

## **Module 4 Resource Links: Teaching Students with Sensory Impairments and Deaf-Blindness**

### **Supports for Idaho Teachers**

#### Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind

ISDB offers a residential school for the deaf and the blind, and delivers regional services to school districts which have students eligible for ISDB services. The main web link is:

<http://www.isdb.idaho.gov/>

- ❖ Outreach services give Regional contacts for both vision and hearing teachers
- ❖ ISDB hold the state contract to develop just-in-time Braille materials to school districts through the Idaho Braille Center (link is listed as ID Braille Center)
- ❖ Interpreters services, and training for interpreters and paraprofessionals also have links from the main web page.

#### Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The ICDHH provides resource links, assists in locating interpreters and real-time close captioning services, and many other resources of interest to families. The link to the main web page is below:

<http://www.cdhh.idaho.gov/>

#### Idaho Project for Children and Youth with Deaf-Blindness

The purpose of the Idaho Project for Children and Youth with Deaf-Blindness is to enhance the education services provided to children and youth, birth through 21 years, with vision and hearing impairments. The Project provides statewide technical assistance to support parents, service providers, and other agencies in meeting the educational needs of children and youth who are deaf-blind.

Individuals who are eligible are those, birth through 21 years, diagnosed as having impairments in both vision and hearing or suspected of having such impairments. Individuals may function as if they respond inconsistently or inconclusively to auditory stimuli in their environment during clinical evaluations.

Families of infants, toddlers, children, and youth who are deaf-blind, agency and school district personnel providing services to individuals, birth through 21 years of age, who are deaf-blind may apply for services.

The Project provides:

- Assistance in identification of individuals, birth through age 21 years, who have vision & hearing impairments

- Provision of on-site technical assistance (e.g., consultants, in-service workshops, program review) to families, school and agency personnel, and care providers of infants, toddlers, children, and youth

The direct link to the Idaho Project for Children and Youth with Deaf-Blindness is:

<http://www.idahocdhd.org/DNN/Default.aspx?alias=www.idahocdhd.org/dnn/cydb>

### **Additional Web Resources**

#### American Foundation for the Blind

The AFB provides a host of resources and links for individuals with blindness or visual impairment.

<http://www.afb.org>

The AFB Store publishes and markets many great resources, including the book on tactile symbols listed in the book section below. Cut and paste this link into your web browser:

<http://www.afb.org/store/default.asp?mcsid=W1B7VSVVFNFB8MU7L2HFUGWJ7JUF6T93>

#### National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness

<http://nationaldb.org>

#### The Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative

WATI publishes many support documents and materials. This link is to the FREE Downloads-which include:

- ❖ WATI Assistive Technology Checklist
- ❖ WATI Assessment document and accompanying forms
- ❖ School Profile of AT Services

<http://www.wati.org/Products/freematerials.html>

#### Idaho Assistive Technology Project

The IATP offers training and technical assistance, Assistive Technology Resource Centers statewide, information and assistance, a used equipment exchange, advocacy, and assistance with low interest loans to obtain assistive technology equipment. The IATP hosts frequent AT webinars, the Idaho Tools for Life conference, and many other training opportunities.

The link to the main page of the IATP is:

<http://idahoat.org/>

The IATP offers AT assessment services to schools at no charge, and will assist in training personnel to use various AT devices and access AT services. The link to the application form for school-based services is:

<http://idahoat.org/schoolbasedassessment.asp>

There are a number of handbooks available for the cost of printing (about \$5.00), including *Assistive Technology for Individuals with Cognitive Impairments*.

<http://idahoat.org/handbooksmanuals.htm>

### **Books**

Levak, N., Stone, G., & Bishop, V. (1994). *Low vision: A resource guide with adaptations for students with visual impairments*. Austin, TX: Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Chen, D., & Downing, J. (2006). *Tactile strategies for children who have visual impairments and multiple disabilities: Promoting communication and learning skills*. New York: American Foundation for the Blind Press.