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Friday, March 12, 2010

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Kids flock to sign with TV fave

By Courtney Vaughn
 Hi-Desert Star

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YUCCA VALLEY — Aryana Martinez rushed to the stage with a grin so wide, it elicited laughter from the audience. Martinez was one of many children selected to help sing and sign Friday evening during a "Signing Time" event with Rachel Coleman at the Yucca Valley Community Center.

Coleman was the host of the PBS show, "Signing Time," which aired on public television 2005 to 2008.

"My ... granddaughter just loves the show. She is just so excited," said Robin Noland of Twentynine Palms, who brought three of her grandchildren to the presentation.

Though "Signing Time" is no longer on the air, kids and parents didn't forget the hand gestures, songs or enthusiasm they held for the program.

"I saw her when I was little on TV," said 6-year-old Brile Hubert, who was called to the stage to demonstrate a facial expression for "scared."

"When you sign 'excited,' your face has to look excited too!" Coleman told her audience.

She sang songs from the show, interacting with the audience the whole time. Making a circular motion in front of her chest, she taught children the sign language expression for "manners."

The popular children's show was taken off the air in 2008. On her blog, Coleman explains that as a host of a public children's show, she did not get paid for her work; rather, she and her sister, whom she ran the show with, had to pay to air the show.

Coleman and her husband have two daughters, Leah and Lucy, who have disabilities and often use sign language.



Kids emote while they sign under the tutelage of Rachel Coleman Friday.



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