



E-Connections

Email newsletter of the Association for Special Children and Families

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May 2010

ASCF PROJECTS

- Highlands Parent Center
- Supporting Special Families
- HELPS: Special Toddlers
- Computer Buddies: Preschoolers
- Partners
- Boost Tutoring
- Special Basketball
- Music Therapy

ASCF STAFF

- Director: Angela Abdul
- Advocates:
Julie Rikon, Cyndy Hopper,
Judy Bassford
- Social Worker:
Catherine Grisbacher
- HELPS Coordinator and
Boost Coordinator:
Teri Belkin
- Intake: Edith Felix

JOIN US SOON



ASCF WORKSHOPS

Basic Rights In Special Education

Tues., May 18, 10 AM

This workshop gives an introduction to the child's rights and parent's responsibilities in securing an appropriate education for the child with special needs.

Register by calling
973-728-8744

Collaborative Communication with the School

Wed., May 12, 7 PM

This presentation focuses on teaming, communication and advocacy.

*Both workshops at
Hillcrest Center,
1810 Macopin Road, WM.*

Register by calling
973-728-8744

SUPPORT GROUPS

Behavioral Support Group
Tues., 7 pm, May 25, Hillcrest, WM
Parenting children with behavioral issues

General Support Group
Wed., 7 pm, May 19, Hillcrest, WM
Parenting and advocacy for children with any disability

Dad's Only Group
Thurs., 7 pm, May 27, Hillcrest, WM
Share a pizza and ideas with other dads

Bloomington Support Group
Thurs., 7 pm, May 6
Bloomington Recreation Department
Open to any parent in the area.

Sussex County Group
Tues., 10 am, May 11
All welcome, Dorothy Henry Library, Vernon
Call ASCF to register **973-728-8744**

LET'S PARTY



Enjoy a "Nite Out" to relax, have fun and dance to music of the Bad Dogs Band. Benefit ASCF Special Children's Athletic program.

Tickets are \$20 per person, BYOB and Bring Your Own Snacks.

Saturday, May 22, from 7 pm-midnight

Pinecliff Lake Clubhouse, 1577 Union Valley Road, West Milford.

Call the office at 973-728-8744 for tickets.

Office:
Hillcrest Community Center,
1810 Macopin Rd (Room 25)
West Milford, NJ 07480

Show Your Kids You Care Every Day

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SAVE THE DATE

DISABILITIES RESOURCE FAIR

Sat. Sept 25., 2010, 11am-3 pm

Hillcrest Community Center gym

Don't miss this opportunity to meet with representative of local service agencies and to participate in important workshops.

Sponsored by ASCF and the Center for Family Resources, Ringwood
More info to follow.

Can 't get out to a workshop?

You can still have an opportunity to learn what you need to know to help your child. The SPAN website offers easy access to information and presentations any time of the day or night. You can learn about special and general education, health advocacy, parent leadership, public policy and more.

Some of the topics covered are:

Health Advocacy
Transition to Adulthood
Education topics
Inclusion
Conflict Resolution
Public Policy

Available in English and Spanish.

www.spannj.org

ASCF is working on having this service available soon.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

May is Mental Health Month. This year the National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is on May 6. Communities across the country will be observing the day with events and social networking campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of mental health to the emotional, physical, and social development of children.

Participate in the Mental Health Consumer Forum on May 5, at 6 PM at Wayne Public Library. Share your suggestions and concerns about the community mental health system. Questions, call Francine Vince at 973-881-2834

INCLUSION MINI-CONFERENCE

Preschool Inclusion:
Together from the Start

Sat. May 22, 9am-12:30 pm. Learn about best practices that support inclusion of preschool students with disabilities within typical early childhood programs. Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown. Sponsored by SPAN and NJOSEP. No charge. Register 973-326-7601

BUILDING EARLY LITERACY

The Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL) is a research-to-practice technical assistance center. It's goal is to promote the adoption and sustained use of evidenced-based early literacy practices by early childhood practitioners, parents and other caregivers of young children with disabilities and developmental delays.

It offers **FREE** guides that show how you can use every-day activities to encourage young children to listen, talk and learn the building blocks for early literacy.

To learn about CELL practice guides go to their website.



www.earlyliteracylearning.org/pgparents.php

Show Your Kids You Care Every Day

ALL ABOUT IEPs

Developing Your Child's IEP

It's IEP time for many children. Are you ready?

NICHCY has a very useful 28 page publication that discusses in detail how a parent can become an active participant in developing their child's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

The process of developing the IEP is first described, including when and where IEP meeting takes place, who attends the meeting, what the different team members bring to the process, and what happens at the meeting.

Then the IEP document itself is examined component by component and the type of information that would go into each component is described. How a child's placement is determined is briefly discussed.

The guide concludes with suggestions to parents for how to prepare for the meeting, what to do during the meeting, and how to follow up afterwards to ensure that the best results for the child can be realized. A resource list of materials on IEPs is attached.

**Download at
www.nichcy.org
Click on Publications**



**With the budget crunch we are in need of supplies and equipments. If you can help with any of the following items, please let Angela know. Basic office supplies: file folders, pocket folders, loose leaf binders, and copy paper. Equipment includes a digital camera, a digital projector, and a small TV/VCR unit. Thank you.
973-728-8744**

KEEPING KIDS SAFE WHILE ONLINE

A free booklet, *Net Cetera: Chatting With Kids About Being Online*, gives adults practical tips to help kids navigate the online world.

Kids and parents have many ways of socializing and communicating online, but they come with certain risks. This guide encourages parents to reduce the risks by talking to kids about how they communicate – online and off – and helping kids engage in conduct they can be proud of.

It addresses their use of social networking websites, cyberbullying, and the importance of protecting computers from viruses and other malicious software.

Net Cetera covers what parents need to know, where to go for more information, and issues to raise with kids about living their lives online.

It is available at www.OnGuardOnline.gov the federal government's online safety website.



OnGuard Online encourages you to use this guide with your kids, in your school, at your PTA meeting, or anywhere else parents might gather.

Thanks to LDA Newsbrief, Jan/Feb 2010 newsletter for information on this resource.

Show Your Kids You Care Every Day

RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE -BOUND

“Going to College” is an online resource for teens with disabilities to learn about college life and what to do to prepare for it and for parents to help their son or daughter learn about college and prepare for success.

Going to college and leaving home for the first time can be an exciting yet difficult transition for both. As a parent, you have been instrumental in helping your child receive the resources and supports that he or she needs in high school, so it can be stressful to now start letting your teenager do this on his or her own in college. It also can be a confusing time, as the way your son or daughter receives services changes dramatically from high school to college. There’s no Individualized Education Plan or special education in college, so it’s now the student’s responsibility to get the supports needed.

This Web site contains information about living at college with a disability. It’s designed for high school students and provides video clips, activities and additional resources that can help them get a head start in planning for college. Visit www.going-to-college.org



A SPECIAL FUND FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH DOWN SYNDROME

Financial assistance is available to young adults with Down syndrome who want to enroll in post-secondary programs or take classes that will help them with employment, independent living and life skills.

Five (5) grants will be awarded, each grant not to exceed \$2000. The grant must be used to pay for the tuition for a course or postsecondary program at a local college, educational institution, learning center or employment training program. The majority of the grant must be for tuition, but some funds can be used to help with books, transportation and other related supplies.

It’s made available through the Joshua O’Neill and Zeshan Tabini Enrichment Fund

Apply by 7/16; contact Vanessa Quick at vcquick@ndss.org

PUBLICATION

Guidance and Career Counselors; Toolkit: Advising High School Students with Disabilities on Post Secondary Options

This 192 page resource contains answers to counselors most frequently asked questions about postsecondary opportunities for students with disabilities. Students and families are encouraged to use the toolkit to help guide their transition planning for college and career. Download from www.heath.gwu.edu

ON THE WEB

HEATH Resource Center

An online Clearinghouse on postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities. It offers 48 different topic areas with a wealth of information and resources gathered from other websites. www.heath.gwu.edu

WEB RESOURCES

www.disabilityinfo.gov is a website offering important information for individuals with disabilities. It is organized into different topic areas:

- Benefits
- Civil Rights
- Community Life
- Education
- Emergency Preparedness
- Employment
- Health
- Housing
- Technology
- Transportation and more.

www.siblingsupport.org

The Sibling Support project is a national effort dedicated to the life long concerns of brothers and sisters of people who have special health developmental, or mental health concerns.

They offer the Sibshop Curriculum: Workshops for siblings of children with

special needs. These workshops provide opportunities for siblings to obtain peer support and education within a highly recreational context.

