Montana Deaf-Blind Project

Rural Institute
UNIVERSITY OF
MONTANA

To register for each session, and to view archived recordings and handouts, scan the QR code with your smart phone, or visit the website at:

http://mtdeafblind.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/events-training/

Winter 2022 Webinar Presentations
Early Identification of Deaf-Blindness Series
(MT Office of Public Instruction renewal unit credit available)

Presenter: Dr. Susan M. Bashinski

Dr. Susan M. Bashinski is a Professor of Special Education and is currently serving as the Interim Dean of the Missouri Western State University Graduate School. She has more than 40 years of experience working with learners who experience multiple disabilities, including deaf-blindness and CHARGE syndrome. Throughout her career, Susan's research interests and areas of expertise include early communication, gestural communication, and language development; augmentative communication; and cochlear implants for learners who experience deaf-blindness.

Experiences that occur during the earliest years of life have a profound effect on a child's ability to learn, move, and interact with others. This is especially true for children with combined vision and hearing loss—known as deaf-blindness—whose physical, communicative, cognitive, social, and emotional developmental domains are deeply intertwined. Because the impact on learning is exponentially greater for combined vision and hearing loss than for vision or hearing loss alone, early identification, followed by early intervention services from individuals who understand the unique impact of deaf-blindness, is essential. Register for this two-part webinar series to learn more.

Early Identification of Children with Deaf-Blindness

February 3, 2022, 12:00-1:30 MST   **REGISTER**

The foundation for this webinar is the assumption that early identification of combined vision and hearing loss is positively correlated with minimizing the negative impacts of sensory loss on a child's future development in multiple domains. The webinar will include a discussion of risk factors for deaf-blindness, as well as early behavioral signs or symptoms of this condition. The presenter will examine authentic assessment approaches, and suggest ten primary areas in which families and early intervention teams might focus their observational assessment, should they suspect a baby or toddler might experience deaf-blindness. The webinar will conclude with a brief mention of resources for assistance with identification of deaf-blindness.
Registration link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2687300297152189199

Bridging Early Identification of Deaf-Blindness to Effective Intervention

March 3, 2022, 12:00-1:30 MST   **REGISTER**

The purpose of this webinar is to provide strategies for mitigating the potential impacts of limited visual and auditory stimulation on a baby or toddler's long-term development. The presenter's purpose is to assist families and early intervention teams to build a foundation for the young child's learning and access to the environment, through developing supports to maximize the baby's / toddler's (1) use of residual sensory abilities and (2) receive communicative input. The presenter will discuss intervention strategies appropriate for implementation in the NICU, home, and on-site preschool—for both families and early interventionists, with the over-arching consideration that it is most critical to ensure the baby / toddler feels safe and environments are as predictable as possible.
Registration link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5720366894047241483

Live captioning will be provided for this webinar. Please contact Kim Brown by 5:00 PM Mountain Time on the Monday prior to the webinar to arrange any other necessary accommodations.