

Literacy Work Group

General Background Information

The Literacy Work Group is currently refining the website, *Literacy for Children with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss*, found at <http://literacy.nationaldb.org>. This site is for individuals interested in beginning or enhancing literacy instruction for children with combined vision and hearing loss. Its content is also designed to improve literacy instruction for children with multiple disabilities and other complex learning challenges. The contributors of to the site include State Deaf Blind Project staff as well as teachers who want to give back to the field and help more families play a role in educating children with complex learning challenges. The instructional techniques and tips provided on this site are evidence based practices for increasing literacy skills. The shared belief of this group is that all children are somewhere on the continuum of literacy, even if in the very earliest stage. Our goal is to help those working with them to identify where they are (using the Literacy Skills Checklist) and how to help them learn the foundations to make progress in their literacy journey (using the strategies on the website).

Over the past year the Literacy Work Group has:

* Developed *Steps to Literacy*, a companion document to the Literacy Skills Checklist
* Revised the home page <http://literacy.nationaldb.org> to increase user friendliness and ease of finding the checklist
* Added materials to connect to the common core
* Utilized Twitter and Facebook to disseminate strategies and resources on #DBLiteracyTipTuesday
* Worked towards expanding the library of video clips connected to the strategies presented
* Began exploring collaborative partners beyond the deaf-blind projects

During our session at Summit, we would like to:

* Give a brief overview of the newest information and analytics on the website
* Group members will share how they have used the site in personnel preparation, training, and TA
* Identify the resources still needed to address the literacy TA questions and training needs across the network
* Discuss possible collaborative partners and future projects, such as adapting the CELL Guides (see <http://earlyliteracylearning.org/> )
* Discuss how the information currently on the website might be bundled or connected
* Make a plan to move forward with prioritized next steps