



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

College of Education

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GEORGIA
SENSORY
ASSISTANCE
PROJECT

Dear Parents,

We are the Georgia Sensory Assistance Project (GSAP), and we'd like to introduce ourselves to you as a potential resource. We are a federal grant project that provides consultation and training to families, teachers, and service providers of children and youth with deaf-blindness.

"Deaf-blind" describes any combined hearing and vision loss that significantly limits children's ability to get information from people and objects around them. Children with deaf-blindness have unique needs that require specialized modifications and supports (more than is typically needed with a hearing loss alone or vision loss alone) in order to learn, communicate, and interact with the world. GSAP is available as a resource for families and educators.

One of GSAP's primary responsibilities is to maintain Georgia's deaf-blind census. Each state is required to submit an annual child count; this information helps to provide federal grant money to support consultation and training for families, teachers, and other service providers. While you may not choose to access all of GSAP's services, this registry helps to ensure that these services will be in place for your child anytime from birth through 21 years of age. Please be assured that for the purposes of the federal registry, each child is assigned a code so that names and personal information are kept strictly confidential.

GSAP works closely with Georgia PINES in a number of ways. First, Georgia PINES assists GSAP in identifying young children who are eligible to be included on the deaf-blind census. GSAP collaborates with Georgia PINES to train Parent Advisors who provide technical assistance for families of children who are deaf-blind. GSAP is also available to provide additional support during your child's transition from early intervention to school services.

GSAP offers an array of services to support families and educators of children and youth who are deaf-blind. GSAP has a Family Support Coordinator on staff to assist families in a variety of ways. GSAP offers Sibshops to support siblings of individuals with deaf-blindness and other disabilities, and the GSAP website includes a wealth of information and resources.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Carol Darrah, Early Childhood Coordinator

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