Welcome to today’s mini-training!

• Thank you for joining our training.
• This training will be recorded and archived on our website.
• The presentation will be approximately 30 minutes and will be followed by 15 minutes for questions and discussion.
• If you’d like to ask a question of make a comment, you can post it in the Chat or click the Raise Hand in your Zoom toolbar.
• “Raised Hand” questions and comments will be responded to after the presentation during our discussion time.
• To speak when called upon during the discussion, find the microphone icon on your Zoom task bar and click “Unmute”.
• A link to any handouts will be posted in the Chat.
Social Interactions

California Deafblind Services
Virtual Training
Date December 8, 2020

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“A good life is a human life. A human life is a social life. The essence of human nature is to be in the company of others—companionship, fellowship, and connection to others are essential to our well being.”

Al Etmanski

Author of *The Good Book*
Social Skills and Social Interactions

Benefits:

• Team work
  • Learning to work and play with others funded by the principals
    • sharing, communicating, compromising and working together
  • Developing communication skills
    • Sense of self and learn to identify as individuals
    • Understanding social cues - non-verbal cues such emotions through facial expressions or body language
    • Building friendships – happening through regular interactions vs. facilitated or guided interactions
• Physical and mental health

They are the foundation of all we do

• Academic learning
• Independent living skills
• Community Experiences
• Relationships
• Employment

Are two of the most important factors for the health and development of everybody, and the benefits will have a life long effect.
Facts About the Impact of Social Skills Development of Persons with Deafblindness

• Take for granted the impact of social skills development
• Create a loss of incidental learning
• Impacts the ground work that enable us to take risks
• Social skills are learned thru direct and effective intervention
Challenges

• Expectations are not equal to typical developing students
• Realizing the need intervention to facilitate and promote social interactions
• Impairment of distance senses as well as physical limitations
• People not knowing how to approach child
• Life long process
• COVID 19 Restrictions
Concerns

- Missing out on established routines
- Less opportunities learn and grow through role models
- Isolation
- Boredom
- Ability to develop friendships
- Limited services
- Learn new ways of instruction
- Physical ability diminishing
- Mental health
- Behaviors
Resources

- California Deafblind Services - Integrating Your Child or Youth Who is Deafblind into groups: Strategies for Families and Caregivers
  http://files.cadbs.org/200001864-2ad752bd15/FactSheet-44.pdf

- California Deafblind Services – Part 2: Developing and Maintaining Community Connections and Friendships
  http://files.cadbs.org/200001771-cf303d02aa/SocialSkillsPart2.pdf

- California Deafblind Services - Building Peer Partnerships through Information Provision
  https://cdbs.webnode.com/_files/200002740-926a8926a9/CDBSreSources2020Spring.pdf

  Perkins School for the Blind – Social Skills for Children and Youth with Visual Impairments

  OHOA Module - Social Skills and Peer Relationships
  https://www.nationaldb.org/products/modules/ohoa/social-skills/

- Facilitating Friendships and Interactions
Strategies to Promote Social Interactions

• Include your child in family activities as much as possible
  • Analyze and adapt activities
  • Encourage siblings and other family members or neighbors to participate and facilitate interactions

• Provide frequent and ongoing social interaction opportunities
  • Celebrate special occasions
  • Play dates
  • Extra curricular activities

• Encourage others to greet your child, and if necessary model how to do this
  • Acknowledge their presence

• Work with IEP team to include social skills goals and work on strategies and supports to achieve them

“We can’t take social interactions for granted or assume it will naturally or occur without support, it requires direct intervention and special instruction it requires teamwork”
Parents Shared Some Adapted Strategies of Social Interactions During COVID-19

• Weekly family nights
  • Movie nights
  • Game night
  • Pizza day
• Outside play dates with one or two families at the time
  • Respecting health protocols
  • Food from home picnics
• Gym at home
• Drive-by celebrations
• Drive-by tours
• Virtual social gatherings
  • Virtual celebrations
  • Craft party
  • Sing-a-long

For Parents:
• Social media
• Virtual gatherings
  • Video chat rooms
  • Game night with friends
  • Tea time
  • Happy hour
  • Self-care time
  • Craft party
  • Social distance walk
  • Gym at home
Examples
More Examples
Let us find ways to keep socializing!!!!!!