Santa Clara County Office of Education

Trisha Green
Oster Signs Website

Champions for Leadership
June 11, 2013

Goals

- Professional Development Goals

  - develop leadership skills
  - develop relationships with leaders and future leaders across SCCOE departments
  - contribute to the SCCOE's organizational goals

Goals

- Project Goals

  - to promote the vocabulary acquisition and language development of students in the SCCOE Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

  - to provide parents, families, and interested community members with an online resource for learning and using signed English with their children

Why is this important?

- Historically, most Deaf and Hard of Hearing children struggle academically, partly because they often have delayed language development, which may result in academic challenges.

- Being Deaf or Hard of Hearing does not cause language delay; it is language deprivation, caused by inability to access language, that causes language delay.

from the California Department of Education

SCCOE DHOH Program

- Serves students from Santa Clara County who are eligible for special education under the categories of deaf or hard of hearing

- Serves students from birth through age 22

- School aged program (ages 3 -22) has classes on four sites within Santa Clara County

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COE Program at Oster Elementary

- Serves DHOH students from preschool through fifth grade

- Serves DHOH students in special day or general education classes

- Uses Total Communication and Signed English to promote language development

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Total Communication

- Total Communication (TC) supports the use of all modes of communication and language as needed in differing contexts. This includes ASL and more English-based systems of signing (i.e., Signing Exact English, Sign-Supported Speech, and Conceptually Accurate Signed English), spoken English, mime, facial expression, and gestures.

from Resources for Mainstream Programs, Gallaudet University

Signing Exact English (S.E.E.)

- Signing Exact English is a sign language system that represents literal English. To make visible everything that is not heard, S.E.E. supplements what a child can get from hearing and speechreading. Since American Sign Language (ASL) has different vocabulary, idioms and syntax from English, SEE modifies and supplements the vocabulary of ASL so children can see clearly what is said in English.
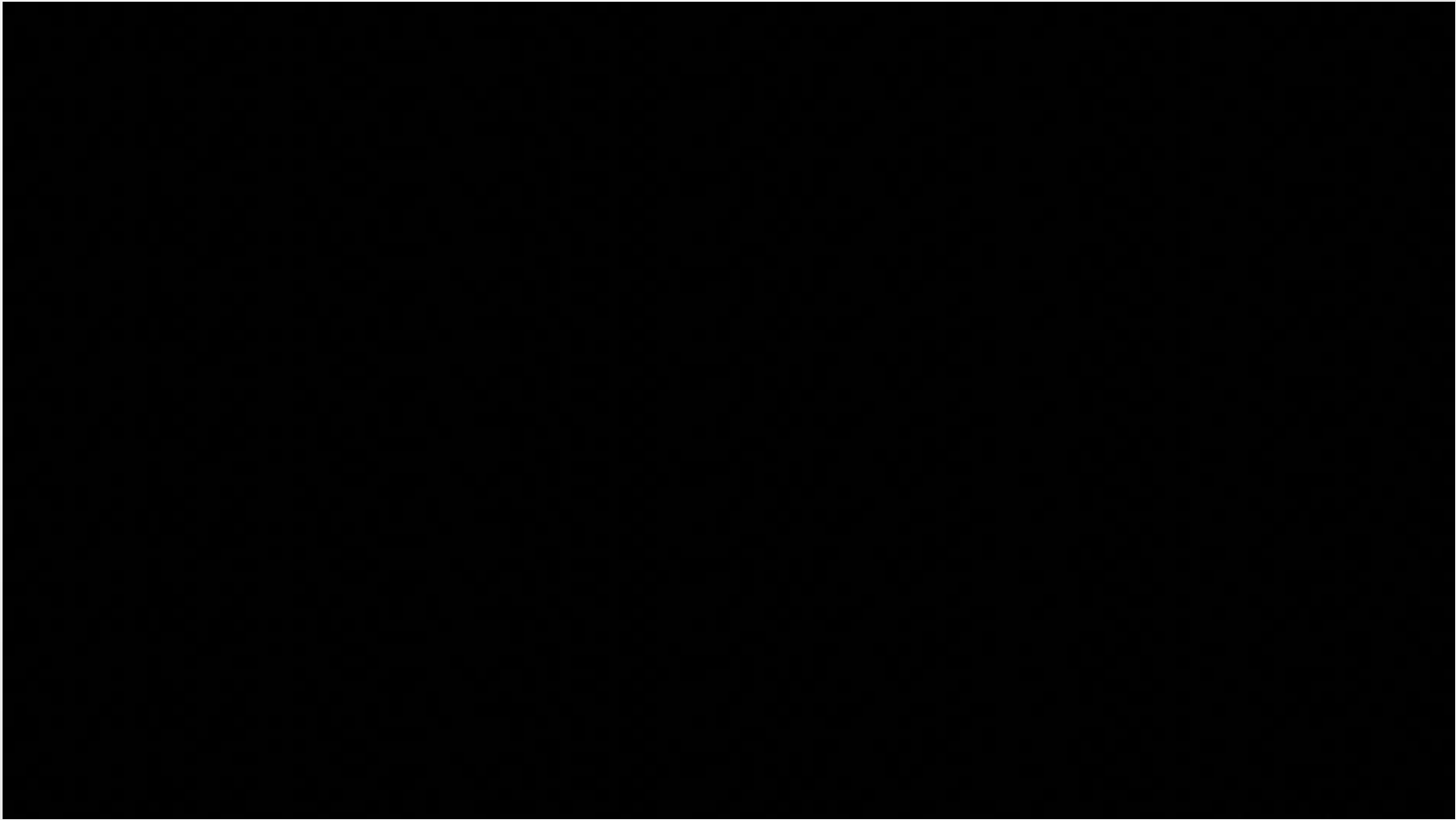
from The SEE Center

Learning S.E.E.

- There are many physical and online resources to learn ASL. The resources available to learn S.E.E. are more limited:
  - Visual dictionary
  - Travel to workshops across the country
  - Purchase of an online curriculum with videos
  - One app for iPhones or iPads
  - Weekly classes at Oster during the regular school year

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Project: Oster Website

- Video clips of S.E.E. in action at the word, phrase, sentence, and story levels

- Accessible to anyone with an internet connection

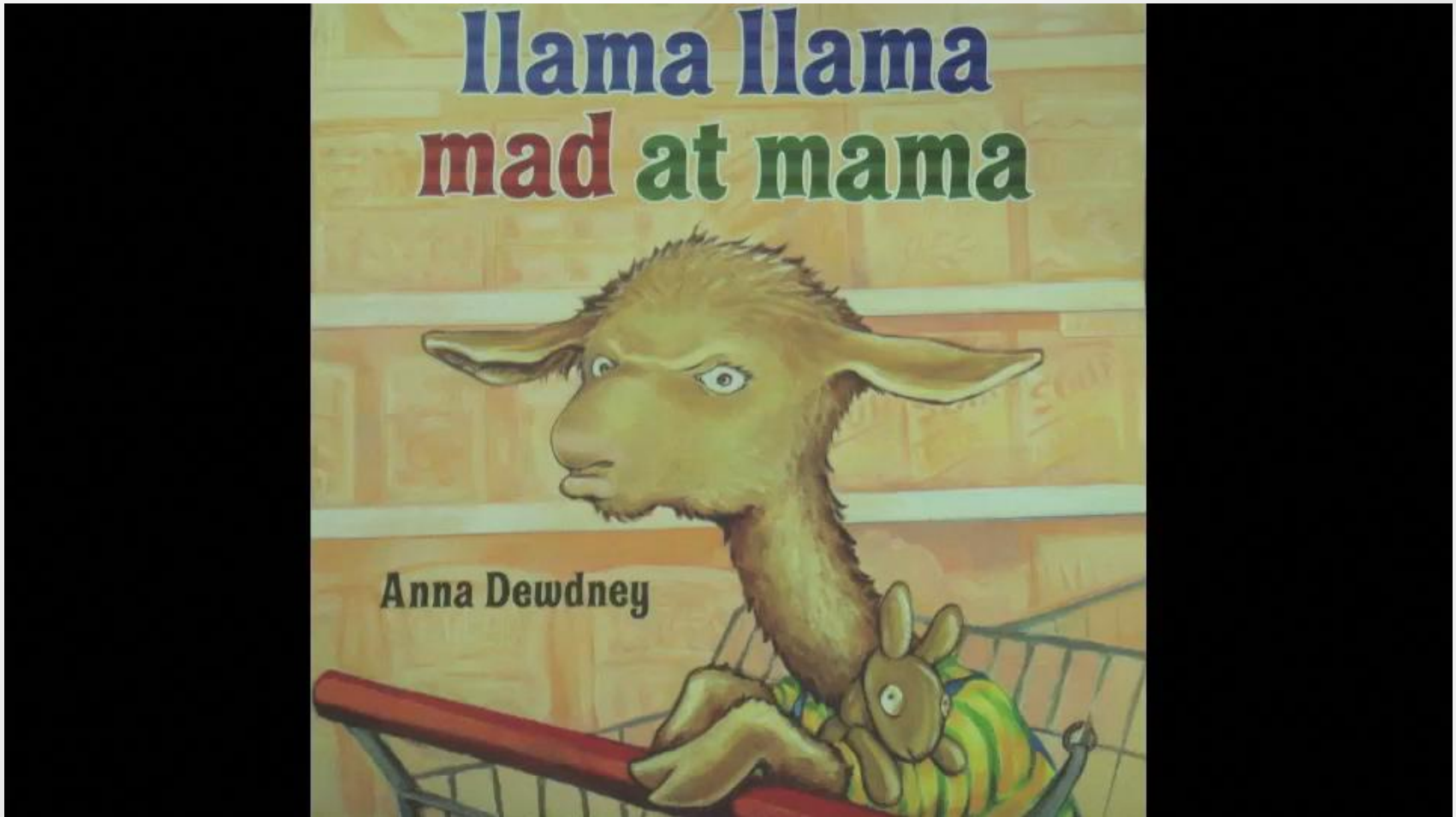- Continuous ability to update the content

Website Content

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Accomplishments/Successes

- Developed a project to enhance language development for students in the SCCOE DHOH program (SCCOE Goal: Student Programs)

- Developed a project to help parents support their children's education at home (SCCOE Goal: Service to Customers)

Key Learning

- Identifying a need and developing a solution to meet that need

- Articulating the vision and description of a project

- Identifying and recruiting project collaborators

Challenges

- Technology is never as easy as it seems.

Acknowledgements

- David Wong, my CFL mentor, for helping me focus and define the scope my project

- Nancy Pinkel, my supervisor, for supporting my project

- Nancy Stanke, DHOH and sign class teacher, for many years of teaching sign class and for filming and assistance with editing the video clips

Acknowledgements

- Sign class students, for their willingness to be filmed for the website

- SCCOE technology department, for developing and hosting the website

References

- California Department of Education, Position Statement on Language Access – Deaf & Hard of Hearing: http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ss/dh/positionstmnt.asp

- Gallaudet University, Resources for Mainstream Programs:http://www.gallaudet.edu/Clerc_Center/Information_and_Resources/Info_to_Go/Educate_Children_(3_to_21)/Resources_for_Mainstream_Programs.html

- The S.E.E. Center: http://seecenter.org

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