



RMTC-D/HH
Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Shouting Against the Wind:

Collaboration, Communication, Language and Knowledge; What the Adults Need to Know

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QR Code Scanner Apps

iPhone/iPad: Scanbot =
<https://itunes.apple.com/app/applestore/id834854351?mt=8>

Android: Scanbot -
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.doo.snap>



Basketball



The IDEA World

- IDEA is the federal law that governs special education in the United States.
- IDEA stands for Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act.
- IDEA is based on certain principals. These are:
 - Appropriate evaluation.
 - Individualized Education Program/Plan (IEP).
 - Parent & student participation.
 - Least Restrictive Environment.
 - Procedural safeguards.
 - Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).



The IDEA World

- IDEA sets rules:
 - For the process used to determine if a child should be considered disabled and be eligible for services.
 - For how determinations will be made on what special education services will be provided to a child.
- IDEA sets responsibilities for districts and staff when providing those services.
- IDEA codifies legal protections for the student, the parents, and the school district.
- IDEA assigns a strong role for parents in these processes.
- IDEA provides the legal basis for determining if the district and staff are meeting the obligations under federal law.
- State law and local implementation must meet these standards.



Needed for Success

- For the educational process to work successfully for a child who is deaf or hard of hearing, there are three areas of understanding that are critical. These are:
 - An understanding of, and ability to, collaborate.
 - An understanding of what it means to be a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.
 - An understanding of the importance of language and communication to education and how they are impacted by deafness.
- Without these things, you are often just shouting into the wind.



Collaboration

- Collaboration is the process of working together.
- Collaboration is at the core of IDEA.
- In the educational setting, collaboration takes place at multiple levels:
 - Teacher - teacher
 - Teacher – administrator
 - School staff – central office staff (including ESE)
 - School staff – itinerant staff
 - Parents – all school personnel
 - Parents – other service providers
 - School district staff – other service providers
 - Everyone - student
- Collaboration is the key to success in the educational process.



Collaboration

- Effective collaboration brings different viewpoints, knowledge, information and experiences together to create a more complete picture of the needs of a student.
- Effective collaboration will set conditions that will give a student the best opportunity to succeed.
- Without collaboration, the educational team is weakened and the student gets hurt – and that defeats the purpose.



For Collaboration Success

- Have a thick skin.
- Realize you will hear things that you may not agree with.
- Realize that these are not personal assaults – Different situations create different perspectives.
- Realize that the professionals are doing and suggesting what they believe is in the best educational interests of your child.
- Have an open mind to alternative solutions.
- Show RESPECT to others.
- Try to understand the professionals' perspectives.
- Check your emotions at the door!



Do You Understand?

How can you knowledgeably support and make decisions for a child who is deaf or hard of hearing if you do not have an understanding of what it means to be a child who is deaf?

Do you understand the impact of deafness on communication and language, and what that means educationally?



Do You Understand?

- Do not assume you know. Educate yourself.
- Do you understand that each child is unique, impacts vary, and so do communication methodologies.
- Do you understand that full, accurate communication is critical to education.
- Do you understand that impacts on communication may not be limited to the child, but may also may reflect the child's school and home environments as well as the child's history.
- Are you advocating for a child's needs, or for your personal ideology?
- Do you understand differences between chronological age and linguistic age?
- Do you understand the impact of environmental issues on communication?



FM System vs. Hearing Aids



Communication and Language

- **Everything** in education requires the ability to communicate.
- A student cannot communicate effectively without access to language.
- Everything derives from the development of language.
- The methodology of communication is not important. The development of language is.
- Language development must happen both at home and at school.
- Language development requires consistent and accurate presentation.



Educating Each Other

- Parents and professionals come from 2 very different worlds.
- Take some time to try and understand your counterpart's world.
- Be open to ideas and suggestions from these different worlds.
- Different environments reveal different information about the child.
- This is necessary to ensure that all aspects of the child are taken into consideration.
 - This leads to better understanding.
 - Better understanding leads to better services and supports.
 - Better services and supports lead to improved education.
- Remember the adage about walking a mile in someone else's moccasins.



