

Quarterly Newsletter

May 2026



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Deafblind Library Resources

Deafblind Eligibility

Deafblind FAQs

Make A Referral

"Summer is the time when the days stretch long like a lazy cat in the sun, and every moment is a new adventure waiting just for you."

- Author Unknown

Summer Strategies



Letter from the Editor

As we close out another school year, I find myself reflecting on all the extraordinary moments we've shared with our deafblind students. It's been a wonderful year filled with breakthroughs—both big and small—that remind us why this work matters so deeply. From the first time a student made a new connection through tactile sign language to watching friendships blossom through shared experiences, each day has brought its own rewards. To the parents who trust us with your children and remain our most essential partners in this journey:

thank you for your collaboration, patience, and unwavering advocacy. To my fellow educators: your creativity, dedication, and compassion continue to inspire me. It is a privilege to work alongside each of you.

Thank you for supporting our webinar series, Facilitating and Supporting the Social-Emotional Development of Learners who Experience Deafblindness, and our Protactile Communication webinar(s).

As we head into summer, I hope you all find time to rest, recharge, and celebrate the incredible progress we've made together. Here's to a terrific summer filled with joy, discovery, and precious moments. See you all in Fall 2026, ready for another amazing year!

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

Project Director, The Alaska Deafblind Project | Newsletter Editor

Summer Activity Ideas for Deafblind Students By Angel Black, M.S.Ed., TSVI, COMS

As summer approaches, families and educators often wonder how to create engaging, accessible experiences for deafblind students. The good news? With thoughtful planning and a focus on multisensory exploration, summer can be filled with meaningful activities that promote learning, independence, and joy.

Accessible Recreation for All

Deafblind students benefit tremendously from hands-on activities that engage their remaining senses. Gardening offers a wonderful opportunity for tactile and olfactory exploration—students can feel different textures of soil, leaves, and petals while experiencing the distinct scents of herbs like basil, mint, and lavender. Research shows that sensory-rich activities support cognitive development and provide concrete learning experiences for students with combined vision and hearing loss (Miles & Riggio, 1999).

[Read More](#)



Health and Safety for Deafblind Students in the Summer of 2026 By Angel Black M.S.Ed., TSVI, COMS

Summer brings sunshine, warmth, and outdoor fun—but it also presents unique health and safety considerations for deafblind students. With proper planning and awareness, families and educators can ensure safe, enjoyable summer experiences.

Sun and Heat Safety Essentials

Students with deafblindness may not recognize or effectively communicate early signs of heat-related illness, making prevention critical. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are serious concerns, particularly for children who may not sense rising body temperature or feel thirst cues as readily as their peers.

[Read More](#)

Communication and Technology for Summer Success By Angel Black M.S.Ed., TSVI, COMS

Effective communication is the foundation of every positive experience for deafblind students. As summer brings new environments, activities, and social situations, having strong communication strategies and appropriate technology can make the difference between isolation and meaningful participation.

Communication in Busy Summer Environments

Summer settings—crowded parks, noisy pools, bustling farmers' markets—present communication challenges even for students who navigate familiar environments successfully during the school year. Background noise, visual distractions, and the general chaos of public spaces can interfere with communication for students who rely on residual hearing or vision.



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Upcoming Events

SESA Summer Office Closure

June 5, 2026 - July 13, 2026

[Events Calendar](#)

