



WYOMING FAMILIES FOR HANDS & VOICES

"What works for your child is what makes the choice right"™

2021 WYOMING FAMILIES FOR HANDS & VOICES PARENT TRAINING HELD JUNE 25TH & 26TH, 2021



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Hands & Voices Update

by Wendy Hewitt, Executive Director

After not being able to host a Parent Training in 2020, it was so wonderful to be able to meet together for the 2021 Training. It was so amazing to have so many families from past conferences attend, and have new families join us.

We all learned so much from Stephanie and Jody Olson, and we were grateful that they could join us this year. Panels are always a huge success and provide so much knowledge for parents. We had a parent/student panel and a D/HH adult panel. We also learned more on a variety of topics such as: IEPs, IFSPs, the Wyoming Early Intervention Initiative (WEII), DVR, and accessories for hearing technology. Of course, the kids were excited to have Captain America join us for the family picnic and in the child care area.

We are grateful for all of you that were joined us for the Training. We are very appreciative of the WDE for their support each year. Now begins plans for the 2022 conference. We hope to have a lot of new families join us. Plans are in the works to start hosting Family Fun Events around the state. So if you have an idea for one in your area please let us know.

As we approach the beginning of a new school year please let us know if you have questions or concerns about the services your child will be receiving for the school year. Enjoy the rest of the summer!!

2021 PARENT TRAINING - A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Chantel Holbert, Parent

The 2021 Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices Parent Training Program was one like no other. After a long and hard 2020 and not having a training, it felt great to at least feel like things were somewhat normal again. We look forward to this event every year and all the knowledge that is given to help us with our daughter and what she needs. We appreciate this program and the people that put it together.

We learned so much more from the Wyoming Department of Education and how we have so many rights as parents in order to make sure our children are receiving the best education they can and they succeed in school.

We learned all about how IEP meetings and how we have a voice and can't just allow the educators and professionals to take over and be the voice for our children when we know them best. They helped us to understand what all should be in the IEP and what it should say. On the other hand they showed us through play how we can help our children to gain as much language and be exposed to as much language as possible.

We thought the most helpful and knowledgeable part of this training however was the panels. These help us in so many ways to be able to get answers from not just professionals, but from individuals and their families who live with hearing loss each and every day, and to be able to hear their experiences and advice on how to help our children as they grow and get older and making sure they succeed and have the resources to do so. It's always more helpful for us to hear it from people who have been in that situation and have the experience and even though every child and situation is different it's always so helpful to hear their stories whether funny, hard or sad.

This year though was amazing. It reminded us that sometimes we get so tied up in appointments and our kids who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing that we forget to take time as family and really focus on the memories and the good things about our children and how truly amazing they are. Jody and Stephanie Olson really gave great advice and truly reminded us that just because our children have hearing loss, this doesn't define who they are, and they can do whatever they want in life. They really reminded us to never lose sight of our inner child and to have fun with our children and make those amazing and fun memories.



PICTURED ABOVE: KYLE & CHANTEL HOLBERT. CHANTEL HAS ATTENDED ALL FOUR PARENT TRAININGS.



SPECIAL THANKS TO HENDERSON MEAT PROCESSING FOR SUPPORTING OUR PARENT TRAINING PICNIC!



2021 PARENT TRAINING - A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

By Melody Lehman, Parent

This year's Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices Training was my family's second year attending. We all don't need to talk about 2020...just glad we all got back together. There were so many wonderful people that attended the training, both families and professionals. My husband and I were fortunate enough to know who the keynote speaker was, Stephanie Olson. She has worked with our family through Denver Children's Hospital Outreach program. Her perspective is so helpful from a personal, parental, and advocacy standpoint. This year was more about discovery of my role as a parent and parent advocate. So Stephanie and her husband Jody were so informative and helpful in my journey.

It was wonderful to have the training from the professionals at Wyoming Department of Education on Part C transition to Part B. That is the place we are in our lives right now. Our son, Davis, will begin his evaluation for Part B and most likely services through Child Development Center. I truly realized the importance of the assessment and input from all necessary team members in this important part of our son's life. Another very impactful session we attended was on assistive devices such as the use and importance of personal FM's. This presentation was given by Dr. Kalley Ellis, who is the Audiologist at CDC+ in Casper. We look forward to working with her and accessing her expertise at the CDC.

The biggest highlight for our family was Captain America attending the BBQ at the park and the lunch the following day. My boys were so excited and involved. They socialized with many of their peers and were so enamored with seeing their hero! The D/HH peers and adults that were watching my kids were fantastic. They were so gentle and welcoming and the real heroes for dealing with my crazy boys and that hot room! We are truly blessed to have such an active branch of Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices in Wyoming. Thank you to everyone that put it together!!

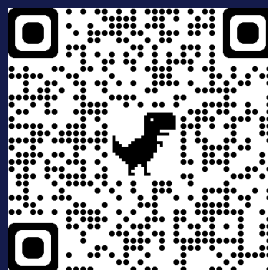
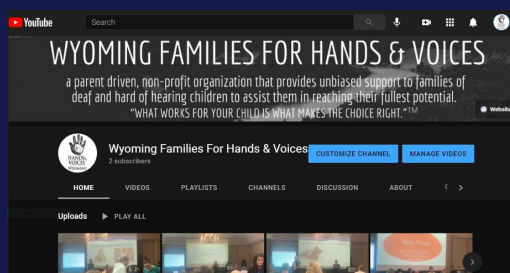


PICTURED ABOVE: MELODY & ANDREW LEHMAN FAMILY WITH D/HH CAPTAIN AMERICA



We Have A New YouTube Channel Scan The QR Code Or Go To:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UctSKO_VzG-Sf2zp1zePDzGw



THAT DEAF GUY

BY MATT & KAY DAIGLE



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NEW APP FROM H&V

FOR FAMILIES WITH DEAF & HARD OF
HEARING CHILDREN

Four Key components of support
every day for 90 days:

- Wisdom from a parent
- Wisdom from a Deaf/Hard of hearing Adult
- One article to read
- One new Website/resource to explore



PARENT ADVOCACY

About Features

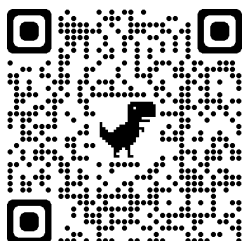
K-12 Education.
Explore the app.

An app for families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing attending IEP meetings, 504 meetings, or other meetings.

An app for families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing attending IEP meetings, 504 meetings, or other meetings



Note: Apple version videos will open in your web browser. The next update will allow the videos to open within the app.



The Parent Advocacy app is a collaboration between:

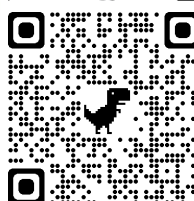


#DHHFosteringJoy
A Movement to
Celebrate the Magic of
Raising Children
who are D/HH

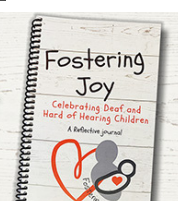


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A RELECTIVE JOURNAL



WIN!

Would you like to win some
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a Fostering Joy or Hands &
Voices book?

Count how many times the
word "Parent" is mentioned in
this newsletter and text your
answer to Wendy (307-780-6476)
for a chance to win! Winners
will be notified by a phone call
or text.

