



New England Consortium on Deafblindness

Training and Events 2023-2024

The New England Consortium on Deafblindness (NEC) is pleased to offer the following training and events for professionals and families. For up-to-date information, visit our website at www.nec4db.org.

Information, Consultation, & Training to Teams

Would your team like to receive information, consultation, and/or training regarding effective practices for assessment and instruction? We offer FREE technical assistance (information, consultation, and training) for teams working with children with combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness). Team Space is limited, so don't miss out! If you would like to request **Information, Consultation & Training** - [Complete a Request Form](#)

Fall 2023 Virtual Series: Practical Information and Strategies to Support Learners who are Deafblind

- Do you want to learn practical strategies to work with children who have combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness)?
- Are you working with children who have extensive support needs and sensory loss?

NEC's Fall Virtual Series offers practical, need-to-know information essential for providers working with children who are deafblind or at risk. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity for teams and providers to learn effective instructional strategies and receive follow-up coaching to support the implementation of high-quality practices. Participants will engage with other colleagues and share ideas.

- Each session will focus on a specific topic and be led by experts in deafblindness, blindness/visual impairment, and deafness/hard of hearing.
- Audience: TVIs, TODs, SLPs, OTs, PTs, Parents, Special Education and General Education Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Interveners, Administrators, and Agency Personnel
- Professional Development Certificate provided for full attendance.

<p>Session 1</p> <p>Wednesday September 27, 2023 3:00-5:00 PM</p>	<p><i>An Overview of Deafblindness, Universal Design for Learning & Instructional Strategies: What Can I Do Today?</i> Presenter: Tracy Evans Luiselli, Brenda Allair, Helene Gallagher</p> <p>Topics to Include: The Range of Children who are Deafblind, Application of UDL Principles, and Instructional Checklist (<i>Including Wait Time, Hand-Under-Hand, Consistency/Predictability, Activity Based Learning, Repetition & Reframing, Responsiveness and Building Trusting Relationships, Optimal Sensory Environments for Learning, Concept Development, Importance of Experience and Authentic Choice-Making</i>)</p>	<p>To Register: Click here</p>
<p>Session 2</p> <p>Thursday October 5, 2023 3:00-4:30 PM</p>	<p><i>Strategies to Support Visual and Auditory Access in the Classroom</i> Presenters: Tracy Evans Luisell, Brenda Allair, Helene Gallagher</p> <p>Topics to Include: Learning Media, Visual Access to Materials, Classroom Environment, Daily Listening Checks, Managing Devices, Strategies To Encourage Tolerance, SPICE Curriculum for Auditory Skill Development</p>	<p>To Register: Click here</p>

<p>Session 3</p> <p>Wednesday October 11, 2023 3:00–5:00 PM</p>	<p><i>Developing Individual Holistic Communication Profiles on Learners who are Deafblind</i> Presenter: Dr. Susan Bruce, Boston College</p> <p>This workshop session will support you in developing a Holistic Communication Profile (Bruce, 2010, 2021) for a learner who is deafblind. This profile can be used to assess prelinguistic to early linguistic communicators. It addresses form (mode), function, content, context, and pivotal milestones related to communication achievements. You can modify the structure of the profile for learners of any age. Resources will be provided.</p> <p>*Additional consultation provided to teams who commit to completing assessment.</p>	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>Session 4</p> <p>Wednesday October 25, 2023 3:00–4:30 PM</p>	<p><i>Self-Determination in Prelinguistic to Early Linguistic Communicators who are Deafblind</i> Presenter: Dr. Susan Bruce, Boston College</p> <p>This session will address the <i>8 Components of Self-Determination</i>, with emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Self-Awareness ● Self-Regulation ● Authentic Choice-Making ● Self-Advocacy ● Self-Efficacy 	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>Sessions 5</p> <p>Wednesday November 8, 2023 3:00–5:30 PM</p>	<p><i>Classic Literacy Lessons for the Classroom and Home</i> Presenter: Dr. Susan Bruce, Boston College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Story Boxes, Experience Books, and Shared Reading: This session will address how to create and implement story boxes and experience books. Effective strategies for shared reading of both personalized and commercially produced books will be shared. ● Schedules/Calendar Systems and Choice-Making: Schedules and calendar systems are important contexts for building conversational skills about topics related to daily life. Participants in this session will learn how to develop different types of schedules and how to implement them well. 	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>Session 6</p> <p>Thursday November 16, 2023 3:00–4:30 PM</p>	<p><i>Authentic Participation in Morning Meeting</i> Presenters: Tracy Evans Luiselli, Helene Gallagher</p> <p>Topics to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greetings ● Shared Activities ● Group Activities ● School Announcements ● Establishing Classroom Culture ● Supporting Transitions 	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>Session 7</p> <p>Wednesday December 6, 2023 3:00–4:30 PM</p>	<p><i>Developing IEPs for Deafblind Learners: Supporting Access to the Gen Ed Curriculum</i> Presenters: Tracy Evans Luiselli, Brenda Allair, Helene Gallagher</p> <p>This session will address components of High-Quality IEPs, decisions regarding service delivery, and strategies to support access to the gen education curriculum.</p>	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>

<p>Dates:</p> <p>Fridays 1/26/24 2/2/24 2/9/24</p> <p>9:00 AM -3:00 PM</p>	<p>NEC Winter Summit</p> <p>Key Topics to Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Importance Of Authentic Peer Relationships • Early Transition to School: Using Reach for the Stars to Support Families, Teams, and Children • Planning for Transition to Adult Services: Using Charting the Life Course to Support Student Success and Growth • Deafblind Professional Learning Community: Reflecting on Our Work • Assessment Tools and Procedures • Communication Approaches for Learners Who are Deafblind: What to Choose, Why, and How? • Individualized Tangible Symbols vs. Produced Tangible Symbols • Communication Bill of Rights and Associated Practices • Instructional Planning to Support Access to the General Education Curriculum (IEP) • CVI and Deafblindness: Strategies to Support Access to Visual and Auditory Information (Home, School & Community) 	<p>To Register for 1/26/2024 Click Here</p> <p>To Register for 2/2/2024 Click Here</p> <p>To Register for 2/9/2024 Click Here</p>
<p>Para/Intervener Training - NCDB Open Hands Open Access Modules</p> <p>Para/Intervener Training - Open Hands Open Access Online Modules (OHOA) Facilitator: Amanda Crayton</p> <p>Paraprofessionals working with children who are deafblind need specialized training to support instruction and learning. Created by the National Center on Deafblindness (NCDB), the modules provide an overview of support strategies and also incorporate training for those wishing to continue additional training.</p> <p><i>What is an Intervener?</i> An intervener is a trained staff member who works one-on-one with a child who is deafblind to provide critical connections to other people and the environment. The intervener opens channels of communication between the child and others, provides access to information, and facilitates opportunities for learning and development.</p> <p>The OHOA Training is designed to increase awareness, knowledge, and skills related to intervention for students (ages 3 through 21) who are DeafBlind. In addition, the NEC OHOA Training program helps participants identify effective strategies for children with whom they are currently working.</p> <p><i>Audience: Paraprofessionals, Aides, and Teacher Assistants working with DeafBlind students. Professionals interested in learning about the role and strategies Interveners use.</i></p>		
<p>Fall 2023</p> <p>Thursday October 26, 2023 4:00 - 5:00 PM</p>	<p>NEW Paraprofessional/Intervener Training</p> <p>Kickoff mtg – mandatory (live or view recording and complete survey)</p> <p>Topics to Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Overview of DeafBlindness, the Sensory System, and Learning • Building Trusting Relationships and Positive Self-Image • The Role of an Intervener in Collaborative Teams • Touch for Connection, Communication, and Learning • Availability for Learning • Routines, Concept Development, and Responsive Environments • Communication and Access • Intervener Strategies 	<p>To Register Click Here</p>
<p>Beginning in</p>	<p>NEC Transition For Success Initiative - Virtual Webinar</p>	

<p>October 2023</p>	<p>Series</p> <p>Transition planning for young deafblind adults requires an organized team approach, involving the student, family, and team. NEC's Transition Team for Success Initiative offers a virtual webinar series for families, professionals, and agencies to address transition planning.</p> <p>*Additional coaching is available to teams who commit to completing Transition Action Plans.</p> <p>Targeted Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-centered planning incorporated in the student's educational program • Family engagement supported throughout planning • Identification of supports and services for Deafblind students, provided by state and national agencies, including Pre Ets opportunities • Knowledge of assessment, program development, and implementation strategies • To learn more or inquire about the team process, please contact nec@perkins.org 	
<p>Oct. 24, 2023 3:15-4:30 PM</p>	<p>Transition Planning Kickoff: Successful Transition Planning for Young Adults with Combined Vision & Hearing Loss</p>	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>Nov. 28, 2023 3:15-4:30 PM</p>	<p>Person-Centered Planning: Linking Planning to Instruction</p>	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>Jan. 9, 2024 3:15-4:30 PM</p>	<p>Ingredients for a Transition-Focused Educational Program</p>	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>Feb. 6, 2024 3:15-4:30 PM</p>	<p>Strategies & Models for Vocational Experiences</p>	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>March 19, 2024 3:15-4:30 PM</p>	<p>Daily Living Skills and Expanded Core Curriculum</p>	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>April 16, 2024 3:15-4:30 PM</p>	<p>Community Connections and Recreation</p>	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>May 14, 2024 3:15-4:30 PM</p>	<p>End of Year Celebration of Achievements!</p>	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>NEC Family Networking Events:</p> <p>We offer opportunities for families to engage in fun community events and meet other families who have a child who is deafblind.</p>		
<p>December 2023</p>	<p>Family Experience Stories</p>	
<p>Tuesday September 19, 2023 7-8:00 pm</p>	<p>Family Connections - Back to School Tips & Discussion</p>	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>
<p>Sunday October 1, 2023 12-2:30</p>	<p>Family Apple Picking, Berlin Orchards, Berlin MA</p>	<p>To Register: Click Here</p>

Tuesday November 14, 2023 7-8:00 pm	Family Connections - Mindfulness & Parenting Tips	To Register: Click Here
Tuesday January 16, 2024 7-8:00 pm	Family Connections - Estate Planning & Advocacy	To Register: Click Here
Tuesday February 6, 2024 7-8:00 pm	Family Connections - Easy Vacation Ideas	To Register: Click Here
Sunday April 28, 2024 12-3:00	Family Bike Event Location: TBD	