Family Centered Deaf Mentor Program Through Home Visits

What does a Deaf Mentor do when they visit a family?

- Teach and practice sign language together.
- Model communication strategies.
- Answer questions the family might have about Deaf Culture.
- Share experiences about growing up Deaf in a hearing society.
- Inform families about upcoming events in Deaf Community.
- ASL Family Nights in the Spring, encouraging families to meet and learn more about Deaf culture.

Other Resources...

- IESDB—www.iesdb.org
- Idaho Hands and Voices—www.idhandsandvoices.org
- ASL Dictionary—www.lifeprint.com
- ASL Online Courses—www.asldeafined.com
- ASL Resources—www.aslpro.com
- Caption Media Program—www.dcmp.org
- Signing Times DVDs—www.signingtime.com
- Facebook Groups—The Deaf Community in Idaho, Deaf Center of Idaho, Boise Valley Association of the Deaf, Boise Valley Deaf
- Private ASL Workshops/Classes—www.aslexpressions.com

Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind

Deaf Mentor Program

For Families With Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Objectives of the Deaf Mentor Program:

- To provide American Sign Language lessons and Early Visual Communication.
- To enhance the family’s communication with their Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child.
- To provide cultural information.
- To empower the family and the Deaf/Hard of Hearing child.
- To provide a positive role model for the Deaf child and their family.
- To build child’s self-advocacy skills.

**Who Qualifies:**

Any child from birth to high school graduation, with a permanent hearing loss who resides in the state of Idaho and is currently on an IFSP, IEP or 504 Plan.

**Location of Services:**

Our Deaf Mentor Program is currently being offered in the Treasure Valley area including Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Caldwell, Payette and Weiser. More areas will be included in the future.

**Cost:**

IESDB Outreach services are free of charge for families who have children with diagnosed hearing loss.

**Deaf Mentor:**

Our Deaf Mentor is Mikkel Nelson. He has an MS degree in Deaf Education. He has a wealth of experience working with Deaf/Hard of Hearing children and their families.

If you’re interested in the program or have questions, please contact:

**Mikkel Nelson, M.S.**
IESDB Deaf Mentor

**IESDB Office**
3071 E. Franklin Rd Suite #212
Meridian, Id 83642
(208)850-0718 (Text)
208-297-6650 (Video phone please leave a msg)
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Mikkel will bring a certified sign language interpreter during the home visits.