



"The Dustin's Paw dogs are THE best way to teach receptive and expressive language to our deaf and hard of hearing students. So much so, we designed our curriculum around the dogs. These remarkable dogs respond to sign language, participate in interactive activities and encourage our children to try new things." – Lenore Williams, Early Start Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher



"For the past six years Diane and her dogs have been an integral part of my students' lives. It has been a pleasure to work with and watch how they are able to take the goals I give them and produce results. As they've worked on following directions, listening skills, fear issues of a variety of kinds, orientation and mobility, giving commands and directions as well as social/relational skills, I've marveled at what a dog can do for a child." Ginger Brown, Preschool Visually Impaired Teacher and California Teacher of the Year in 1998.



Dustin Ovelle Geralyn Prairie

Dustin and Diane Rampelberg began their work as Canine Modality Specialists in 1999. Dustin was a Canine Companion for Independence Assistance Dog who thoroughly loved his work here on earth touching lives. He is the namesake of our organization, *Dustin's Paw*. In May of 2004 Dustin stepped into heaven.

Ovelle, Assistance Dog, graduated with Diane from Canine Companions for Independence in November of 2004 and carries on Dustin's work. Prairie joined the team in 2009.

Geralyn was trained at the Assistance Dog Institute in Santa Rosa, CA with Diane in 2002 as Social/Therapy Dog. She crossed the rainbow bridge into heaven in June of 2010.

It is important to point out that our dogs are NOT pets. They are working Canine Companion for Independence Assistance Dogs. Not only must they and Diane periodically pass tests to show that they are capable of the work they do, but they must meet the health standards set forth by the facilities in which they work. Their standards for behavior and cleanliness are high.

Diane is a credentialed teacher with 40+ years teaching experience. Since 1999 she has facilitated the interactions between a variety of clients and dogs.

Dustin and Diane received several awards for their work. In 2008 Ovelle and Diane were named Idaho's Top Health Care Heroes in Rehabilitation Care. In 2009 Ovelle was selected as News Channel 7's Hero of the week.

Dustin's Paw

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Canine Modality Specialists



Facilitating Learning Experiences and Therapy Sessions

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Working as an integral part of the professional team, we provide creative, interactive canine/client activities designed to captivate and entice clients to accomplish their learning and/or therapy goals.

“People will do things for a dog that they’d never do for a human. They’ll work harder, conquer fears, try new things, break through barriers, seek independence and much more just to interact with a Dustins’ Paw dog. Yes, a spoonful of dog helps the medicine go down in the most delightful way!”



“Dustin was a very important part of our lives for four years! If it weren’t for the time Diane and he spent with Larissa, she may be a very different person today. Dustin did more than assist Larissa in learning to walk. He gave her the strength to conquer her fears and taught her all about unconditional love.” - Kelly Evans, Parent

WHO DO WE SERVE

1. Disabled children, adults and their families.
2. Hospitals, Therapy Services, Early Start programs, private and public schools, private organizations, federal and state programs, pediatric day health centers, and professional business' serving the disabled.
3. Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapists, Special Education and Inclusion Teachers, Vision Specialists, Psychologists, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, Nurses, Doctors, Nutritionists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Case Workers, Developmental Specialists, Intensive Behavior Interventionists and other professionals who seek to increase their effectiveness with clients.

OUR COMMITMENT

- Professional Integrity
- Ethical Responsibility
- Tender Compassion
- Creativity
- Excellence
- Fun

OUR INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

Our Canine/Client Interactive Activities are fun, yet NEVER lose focus of the therapeutic goal or learning objective.

In the classroom, therapy and/or hospital settings our assistance dogs do 70+ interactive commands all designed to bring their special magic to encouraging clients toward accomplishing their therapy goals and learning tasks.

Coordinating with the professional team, our experienced teacher/handler, Diane Rempelberg, skillfully and creatively designs activities combining the dog's interactive commands with client goals. In many cases the client is so engaged in working with the dog that he is unaware that he is fully immersed in working on his goals and objectives. Woven carefully and thoughtfully within these interactive activities, the client could be working on communication skills, fine/

gross motor skills, orientation and mobility skills, functional academics, behavior management, self-help skills, sensory integration, social/emotional skills and/or other skills.

Our “Famous” Interactive Kits include Beauty Parlor, Barber Shop and Spa; Doctor; Baby; Tea Party; Basketball; Camping; Detective; Brushing Your Teeth; and many, many more.



Diane and her dogs have worked with my program for over four years. In that time I have seen the dedication and commitment to every child and family who have had the opportunity to work with this fantastic team. They are able to use a child’s natural curiosity to encourage language and movement in those children who find just making sounds and moving parts of their bodies to be a challenge. At the same time, they are able to overcome any anxiousness or initial fears the children may have through Diane’s direction and the calmness and temperament of her dogs. I can honestly say that all the children light up when Diane and one of her dogs enters the room . - Lois Lieu, Medically Fragile Teacher

