**Wednesday Webinar**

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**The ABCs of Literacy: Where to Start with Children who have Sensory Loss and Multiple Disabilities**

**A webinar featuring presenters Dr. Julie Durando and Ira Padhye,**

**Virginia Project for Children and Young Adults with Deaf-Blindness, VCU**

**March 2, 2016, 4:00 PM EST**

Developing literacy skills is critical for every child, and may carry special challenges for a child who may not fully hear spoken language, see the printed word, and/or have additional challenges. Join us as Julie Durando and Ira Padhye share strategies for providing meaningful literacy instruction to students at the earliest stages of communication and concept development. Specific attention will be given to students with sensory loss combined with physical challenges and cognitive delays. Based on the philosophy that all children are on the continuum of literacy, this session will introduce a free, informal checklist that may be used to target literacy skills and experiences most relevant for an individual student. The presenters will share various techniques to promote the development of literacy skills when working with young children who are deaf-blind with multiple disabilities. They will also provide examples of schedule systems, story boxes and adaptations and accommodations that meet the needs of students with low vision, blindness, field loss, and Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI).

Target Audience: Educators (including teachers, related service providers, instructional assistants, interveners, special education directors, and early intervention providers) who work with children with sensory loss (deafness/hearing loss, blindness/visual impairment, or deaf-blindness) and multiple disabilities. Family members will also benefit from this webinar.

Please register for “The ABCs of Literacy: Where to Start with Children who have Sensory Loss and Multiple Disabilities”at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6844387687623785729>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing connection information to join the webinar on March 2.

This one hour webinar can be accessed from any location. A certificate of participation will be provided for those who complete a short survey at the conclusion of the training.

Wednesday Webinars are sponsored by Outreach Services of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, through grant funding from the Virginia Department of Education. **We hope you can join us!**