



## PLUK Begins 21st Year

By Dennis Moore, Executive Director

September will mark the 21st anniversary of the creation of Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK). Someone suggested we have a rousing 21st Birthday Party, but the more we discussed it and the more ideas that surfaced, we decided perhaps we should have a simple Founders Day Celebration September 7th and continue going about the business of serving families. If you would like to help us celebrate, call to reserve your space.

Today's world is focused on accountability and demonstrating with data how valuable (or not) a program or organization can be. Accountability means numbers—especially those demonstrating that an organization or a particular program is serving increasing numbers of clients and having a positive impact in the clients' lives. The complexity of Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) makes this a challenge. However, PTIs across the country (including PLUK) are up to the challenge and have been capturing data for years; including the number of parents/families served, the number of trainings provided, and the impact of trainings and resources on those parents who sought services.

At PLUK, the increasing numbers have been dramatic; annual contacts surpassing 11,000, the number attending training sessions constantly rising, and the escalating number of training sessions provided. The numbers and types of material loaned from PLUK's library increases regularly, as does the number of publications provided to families.

Are parents more informed and involved with their children's education? Yes, and the greater level of involvement will improve outcomes for children.

Does this increased involvement help with the child's education? Does it improve their grades and participation? Yes, and over time the impact will even be greater.

Since the start of the school year, the number of calls from parents and schools has multiplied. It makes good sense that schools and parents should work together for what is best for children. PLUK works hard by encouraging families and teaching parents and school personnel how to work together and help children strengthen their involvement at school. The support and assistance from Montana schools and from the state Office of Public Instruction to encourage and continually involve parents in the academic future of Montana children has been tremendous.

We would like to extend special thanks to Bob Runkel (administrator in the Special Education Division of OPI) and Doug Doty with OPI who have been extremely helpful with revisions to PLUK's publications for families. Since the reauthorization of IDEIA (the federal special education law), PLUK and other organizations are

furiously attempting to update all manuals and publications to help parents understand the changes. On behalf of PLUK and parents in Montana, we appreciate the help of OPI, Mr. Runkel, and Mr. Doty, and are grateful for their hard work and suggestions.

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*"When will our consciences grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?"*  
-- Eleanor Roosevelt

## PLUK Upcoming Community Events

### September 21, Billings & September 22, Bozeman

#### Sports Legend Dinners featuring NFL Hall of Famer Chuck Bednarik

PLUK is honored to have a true legendary NFL football player, Charles "Chuck" Bednarik, speak at dinners in Billings and Bozeman September 21 & 22. Mr. Bednarik has an illustrious past in the field of organized sports. He served as a gunner in the Air Force in 30 bombing missions during WW II and then starred at the University of Pennsylvania in the later 40's. He was a consensus All-American in 1947 and 1948 and won the Maxwell Award as the Country's Top College Player in 1948. He played in the NFL (with the Philadelphia Eagles) from 1948 until 1962 and missed only one game during that 14 year span. He was named All-Pro in eight seasons and played both offense and defense the entire 1960 season. In the 1960 Championship Game he made the game saving tackle on Green Bay's Jim Taylor. Bednarik was named to the NFL Hall of Fame in 1967 and to the College Hall of Fame in 1969. He was named to the All-Century Team by Sports Illustrated.



The dinner on September 21 will be held at the Billings Sheraton beginning at 6:00 PM. The dinner on September 22 in Bozeman will be held at the Holiday Inn. Tickets are \$25 and can be reserved by calling the PLUK office at 800 222-7585 or 406/255-0540. This is an extraordinary opportunity and we encourage everyone to call soon, as tickets will go fast.

### October 8, Billings

#### "A Fresh Canvas," featuring Nationally Acclaimed Artist, Kevin Red Star - Art Workshop for Kids, Dinner, and Art Auction

For several years, Kevin Red Star, a nationally acclaimed Crow artist from Roberts, Montana has helped with donations to PLUK and the program's auctions. Recently, he agreed to increase his involvement with PLUK and agreed to participate with a project in Billings on October 8th, 2005. This event will include a workshop for kids, where he'll work with groups of young people to produce their own art. He'll also participate in a dinner and art auction and speak to the audience, helping to raise funds for PLUK.



The fall 2005 event is scheduled for October 8th with 2 workshops to be held during the day (one at 10AM and one at 1PM). In the evening, beginning at 6:00 PM there will be a dinner and auction (both silent and live) at the Billings Sheraton, featuring an array of items.

For more information or for tickets

to either the Art Workshop or the Dinner/Auction, call PLUK's office at 800 222-7585 or 406/255-0540 in Billings.

Dennis Moore, PLUK Executive Director was asked about Kevin Red Star's involvement with PLUK and responded, "We're excited about Kevin helping and particularly excited about the event in October. Kevin genuinely cares about our kids and wants to do what he can to help PLUK."

#### Monthly Update

**Media Director:** Roger Holt  
**Story Editor:** Elisabeth Mills, Emerald Scribe, <http://www.emeraldscribe.com>

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**October 8, Kalispell**

**Kids (big and small) Dinosaur Workshop & An Evening With Jack Horner**

**Featuring Montana's own World Famous Paleontologist, John "Jack" Horner, Curator of Paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies**



Jack Horner, the famed Montana paleontologist will speak on October 8th in Kalispell at a workshop for kids and during the evening's dinner. Mr. Horner spoke at a similar event for PLUK in 2003 in Billings, and he drew quite a crowd, both at the workshop and the dinner.

PLUK Executive Director Dennis Moore was quoted concerning the event, "Jack is a member of PLUK's Honorary Board of Directors and wants to do what he can to help PLUK and our kids and families. It's a real treat to hear him speak and talk about our state and its prehistoric past."

For more information and to reserve tickets for the event, call PLUK's Office at 800 222-7585. Space is limited for both events and we encourage those interested in attending to call soon.

**October 14, Great Falls**

**2nd Annual Old Fashioned Variety Show**

**Sponsored by the Great Falls Associate Board of PLUK**

On October 14th PLUK Volunteers and members of the Great Falls Associate Board will hold their 2nd Old Fashioned Variety Show featuring an array of wonderful area entertainers. The show specializes in showcasing entertainers from the region—everyone from magicians to singers and dance troupes.

The Old Fashioned Variety Show is set for October 14th at the University of Great Falls Auditorium, starting at 7PM. Proceeds will benefit PLUK programs in the Great falls area. For more information or tickets, call PLUK's office at 1-800-222-7585. Please call early to order or reserve tickets. Tickets are also available at the door.



**November 8, Missoula**

**5th Annual "Magical Tymes Party"**

**Sponsored by the Missoula Associate Board of PLUK**

For the last five years, PLUK's Associate Board in Missoula has held an exciting event in late fall to kick-off the Holiday Season and help PLUK with growth in that area. This year is no exception and the Board is busy planning the 2005 "Magical Tymes Party." The event is set for November 8th and will be held at the Missoula Children's Theatre, featuring the play *Paint Your Wagon*. The event will include heavy hors oeuvres, wine and cheese, both a silent and live auction and tickets to the play. It's a wonderful event, fun for all and a great way to help PLUK with growth in the Missoula area.



For more information or tickets to the "Magical Tymes Party", call Linda at 251-3906 in Missoula or PLUK's office at 1-800 222-7585.

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## Upcoming PLUK Training Events

For the most current information, visit <http://www.pluk.org/training/>.



### *Missoula*

#### **October 6, 2005, Challenging Behavior, Challenging IEPs: Strategies for Parents & Schools**

Presented by The Division of Educational Research and Service: Mike Fredrickson

**10:00AM – 4:00PM (lunch on own), Quality Inn – 3803 Brooks**

Parents can help schools to work positively with their children. Understanding, communicating, and using positive behavioral support strategies to help students with disabilities or challenging behaviors become academically and behaviorally successful in school. (5 training hours)

### *Kalispell*

#### **October 14, 2005, Special Needs Financial Planning featuring a parent panel & Tom Adolph of Waddell & Reed Financial Services**

**10:00AM – 4:00PM (lunch on own), The Summit – 205 Sunnyview Ln**

A parent panel will discuss real world issues and their experience in financial planning. Professionals in the field of financial planning will present information on wills & trusts, guardianship, Special Needs trusts and issues surrounding financial security for families of children with special needs. (5 training hours)

### *Billings*

#### **October 18, 2005, Autism Resources and Strategies featuring Germaine Seufert, MA NBCC of Consulting Services for Children & Dr. Laura Nicholson, Developmental Pediatrician**

**9:00AM – 5:00PM (will include lunch), Sheraton Hotel Conference Center – 27 N 27th St**

There will be multiple speakers at this session covering different aspects of dealing with autism spectrum disorders. Germaine Seufert has worked in the Children's Hospital in Denver and has over eight years of experience working with children with autism and their families. Dr Nicholson is a Developmental Pediatrician at the Children's Clinic in Billings. She works with families across the state who have children with autism spectrum disorders. (7 training hours)

### **ADHD: Where We Stand Today (Three sessions in Browning, Billings & Miles City)**

**October 20, Browning, Blackfoot Early Childhood Center, 517 S Peigan - 10:00AM – 4:00PM (includes lunch)**

**November 16, Billings, Mansfield Center – 1145 N 30th St - 9:00AM – 4:00PM (lunch on own)**

**November 17, Miles City Community College - 2715 Dickinson - 10:00AM – 4:00PM (lunch on own)**

Featuring Stephanie Luehr, PLUK Family Support Consultant

These workshops will be humorous, upbeat, fast-paced, and they are designed to benefit both parents and professionals by providing the latest information and research on ADHD. (5 training hours)

### **Parent Scholarships:**

PLUK is offering a limited number of parent scholarships to cover registration fees. Please contact the PLUK office at 1-800-222-7585 to request an application.

### **Credit:**

We are happy to pursue accreditation for any of our participant needs. At present, the following credits are available:

- \* Certificates of attendance for everyone
- \* OPI renewal units for Montana Teachers
- \* Montana Early Care and Education Career Development

Universal PLUK Training Registration Form

\_\_ October 6, Missoula • Challenging Behavior, Challenging IEPs: Strategies for Parents & Schools (\$99)

\_\_ October 14, Kalispell • Special Needs Financial Planning (\$99)

\_\_ October 18, Billings • Autism Resources & Strategies (\$130)

\_\_ October 20, Browning • ADHD: Where We Stand Today (\$99)

\_\_ November 16, Billings • ADHD: Where We Stand Today (\$99)

\_\_ November 17, Miles City • ADHD: Where We Stand Today (\$99)

\_\_ I am a parent and I would like a scholarship application.

Role: \_\_Parent, \_\_Educator, \_\_Professional, \_\_Other\_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Special Accommodations: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Check (Payable to PLUK, Sent to: 516 N. 32nd St, Billings, MT 59101-6003)
- Credit Card (Payable by phone, call the PLUK Office)
- Purchase Order

*Send registration to PLUK, 516 N 32nd St, Billings MT 59101  
Fax registration to 406/255-0523 or call 1-800-222-7585*

(make copies of this form for additional registrations)

Training survey



1. What topics would you like to see in future trainings?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What may we do to improve these trainings?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## Montana Training and Events Calendar

The following is a listing of training activities/events happening around Montana. Parents who need financial assistance in order to attend trainings may apply for parent training grants through the PLUK office. For the most up-to-date calendar of training, visit the online calendar at <http://www.pluk.org/Calendar.htm>.

### **Mental Health Training, September 13-14, Billings**

This workshop will bring together Mental Health Center vocational and administrative staff, Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and decision makers concerned with increasing vocational success for Montanans with psychiatric disabilities.

For information, visit <http://www.ctat-training.com> or call 303-636-5610

### **“New Frontiers in Treatment,” September 16-17, Helena**

18th Annual Conference sponsored by the Brain Injury Association of Montana Phone 406/541-6442 or visit <http://www.biamt.org>

### **“Childbirth: Learning by Sharing,” October 6-7, Missoula**

15th Annual Rocky Mountain Conference Sponsored by Community Medical Center Contact: Michelle Gnagey at 406-327-4153 or *e-mail* [mgnagey@communitymed.org](mailto:mgnagey@communitymed.org)

### **“Diabetes Care in Montana 2005,” October 6-7, Missoula**

Sponsored by Montana Diabetes Project; University of Washington School of Medicine; The University of Montana School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Services; and others Call 406-243-2094.

### **“Paraprofessionals Achieving Standards Successfully,” October 20-21, Missoula**

Sponsored by Montana Education Association—Montana Federation of Teachers and Region V Comprehensive System of Personnel Development Contact: Nancy Marks at [admin@cspd.net](mailto:admin@cspd.net) or 728-2400 ext 1088, visit the website <http://www.cspd.net/>

### **“DIBELS in an Outcomes-Driven Model” Seminar, October 25-26 Missoula**

Sponsored by Region V Comprehensive System of Personnel Development Contact: Nancy Marks at [admin@cspd.net](mailto:admin@cspd.net) or 728-2400 ext 1088, visit the website <http://www.cspd.net/>

### **2005 Fall “Continuing Education” Conference, October 14-15, Chico Hot Springs Resort**

Sponsored by Montana Psychological Association Call 800-688-5253 or e-mail [mpa@wtp.net](mailto:mpa@wtp.net) or visit web site <http://www.wtp.net/mpa>

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## Training and Events Calendar: Outside Montana

The following is a listing of upcoming training activities and events taking place around the country. For a complete listing, see <http://www.pluk.org/Calendar.htm>.

### **“Working with Young Children Who Challenge (0-5 Years): Behavior Management,” September 6, Teleconference**

Sponsored by National Native American Families Together Parent Center 10AM—12:00 PM, PST Call 877-205-7501 or e-mail [naft@moscow.com](mailto:naft@moscow.com) or visit the web site, <http://www.nativefamilynetwork.com/>

### **“Asperger Syndrome: Early Years and Beyond - Characteristics and Interventions,” September 12-13 Sioux Falls, SD**

Fall 2005 “Autism” Workshop, sponsored by South Dakota Center for Disabilities Call 605-357-1439 or 800-658-3080 (Voice/TTY), e-mail [cd@usd.edu](mailto:cd@usd.edu) or visit the website <http://www.usd.edu/cd/autismtrainings/>

**“Early Brain Development, Relationships with Families, and Infant Mental Health,” October 5, Sioux Falls, SD**  
Sponsored by South Dakota Center for Disabilities  
Call 605-357-1439 or 800-658-3080 (Voice/TTY) or e-mail [cd@usd.edu](mailto:cd@usd.edu) or visit the website, <http://www.usd.edu/cd/b3training/>

**“Looking through the Kaleidoscope,” October 13-15, Bellevue, WA**  
Washington Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference  
Call Janielle Harris at 253-854-2565 ext. 23, or 800-727-3107 ext. 23, or email [janielle@waeyc.org](mailto:janielle@waeyc.org)

**“Children with Special Needs and Their Families,” October 13-16, Portland, OR**  
Annual International Conference of Division for Early Childhood  
Call 406-243-5814 or e-mail [sarah.mulligan@dec-sped.org](mailto:sarah.mulligan@dec-sped.org) or visit the website <http://www.dec-sped.org/>

**“Program-wide Model for Implementing Positive Behavior Support in Early Education Settings,” October 14-15, Portland, OR**  
Sponsored by Center for Evidence Based Practice: Young Children with Challenging Behaviors  
Visit the website <http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/presentations.html>

**“Opening Doors: An Invitation to Learn and Celebrate Together,” October 27-29, Boise, ID**  
Annual Training Conference, sponsored by Community Partnerships of Idaho and Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Contact: Patricia Scott at 208-376-4999 ext. 225 or visit the website <http://www.openingdoorsconference.com/>

**“Computer Technology in Special Education and Rehabilitation,” October 18-25, Bloomington, MN**  
23rd Annual Closing the Gap Conference  
Visit web site [http://www.closingthegap.com/conf/index2\\_PC.lasso](http://www.closingthegap.com/conf/index2_PC.lasso)

**“Empowering Students: Mainstreaming Students with Hearing Loss,” October 20-21, Springfield, MA**  
26th Annual Fall Conference, sponsored by Clarke School for the Deaf/Center for Oral Education and Gallaudet University  
Contact: Barbara Rochon at 413-587-7313 or e-mail [brochon@clarkeschool.org](mailto:brochon@clarkeschool.org) or visit the website <http://www.clarkeschool.org/mainstreamfall.html>

**“New Horizons in Learning Disabilities: Research-based Practice,” October 20-22, Fort Lauderdale, FL**  
27th International Conference of Council on Learning Disabilities  
Visit the website <http://www.cldinternational.org/>

**“Reach New Heights: Improving Student Outcomes in a Diverse World,” October 20-22, Albuquerque, NM**  
National Conference of Council on Exceptional Children—Division on Career Development and Transition  
Visit website <http://www.dcdt.org/>

**“Hope, Resiliency, and Success: AD/HD Interventions for a Lifetime,” October 27-29, Dallas, TX**  
17th Annual International Conference of Children and Adults with ADD  
Call 301-306-7070 or visit website <http://www.chadd.org/>

**“Opening Doors: An Invitation to Learn and Celebrate Together,” October 27-29, Boise, ID**  
Annual Training Conference, sponsored by Community Partnerships of Idaho and Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Contact: Patricia Scott at 208-376-4999 ext. 225, or visit website <http://www.openingdoorsconference.com/>

**“Zero to Three,” November 4-6, Washington, DC**  
Call 202-638-1144 or visit website <http://www.zerotothree.org/>



### How to keep those kids in class? Pay them.

By Sara B. Miller | Staff writer of *The Christian Science Monitor*

BOSTON – When students return to Chelsea High School next month, they'll get more than an impeccable attendance record if they make it to class each day: They'll get cash. Under a new plan, a student who misses not a single day per quarter will receive \$25 in an account - redeemable upon graduation. In doing so, the school joins a number of districts throughout the country turning to incentives to boost test scores, GPAs, and student turnout.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0729/p01s03-ussc.html>

### Milwaukee Opens School for Students who were targets of Bullying

By Sarah Carr, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

The largest wave of new public high school openings in recent Milwaukee history will kick off Monday with the first day of Alliance School, a unique program that targets students who felt bullied or harassed in their old schools.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/metro/jul05/345221.asp>

### Fewer Montana children are medically insured

*Billings Gazette, August 2, 2005*

HELENA - The number of uninsured children in the state has been on the increase, a report released Monday shows, but state officials say recent windfalls in Medicaid funding and other children's health insurance programs will likely slow that trend.

Overall, 35,301 Montana children were without health insurance at some point during 2002 and 2003, an increase of more than 5,000 children over 2001-02, the report released by the New Jersey-based Robert Wood Johnson Foundation concluded. By contrast, uninsured rates among children are dropping nationally, mainly because of increased enrollment in Medicaid, which provides health care for the poorest families and children, and the state Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, created in 1997 for children from working poor families.

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2005/08/02/build/state/75-med-insured.inc>

### Hyperactivity drug hardly affects kids' growth

*(Reuters Health) Thu Jul 28, 2005 10:30 AM ET*

NEW YORK - Pooled data from 13 trials indicate that, overall, long-term Strattera therapy for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder has a little effect on children's height and weight.

Dr. Thomas J. Spence of Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, and colleagues came to this conclusion after analyzing data on 412 children aged 6 to 16 years, who were treated with Strattera -- known generically as atomoxetine -- for 2 years or more.

After 2 years, weight and height were close to that predicted for age, the investigators report in the medical journal *Pediatrics*.

<http://today.reuters.com/>

### "Gauge Dropouts By Computers, Not Slide Rules"

*The following op-ed was written by Ray Simon, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, and appeared in Investor's Business Daily:*

How can a nation that invented the light bulb, created vaccines to eradicate polio, put a man on the moon and conceived the Internet not have a good handle on how many of its students drop out of high school?

Hard to believe, but we've never kept track of how many students graduate from high school on time on a national level. Instead of having what would seem to be a common, uniform formula for everyone to use, every state has made its own calculations, resulting in a hodgepodge of incomparable data. In other words, there are currently almost as many ways of calculating this rate as there are states.

As a result, policymakers, educators, parents and businesses have never been able to grasp the depth of our high school dropout problem. And any attempt to reform our nation's high schools - recently called "obsolete institutions" by Bill Gates - must start with an honest appraisal of this issue.

<http://www.ed.gov/news/newsletters/extracredit/2005/07/0728.html>

## Medication Eases Obsessive-compulsive Symptoms

New Haven, Conn.--A medication used to ease symptoms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, also is helpful in treating people with treatment-resistant obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), according to a pilot study at Yale School of Medicine.

Although the study included only 13 patients, the preliminary results are promising for persons who have found no relief using other medications and cognitive behavioral therapy, said the first author, Vladimir Coric, M.D., assistant clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry and director of the Yale OCD clinic.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/07/050729224439.htm>

## Students With Disabilities Making Great Strides, New Study Finds

Data reflect successful experiences and achievements of special education students moving into early adulthood

Students with disabilities have made significant progress in their transition to adulthood during the past 25 years with lower dropout rates, an increase in postsecondary enrollment and a higher rate of gainful employment after leaving high school, according to a new report released today by the U.S. Department of Education. The report is available at <http://www.nlts2.org>.

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/07/07282005.html>

## 16 National Organizations Cite Crisis in Mental Health System, Release Roadmap for Reform

Washington, DC (July 27, 2005) – Today at the U.S. Capitol, the Campaign for Mental Health Reform released “Emergency Response: A Roadmap for Federal Action on America’s Mental Health Crisis.” The coalition of 16 national organizations proposed 28 action steps as a “roadmap” for Congress and the Administration to transform the country’s ailing mental health care system.

[http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=Press\\_Release\\_Archive](http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=Press_Release_Archive)

## FREE -- Federal Resources for Educational

More than 30 Federal agencies formed a working group in 1997 to make hundreds of Federally supported teaching and learning resources easier to find. The result of that work is the FREE web site.

<http://www.ed.gov/free/what.html>

## Blind Teen Gamer Obliterates Foes

*Wired News Jul. 27, 2005*

LINCOLN, Nebraska -- Brice Mellen is a whiz at video games such as Mortal Kombat. In that regard, the 17-year-old isn't much different from so many others his age. Except for one thing: He's blind. And as he easily dispatched foes who took him on recently at a Lincoln gaming center, the affable and smiling Mellen remained humble.

"I can't say that I'm a superpro," he said, working the controller like an extension of his body. "I can be beat."

<http://www.wired.com/news/games/0,2101,68333,00.html?tw=rss.TOP>

## Well-being declines for Montana's children, report shows

*Billings Gazette, July 27, 2005*

HELENA - The well-being of Montana children has worsened since 2000, with an increasing dropout rate among teenagers and a rising rate of infant deaths, says a new annual study released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The report, based on 10 indicators related to health, family and education, ranks Montana 34th in the nation for the condition of its children. The state improved in only two out of the 10 categories - the child death rate dropped 30 percent and the birth rate among teens declined slightly.

But the state has one of the country's highest death rates for teenagers, fares poorly in the portion of teens who have dropped out of high school and saw a jump in the pace at which children die within their first year, says the Kids Count report.

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2005/07/27/build/state/45-children-wellbeing.inc>

## Quality Matters

TRIC/PLUK Library available to everyone in Montana

The TRIC/PLUK Library is a health sciences library whose purpose is to provide free access to health and disability related information. The Library contains various books, curricula, DVD's, software, and videos. Either stop in at the PLUK main office, give us a call, or e-mail us with your requests.

*"We are adding lots of new materials to the library and are excited about all the new information coming in. We recently rearranged the library, so if you haven't been in the PLUK office for a while, stop in and check it out! The new arrangement includes a viewing area with a DVD/VHS player."*

The TRIC/PLUK Library is open  
Monday-Friday (8AM – 5PM)  
Call Toll Free with your requests,  
800-222-7585 or email [plukinfo@pluk.org](mailto:plukinfo@pluk.org)



*Megan and Erin will fill your requests for materials from the TRIC/PLUK Library.*

## New Materials

### **BE COOL – Special Needs Edition, Coping with: Teasing, Anger, Criticism, Bullying**

This program describes self-defense coping strategies for managing some of the most common and difficult interpersonal behaviors faced by children: teasing, bullying, anger, and criticism.



### **Special Olympics "SO Get Into It" Curriculum Resource Kits - Grades K-12**

Four Basic Lessons:

1. To understand, accept and celebrate individual differences.
2. To learn about and become involved in Special Olympics.
3. To become involved in a service-learning project or activity related to Special Olympics, including participation in Special Olympics sports and events.
4. To support and be in alignment with academic standards, youth and character development, service-learning and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).



## The Top Ten Hot Topics are:

**ADD/ADHD**  
**Autism**  
**Curricula**  
**Deaf/Blind**  
**Emotional Disorders**  
**Infant/Toddler/Preschool**  
**Learning Disabilities**  
**Parenting**  
**Software**  
**Technology**

*Phone or email the TRIC/PLUK library if you would like to check out these items.*

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## Ideas and Answers

**Q.** I am new to the special education process and wanted your advice on what things I should keep documentation on for my son?

**A.** Documentation is always important regardless if you have a child with special education needs or not. Here are a few suggestions that may be helpful:

- *Phone Logs:* When you talk to a physician school official or other agency, always write down whom you spoke with, the time and date you spoke with them and a brief summation of what was discussed.
- *Behavior Logs:* You will want to keep any discipline slips sent home from the school and if behavior is an issue at home and at school, you may want to keep your own personal log to see if you notice any patterns or triggers to his behavior.
- *Referrals for Comprehensive Educational Evaluations:* Any time you want your child evaluated or re-evaluated for special education services, you must do so in writing.
- *Meeting requests:* Any time you want to request an IEP or 504 meeting you must do so in writing.
- *All Special Education Records:* Testing results, IEP documents, grades, progress reports, etc.
- *Medical records.* Documentation you have received from your child's physician or therapist. It is always good practice to follow-up meetings with the school with a letter stating what your child's 504 or IEP team agreed on. In some cases, you may want to start a notebook that could be used as a communication tool between you and your child's teacher.

**Q.** Do I need to be concerned about the updated Special Education law? What things should I be aware of?

**A.** The new regulations were published this summer for the reauthorized Special Education law. There are many changes and we will explore all of them that will have impacts on families and schools in Montana in updates to our publications and in trainings that will be occurring throughout the year. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services has released a series of documents that review the statute changes.

### **Procedural Safeguards Changes**

- I. Procedural Safeguards Regarding Surrogates, Notice and Consent
- II. Procedural Safeguards Regarding Mediation and Resolution Sessions
- III. Procedural Safeguards Regarding Due Process Hearings

### **Other Changes**

- Alignment with the No Child Left Behind Act
- Discipline
- Disproportionality and Overidentification
- Early Intervening Services
- Changes in Initial Evaluations and Reevaluations
- Highly Qualified Teachers
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- State Funding
- Local Funding
- Children Enrolled By Their Parents In Private Schools
- Statewide and Districtwide Assessments
- Secondary Transition

The individual documents may be downloaded and viewed at: [http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/stat\\_index\\_idea.cfm](http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/stat_index_idea.cfm)

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**You Are Invited to Attend  
the  
FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION  
of Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK)  
September 7, 2005, 6PM  
at  
Mansfield Center  
St. Vincent Healthcare  
1145 N 30th St, Billings**

Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK) will celebrate its 21st Anniversary in September and you're invited to join us in recognizing the work and services of the program. Refreshments will be provided at 6pm and Bob Runkel, Montana's Director of Special Education will be Keynote Speaker. We hope you'll join PLUK's Board of Directors, volunteers and staff in celebrating the program's anniversary.

**Please call PLUK's Billings office at 255-0540 or 1-800-222-7585, for more information and to reserve your place at the event.**



*Bob Runkel to speak at the  
Founders Day Celebration  
September 7*

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**PLUK Office**

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Billings MT 59101-6003

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