Council for Exceptional Children

Division for Communication, Language, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing



Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2026



A Word from Our President

Hello, DCD Family,

As we move into a new season, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible work you continue to do each and every day. As educators and professionals, you bring your knowledge, skills, compassion, and dedication to supporting students with communication disorders and students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Your work creates access, builds understanding, and opens doors to possibility.

You help students find their voices, build confidence, strengthen connections, and see what is possible for their futures. And you do this work during a time when changes in education policy, staffing challenges, and increasing demands can make our work feel especially challenging.

Please know that DCD stands beside you. We see the work you are doing, we value the expertise you bring to our profession, and we are committed to supporting you through continued learning, connection, and advocacy.

As we look ahead, I hope you will join us for our upcoming DCD professional development webinars. We are excited to offer opportunities to learn, share ideas, connect with colleagues, and continue growing together as a professional community.
Most importantly, I hope you will take a moment to recognize the difference you make. Sometimes the impact of our work is not immediately visible, but the access, confidence, relationships, and opportunities we create can stay with a student for a lifetime.

If you ever need support, encouragement, or simply a connection to someone who understands, our DCD family is here for you. Please reach out to us anytime at president@dcdcec.org. Thank you for showing up, for continuing to learn, for advocating for your students, and for the steady and meaningful work you do every day. It matters. You matter. And DCD is grateful to walk alongside you.

With appreciation,
LaKisha Stanley,
President, DCD

DCD Members Everywhere!



Our board members have been busy attending the Division for Early Childhood Conference and the OSEP Leadership and Project Directors' conference. If you ever see us, come say hi! We would love to connect.

Click here to share what you are doing

BRIGHT SPOTS

Council for Exceptional Children

Creating brighter, safer futures for individuals with disabilities

"Behavior is Communication"

Unfortunately, the behavior of a significant number of children with disabilities is often so disruptive as to impede the learning of an entire class. Lisa Palese/Executive Director of the Mid-Valley SPED Cooperative, has learned that "It is our job to teach students communication skills that allow them to communicate their needs safely." Check out the CEC Bright Spot Project to learn more.

CEC Bright Spot Project

CEC 2027 | Columbus

Each year at the CEC Convention & Expo, thousands of special education professionals from around the world come together to learn, share, grow, and connect. With hundreds of sessions on just about every topic in the field, the CEC Convention & Expo is THE professional development event for special educators to find research, tips, and strategies you can actually apply to support students with disabilities and/or gifts and talents.

When: March 10-13, 2027
Where: Columbus, Ohio

Click Here to Attend!

CEC Columbus Sessions are now Available

We have a great line-up of concurrent sessions for our division at this year's CEC conference in Columbus, Ohio. Additionally, we have some exciting things coming up as a division. Check out the sessions that are featured under Communicative Disabilities and Deaf/Hard of Hearing and we hope to see you there!

Wednesday, March 10th

- 12-1pm: Ohio's Model for Serving Deafblind Students
- 12-1pm: Accommodations in and Through the Arts

Thursday, March 11th

- 8-9am: Ending Language Deprivation: Reimagining Special Education for Deaf Learners
- 8-9am: Expressive ASL Development of Students with Marginal Gains
- 9:15-10:15am: Bridging Preparation and Practice: How TODHH Preparation Aligns with Family-Centered Early Intervention
- 10:30-11:30am: Theory of Mind and Written Language of Deaf Learners
- 11:45am-12:45pm: The Need for Mentorship in Deaf Education: Listening to the Evidence
- 1-2pm: Expanding School-Wide Access to Tangible Symbol Sets in New York City
- 1-2pm: Supporting Literacy for Students with Disabilities, Including Deaf Learners and those with Complex Communication Needs
- 2:15-3:15pm: Interactive and Engaging Strategies to Support Communcation Skills of Students in Inclusive Classrooms

Friday, March 12th

- 8-9am: Parent participation as a catalyst in student IEP goal performance
- 10:30-11:30am: An AI-Generated Ubiquitous Augmentative and Alternative Communication System for Addressing Patient-Provider Health and Wellness Engagement
- 10:30-11:30am: Leveraging AI to Help Distinguish Language Differences from Disabilities Among English Learners
- 10:30-11:30am: Supporting DHH Students with Students with Diverse Communication Support Needs
- 1-2pm: Understanding Listening and Spoken Language in Deaf Education

Upcoming Events

DCD and CEC PD Events



Our next PD event is coming up! Join us on Tuesday, November 17th to hear Dr. Pamela Luft share about K-12 Struggles and Strategies of Students with Mild/Moderate Hearing Losses.

How well do DHH students with mild/moderate hearing losses navigate their K-12 settings? Do they receive the accommodations they need? Are these effective? This presentation reports on the perceptions and experiences of 10 successful postsecondary DHH students. As consumers of education services this can help us all better know of potentially unrecognized struggles and strategies in order to better help all DHH students succeed.

Sign Up Here!

Did you know that you can access past DCD and CEC trainings in the CEC Learning Library?

Simply log into your CEC account and click “Access Learning Library”. Once you access it, you can filter trainings to DCD trainings! You must be a member to access the trainings for free.

CEC Learning Library

Communication Disorders Quarterly

The latest issue of Communications Disorders Quarterly (Volume 47) was published on November 1st, 2026. It includes new articles that contribute to the knowledge of this field. You must be a member of DCD to have free access to the journal. Below are some of the topics included in the latest volume!

- The Effects of Symbol Format and Symbol Set on Verb Identification
  - Brock, K. L. (2026). The Effects of Symbol Format and Symbol Set on Verb Identification. Communication Disorders Quarterly, 48(1), 3-13.
- A Collaborative Intervention for Autistic Children and Their Siblings: An Exploratory Study
  - Wright, B. M., & Benigno, J. P. (2026). A Collaborative Intervention for Autistic Children and Their Siblings: An Exploratory Study. Communication Disorders Quarterly, 48(1), 14-24.
- Still Tongue, Silent Cues: A Systematic Review of Lingual Resting Posture
  - McFarland, C. J., Hashemi Hosseinabad, H., & Schafer, E. C. (2026). Still Tongue, Silent Cues: A Systematic Review of Lingual Resting Posture. Communication Disorders Quarterly, 48(1), 25-36.
- COFFEE and PLAY: An Evidence-informed Public Health Approach to Early Speech-Language Pathology Services
  - Phoenix, M., Kotulak, K., Cryderman, S., Faruqui, I., Campbell, W., Hamilton, J., Camden, C., & Kennedy, J. (2026). COFFEE and PLAY: An Evidence-Informed Public Health Approach to Early Speech–Language Pathology Services. Communication Disorders Quarterly, 48(1), 37-48.

Become a Member of the Division for Communication, Language, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DCD)

Membership Benefits

- A subscription to Communication Disorders Quarterly
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Discounts on Conferences & Trainings
- Online communities & Forums
- Collaboration with Researchers & Professionals
- Advocacy & Leadership opportunities to shape policy & professional initiatives

Click Here to Join Today!

Signing Starbucks

This summer, one of our board members, Dr. Rebecca Darden-Perry, attended the National Leadership Conference in the DC metro area. During her visit, she attended the Signing Starbucks located in Washington, DC. Every staff member was Deaf and communicated through sign language. Dr. Darden-Perry shares that the space was welcoming and there were smiles everywhere. People had genuine respect and it was an atmosphere that everyone worked together naturally. It was a reminder that accessibility benefits everyone and that barriers can disappear when we are willing to communicate in different ways.





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