Rhode Island Services to Children and Youth with Dual Sensory Impairments (DSI Project)

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities
Rhode Island College

Promoting Membership in School, Work and Community

What is the DSI Project?

RI Services to Children and Youth with Dual Sensory Impairments, also known as the DSI Project, is a federally funded by Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to provide technical assistance to educational teams who serve learners with deaf-blindness (birth – 22 years old) in Rhode Island and their families. Our Project goals include:

- Collaborate with the medical, community, and infant toddler services to identify children with dual sensory impairments early so services can be provided to the child and family
- Provide training to families and service providers who work with children with dual sensory impairments
- Provide family and self-advocacy support
- Assist families and educational teams access supports to maximize their child’s independent living and help them prepare for times of transition
- Maintain information on the Rhode Island census for the National Child Count

Who is eligible?

Eligibility is determined by a review of a child’s medical records, and through a conversation with a child’s family and/or educational team. It is essential that the referral form be complete and accurate. A consent form must accompany the referral. The referral form can be found at www.sherlockcenter.org

What are the types of technical assistance available?

DSI project staff can help families and educational teams develop curriculum adaptations and modifications to support the specific/unique learning style of the student; determine appropriate assistive technology to support environmental access and communication needs; and assist families in accessing supports to maximize their child’s independent living and help them prepare for times of transition.

Resources:

Materials from American Printing House for the Blind (APH) such as light boxes, environmental control units, low vision materials, and calendar and scheduling systems

The Communication Matrix: an assessment instrument designed for individuals of all ages who function at the earliest stages of communication and who use any form of communication

National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB): A national technical assistance center with specialization in intervenor services, early identification, technology solutions, family engagement, national child count, and literacy for children who are deaf-blind

Contact Information:

By Phone:
Direct Line: (401) 456-4737
Main Line: (401) 456-8072
TTY via RI Relay:
Fax: (401) 456-8150

By Mail:
DSI Project
Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities
Rhode Island College
600 Mt. Pleasant Ave.
Providence, RI 02908

Online: www.sherlockcenter.org

Project Staff:

Susan Dell, Ph.D. sdell@ric.edu
Terri LaPlante, M.Ed. tlaplante@ric.edu
Margaret McNerney, M.Ed. mmcnerney@ric.edu