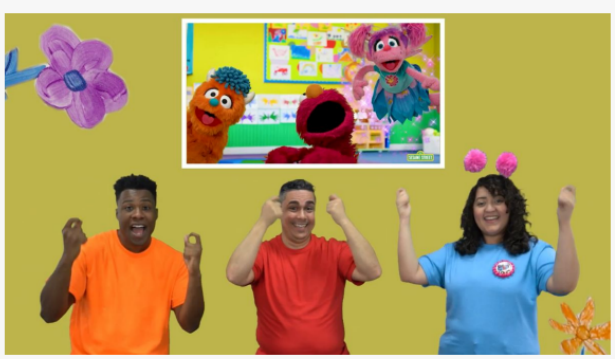
Read this e-mail in your browser

DICAPTA'S NEWSLETTER

Monthly Accessibility News - December 2024



CURRENT EVENTS, COLLABORATIONS, AND MORE BELOW

Join us to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the premiere of *Facing the Falls*!

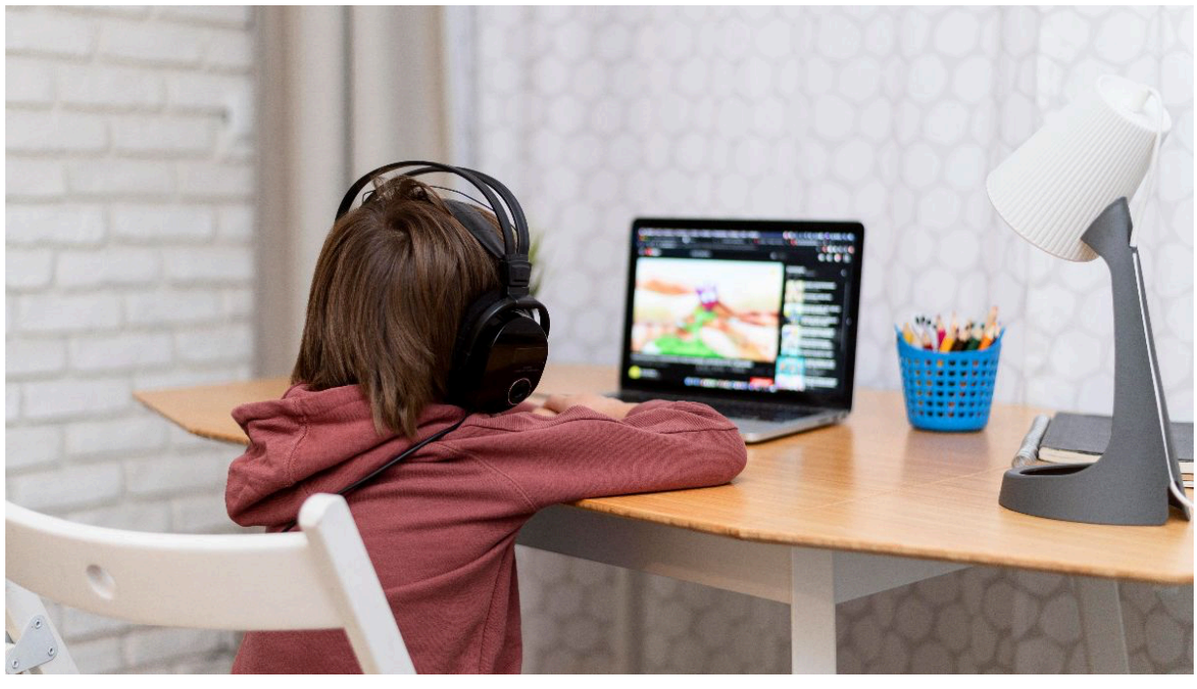
Today, December 3rd, we celebrate the **International Day of People with Disabilities!** Join us in honoring this day by watching **Facing the Falls**, available to stream for FREE on YouTube starting today. This powerful film follows international disability advocate Cara Elizabeth Yar Khan as she faces the ultimate test of courage and perseverance. Despite battling a rare, aggressive muscle-wasting disease and relying on assistance to walk, Cara embarks on a 12-day journey through the Grand Canyon—conquering fear, ambition, and the elements.

To ensure accessibility for everyone, Facing the Falls features **audio description on our All4Access platform and closed captions on YouTube.** Don't miss this inspiring story of determination and resilience. Watch now and celebrate the incredible power of the human spirit!

Ana Sofía Cuesta Giraldo and the Passion of a Young Audio Description Narrator

At just 17 years old, **Ana Sofía Cuesta Giraldo** has already left an indelible mark as an audio description narrator. Guided by her father, a renowned voice actor, Ana Sofía's journey is a testament to her passion, discipline, and dedication. From narrating children's series like **Ziggy and the Zootram** to mastering the innovative **All4Voicing platform**, she continues to redefine excellence in accessible storytelling.

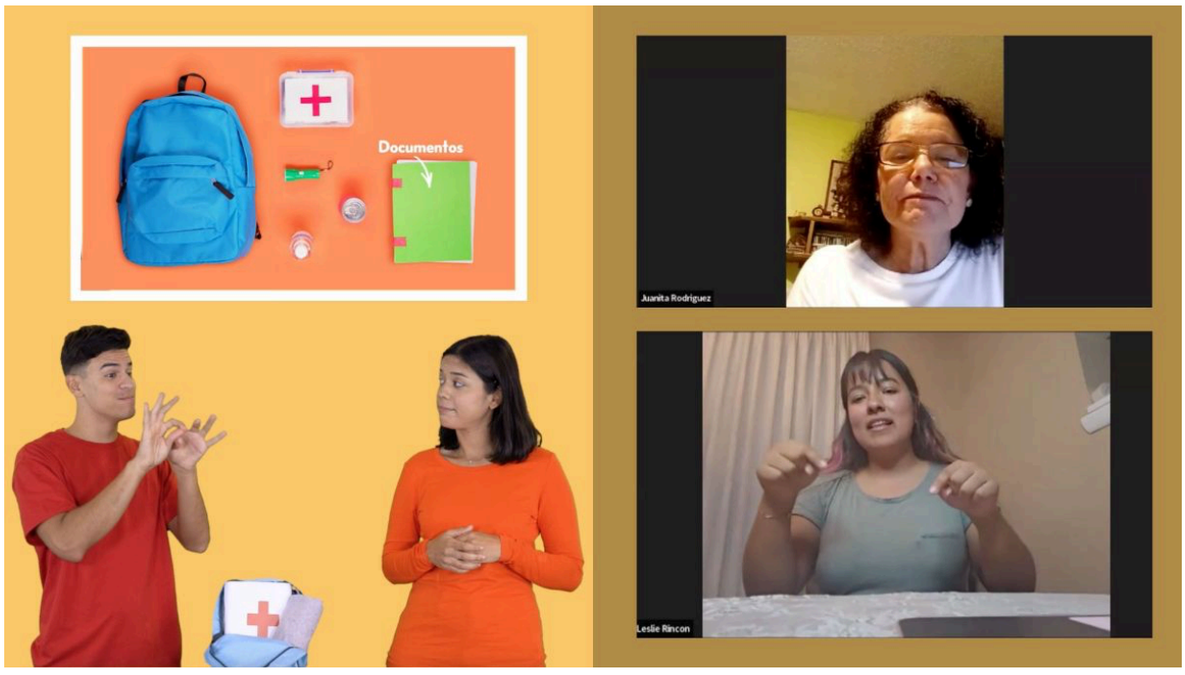
Discover how this remarkable young talent is making accessibility her mission while pursuing a bright future in the arts. Read the full story on our blog.



INTEGRA's AI Technology is Transforming Education for Latino English Learners

Back in October we announced our recent project, **INTEGRA**, which uses generative AI and video technology to support **Latino English Learners with Disabilities (LELwD)**. Initial testing has shown promising results, with users praising the platform's clear content delivery, accessibility features, and culturally responsive approach.

Teachers highlighted the value of cultural competency materials, while caregivers and students appreciated the accessible format and inclusive messaging. Visit our blog to learn more about how our development team successfully combined AI capabilities with human expertise to create new educational accessibility and more inclusive learning environments for Latino English Learners with Disabilities.



Impact of Plaza Sésamo ASL Videos: Focus Group Insights

Last September, Dicapta and Plaza Sésamo launched the **American Sign Language (ASL) versions of Plaza Sésamo's in Spanish**. To evaluate the impact of these videos on Hispanic deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) children and their families, we conducted a qualitative focus group. Moderated by **Dr. Juanita Rodríguez**—an expert in Deaf education and rehabilitation—the session brought together 23 participants, including DHH individuals, and parents and educators of Hispanic DHH children. Participants reviewed two videos: one focused on promoting hygiene habits and the other on emergency preparedness. We were very pleased to receive an overwhelmingly positive reception, with participants praising the trilingual approach (Spanish, ASL, and captions) and the videos' ability to bridge linguistic and cultural gaps.

We will share detailed findings of this qualitative focus group in an upcoming publication. Meanwhile, we are delivering a weekly newsletter to highlight each new video published in the **Plaza Sésamo ASL Playlist**, which features educational content on topics such as emotional well-being, financial literacy, and more. If you'd like to stay updated and learn about the latest releases, you can subscribe to the newsletter and join our efforts to make educational content accessible for all.

Don't Miss Our New Accessible Releases for this Month!

We're excited to announce this month's new releases, all featuring accessible options! Dive into these powerful films and series designed for everyone.

POV presents **Who I Am Not**, a poignant film exploring the fight for acceptance in a binary world. It follows Sharon-Rose Khumalo, a South African beauty queen grappling with her intersex identity, and Dimakatso Sebidi, a masculine-presenting intersex activist, as they confront societal stigma and personal struggles.

Canal Trece presents **La Ley de la Relatividad**, a program designed to spark discussions on fundamental topics in young people's lives. Each episode delves into themes like family, love, identity, and spirituality, exploring how these have evolved over time.

Sing along with your favorite **Plaza Sésamo** characters! Explore three episodes with audio description, featuring classic tunes and new adventures. Join Elmo, Cookie Monster, and the gang for musical fun the whole family will enjoy!

The accessibility of these titles is made possible thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Education under project #H327C210001. For the full list of releases, visit our website.

Best of 2024: A Year of Accessibility and Innovation!

As 2024 comes to a close, we proudly reflect on our progress in accessibility and inclusion. Here are some of our key achievements that defined the year:

Accessible Films: We enhanced accessibility at major film festivals and premieres with our All4Access clearinghouse and app, providing easy access to audio descriptions and captions for films like La Lucha and Ezra. We also launched monthly accessibility releases, ensuring continued progress in accessible media.

Standout Efforts: This year, we reaffirmed our partnership with Sesame Workshop to create ASL versions of Plaza Sésamo content. We also optimized dubbing using AI driven procedures and launched Dicapta's Accessible Narration Training to empower narrators who are blind and make content more inclusive.

Project Updates: We launched INTEGRA, a groundbreaking platform that uses AI-powered video modeling to improve cultural competencies among IEP teams for Latino English Learners with Disabilities. Additionally, we delivered our All4Voicing Lite platform that simplifies the audio description process, making it easier to identify, narrate and record audio descriptions in one place.

Events: We had the privilege of participating in events like the M-Enabling Summit, the NextGen Accessibility Summit and the Fest of Fests in Greece, where we showcased our advancements in accessibility. Dicapta also contributed to the 2024 ACB Audio Description Awards Gala, and the OSEP Showcase at the AER Biennial International Conference. Lastly, we made the Casos y Cachos Llaneros performance fully accessible with integrated audio description, ASL, and Spanish-English interpretation, while celebrating Latino cowboy traditions.

As we wrap up 2024, we're grateful for the collaborations and innovations that have driven us forward. Stay tuned for our **Best of 2024 special on social media** to celebrate all the milestones that made this year extraordinary!

Dicapta wishes you a wonderful holiday season!

dicapta
Accessible Communication Developers

Visit our website!

Subscribe to our Newsletter

This communication was developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education #H327C210001. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Copyright © 2024, Dicapta, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
mailto:info@dicapta.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can unsubscribe from this list.

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
why did I get this? unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences
Dicapta · 1511 E State Road 434 Ste 2001-220 · Winter Springs, FL 32708-5644 · USA

INTUIT mailchimp