

Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO)

Newsletter

January 2014

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Greetings!

In recognition of January being Braille Literacy Month and in honor of Louis Braille's birthday, the Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) would like you to join us in celebrating by promoting literacy for all. MDE-LIO has an extensive repository of Braille and large print books for loan. Don't forget about the [ABCs for VIPs](#) to promote early literacy. As usual, American Foundation for the Blind in New York City has creative activities you can do and share with others in your school or community. The Braille Bug is waiting to take you down the trail of fun. Follow the link to access AFB's website and start sharing!

<http://www.afb.org/blog.aspx?BlogID=7&BlogEntryID=1057>

--Collette Bauman, Supervisor, MDE-LIO
APH Ex Officio Trustee

"Transition Success Factors" Conference Coming Soon!

The Michigan Department Of Education–Low Incidence Outreach (LIO) and Bureau Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) are excited to present a one-day conference: Transition Success Factors for Students with Visual Impairments.

Learn how to help make smooth transitions for your students in all aspects of their academic programming. Dr. Karen Wolffe will describe what we know from recently published research that shows the importance of specific key factors. This workshop will take place at Lansing Community College West Campus, located at 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, Michigan on Friday, March 28, 2014 from 8:15 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The registration fee for this fantastic event is \$55.00 and includes lunch. For more information, click on the following links: [flyer](#) and [agenda](#).

To register click here: http://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0006-0014-39a0dd6f4f2d4d7ca01da12db9250496

Registration closes March 3, 2014.

--Brenda Mahoney, Departmental Technician

Transition News

The *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB)*, the international peer-reviewed journal of record in the blindness field, became a membership benefit for AER members in January 2013 and has been designated the official journal of AER.

The December issue of JVIB is dedicated to transition and employment! **Karen E. Wolffe, Ph.D., CRC**, is guest editor of this special issue on Transition and Employment.

To access JVIB go to www.aerbvi.org and click on JVIB

--Lynn Pensari, Education Consultant

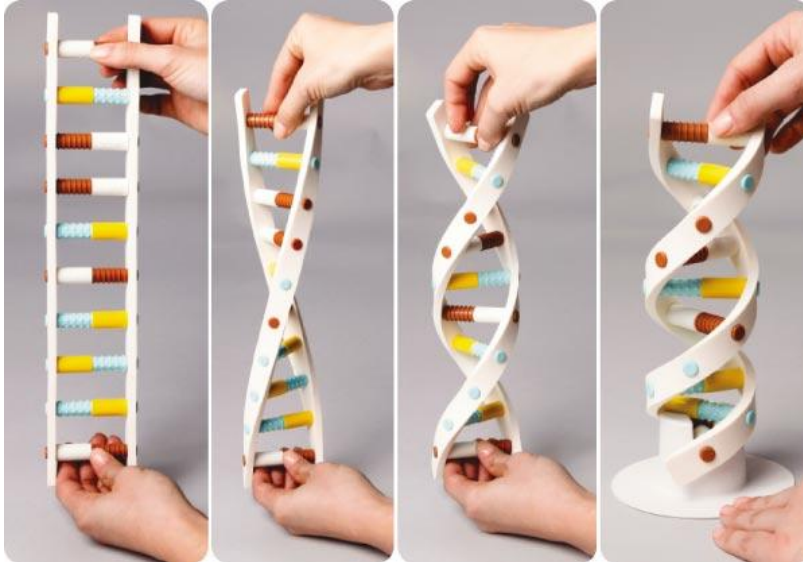
Early Childhood

Braille readiness skills begin with early experiences during every day activities in the home and other familiar settings. *Paths to Literacy for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired* offers a Braille resource packet for parents of young children. This is a compilation of ideas and resources from Penny Rosenblum. The packet includes great information about how to support the development of Braille skills and Braille literacy. For further information go to: www.pathstoliteracy.org/braille-resource-packet-parents-young-children

--Lynn Pensari, Education Consultant

American Printing House for the Blind (APH) News

APH continues to develop and provide helpful tools to assist in teaching students who are blind/visually impaired. The **DNA Twist** shown below is an awesome new teaching tool to assist in understanding a complex science concept. This was newly developed and is available through APH quota funds for eligible students.



Find out about this and other new products by using the APH [handy list of major new products](http://www.aph.org) on the APH website: <http://www.aph.org>

--Collette Bauman, APH Ex Officio Trustee and LIO Supervisor

APH Federal Quota Census

Low Incidence Outreach conducts an annual census of students who are legally blind in order to determine the allocation of funds for the State of Michigan.

Who is eligible?

- Students must meet the definition of blindness-that is, have a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction or a peripheral field of vision no greater than 20 degrees **OR**
- Function at the definition of blindness-when visual performance is reduced by a brain injury or dysfunction. Student in this category manifest unique visual characteristics often found in conditions referred to as neurological, cortical, or cerebral visual impairment.
- Be enrolled in a formally organized public or private, nonprofit educational program of less than college level.
- Be enrolled with the registering school or agency on the first Monday in January.

The funding allocation for the **2013-14 Fiscal Year is: \$345.72 per eligible student.** (The determination is based on the total number of students in the state.)

Please remember to update and return your **APH Quota Census** by mid-February to Ann Langley. Ann is available to answer any questions or provide assistance. Feel free to contact her at: langelya@michigan.gov. The APH Census packet should be arriving any day so watch for it in the mail. Thanks!

--Collette Bauman, APH Ex Officio Trustee and LIO Supervisor

Independent Living Skills Tip

ILS Tip #1: Understanding time: You and your student set a timer for ten minutes. Have your student work on a homework assignment independently. Now set the timer again for ten minutes and allow your student to do an activity of their choice (play outside, play a video game, etc.) Now boil some pasta/rice for ten minutes. Compare the ten-minute sessions. Which seemed longer? They were all ten minutes, but which one seemed to fly by? Discuss how ten minutes is ten minutes! Sometimes it flies by, and other times it seems like forever.

ILS Tip #2: Perkins School for the Blind www.perkins.org: You may view Independent Living Skills videos for free. Topics include: Mealtime Skills and Sleep Strategies.

ILS Tip #3: Dusting/Cleaning Product: Pledge Multi Surface Everyday Wipes: one product that may be used for multiple duties. Easy to use.

--Marcia Pavkovich, ILS Coordinator

AFB Offers Free UEB Webinar

Special Webinar Offering in Honor of National Braille Literacy Month!

The **Unified English Braille (UEB)** code is a new and exciting addition to our community. Educators and parents along with transcribers are a vital piece of this community. Learn more about the UEB, its similarity to current code, and what is and isn't changing. Attend this **FREE** session, [A Brief Overview of Unified English Braille](#), to see how you can become involved in the UEB implementation plan being developed now.

The webinar is presented by **Frances Mary D'Andrea, Ph.D.**, who is an instructor at the University of Pittsburgh and other universities, and an educational consultant specializing in literacy issues related to students with visual impairments. Dr. D'Andrea is currently Chair of the Braille Authority of North America (BANA), and has served as AFB's representative to BANA since 1998.

The webinar has been approved by **ACVREP** for 1 hour of continuing education credit.

Learn more about the [Unified English Braille code](#) now!

AFB and VisionAware Launch New Initiatives

AFB and VisionAware recently launched new initiatives addressing the needs of individuals with vision loss, and we're asking you to help us spread the news:

[Help Us Strengthen Specialized Services](#) by sharing our new advocacy materials.

As services geared to help people with visual impairments are almost perpetually in danger of being cut due to shrinking budgets, it becomes crucial that we continue to advocate to our policymakers of their importance, and to ensure such services are kept in place. AFB's new specialized services materials underline the importance of these services, and include specific documents on education services, employment services, and services for older consumers with vision loss. These documents are available at www.afb.org/specializedservices as accessible PDFs that can easily be printed and shared.

Spread the word about [VisionAware's Getting Started](#) kit.

Over 21.2 million Americans report trouble seeing, and that number is on the rise. For adults experiencing vision loss for the first time, the diagnosis can feel overwhelming and stressful. To provide hope and help to handle the challenges of vision loss, and to connect users with the resources they need, VisionAware created a Getting Started kit, available at visionaware.org/gettingstarted. Comprised of 10 "tip sheets," each sheet addresses practical solutions to everyday tasks such as reading, cooking, using computers, and more. The tip sheets are available as accessible PDFs that can easily be printed and shared.

Technology Corner

LIO's technology team has been busy! Many of you have requested a hands-on **Duxbury class**, and I am pleased to announce that this class is being created. We hope to have information on our website by the middle of February. Need a hands-on class with the **Mountbatten**? LIO is collaborating with HumanWare to schedule this workshop! Stay tuned for these upcoming trainings and much more!

Check out these new iPad, Android, and Kindle Fire apps for your students! (The lite versions listed are free to give you the opportunity to evaluate the apps.)

New iPad Apps: Age appropriate iPad Apps on "Sequencing", "Sorting", "Switch Accessible Matching" and "Switch Accessible Mazes" at www.judylynn.com/ipad

New Android Apps: Age appropriate Android Apps on "Sequencing" at www.judylynn.com/android

New Kindle Fire Apps: Age appropriate Kindle Fire Apps on "Sequencing" at www.judylynn.com/kindle

--Pat Love-Sypho, Technology Team Coordinator

Camp Tuhsmeheeta Winter/Spring 2014

Come and explore Camp Tuhsmeheeta in the winter. Fresh snowfall, beautiful trails, hot chocolate and much more! The following winter/spring events are planned to encourage families of children or teens with visual impairments to get outside and play together.



Saturday, February 1, 2014 Adventure Day at Camp T

Full day of fun, structured workshops designed for students with visual impairments and family members. Outdoor recreation opportunities such as snowshoes and Nordic skis are available. Register online at <http://mde-lío.cenmi.org/>. Deadline is January 16, 2014. Cost is \$5.00 / family.

Saturday, February 22, 2014 Let's Get Outside and Play

Open House for parents and youth with visual impairments to get outside and build a Snow Quincee. Dress warm! Learn more at <http://mde-lío.cenmi.org/>. Cost is \$5.00 per family.

Saturday, March 29, 2014 Let's Get Outside and Hike

Open House for parents and youth with visual impairments to get outside and hike around Camp T. More info. to come at <http://mde-lío.cenmi.org/>. Cost is \$5.00 per family.

Saturday, April 26, 2014 Let's Get Outside and Climb

Open House for parents and youth with visual impairments to get outside and climb the new 40' climbing tower at Camp T. More info. to come at <http://mde-lío.cenmi.org/>. Cost is \$5.00 per family.

To learn more about Camp Tuhsmeheeta, visit www.camptuhsmeheeta.org or call 888-760-2206.

--Jereme Vanden Heuvel, Site Director

DHH News:

Upcoming Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Testing Dates

January 17th (Friday) at MDE-LIO in Lansing
February 7th (Friday) at MDE-LIO in Lansing
February 21st (Friday) at MDE-LIO in Lansing
March 7th (Friday) at MDE-LIO in Lansing
March 21st (Friday) at Kent ISD in Grand Rapids

Upcoming DHH Professional Development Opportunities

Online U of M Sound Support workshop series, co-sponsored by MDE-LIO, for those who work with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ASHA/SCECH/CEUs available):

Thursday, January 9th, 2014 - 4:00-5:00pm

Programming Cochlear Implants

Thursday, February 6, 2014 - 4:00-5:00pm

Assessments & Outcomes for Children with Cochlear Implants

Thursday, March 6, 2014 - 4:00-5:00pm

What to do with Babies?

Thursday, April 3, 2014 - 4:00-5:00pm

Troubleshooting New Technology: CIs, Has & FM

Thursday, May 1, 2014 - 4:00-5:00pm

Bilateral Cochlear Implants: Before & After Activation

EIPA Video Conference Workshops

February 8, 2014, 11:00am-3:00pm

"Using Process Time: Why It Is Important and Techniques to Improve One's Process Time"

Barbara J. Woodhead, EIPA Rater, RID CI/CT, B.A. English & Kelly Brakenhoff, EIPA Rater, B.A. English

April 5, 2014, 11:00am-3:00pm

"Charting the Course: Avoid Getting Lost—Learn Effective Discourse Mapping Strategies"

Frances Beaurivage, Manager EIPA Diagnostic Center, RID CI/CT

*Please contact Tina-Atkins-Dean (atkins-deant@michigan.gov) for more information or visit our website at <http://mde-lio.cenmi.org>

--Tina Atkins-Dean, DHH Consultant

MDE-LIO Braille Production

We are proud to announce that this past year LIO has transcribed more than 205,134 pages of original Braille text from textbooks that you have submitted/requested on behalf of the students within your districts. We have created more than 56,931 master

tactile graphics! Your library is growing exponentially! MDE-LIO has beaten each previous year's production record five years in a row. We need your help to continue the momentum, allowing us to keep increasing the number of titles in our loan library.

LIO has started the new 2014 year off with a **BANG** as we've embarked on the transcription of some huge textbooks. Please put your requests in early for next year.

As previously announced, we were fortunately able to increase funding to offer assistance with the transcription costs of textbooks that districts need for students who meet the specific criteria. Some districts have already stepped up to the plate and taken advantage of the opportunity to get their books transcribed for free. There are still monies available! This program is on a "first come, first serve basis" and the amount of allotted monies are limited.

Please contact your Braille Production Coordinator, Robert Beaton, at BeatonR@Michigan.gov to get your textbooks transcribed for next year and possibly save your district thousands of dollars while doing so!

--Robert Beaton, Braille Production Coordinator

Orientation and Mobility Tip

Yoga and O&M: I attended an excellent session on "Yoga for Students with VI and Multiple Impairments" at the AER International Orientation & Mobility Conference 2013. The presenters are Orientation and Mobility Specialists at the Texas School for the Blind. They have a section in the Appendices under Promoting Movement entitled "Yoga for Kids" (pp.179-187) in the 3rd Edition of TAPS (Teaching Age-Appropriate Purposeful Skills) An Orientation & Mobility Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments. They will have a separate publication on Yoga coming out sometime in 2014.

While there are many types of Yoga, they use Hatha and Kundalini with children with a visual impairment. The benefits of this system of exercise include improved energy, concentration, strength, flexibility, balance and coordination. Concept areas that benefit are body, spatial, positional, and left/right. Motor development on both sides of the body and crossing midline can also improve. Another plus is that yoga supports inclusion with sighted peers and can be a life-long form of exercise. The yoga sessions begin with deep breathing and welcome song, followed by a routine of postures, songs and breathing. The session ends with relaxation and listening to calming music. There are also suggested strategies and modifications in the TAPS Orientation and Mobility Curriculum (2012).

-- Susan Bradley, COMS

Professional Library

MDE-LIO has an extensive professional library with topics on various subjects. Just a few of the books we have available are:

Skills For Success by Karen Wolffe

Autism Spectrum Disorders and Visual Impairment by Marilyn and D. Jay Gense

Teaching Social Skills to Students with Visual Impairments by Sharon Sacks and Karen Wolffe

Cortical Visual Impairment: An Approach to Assessment and Intervention by Christine Roman-Lantzy

Braille Too by Nancy Lake Hepker and Sharon Cross-Coquillet

Foundations of Orientation and Mobility by William Wiener, Richard Welsh and Bruce Blasch

Best Practices in Educational Interpreting by Brenda Chafin Seal

Building Skills for Success in the Fast-Paced Classroom: Optimizing Achievement for Students with Hearing Loss by Karen Anderson and Kathleen Arnoldi

To check out books go to the MDE-LIO website at www.mde-lio.cenmi.org.

1. Go to Services
2. Click Visually Impaired Services
3. Click Book Services
4. Click View
5. Search by title or ISBN number

If you have difficulty locating a book please email msbd-imc@michigan.gov for assistance.

--Lynn Pensari, Education Consultant

Go Green, save paper. Protect the environment and go paperless whenever you can. Let us know your email address if you want to be added to our email list. Just send a request to msdb-outreach@michigan.gov

Newsletter is edited by Collette Bauman and Brenda Mahoney. Comments or questions can be directed to Collette Bauman, baumanc@michigan.gov or Brenda Mahoney, mahoneyb1@michigan.gov or (888) 760-2206. This publication is available in alternate formats. Please contact us for Braille, print, or large print copies.

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The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the Michigan Department of Education that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, or handicap shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it is responsible or for which it received financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. For further information or inquiries about this law, contact the Michigan Department of Education, Civil Rights Coordinator, P.O. Box 30712, Lansing, MI 48909.