



# The Whole Person

People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

*Connecting people  
with disabilities to  
the resources they need.*

## The Whole Family Project

**How does a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or nonverbal due to other conditions such as Down syndrome, Cerebral Palsy or childhood Apraxia learn to communicate?**

Sign language skills can provide a much needed solution and help families better communicate with their children. The Whole Family Project provides sign language instruction to families who have a child living in the home with a hearing or speech disability who would benefit learning visual communication. Only infants and children up to 12 years are eligible for this program.

As with spoken language, the introduction of sign language is done through the parents as first teachers. The earlier the intervention, the better the outcome. Parents are taught signs they will need as their child grows, always staying ahead of the curve.

The Whole Family Project encourages anyone who regularly engages with the child be involved in the language sessions, which meet once a week for a minimum of 4 months.



### The Goal of The Whole Family Project

Through individualized instruction in sign language, The Whole Family Project seeks to increase the ability of families to communicate with their children who are deaf or nonverbal, while increasing their knowledge and understanding of deafness, the deaf community and available options for their children.

### How Does It Work?

The Whole Family Project provides each family with their own qualified tutor. These tutors will tailor the lessons to meet the unique communication needs of each family.

The Whole Family Project employs tutors with a wide variety of sign language experience and backgrounds. Tutors may be interpreters, family members of a deaf individual, or deaf themselves.



***For more information contact:***

***816-561-0304***

***or Micki Keck at***

***mkeck@thewholeperson.org***

## Mission Statement

The Whole Person connects people with disabilities to the resources they need by supporting independent choice and advocating for positive change in the community.

## Vision Statement

The Whole Person envisions a fully accessible community where opportunities and choices are not limited by disability.

## Who We Serve

- People of all ages with developmental/cognitive, mental health, sensory, and physical disabilities  
Examples of disabilities:  
Amputation, Arthritis, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Blindness/Low Vision, Brain/Head Injury, Cancer, Cerebral Palsy, Diabetes, Dyslexia, Environmental Sensitivity, Epilepsy, Fibromyalgia, Hearing/Speech Disability, HIV/AIDS, Learning Disability, Lupus, Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis, Polio, Renal Conditions, Spina Bifida, Spinal Cord Injury, Stroke
- The parents, spouses, siblings and significant others of people with disabilities
- **We serve the following counties.**  
**Missouri:** Cass, Clay, Jackson and Platte.  
**Kansas:** Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte.

## Programs Include:

- Independent Living Skills Training
- Personal Assistant Services
- Employment Services
- Information & Referral
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- Deaf / Hard of Hearing Services
- Transition Services (*youth to adulthood and nursing home patients to their own home*)
- Blind Low Vision Experience
- In-Home Care and Home Health Care

## Peer Support Groups

Through peer groups there is a full exchange of brainstorming, problem solving, and sharing of concerns, successes, and ways to address issues. Peer groups meet 1-2 times a month. Information about each of these groups, meeting dates, locations and contact information for each facilitator is found on our website.

## Community Outreach

The Whole Person provides education on disability etiquette, including reasonable accommodations and accepted social interaction, as well as why disability awareness is important. Visit our website to arrange a presentation for your company or organization.

## Accessibility

The Whole Person is committed to providing accessible information about our programs and services. We offer large print and Braille versions of our materials upon request. Additionally, accessible PDF files are available on our website, which can be used with screen-reading programs. Our website features an assistive toolbar with various accessibility tools, including a screen reader, styling options, reading aids, and translation support. If you require any assistance or have specific accessibility needs, please contact us.

## LOCATION:

**3710 Main Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111**

**Missouri:**

**816-561-0304**

**Kansas:**

**913-871-4188**

**[thewholeperson.org](http://thewholeperson.org)**