



Poster Presentation

“All About Me” Journals: Sharing Essential Information With New Educational Teams

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Presenter Information

Julie Maier is an Educational Specialist for California Deafblind Services providing technical assistance and training to families of children with deafblindness and their school teams. She currently serves many children and teens with CHARGE syndrome. Julie has been involved in the field of special education since 1987, including as a faculty member in the Special Education Department at San Francisco State University since 1999 and teaches courses in deafblindness, autism spectrum disorders, inclusive education, and assessment and curricular design for learners with extensive support needs. She was the project liaison for an OSEP funded personnel preparation project in deafblindness at SFSU. Julie has presented at many conferences on a variety of topics related to deafblindness and effective educational practices, including the 2015 International TASH Conference, the 2015 & 2107 International CHARGE Syndrome Conference, the 2016 German CHARGE Syndrome Conference, and the 2018 CEC Conference. She has written or co-authored several published articles on assessment, self-determination, autism and deafblindness, and social supports.

Presentation Abstract

This poster presentation will include information to help families, possibly in collaboration with some members of a child's educational team, to develop a detailed and clear journal highlighting the most essential information about a child with complex educational needs with a new educational team preparing for that learner to join their school or class. Since many teachers, therapists, and other school support staff have not met or taught a learner with CHARGE syndrome they will need assistance and information to prepare for and effectively instruct and support this child. The people most knowledgeable about the child and their history, strengths, abilities, interests, and needs are their parents and other family members, and at times former educational team members. Developing a sort of "personal passport" (D. Brown, 2004) or "All About Me" journal or similar personal profile can provide critical information for the new team and/or classmates about how this child communicates, learns, plays, uses their senses, expresses emotions and shares their thoughts and ideas. This poster presentation will share information about creating this type of information journal, what elements should be included, and how to share this information with a new team. Actual print examples of "All About Me" Journals will be available to view as well as a list of web-based articles and resources that may help families in creating a journal about their child.