

# Quarterly Newsletter

November 2025



## Deafblind Library Resources

## Deafblind Eligibility

## Deafblind FAQs

## Make A Referral

*"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."*

-A.A. Milne

## Supporting Families

### Letter from the Editor

*"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."* While A.A. Milne penned these words for Christopher Robin, they resonate just as deeply with the families who navigate the unique journey of raising children who are deafblind. Every day, you demonstrate courage in advocating for your child's needs, strength in overcoming communication barriers and accessibility challenges, and wisdom in finding creative solutions that others might never imagine. You may not always feel brave when facing an uncertain diagnosis, or strong when managing complex care needs, or smart when learning new techniques and technologies. But from where we as educators sit, watching you champion your child's potential and build bridges to their world, we see exactly what Milne described—parents and families who embody extraordinary bravery, strength, and intelligence, often without even realizing it.



Please join us in this newsletter as we explore the importance of families working beside their children's educational teams.

**Angel Black, M.S.Ed., TSVI, COMS**

Project Director The Alaska Deafblind Project | Newsletter Editor

## **Building Meaningful Partnerships: The Foundation of Family Engagement**

By Angel Black, M.S.Ed., TSVI, COMS

When families and educational teams work together as true partners, deafblind students thrive. Research consistently shows that meaningful family engagement leads to better educational outcomes, improved communication skills, and greater independence for students with deafblindness.

[Read More](#)



## **Supporting Families as First Teachers**

By Angel Black, M.S.Ed., TSVI, COMS

Families are their children's first and most important teachers. For deafblind students, the home environment offers countless opportunities for meaningful learning experiences that complement and extend what happens at school. Educational teams play a crucial role in empowering families with knowledge, tools, and confidence to embrace their teaching role.

[Read More](#)

## **Communication Strategies: Bridging Home and School**

By Angel Black M.S.Ed., TSVI, COMS

Effective communication between families and educational teams creates a bridge that supports the deafblind students' success across all environments. When information flows smoothly between home and school, everyone stays informed, aligned, and ready to support the student's growth.

[Read More](#)

## **Welcome to the Alaska Deafblind Project Family Needs Assessment!**

**We value you and your family and *need* to hear from you.**

This Family Needs Assessment is very important for the Project because:

- It helps identify the specific needs and challenges faced by families with deafblind students.
- It provides a deeper understanding of the unique support and services required by these families.
- It helps tailor interventions and resources to meet the individual and collective needs of the family.
- It enables project coordinators to allocate resources better and prioritize areas that require immediate attention.
- It fosters collaboration and partnership between project staff and families, ensuring a more person-centered approach.
- It helps in creating a holistic support system and network for families, promoting their overall well-being.
- It aids in measuring the effectiveness and impact of the project by evaluating the progress and outcomes achieved.

Because of past responses from parents and other stakeholders to the Family Needs Assessment, the Alaska Deafblind Project has added resources to the Alaska Deafblind Facebook page, the Alaska

Deafblind Web Page, selected specific webinar topics, and many different resources have been added to The Anne Freitag Library at the Special Education Service Agency (SESA).

This year, please include a brief description of how the Alaska Deafblind Project can assist your family. Thank you for helping us provide the best services and resources possible!

[Take our Survey](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **Tactile Signing presented by Susanne Morrow**

Join us for a 3-day webinar on tactile signing and the power of touch for young deafblind learners!

**January 13, 20, & 27, 2026**

Registration opening soon!

[Events Calendar](#)

