we'd love to hear about it! Even though DeafBlind Awareness Week has passed for this year, we love celebrating your children all year long!

In June, we hosted an [Empowering Families Through DeafBlind Training](#), and we worked on creating **One-Page Profiles**. If you weren't able to join this time but still want help making a One-Page Profile for your child, just send me an email and we'll set up a time to meet!

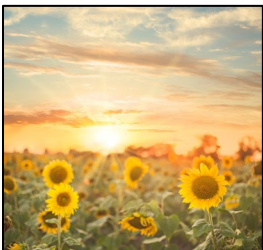
This newsletter includes highlights from our Family & Intervener Appreciation Picnic, Upcoming Activities, and Resources. You won't want to miss the Family Spotlight on page 4!

-Brandy

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and YouTube

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Family & Intervener Appreciation Picnic 2025

It was a wonderful turnout for our annual Family & Intervener Appreciation Picnic this year! Families & interveners made connections and enjoyed face painting, caricature artist, a fire truck, photo booth and more! **Save the Date for June 6, 2026.**





Family & Intervener Appreciation Picnic 2025

Shining Stars

This year we recognized 5 Shining Stars who have gone above and beyond to have positive impacts on the lives of DeafBlind children and their families!



Krista Dillman, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Teacher of the DeafBlind



Katie Liddiard, School Intervener



Marissa Mahowald, Teacher of the Blind Visually Impaired and Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist



Nan Records, former Special Education Director and Regional Low Incidence Facilitator



Michele Kremer, ASL Interpreter and Community Intervener



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

Jax has a magnetic personality, attracting people with his calm presence and his joyful nature. He has always enjoyed making people laugh with his jokes of hiding toys and doing funny things. He loves being around people, especially his big brother.



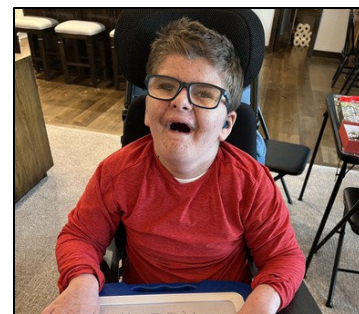
What has been the most rewarding part of your journey as a family raising a child who is DeafBlind

Jax has taught our family many things. One is to slow down. Sometimes the world is so fast-paced that we find ourselves rushing through daily tasks to try to move to the next thing on our 'To Do' list. Jax has reminded us to be present in the moment with everything we do. Even the process of putting on shoes can be a moment of singing, connecting, and laughing. A seemingly mundane errand of grocery shopping can be an experience of wonder and interest if we slow down and look around us. Jax has helped us find joy in even the routine tasks of daily living.

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

We have learned a tremendous amount from Jax's school intervener. She finds ways for Jax to access information and to interact with his peers.

We have learned many strategies from her that we implement at home, which help Jax stay connected with the world around him and the people he is with.

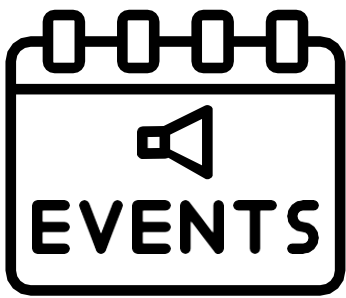


How has the MN DeafBlind Project supported your family?



The MN DeafBlind Project has been a wonderful resource for our family. I had the opportunity to participate in the ***Empowering Families Through DeafBlind Training***, which included monthly virtual sessions and online modules that I could complete at my own pace. The material included topics that are part of Intervener training. As a parent of a deafblind child, there is no training or manual that comes with this immense responsibility and honor. This course opened my eyes to new ideas and gave me a better understanding of how Jax learns and communicates. I feel better equipped to be the best advocate I can be for Jax.

This past spring I attended the Mom's Retreat hosted by the MN DeafBlind Project. The weekend retreat was so meaningful to me as I had the opportunity to meet other mothers of children living with different (and yet similar) conditions. It was a space to share ideas, resources, and find comfort in shared experiences.



Upcoming Family Events

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

Understanding Deafblindness & The Role of the Intervener

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

This introductory virtual workshop is designed to provide participants with information about deafblindness, its impact on access and the role of the intervener. It is free and open to families and educators. Share with your school teams.

[Register for this event](#)

Empowering Families Through DeafBlind Training

3rd Tuesday of each month:

30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. OR 6:30 to 7:30 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 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 deafblindness.

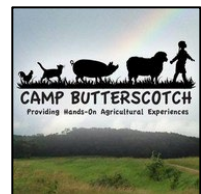
Don't miss this opportunity to build community, connections, learn from experts and learn from other families!

[RSVP](#) by **Sunday, September 7, 2025**

Camp Butterscotch- Family Day

Sunday, September 21, 2025

1:00-4:00 p.m.



The DeafBlind Project is hosting a family day at Camp Butterscotch this year. There will be animals to meet, outdoor games to play, a sensory garden and more! Come out to meet and connect with other families and share fun experiences with the kids!

[RSVP](#) by **Sunday, September 14, 2025**



RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

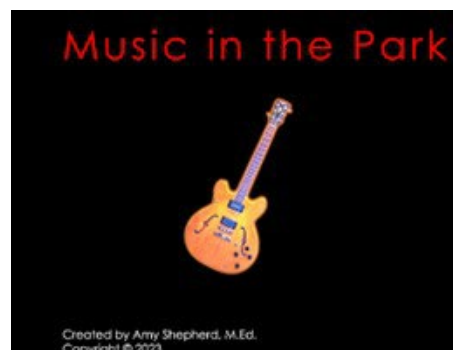


The [CVI Book Nook](#) was developed by Amy Shepard who is the parent of a young man who is legally blind, an educator, and a lifelong lover of books.

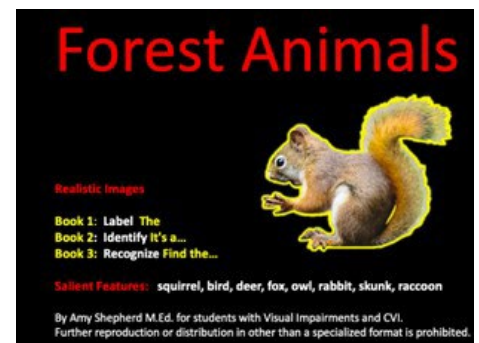
It includes a huge assortment of adapted books, movies, and materials with high contrast images, simple and descriptive rhymes, and clear salient features that foster concept development, visual attention and early literacy!



Book



Movie



Book

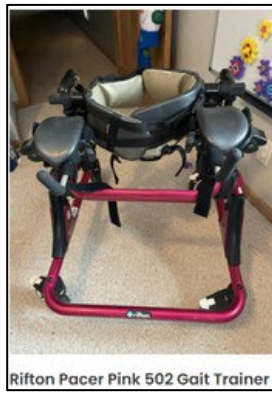


The Children's Organization of Lending Equipment (COLE) works to connect costly adaptive equipment from children who outgrow the equipment to other children who need it, at no cost. COLE provides a resource for families to browse and Lend from their library of equipment.

Frequently Asked Questions



Gait Trainer R82 Mustang



Rifton Pacer Pink 502 Gait Trainer



Stander Rifton Medium