



**PLUK eNews for the week of August 25-29, 2003
Volume 2 Issue 8**

Welcome to the weekly PLUK eNews!

We are proud to present news of interest for Montana families of children with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and for the professionals and educators who serve them, however, it does not constitute an endorsement.

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- If you have activities, events, trainings, news or information you would like to *share*, send it to plukinfo@pluk.org.
- Please be aware that some links provided are *time sensitive*. Contact us if you have difficulty accessing any of the information.
- View an *archive* of all Weekly eNews at <http://www.pluk.org/eNews.htm>

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##



RJ Cooper is coming to Billings Aug 28th!

RJ Cooper, a specialist in assistive technology for adults and children with disabilities, will be coming to **MSU-Billings on August 28th** for an **all-day workshop** sponsored by Parents, Let’s Unite for Kids and Region III CSPD. During the workshop, Mr. Cooper will evaluate

"learners" for a half-hour while demonstrating hardware/software developed by his company. Mr. Cooper has 18 years of experience in problem solving with individuals with various disabilities and ages. Caregivers, parents, professionals and students are all welcome to attend. There is no charge for the workshop. For more information on R.J. Cooper and his products, see his website at <http://rjcooper.com>. (Demo CDs are available at PLUK and the Region III CSPD at the Montana Center on Disabilities).

For more information or to sign up for one of the 8 available half-hour evaluation sessions, contact Roger Holt at Parents, Lets Unite for Kids at 255-0540 or e-mail rholt@pluk.org.

##

Join PLUK at the 3rd annual Founders Day Celebration, September 3rd, Billings

This is PLUK's 19th year of serving Montana families and everyone is invited to the third annual event celebrating the founding of PLUK! Founder's Day is scheduled for September 3rd at 6pm at the Mansfield Center in Billings, Gail Gray will be the keynote speaker. She is the current director of Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services. Attendance is free, but seating is limited.

Anyone interested in attending should call Sheryl at the PLUK office at 255-0540 for reservations, as seating is limited.



##



Reserve your space for Dinosaur Day with Jack Horner, October 11, Billings

A special day of activities, featuring paleontologist Jack Horner of the Museum of the Rockies, is planned for October 11.

The event, titled Dinosaur Day, will include a Workshop for Kids, where Horner will meet with the participants and give a presentation on the field of paleontology and dinosaurs in Montana. The workshop will be held on the Montana State University-Billings campus.

That night, Horner will speak at a dinner for all ages at the Billings Sheraton Hotel. He will talk about how Montana is a dream state for paleontologists and about his work in recent years at Montana sites.

Horner is recognized as one of the most prolific paleontologists in the world. He was the model for Alan Grant in the "Jurassic Park" movies and served as a consultant on the sets.

For information on Dinosaur Day, ticket prices or to reserve tickets for either the Kids Workshop or the dinner, call PLUK's Office at 255-0540 or 1-800-222-7585. Space is limited for both activities.

##



"Make Me a Millionaire" Coupons

The Billings Gazette has started the 2003 version of "Make Me a Millionaire". These coupons will be printed in **The Billings Gazette** daily through September 27. To "buy" items the coupons need to be clipped from the paper and collected and traded for items to be auctioned. **The Billings Gazette** will be holding weekly auctions as well as the final auction on September 27.

PLUK is collecting these coupons in order to bid on some of the items scheduled for the auction. We will use any items we acquire to help raise money at upcoming fundraisers.

Please collect these coupons and drop them off or mail them to PLUK at 516 North 32nd Street, Billings, MT 59101. You don't even have to clip the coupons! Just bring the newspapers to us and we will have volunteers clip them.

SO, START SAVING "MILLIONAIRE" COUPONS NOW!

##

News:

State asking feds to leave teaching requirements alone

By ALLISON FARRELL - IR State Bureau - 08/22/03

HELENA — State education officials said Thursday they have no plans to change state law in order to accommodate the strict teacher licensing requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

In Montana, where schools are distant and staff is sparse, the new federal standard that requires all teachers to have a college major in the subject they teach is not just arduous, but impossible, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Linda McCulloch told the Legislative Education and Local Government Interim Committee Thursday.

That's why the state Office of Public Instruction is going out on a limb and asking the federal government to let Montana license its teachers the way it always has.

"We don't know that the U.S. Department of Education will buy into this," McCulloch said.

The new federal law requires teachers to have majored in the subject they teach. For example, every high school physics teacher must have a physics major.

But Montana state law doesn't require middle and high school teachers to have a major in their subject area, which gives science and social studies teachers the freedom to lecture on any subject in their field.

Read the complete article at:

http://www.helenair.com/articles/2003/08/22/montana/a05082203_01.txt

##

Martz urged to give more for kids

By ALLISON FARRELL, Gazette State Bureau

HELENA -- A coalition of Montana educators recently joined the throng of people asking Gov. Judy Martz to spend some of the \$76 million in newly found state money on their cause.

In a letter dated Aug. 7, school officials asked Martz to spend between \$10 million and \$14 million over the next two years on education funding increases. The state's Legislative Fiscal Division reported that state spending on K-12 public schools would drop by more than \$12 million over this year and the next compared to the spending levels of the past two years.

"Local property taxes will likely increase significantly to make up the difference," educators said in their letter. "If not, vital educational programs will be eliminated, staff will be reduced, schools will be forced to sacrifice quality, and Montana children will lose valuable classroom opportunities."

Martz said the money must first be used to fund forest fire fighting efforts. Once the costs of the 2003 fire season are tallied, she said she would consider all requests for the remaining money.

However, the governor said that state human service programs have a strong need for more money, too.

Read the complete article at:
<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2003/08/21/build/local/50-martz.inc>

##



Martz defends Head Start changes; Governor talks to parents, teachers at Great Falls center

By PETER JOHNSON, Tribune Staff Writer

Gov. Judy Martz brought news Thursday that U.S. House Republicans plan to keep health and social aspects of the Head Start program as they put more stress on academics.

But some members of the Great Falls Head Start Council remained skeptical.

Parent Lori Bryant stressed that parental involvement and special classes gave her the confidence to "turn my life around and learn the skills to be my child's first teacher."

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/news/stories/20030822/localnews/109713.html>

##

Health/Medical News:

Users Discover Pros and Cons in Stair-Climbing Wheelchair

By YUDHIJIT BHATTACHARJEE

When Dr. Rich Barbara signed up to test the iBOT — Johnson & Johnson's stair-climbing wheelchair — in the summer of 2001, he thought he would be reluctant to give it back at the end of the two-week trial. But impressed as he was with its balancing abilities, Dr. Barbara, a 50-year-old paraplegic, found himself yearning for his manual wheelchair.

"I was glad when my two weeks were up," said Dr. Barbara, a clinical psychologist at the University of Pittsburgh's Rehabilitation Hospital.

The Independence iBOT 3000 Mobility System, which won approval from the Food and Drug Administration last week, was designed by Dean Kamen, a New Hampshire inventor, many years before he introduced his Segway transporter in 2001.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/19/science/19CHAI.html>

##

ADA/Access:

Online Course Accessibility: A Call for Responsibility and Necessity

<http://www.ericit.org/fulltext/IR546213.pdf>

There is becoming an increasing population of online learners with disabilities worldwide; a large percentage of the online learners reside within the United States. In addition to revised legal mandates stipulating equal access to education and the surge of assistive technologies available to individuals with disabilities, distance education institutions are facing the call for action to provide accessible online content. This article discusses the essential components of a web-based course, the learning advantages that arise from equal access web formatting, and design strategies that leads to creating accessible, online materials.

##

Technology/Web/Resources:

Registrations being accepted for 2003-04 MCEP

Registrations are now being accepted for participation in the Montana Collaborative Empowerment Project (MCEP)

Participation is limited to 50 people and fills quickly, so don't hesitate....register NOW!

Visit <http://www.pluk.org/mcep> for more information

OPI Renewal Units and Graduate Credit are available

Who should participate?

- IEP teams who have wondered how to best approach the consideration of Assistive Technology for a student
- IEP teams who struggle with reaching consensus on solutions
- Administrators looking for examples of policy and procedures related to Assistive Technology
- Parents of students currently using or who have a potential need for Assistive Technology
- Service providers who are involved in helping consumers make decisions with regard to Assistive Technology Purchases



What have previous MCEP participants learned?

- Administrators now see the need to have policies and procedures in place for IEP teams to use as a guide for making Assistive Technology decisions.
- By April 2003, 87% of the participants said they felt much more confident making decisions regarding instructional and/or Assistive Technology than they did in September when the project began.
- All teams are using the process learned during MCEP in their district with great success.
- Parents feel more involved in the IEP process and that their opinions are of equal value to all other team members.
- General educators see new ways to include students with disabilities in the classroom using a combination of strategies and low-tech tools.

Participant Quote: *The outcomes exceeded my expectations. I had high hopes and knew it would be successful, but not to the extent it was. I am humbled by the amount of commitment from these people to the education of their students/children.*

##

ILRU Webcasts

<http://www.ilru.org/online/index.html>

The ILRU (Independent Living Research Utilization) program is a national center for information, training, research, and technical assistance in independent living. Its goal is to expand the body of knowledge in independent living and to improve utilization of results of research programs and demonstration projects in this field. It is a program of TIRR (The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research), a nationally recognized medical rehabilitation facility for persons with disabilities.

Since ILRU was established in 1977, it has developed a variety of strategies for collecting, synthesizing, and disseminating information related to the field of independent living. ILRU staff--a majority of whom are people with disabilities--serve independent living centers, statewide independent living councils, state and federal rehabilitation agencies, consumer organizations, educational institutions, medical facilities, and other organizations involved in the field, both nationally and internationally.

One of their activities is an ongoing series of webcasts. Visit the link above for information on upcoming trainings. All previous trainings are archived on their web site. Here is a partial list of some of the archived trainings:

[Effective Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the One Stops and Workforce Development System](#) - James Schmeling, J.D., Peter Blanck, Ph.D., J.D., Alex Kielty and Jim Dowling on August 13, 2003

[Lessons on Self-Directed Supports from the Cash & Counseling Demonstration Projects](#) - presented by Kevin Mahoney, Ph.D., Edward Hutton, Barbara Phillips, Ph.D., William A.B. Ditto, M.S.W., Lou Comer, B.S., M.P.A., Sandra Barrett, B.A., L.S.W, Tom Reimers, B.B.A. on July 23, 2003

[Are Health and Fitness Clubs ADA Compliant?](#) - presented by Brad Cardinal on July 16, 2003

[An Introduction to Research](#) - presented by Dr. Carol Gill, Dr. Peter Blanck, Dr. Helen Scharztz, David Klein and Mark Searcy on Monday, July 14, 2003

[Studying the Employment of Persons with Disabilities](#) - presented by Peter Blanck, Ph.D., J.D., Lisa Schur, Ph.D., J.D. and Douglas Kruse, Ph.D. on June 18, 2003

[Righting the ADA \(Americans with Disabilities Act\): Responding to ADA Cases Decided by the United States Supreme Court](#) - presented by Julie Carroll on May 28, 2003

[Participatory Action Research \(PAR\)](#) - presented by Peter Blanck, Ph.D., J.D., Glen White and Monika Suchowierska on Thursday, May 15, 2003

[Recent and Pending Cases Before the United States Supreme Court](#) - presented by Peter Blanck, Ph.D., J.D., on Wednesday, May 14, 2003

[Disaster Preparation for People with Disabilities](#) presented by June Isaacson Kailes on May 7, 2003

[Follow-Up: Using State Housing Agencies to Obtain Affordable, Accessible, Integrated Housing--Answering Your Questions](#) presented by Steve Gold on April 30, 2003

[Broadband and the ADA](#) presented by Frank G. Bowe, Ph.D., LL.D. on April 16, 2003

[New Freedom Initiative and the 2004 President's Budget](#) presented by Thomas Hamilton on April 14, 2003

[Using State Housing Agencies to Obtain Affordable, Accessible, Integrated Housing](#) presented by Steve Gold on March 26, 2003

[Risk Adjustment: A Field Guide on Arcane and Little Known Facts](#) presented by Sue Palsbo on Wednesday, February 26, 2003

[Access to Distance Education: Legal and Technical Issues](#) presented by Curtis Edmonds on February 19, 2003

[Transportation and the ADA - Providing Non-discriminatory service in fixed route and paratransit services](#) presented by Marilyn Golden on February 12, 2003

[Transportation and the ADA - Updates: What's happening with ADA transportation around the country](#) presented by Marilyn Golden on January 29, 2003

[Self Determination: A Transfer of Power, the Realization of Freedom](#) presented by Tom Nerney on January 22, 2003

[Bringing Everyone to the Table: Best Practices for Inclusive Public Policy Making](#) presented by Clyde Terry and Barbara Otto on January 15, 2003

##

Training/Workshops/Conferences:

REGION V CSPD ROUNDUP

Administrators, general educators, special educators, paraeducators, parents, agency personnel, and others interested in meeting the needs of all kids are invited to participate in all the following workshops.

For information and online registration, go to <http://www.cspd.net>.

Administering the new WISC-IV, August 26, Billings

Administering the new WISC-IV, August 27, Missoula

Administering the new WISC-IV, August 28, Great Falls

Dr. Roger Frame from the Psychological Corporation will be presenting a workshop for Montana psychologists on the new WISC-IV including new features, psychometrics, and administration. Attendees are encouraged to bring testing kits if they have them.

Understanding Social Cognitive Deficits across the school and home day, November 4, Polson

Designed for parents and professionals to understand the inner mind of persons with social deficits including those high on the Autism Spectrum (Aspergers Syndrome) or with a Non-Verbal Learning Disability.

The Nuts and Bolts of running social thinking programs, November 5, Polson

Designed for professionals teaching small group lessons; parents are welcomed to attend. Small group activities will occur across the day and emphasize how to educators can bring together socially awkward students. A follow-up session will be scheduled for participants to connect back together and review progress, problem-solve, share ideas and consult with Michelle via a conference call.

Improving the decoding & fluency of struggling readers, November 17, Kalispell

Improving the decoding & fluency of struggling readers, November 18, Missoula

Part 1 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series.

Differentiated Instruction, January 21-22, 2004, Polson

This workshop will address the diverse learning needs of students in our schools. Participants will explore the concepts and principles of differentiated learning. They will investigate instructional and management strategies that can be used in academically diverse classrooms

Closing the Vocabulary gap: robust vocabulary instruction, February 2, 2004, Kalispell

Closing the Vocabulary gap: robust vocabulary instruction, February 3, 2004, Missoula

Part 2 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series.

Click of Reading Comprehension, April 19, 2004, Missoula

Click of Reading Comprehension, April 20, 2004, Kalispell

Part 3 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series.

Interested in any of the above workshops? Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: <http://www.cspd.net> or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##



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RJ Cooper, a specialist in assistive technology for adults and children with disabilities, will be coming to **MSU-Billings on August 28th** for an **all-day workshop** sponsored by Parents, Let's Unite for Kids and Region III CSPD.

During the workshop, Mr. Cooper will evaluate "learners" for a half-hour while demonstrating hardware/software developed by his company. Mr. Cooper has 18 years of experience in problem solving with individuals with various disabilities and ages. Caregivers, parents, professionals and students are all welcome to attend. There is no charge for the workshop. For more information on R.J. Cooper and his products, see his website at <http://rjcooper.com>. (Demo CDs are available at PLUK and the Region III CSPD at the Montana Center on Disabilities).

For more information or to sign up for one of the 8 available half-hour evaluation sessions, contact Roger Holt at Parents, Lets Unite for Kids at 255-0540 or e-mail rholt@pluk.org.

##

"Choices": Montana's Senior and Long-Term Care Conference, Sep 3-5, West Yellowstone

The Community Services Bureau (part of the Senior and Long Term Care Division of the Department of Public Health and Human Services) is having its fifth annual conference in West Yellowstone on September 3, 4 and 5, 2003. The theme of the conference is "Choices", emphasizing that Montanan's have the right to choose how to live in their communities. On a professional, or a personal level, the sessions are designed to encourage and excite you with their content and presentation!

Some of the session topics include: a multi-disciplinary panel discussion on ethical dilemmas; the benefits of laughter and music to improve mood and reduce pain; cultural competence; the New Freedom Initiative; burnout and compassion fatigue; Children's Special Health Services; Sexuality and Aging; Medicaid eligibility; the long term care ombudsman program; and challenges of caregiving and Alzheimer's.

The keynote speaker is Fred Cowie, whose theme will be "Caregiving, Collapsing, and Continuing On." Fred has a varied background in disaster and emergency services, and is currently a consultant with Montana Department of Justice regarding meth lab conferences. He is an entertaining and highly sought after speaker, having spoken at many conferences and training sessions on topics such as stress management, emergency preparedness, and personal development. Fred is also an artist, and the father of a young man with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. In recent years he has gone from his role as parent, to caregiver, to paid caregiver, and now has once again reverted to his role as "Dad."

For more information, or to register for the conference, call Karen Antonick at 406-444-6995.

##

Addiction, Recovery and the Family, September 11-13, Whitefish

The 8th Annual Rocky Mountain Mental Health Symposium, sponsored by Pathways Treatment Center & Kalispell Regional Medical Center, is scheduled for September 11-13, in Whitefish, MT.

This symposium will provide a forum for exploring the most up-to-date information on addiction issues facing families, as well as the treatment applications facilitating recovery.

For information & registration, call 866-755-4658, or visit <http://www.mtreservations.com> or <http://www.krmc.org>.

##



Autism and Sleep Disorders, Billings, Sep 26

The Sleep Summit scheduled for September 26 in Billings will include a session on Autism and Sleep Disorders, Friday, September 26 from 2:00-3:00pm.

Dr. David Harrell will share information on his research on the sleep of autistic children. He also has experience with autism on the practical side (autism appears within his family).

There will be sessions all day on sleep issues. The summit will take place at the Burns East Auditorium in the Mansfield Education Center (located on 12th Ave across from Saint Vincent Hospital in Billings). There is no charge for attending.

For more information, contact Karen Allen at the Sleep Center, 238-6815.

http://stvincenthealthcare.org/our_health_services/neurology_sleep_disorders.asp

##

Signing Exact English & Educational Interpreting, September 27, Helena

In Signing Exact English & Educational Interpreting, Co-sponsored by Montana School for the Deaf & Blind, MSDB Foundation and Helena Public Schools.

Audience: teachers, aides, parents, and others who use Signing Exact English (SEE) and wish to improve their vocabulary, fluency and expressive and receptive abilities. Participants review S.E.E. vocabulary and do extensive work on additional signs, visual features of sign language, song and story telling techniques.

Educational interpreting skillshops are for persons employed in elementary and secondary schools as educational interpreters, using any form of Signed English. Work is done on vocabulary expansion, fluency, fingerspelling, and expressiveness, practicing to a variety of timed tapes. Problem solving, discussion of interpreting ethics in the educational setting and how-do -you-handle sessions also included.

SKILLSHOP SCHEDULE: Friday, September 26, 2003, 6-9pm, Saturday September 27, 2003, 8:30am -5:30pm and Sunday, September 28, 2003, 8:30am - 3:00pm.

SKILLSHOP LOCATION: Helena High School, 1300 Billings Ave., Helena, MT

REGISTRATION: S.E.E. Center, P.O. Box 1181 Los Alamitos, CA 90720, PHONE: 562-430-1467, FAX: 562-795-6614, WEB: www.seecenter.org or email: seecenter@seecenter.org Register by September 5th for the \$150 price, after Sept. 5, \$175.

##

Conference on Social, Emotional and Academic Interventions for Students with High-Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome with a Special Session on Bullying Preventions, October 3-4, Boise, ID

<http://www.asperger.net/conferences.htm>

Speakers: Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D. & Rebekah Heinrichs, MSN, M.S.Ed.

CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

As a result of attending this conference, participants will be able to:

- Understand the characteristics of Asperger Syndrome
- Understand and implement sensory interventions Implement academic, social and behavioral interventions that facilitate school success
- Teach hidden curriculum items to their students
- Understand how to prevent bullying from occurring in schools

#

Augmentative Communication Workshops in the Rockies, October 2, Billings

This CAMA sponsored session will present a number of the leading manufacturers of AAC hardware and software at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center on October 2, 2003. For complete information, go to <http://www.aacproducts.org>

#

The 21st Annual Closing The Gap Conference, October 14-18, Minneapolis

Register before September 4th and save!

Closing The Gap's annual conference has earned a reputation internationally as a leading source for information on innovative applications of computer technology for persons with disabilities. The 21st Annual Conference builds on a tradition of providing a comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them.

Complete conference and registration details available at:
<http://www.closingthegap.com/conf/index2.html>

Fourth Annual Conference on Autism and Asperger's: Mapping the Journey, October 17 & 18, Edmonton, Alberta

<http://www.keystotreasures.com/>

Take advantage of our early registration special by September 15, 2003.

Oct. 17, 2003, Carol Gray

Carol is the editor of the Jenison Autism Journal, and is a consultant to students with ASD through the Jenison Public Schools (Jenison, Michigan). She is also the president of the Gray center, a facility dedicated to individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and those who work alongside them to improve mutual understanding.

Oct. 18, 2003, Dr. Tony Attwood

Dr. Attwood is a world-renowned expert on Asperger's Syndrome and author of the best-selling book of that name.

"The most significant issue that parents face is a lack of understanding and inappropriate attitudes towards those with Asperger's Syndrome." -*Dr. Attwood*

#

Echoes of Abuse: Traumatic Brain Injury, October 30-31, Billings

The Brain Injury Association of Montana and Billings Area Family Violence Task Force are sponsoring the 14th annual McGuire Memorial Conference on Family Violence to be held in Billings October 30-31.

#

Workshops on Communication Strategies for Children with Severe and Multiple Disabilities: August 4 - October 6, 2003

Presented by Oregon Health & Science University, and in association with the Oregon Institute on Disability & Development (UCEDD) these two-day workshops are designed for professionals and parents and address Pre-symbolic Communication and Tangible Symbol Systems. A special half-day seminar for parents is also offered, free of charge. Strategies are especially appropriate for children with low-incidence disabilities including severe cognitive limitations, deaf blindness, autism spectrum disorders and multiple disabilities. Academic, continuing education credit, and ASHA credit will be available. Presented at three locations this summer and fall.

For more information contact: Alexandra Dorinson, 1-800-410-7069 ext. 102, dorinson@ohsu.edu. Visit the website at <http://www.designtolearn.com>.

##

Announcing: A Series of Conference Calls on the Social-Emotional Development of Young Children

The Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, with support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, is launching a series of 10 conference calls focusing on the social-emotional development of young children (birth through five years old). The target audience for these calls includes early care and education providers, agency administrators, technical assistance providers and others working with young children and their families.

THESE CALLS WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 1:00-2:30 pm (EST) ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

Date	Topic
9/24/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring Cultural Competence in Practices with Young Children and Families
10/29/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brain Research• Attachment
*11/19/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curricula for Promoting Healthy Social-Emotional Development
*12/17/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Screening & Assessment for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers
1/28/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Impact of Maternal Depression and/or Substance Abuse on Young Children
2/25/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Young Children Involved with Child Welfare
3/31/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ECMH Consultation Models
4/28/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationship-based Interventions
5/26/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children & Trauma

National experts will serve as presenters, as will practitioners who are involved in promising practices. Presentations will highlight effective strategies for delivering family-driven, culturally appropriate services in community-based settings.

Up to 200 individuals per call will be able to participate on a first-come-first serve basis. Handouts, including PowerPoint presentations, will be provided to people who register for the calls.

****Please send an email to mk73@georgetown.edu (MelKisha Knight) if you want to be added to the list for the first call.

Materials will be emailed to you. More information to come!

##

1st International Conference on Family-centered Care, Sep 4-6, Boston MA

WHEN: September 4, 2003 - September 6, 2003

WHERE: Boston, Massachusetts

HOSTED BY: Institute for Family-Centered Care

DESCRIPTION: Family-centered care is an approach to the planning, delivery, and evaluation of health care that is grounded in mutually beneficial partnerships among patients, families, and health care providers. It is founded on the understanding that the family plays a vital role in ensuring the health and well being of family members of all ages.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.earlyonmichigan.org/Conferences.htm#5>

##

FROM PRACTICE TO POLICY AND BACK AGAIN: 19th Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Oct 12-14, Washington, DC

WHEN: October 12, 2003 - October 14, 2003

WHERE: Washington, DC

HOSTED BY: Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.earlyonmichigan.org/Conferences.htm#6>

##

Fun Events



Tae Kwon Do for Kids, August 25, Billings

PLUK, in conjunction with the Shining Mountain Tae Kwon Do School, is offering a Tae Kwon Do workshop for children. The workshop will be at Shining Mountain Tae Kwon Do School, 1615 Alderson Avenue on Monday, August 25 from 2 - 3PM. The workshop will be conducted by Kyle Baluka and his assistants. Please register for this workshop by calling PLUK at 255-0540.

##



PLUK Founders Day Celebration, September 3rd, Billings

This is PLUK's 19th year of serving Montana families and everyone is invited to the third annual event celebrating the founding of PLUK! Founder's Day is scheduled for September 3rd at 6pm at the Mansfield Center in Billings, Gail Gray will be the keynote speaker. She is the current director of Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services. Attendance is free, but seating is limited.

##

Blue Jack Band Benefit, September 20, Bozeman



The Bozeman area Associate Board is planning a benefit concert on September 20 featuring *The Blue Jack Band*. *The Blue Jack Band* plays a wonderful mix of jazz and blues and has broad national recognition. In recent years they opened for legendary blues performer B.B. King and others. Further details on locations, times and other announcements will come soon. Call PLUK's office if you are interested in being involved, 255-0540.

#



Missoula Children's Theatre Tour, October 5-11, Kalispell

The Flathead Valley Associate Board is working on a fall event. They have been meeting regularly and finalizing details at this time. It will involve a weeklong project for children to perform a play in the Kalispell area. The dates are October 5 through the 11th. This event will link up with the Missoula Children's Theatre. The Theatre will send staff to Kalispell to handle the auditions, training and direction for the entire week. For more information or to be involved with the event, call Stephanie Luehr, PLUK's representative in Kalispell at 881-4421. Details and plans on the event will be provided and there are presently positions to be filled on the planning committee. Volunteers are needed.

#

Dinosaur Day with Jack Horner, October 11, Billings



A special day of activities, featuring paleontologist Jack Horner of the Museum of the Rockies, is planned for October 11.

The event, titled Dinosaur Day, will include a Workshop for Kids, where Horner will meet with the participants and give a presentation on the field of paleontology and dinosaurs in Montana. The workshop will be held on the Montana State University-Billings campus.

That night, Horner will speak at a dinner for all ages at the Billings Sheraton Hotel. He will talk about how Montana is a dream state for paleontologists and about his work in recent years at Montana sites.

Horner is recognized as one of the most prolific paleontologists in the world. He was the model for Alan Grant in the "Jurassic Park" movies and served as a consultant on the sets.

For information on Dinosaur Day, ticket prices or to reserve tickets for either the Kids Workshop or the dinner, call PLUK's Office at 255-0540 or 1-800-222-7585. Space is limited for both activities.

#

Magical Tymes Party, November 11, Missoula

The Missoula Associate Board third annual "Magical Tymes Party," has been scheduled for November 11, 2003. Deborah Hayes Hyde is the Chair of the event and Ramona Holt is chairing the Sponsorship Sub-Committee. For the last two years, this event has been held in conjunction with a play at the Missoula Children's Theatre. In addition to the play, participants may attend a "wine and cheese party" and a silent auction.

This year the play is *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Companies and groups are now lining up to sponsor the event and the committee assures us that it will be the best to date, by far! For more information on how to become involved, call PLUK's office at 800-222-7585 and we can put you in touch with the planning committee.

#

Be sure to mark your calendar with these future events:

- Kids at Heart Banquet, February 7, 2004, Billings
- Sports Festival, March 2004, Billings

#

Selected Sources:

1. *Monday Morning in Washington, DC*, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. *Rocky Mountain DBTAC*, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. *Transition Newsflash*, Montana Center On Disabilities, <http://www.msubillings.edu/transition>
4. *PEN Weekly NewsBlast*, <http://www.publiceducation.org>
5. *Reference Points: Transition updates from the TATRA Project*, <http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm>
6. *Lisa Simmons, The Ideal Lives Express*: <http://www.ideallives.com>
7. *The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar* <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>

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Mission Statement: Parent's Let's Unite for Kids unites parents, professionals, families and friends of children with special needs to support one another, and share information for the benefit of their children.

Vision Statement: Given information and support, individuals with disabilities and their families will feel empowered to advocate for themselves and participate fully in educational and community opportunities.

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