Quarterly Newsletter

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Resources for Alternate Curriculums/Programs
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When looking at curricula or resources for students who are D/deaf or hard of hearing, gathering the information can be time-consuming. Below are a few research-based resources with brief descriptions to help in the decision of what may be right for the team and student(s).

The Expanded Core Curriculum for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing at deafandblindoutreach.org
This tool is designed to address identified areas that need specific and direct teaching. The eight content areas addressed are: Audiology, Career Education, Communication, Family Education, Functional Skills for Educational Success, Self-Determination and Advocacy, Social-Emotional Skills, and Technology. Each area has identified skills and targets, which teams can identify and prioritize. It is estimated that 80% of information learned is acquired incidentally. This tool aims to address information otherwise gained through incidental learning.

Fingerspelling Our Way to Reading at colorado.edu/program/fingerspelling/
A literacy program that supplements a school's literacy program. It consists of two components: a fingerspelling program and a reading comprehension program. The fingerspelling program is designed to enhance phonological awareness, increase expressive and receptive fingerspelling skills, and identify printed words. The reading comprehension program gives additional reading opportunities for the students while using the words in the fingerspelling program in sentences and stories that are developed throughout each unit.

Bedrock Curriculum at bedrockliteracy.com
A visually-based system designed to create a foundation in literacy skills. The focus is on building concepts first, then applying language second. This program outlines a developmental plan, rather than a grade-level approach, to focus on the student's literacy skills. It covers the foundations of how to read and write, and how to develop a strong beginning vocabulary.

Fairview Learning at fairviewlearning.com/
Designed to be integrated into any existing reading program, Fairview is designed to provide literacy tools to construct linguistic concepts. These concepts are specific to each student to allow access and increased fluency in English and American Sign Language (ASL). It is designed to ease the transitions between the languages.

Strategic and Interactive Writing Instruction at siwi.utk.edu
An online writing instruction that is made up of three main principles: instruction based on cognitive theories of composing, sociocultural theories of teaching and learning, and linguistic understanding from language gained. It provides a visual representation of the writing process, and has formats ranging from most support to independence, depending on student need.

Visual Phonics at seethesound.org
Visual Phonics has a system of 52 hand cues and symbols (not ASL) that visually represent the sounds heard in English. By learning a hand cue for each sound in English, as spelling becomes more of a challenge, the student can recognize the hand cue. One example of spellings that look similar but sound different is the words through, thought, tough, and dough. The "ough" sounds different in each word. By using visual cues for the sound instead of purely the spelling, students are able to see the difference.