

GUIDE: to DEAF-BLIND TEACHERS' INTERVIEWS

[Jelica Nuccio] Hello and welcome to our video "Guide to Deaf-Blind Teachers' Interviews. I'm here to guide you to the links that you will find listed on-line in our curriculum, specifically regarding teaching DB people how to use SSP services. This set of interviews is for DB teachers who will profit the most.

We interviewed six DB teachers from all over the country. They are all experienced teachers but they do not all specifically teach people how to use SSPs. We interviewed them about their experience as teachers and their teaching strategies. These interviews are intended to support DB teachers who may be using this curriculum and so we recommend the teachers review these interviews before they begin teaching deaf-blind students.

These six teachers are: Bruce Visser, from Seattle, Washington; Bapin from California; Kim Powers-Smith from Texas; aj granda, from Seattle. These four people we were able to interview in person and you will see them in the videos you can access by clicking on the links. There are two others who unfortunately, we interviewed through video-phone which resulted in video that was too blurry to be used here. But their information is really very useful so it's been translated into English as reading materials. These are also on-line and can be found in the same place. These two interviews were with Aimee Chappelow Bader from Kansas and Jamie Pope from the Metro Washington D.C. area.

The four we interviewed in person responded in ASL and if you can't read their signs, these too are available in English, in written form. Just click on "English version". These are specifically included for Braille users so they are accessible for all. Thank you to all these teachers for sharing with us.

The interviews cover an introduction (by me) including the purpose of the training, our rationale for including different parts of it [a discussion of a support system for the teacher and issues in working with a sighted colleague]. This is followed by a short clip with the teachers' bios.

The edited interviews begin with teaching techniques and strategies (for example do they set up the seating in a particular way one-to-one or in a group, how they proceed step by step to match the needs of the students or audience). Next is a clip on teaching style and strategy, in which the interviewees explain their philosophy or why they choose a particular approach, including their support system and whether they use interpreters, Braille notes and so on. Then comes general advice to help us avoid some of the mistakes they have made (for which we have to thank them).

The last three clips are samples of an actual lesson with a DB teacher working with DB student one-to-one. It is not the entire lesson but edited segments of the lesson to give the viewer a sample. Second is a DB teacher going out with an interpreter to observe the work of the DB student with their SSP. Third is “the Outcome” in which the student is applying what she has learned with her own SSP.

And those are our video clips.