

# Following Our Children's Lead:

**Supporting early language acquisition in young children with complex access needs, including children who are born deafblind**

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INTERACTION TRAINING

INTRO

02

INTERACTION TRAINING

SUMMARY

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INTERACTION TRAINING

INTERACTION

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VIDEO GUIDANCE

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VIDEO

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INTERACTION TRAINING

BENEFITS

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INTERACTION TRAINING

FIN

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# Orion

- Born DeafBlind in July 2010
- Unconventional/emerging communicator
- Controls other people's hands or gives objects to you for help with it or to make requests
- Uses object symbols, objects and motion.
- With Orion, our family uses touch (hand-under-hand, some Protactile) for interaction, communication, information.
- Benefits from intervener skills!



**Hex**  
Mom

**Orion**  
Son

January 2025

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<h1>How it started</h1> <p>2017-2018: Orion’s family and school team were invited to join an Interaction Coaching Training by members of the Texas Deafblind Project—Deanna Peterson and Chris Montgomery.</p> <div> <div> <p>What is it?</p> <p>Interaction Coaching Training was a model developed by Bernadette van den Tillaart.</p> </div> <div> <p>When we met Orion’s teacher and teacher aide, mom and dad, met Deanna and Chris at TSBVI 3-4 times that year</p> </div> <div> <p>What we did</p> <p>Video Interaction Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capture videos</li> <li>• Watch/review for:               <div> <p>Patterns</p> <p>Opportunities</p> <p>Reflections</p> </div> </li> </ul> </div> </div>		
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<div>Interaction</div> <div> <p>"Interaction is the ‘vehicle of communication’." – Dr. Marleen Janssen (NCDB, 2007)</p> <p>“Conversational interactions precede language...infants and their caregivers engage in countless nonverbal conversations before the children learn their first words.” – Barbara Miles, <i>Remarkable Conversations</i>, 1999, p.57</p> </div>		
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<h1>Video Guidance</h1> <div> <div> <h2>Capture Videos</h2> <p>Start filming before recognition/contact.</p> <p>Stop after ending contact</p> <p>3-minute video clips from school &amp; family</p> </div> <div> <h2>Review Videos</h2> <p>Watch a video</p> <p>Determine <i>which</i> part of the video to look closely at.</p> <p>Review for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patterns</li> <li>• Opportunities</li> </ul> </div> <div> <h2>Question(s)</h2> <p>Where is Orion's attention?</p> </div> </div> <p>...and plenty of <b>reflection</b></p>		
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# Video



Skyler & Orion

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# Benefits

## Orion & Family



- Slow down and observe what Orion's topic is
- Respond to Orion
- Let Orion lead the interaction
- What appears to be random may not be random at all
- The moments together feel genuine and powerful!



# Benefits

## Orion's Intervener, Nanette



- Felt more effective in her role as intervener utilizing interaction strategies.
- Pausing requested repetitive movements creates opportunities for Orion to make a request.
- Mutually rewarding interactions increased.

# Benefits

## Orion's Communication Preferences



# COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

WAYS THAT WORK FOR SUPPORTING THE CHILD'S COMMUNICATION

**TEDDY, AS OF 2/20/18**

SPOON FOR "EAT"  
(A KNOWN OBJECT SYMBOL)

SIGN "EAT"  
(A KNOWN TACTILE SIGN)

POINT TO THE OBJECT VIA HAND-UNDER-HAND

TAKING A MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE HIS "TOPIC": WHAT HE IS CURRENTLY DOING

GIVE HIM TIME TO FEEL, THINK AND RESPOND

HEATHER WITROW  
2018

WAYS THAT ARE NOT HELPFUL FOR THE CHILD'S COMMUNICATION

CONTROLLING THE HAND OR FINGERS

PICTURES

BRAILLE

TACTILE SYMBOLS

BEING FORCED TO TOUCH FURRY ANIMALS

# Benefits

## General



- “I was heard and responded to, now I will listen to you.”
- Accessible = Acknowledgement
- Learn they can cause changes to their environment
- Practice conversation skills
- Builds rapport and trust.
- Builds resilience
- Persistence is reinforced by positive results!
- Positive experiences!

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# Thank you.

ORION, IDA, SKYLER, THOMAS, SOCKS THE KITTY, NANETTE BERNELLA, ELIZABETH CORRIVEAU, DANIEL DOYLE & ORION'S IEP TEAM, DEANNA PETERSON, CHRIS MONTGOMERY, DR. BERNADETTE VAN DEN TILLAART, EDGENIE BELLAH, HILLARY KEYS, TEXAS DEAFBLIND PROJECT/TSBVI OUTREACH



**Further Learning Opportunity:**  
***"Interactions & Connections"***, (35m)  
developed by Texas Deafblind Project  
members within TSBVI Outreach,  
produced in partnership with the  
Statewide Outreach Center at Texas  
School for the Deaf.

