Dear Class,

I look forward to working with all of you in the Early Literacy Webinar course through WSDS. Let me share with you a little about my background.  I have my masters in Education of the Blind and Visually Impaired with 36 years of experience in working with children birth to five who are visually impaired including multiple disabilities.  I work part-time for the SKI-HI Institute at Utah State University conducting VIISA and INSITE trainings across the country as well as developing curriculum and training materials.  I also work part-time for the Utah School for the Blind serving families of children birth to five with vision impairments. I love what I do and hope to get you enthused about providing early literacy experiences with the children and families we all serve.

There are two sources of readings that I would like to use in this webinar course.  First is the new edition of **“On the Way to Literacy” from American Printing House for the Blind.**  Please try to read Chapter 1, pages 21-76 before our first webinar.  The other source is the module on **Communication and Early Literacy on the Project EDIN website**.  This site was developed by a national grant directed by Deborah Hatton about five years ago and it is a great resource to our early childhood vision field.  Go to: [www.fpg.unc.edu/~edin/](http://www.fpg.unc.edu/%7Eedin/); then select Resources; then select Communication and Literacy Module.  Look over the material in the first three modules, in particular the “Major Points” section of each module.  Session 1 is an Overview of Communication and Literacy; Session 2 is on Communication and Session 3 on Language Interventions.  Part 1 of this series will focus on early communication because this is central to developing literacy in young children. [This site has since been removed.]

There is an assignment between each session.  The purpose of this is to get you using and applying what you learn from the course with children you are working with.  You will have several assignments to choose from so that you can select one that you think might fit your needs and interests best.

Thanks so much for your time.  I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Dennison