

Comments from SPARKLE families -

"I feel like it is the beginning of having the 'big picture' of my child's needs all in one place."



"It was great! Easy to use... relevant...knowledgeable... affirming to us as parents!"



"The visuals brought information from doctors' and audiologists' reports to life...I can't wait to dig out my daughter's reports and look at them now that I understand them!"



"The use of video footage of deafblind children spoke to the viewers more than words alone would have been able to do."



"The fact that all the important information is right at my fingertips...once completed the child profile provides a snapshot of my child's medical background as well as her abilities."



"It's a light bulb moment for families to realize we are not alone."

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Project SPARKLE - a special program for families of children with deafblindness...



Supporting Parent Access to Resources, Knowledge, Linkages, and Education



Project SPARKLE is a program of individualized learning that enhances the ability of parents of children who are deafblind to fulfill their role in the development and education of their children.



Through Project SPARKLE, parents will have access to information, training, and resources in their homes via DVD technology and the Internet.



The SPARKLE training program is provided to parents utilizing DVD technology and supported with a Parent Guidebook and the SPARKLE website.



The training program focuses on deafblindness, vision, hearing, touch, concept development, intervention, and communication.



The child profile is a database program which supports the family in collecting data and information specific to their child. Parents use what they have learned and develop a profile unique to their child. They can then share this profile with the educational team, service providers, medical personnel, and others.



The SPARKLE Website has a Family Room component where parents can access an evolving collection of family stories for inspiration and support. It also has a section entitled "R Kids" that highlights individual children and celebrates their abilities.

Project SPARKLE also provides a Listserv where parents can interact with each other to share ideas, information, and encouragement. The Listserv has deafblind topics for ongoing discussion.



Each participating state has a State Facilitator who can provide guidance, support, and resources to families as appropriate.

The SPARKLE website has a unique video library where parents can watch presentations by professionals in deafblindness from their home computers.



It also contains a glossary of terms and a resource section containing links to related websites.