Connecting families

Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Spring Family Conference

In the midst of winter, we are thinking SPRING! At least the Spring Family Conference, which will be held at Camp Courageous on March 24 & 25, 2023. For information on sessions for parents, please go to Breakout Session Offerings for SFC 2023. Need to register? Register here: **2023 IESBVI Spring Family Conference Registration Link**

Our Keynote speaker will be ***Eliana Mason***, Goalball Silver medalist at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic games! Eliana will spend time speaking with parents, and then enjoying time with the youth attending. Goalball anyone?
For more information, please go to our website: https://www.iesbvi.org/events/

SFC Keynote Speaker Eliana Mason grew up in Beaverton, Oregon and attended college at Portland State University in 2017, earning her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a minor in community health. Eliana graduated from Antioch University in 2022 with a Master's degree in clinical mental health counseling, and is currently working as a mental health therapist. Eliana competes on the USA Women's National goalball team for Team USA, and is hoping to help the team qualify for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris. Eliana is passionate about disability advocacy and education and is hoping to use her counseling degree to bridge a much needed gap between mental health services, and disability awareness and inclusion. In her spare time Eliana enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, staying active, and going on hikes. Come welcome Eliana to Iowa and enjoy conversations!

Parent Opportunities

It can feel overwhelming at times when considering all the things to do in preparing your child for life. Here are a few resources that may be helpful.
APH Career Connect: Have a child who struggles when thinking about work and life beyond high school? That is very common among ALL high school students. https://aphcareerconnect.org/ has great resources that your child can explore independently or with you.
"Powerful Tools for Caregivers" is a series presented by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach that is designed to provide you with the tools to take care of yourself while caring for any age child with special health or behavioral needs.
Open Forum for Parents and Teachers is offered monthly by Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and provides information on all things related to Social Security, guardianship and other topics as requested.
https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/ptc has more information.

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Iowa Deafblind Project

Did you know that Iowa has professionals who are available to help your child and his/her team if there is a dual loss of both hearing and vision? Our DEAFBLIND PROJECT is available to offer support in the form of technical assistance to families, educators and service providers for children, ages birth-21, who experience both of these sensory losses. For more information, please check out the website at https://www.iowadeafblind.org/category/for-families/