



Summer–Fall 2018



ARIZONA STATE SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

Early Childhood and Family Education



Welcome!

It has been too many months since our last Early Childhood Newsletter; however our program has been going through many exciting changes these past 6 months. We are delighted to report that ASDB received some additional funding from the Arizona State Legislature to hire more teachers for the ASDB Early Childhood Program. Our goal is to double the number of statewide early childhood teachers we have so that we can increase our level of service to families and ultimately help

prepare your children to be more ready for preschool at the age of three. We have been very busy recruiting and hiring more teachers (whom you will meet in this newsletter) since last April and are well on our way to doubling our teaching staff. We have hired 14 new teachers in the past 5 months and hope to hire several more by the end of the year. We are excited about our growing early childhood family and tend to think this is the best job there is because we get to work with families like you!

Hopefully you already have or will soon be having conversations with your child’s hearing or vision teacher about how to increase visits. Please don’t ever hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you and your family.

Barbara Schrag,
Director, ECFE
520-770-3002



Audiology Corner

We are delighted to continue to be able to provide Audiology support services for our families of deaf/hard of hearing children in Tucson and Phoenix.

Curtis Vanture Au.D. CCC-A continues to provide Audiology support out of the

Tucson office and provides services to families on an as needed basis. Kathy Wexler Au.D., CCC-A continues to provide Audiology clinics at two different locations in the Phoenix area on Mondays and Fridays. These audiology services are provided as needed to

supplement any services being provided by your managing Audiologist. Please consult with your hearing teacher for more information on specific dates and times of Audiology clinics in Tucson and Phoenix.



New HI Teachers—Northern Arizona



Left to right: Krista Van Winkle, Helen McDowell, and Amy Hughes

Krista Van Winkle joined our ECFE team in July 2018 as a full time Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing serving the Northern Arizona region. She graduated from the University of Arizona in 2015 with a degree in Special Education & Rehabilitation Emphasis in Deaf Studies. Krista is also currently working on completing her Masters degree in Deaf Education from the University of Arizona as a way to expand her knowledge within the field.

Helen McDowell joins ECFE full time after having served families as a part time early childhood teacher as needed in the Prescott area for several years. Helen received her masters at San Diego State University in Communicative Disorders--Education of the Hearing Impaired. She worked as an itinerant teacher of the hearing impaired in East San Diego County prior to joining the North Central Regional Cooperative where she served as an itinerant teacher for 25 years and a Regional Consulting Teacher for the Deafblind.

Amy Hughes is the new ECFE Teacher of the D/HH serving Mohave County. She has worked with school-age (Preschool - 12th grade) Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children for 18 years and also taught in a regular education combined K-1 classroom. She has 4 children, all boys, and is excited to be part of the ASDB and ECFE Team!





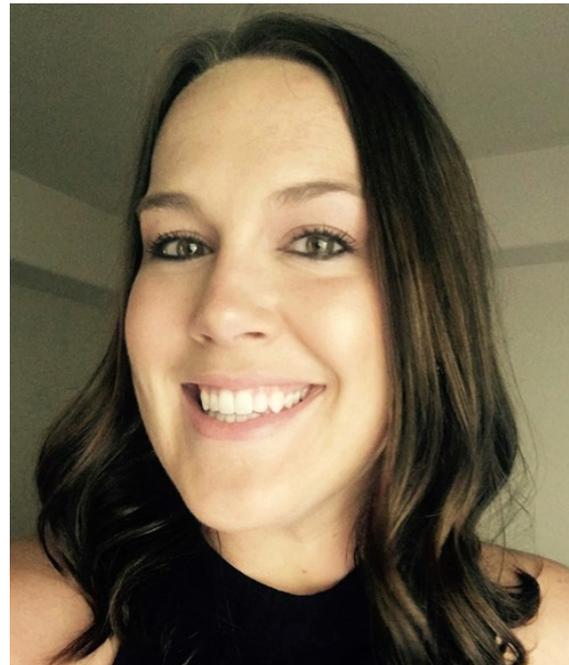
New HI Teachers—Southern Arizona



Our Southern Arizona Team is expanding! We are excited to introduce two new members of our ECFE Team, Jennifer Knox (left) and Amanda Beneke (right).



Jennifer was born in Colorado but moved to Tucson at the age of 12. She is a graduate of Catalina Foothills High School, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona. Jennifer's first year as a teacher was in a catholic middle school classroom. The next four years were spent at the same school but in the kindergarten classroom before joining the ASDB staff in 2010. At ASDB, Jennifer has taught Kindergarten, worked with 1st through 8th grade, and spent 5 years in Preschool. Jennifer has one child, a son, who graduated from Salpointe Catholic High School last year and now plays soccer at Pima.



Amanda was born in Minnesota but grew up in Arizona. She returned to Arizona after working with deaf and hard of hearing children and their families in Texas, Maryland, and California. She is so excited to be back! Amanda is a Speech-Language Pathologist and a certified Listening and Spoken Language Specialist/ Auditory Verbal Therapist. She enjoys traveling and partner dancing to country music. Amanda has volunteered with a nonprofit organization to develop the field of speech-language pathology in Zambia, Africa. Ask her about her adventures! Amanda is ecstatic about working with the ECFE team!



New HI Teachers—Central Arizona



Left to right: Jillian Thuringer, Julie Fisher, and Morgan Scadden

Jillian comes from a small town in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. As an individual with a hearing loss, she attended the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, NY, and obtained her bachelor's degree in Visual Arts and Deaf Studies in 2011, and her master's degree in Deaf Education in 2015. She is fluent in both American Sign Language and spoken English. In 2017, Jillian was hired by Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind as an itinerant teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing within the Phoenix metro area and in 2018, accepted the position to work in the agency's Early Childhood Program. She has a deep passion and personal connection to the education of deaf and hard of hearing children and their families that she is excited to share in this position. In her spare time, she is an artist who enjoys traveling around the southwest with her family and sometimes, simply enjoys the beautiful Arizona sunsets in her own backyard.

Morgan graduated from Idaho State University with a BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders. After deciding to pursue a career in early intervention, she attended Utah State University where she earned her Master's Degree in Deaf Education with an emphasis in Listening and Spoken Language and Early Childhood Special Education, birth to five. She is passionate about involving and empowering parents in intervention and is excited to be part of the ASDB ECFE team.

Julie proudly comes from San Diego, California. Julie received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at Gallaudet University and a Master of Science in Deaf Education from McDaniel College. She holds Arizona State Teacher Certification for grades K-8 regular education and special education. Julie is a full time Deaf Mentor for Maricopa County and surrounding areas. Her past experience includes working in the classroom and at home with Deaf children and families in several states and countries. Julie has been passionate about providing early intervention and support to families and children. In her spare time, she loves traveling, being outdoors and finding new adventures.





New HI Teachers—Central Arizona



Noan graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a Bachelors degree in Deaf Education. She earned her Masters degree in Audiology from Arizona State University. She has previously worked for the agency as a teacher and as an audiologist. She is excited to be joining the ECFE team and thrilled to have the opportunity to provide support to families at such an important period in their child's development.



Sara Laird and Noan Dublinski

Sara Laird started at ECFE in January of 2018 and she is currently one of our Hearing Teachers servicing families in the Phoenix area. Sara has earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from The University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. After completing her graduate degree, Sara taught preschool aged children for 8 years and taught children who were developing their listening and spoken language skills. She has taught at Desert Voices Oral Learning Center and PDSB Preschool. During the time she was a preschool classroom teacher, Sara completed the AG Bell Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) Mentoring Program and has completed the application process in order to obtain her Listening and Spoken Language AvEd Certificate. Sara is currently studying and preparing to sit for the LSL examination and she hopes to achieve that goal over the next year. Sara knows some sign language, although her passion in the field is working with young children who have cochlear implants to learn how to listen and talk.





New VI Teachers—Statewide



Our team is growing! In the photo we have

Back from left to right:

Alli Scott (Northern), Tracy Mosbarger (Statewide Supervisor), Cathy Byrne (Tucson), Kathy Heiser (Northern).

Front row left to right;

Kristi Lawrence (Northern), Pam Gottard (Lake Havasu/Yuma), Cecilia Onaiyekan (Southern Region), and Ellann Olsen (Kingman/Bullhead City).

Tracy is returning to the agency to fill the Supervisor position after Susan Greer retired in July. Pam has retired with the agency, and comes to ECFE to work part-time, and Ellann has transferred over with the agency from the Northern Co-Op. We are so excited to have vision services covered all over the state of Arizona.



Kathy Heiser has enjoyed working with children for most of my life. She started in home licensed daycare for 11 years and worked in a Montessori school as a teacher for 4 years and Interim Director for 1 year. She has also worked in Arizona Early Intervention Program for 5 years as a Developmental Specialist and Service Coordinator. She has now joined ASDB as A Vision Impaired Teacher for birth to 3 year olds, visiting in their homes. She have lived in Arizona for 35 years now and loves living in the White Mountains where she has raised her two daughters and now is raising her 15 year old granddaughter. She enjoys spending time with her 4 grandchildren and 1 more in January!



G. Cathy Byrne, joined our ASDB Vision Team in July, 2018. Cathy has a Master's Degree in Education, with an emphasis in Rehabilitation. She and her teenage daughter moved to Tucson in 2012. Cathy's has extensive experience has included Social Work, Mental Health, and Early Intervention.

Vision and the Brain—A Book Study

By: Alli Scott, Teacher of the Visually Impaired in Flagstaff



The understanding of vision and the role the brain plays in the processing of visual information is an ever evolving study, we are learning more and more each day.

Last summer at the Western Regional Early Intervention Conference (WREIC) that ASDB- Early Childhood hosted in Phoenix , we were fortunate to meet Dr. Gordon Dutton and Dr. Amanda Hall Lueck. Dr. Dutton is a pediatric ophthalmologist in Scotland, with a specialist clinic in pediatric neuro-ophthalmology. He has worked with Dr. Amanda Hall Lueck to compile and edit a book called Vision and The Brain. Understanding Cerebral Visual Impairment in Children.

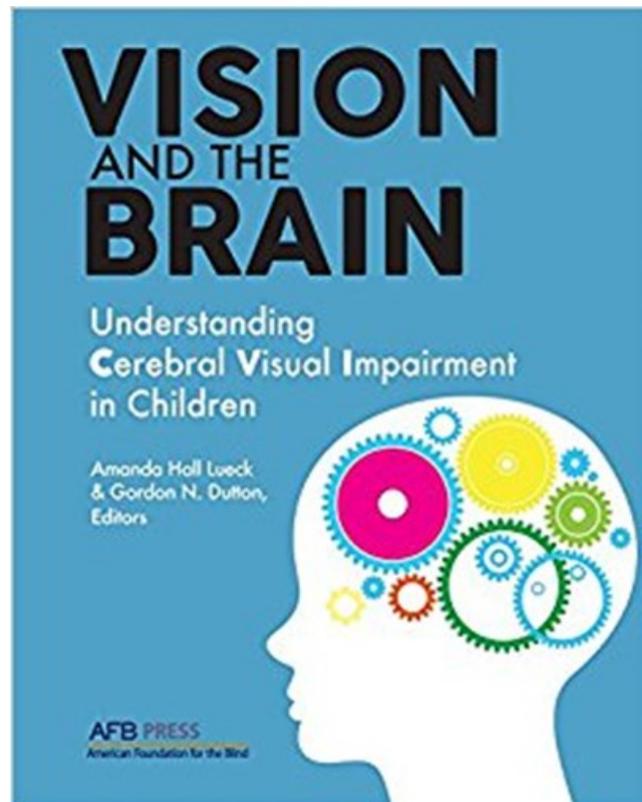
Cerebral Vision Impairment, also known as Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) is “the most common cause of visual impairment in children in the United States and the developed world.” (Dutton) CVI is a form of visual impairment that is caused by issues in the brain rather than an eye problem. As Teachers of the Visually Impaired, we are working hard to stay up to date with all of the new information out there. This has led us to do an in-depth book study on Vision and The Brain.

We have learned that 2/3 of

the brain is used to process visual information, therefore damage or underdevelopment in any area can affect how a child is using their vision. All of the children with cortical visual impairment that we work with are unique and require a deeper comprehension of their brain and health history. We are attending more neurology appointments and reviewing neurology records to help families understand the unique visual qualities of their

child. This has led to a greater knowledge of how to support each child and maximize their visual experiences within their daily routines.

We are excited that we can provide this type of support for our families across the state, and look forward to learning more about our unique kiddos.



Meet the Edwards Family!



By: Laura Hocknull, Teacher of the Hearing Impaired in Phoenix



Brittany and Dan Edwards are the proud parents to beautiful McKenna. They joined our program when McKenna was about 3 months old. McKenna got her hearing aids about a week later, but it was difficult to keep them in. McKenna's little ears aren't yet strong enough to hold them on, and one of the molds didn't seem to be shaped quite right. Brittany called their audiologist to have the molds looked at, and new impressions

were made. When the new earmolds came in two weeks later, they fit perfectly. However, they still fell out because McKenna's outer ear (the pinna) is still not strong enough to hold the hearing aid in place. The Edwards Hearing Teacher gave them a hearing aid headband to try and help hold the hearing aids in place. It worked like a charm, and McKenna looked adorable in a headband.

If you would like to try a hearing aid headband, ask your Hearing Teacher about it. We have a few that we loan out to families to see if it helps keep the aids on. Never fear, they come in colors and designs for boys, as well. We also have little pilot caps to try. Double sided fabric tape or toupee tape can also help keep hearing aids on.

Brittany felt McKenna should have more than one headband option to go with her outfits as every girl should, and wanted it to be adjustable. But when looking online, felt they were a little too pricey. Brittany and Grandma figured out how to make their own and went to town. Dan and Brittany would love for families within the Early Childhood Program to be able to have more than one headband to use with their

little ones and would like to share them. There is a catch, however. It is difficult to come by the hardware needed to make the headbands adjustable.

If you would like Brittany to make you a headband, please contact your Hearing Teacher and let her know the color you are thinking of. Also, she needs old bra straps to make the headband. If you, your sisters, aunts, cousins, etc..have old bras



you plan to get rid of, please give them to your Hearing Teacher and we will make sure they get to Brittany.

McKenna has had her hearing aids for 2 months now, and is turning to see her parents when they come in the room and looks for her puppies when she hears them running around. She is growing and learning everyday. Thank you, Brittany and Dan, for letting us be a part of your lives, and thank you for your generosity in sharing your hearing-aid-headband-making talents with other families.





End of Summer Event

By: Mary Ann Lester, Teacher of the Hearing Impaired in Phoenix

On a very warm Saturday morning in September, Latino families of children who are deaf/hard of hearing gathered for an "End of Summer" event. The day of fun was held at the Enchanted Island at Encanto

Park, and was sponsored by AZ Department of Health Services, Hands and Voices and ASDB. Several of our ECFE families attended, and were able to ride the train and carousel, play in the splash pad area, and meet other

families while eating pizza. It was a wonderful opportunity to share experiences with other Spanish speaking families. Despite the heat, a good time was enjoyed by all!



Parent/Toddler Class Update

Parent Toddler Classes in the Tucson area will begin on October 23rd. It will be held on Tuesdays from 9-11:30. If you live in the Southern Arizona area and your child will be turning 2 this semester, you will be getting an informational letter soon!

Feel free to check in with your teacher if you haven't heard about it yet!

Parent Toddler Class in the Phoenix area is on hold. We are sad to say that we have lost our teacher, Cheryl. After many years of teaching for our

program, she has chosen to pursue new adventures. We are currently searching for a new teacher, so stay tuned!

Family Meet and Greet



On Oct 4th, in Tucson, we had an informal gathering of past and present families. The evening was complete with pizza and lemonade with lots of time to share experiences and stories relative to cochlear implantation. It's always great to hear and learn from other parents and family members!



Family Gatherings in the Southwest Region

By: Roxanne Dahl, Teacher of the Hearing Impaired in Yuma



In Yuma, over the last several months, families had opportunities to gather at the library and the park. Our park events gave parents an opportunity to meet each other and interact while children played together. In July a special story time was held just for our



have five library locations, which offer weekly baby, preschool, toddler, bilingual and family story times. Check out your local library schedule!



families at the Main Library. We listened to stories, sang, danced, and played with a parachute. What a wonderful, language rich environment! Library story times are free! In the Yuma area, we

Introducing the Deaf Mentor Program to the Community!

Deaf Mentor Program is designed to provide children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families the opportunity to interact with and learn from a Deaf or Hard of Hearing adult. Families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing ages 0-5 can receive support from a Deaf Mentor. Birth to 3 families receive home based visits. Families with children 3-5 receive community-based classes.

The Deaf Mentor focuses on promoting positive beginnings by facilitating early language through American Sign Language (ASL) instruction and sharing valuable insight about the social, physical, cognitive, and emotional development of children who are DHH. The program brings together the love of family and the wealth of knowledge from a mentor who is

DHH to provide a rich sign language environment for children.

Additionally, Deaf Mentor Program offers weekly American Sign Language classes to families and an occasional Open House to introduce the program to the parents and their families.

Deaf Mentors are professionals and community members specifically trained to work with families. They support ASL development, share their experiences as deaf/hard of hearing person, socialize with children and families, demonstrate natural communication, and focus on five areas in their home visits— language/communication; Deaf Culture; Literacy, and building community.



Amber Hansen,
East Valley-PHX



Estefania Pena,
Tucson



Daisy Cartwright,
Flagstaff



Julie Fisher,
Phoenix



Christina Vorreyer-Davis, M.S.
Deaf Mentor Program Coordinator
Christina.vorreyer@asdb.k12.az.us
602.824.8914



Save the Date!



Phoenix Fall Festival

When: November 2nd 3pm-7pm

Where: McCormick Train Park
Aste Ramada
7301 E Indian Bend Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85250

RSVP: Text 480-251-0708 or visit
<https://asdb.az.gov/ecfe/event/asdb-early-childhood-fall-festival/>

Train/carousel rides, face painting, games, and more!

Tucson Fall Festival

When: November 3rd 9am-12pm

Where: Arizona Schools for
the Deaf and the Blind
1200 W. Speedway
Clifford Building

Come enjoy a morning of food, face painting, games and more! Meet other families in our program and enjoy the cooler weather on our playground!



The Deaf Mentor Program Presents: Snowflakes Families Festival Holiday Party

When: December 15th 11am-4pm

Where: Phoenix Day School for the Deaf
7654 N 19th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Multipurpose Room

RSVP: E-mail Christina.Vorreyer@asdb.az.gov by November 30th.
Storytelling, music and movement, crafts activity areas, food, and much more!

For families with deaf and hard of hearing children from birth to age 5.





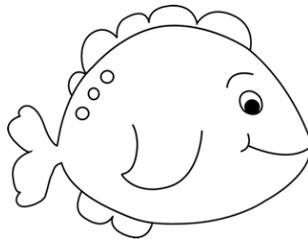
Singing Builds the Brain!

Music is so much fun! Music is especially important for our children because it helps them learn to listen and to talk. Nursery rhymes and kid songs have changing pitches, patterns, and melodies that are very engaging for children. Sing with your child every day! It's okay if

you don't sing well. Your child doesn't care! Don't know the words to a song? Make up your own! Make singing fun for your family.

Music of the Month: Slippery Fish

While it is still warm outside, get an empty container and put a little water in the bottom. Splash around as you sing Slippery Fish with your child. You can change the intensity of your voice and your splashing as you move from a tiny fish to a humongous whale! If you have any water animals or books at home, include these along with the vocabulary during playtime.



♪ Octopus (Slippery Fish) ♪

Slippery fish, slippery fish
Sliding through the water
Slippery fish, slippery fish
Gulp, gulp, gulp
Oh no, it's been eaten by an...

Octopus, octopus
Squiggling in the water
Octopus, octopus
Gulp, gulp, gulp
Oh no, it's been eaten by a...

Tuna fish, tuna fish
Flashing through the water
Tuna fish, tuna fish
Gulp, gulp, gulp
Oh no, it's been eaten by a...

Great white shark, great white shark
Lurking in the water
Great white shark, great white shark
Gulp, gulp, gulp
Oh no, it's been eaten by a...

Humongous whale, humongous whale
Spouting in the water
Humongous whale, humongous whale
Gulp, gulp, gulp



*If you have any questions or
need assistance, please
contact us at:*

*Tucson Office:
(520) 770-3002*

*Phoenix Office:
(602) 771-5204*

*Flagstaff Office:
(928) 774-0655*

*Yuma Office:
(928) 317-0429*

