



PHOTO:
Casey FitzSimmons to participate
at PLUK Sports Festival.

Welcome to PLUK's electronic newsletter!

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

"Statistically, more American children suffer long-term life-harm from the process of learning to read than from parental abuse, accidents, and all other childhood diseases and disorders combined." - Children of the Code

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PLUK to hold 4th Annual Sports Festival in Billings February 18-19

Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK) is holding its 4th annual Sports and Recreation Festival on February 18th and 19th in Billings. The festivities start with a unique Sports Celebrity Dinner on the night of February 18th at 6pm in the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. The dinner features Sports Celebrities Chris Horn, Jeff Ballard, Casey Fitzsimmons and Mike Curtis. Tickets to the celebrity dinner are \$25/each or \$250/table of ten.

The festival continues the following day, February 19, at the Rocky Mountain College Fortin Center and admission is free (donations are appreciated). The second day provides activities, games, Sports Clinics, autograph signing sessions with Sports Celebrities, fun events, concessions, Little League Baseball and Softball Sign-ups and much more. PLUK will also hold silent and live auctions (featuring Sports Memorabilia and other items) during the two day event.

For more information on the Festival, or to purchase dinner tickets, call the PLUK office at (406) 255-0540.

Montana Senate Bill 291 Raising Red Flags for Home Schools in Montana

Sponsored by Senator Don Ryan, SB 291 is raising red flags and generating concerned calls from home schools throughout Montana. The reason, Section 8 (3. (a) (i)) reads "If the assessment team determines that the child is in need of specially designed instruction that can be provided only through special education and related services, the parent may continue to supervise the home school if: (i) the child does not have a developmental disability . . ." People are concerned that this clause represents direct discrimination against the parents' rights to educate their children, whether the home-schooled students are developmentally disabled or not. The next hearing date for this bill is scheduled for February 14, 2005, at 3 PM in room 303 of the Capitol building. To voice your concerns please call or email your Senator (see <http://leg.state.mt.us/css/senate/default.asp> for contact information). To read the text of Senate Bill 291 (SB 291) go to <http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/billhtml/SB0291.htm>.

Public Comment Meetings Scheduled for IDEA 2004

John H. Hager, assistant secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), U.S. Department of Education, announced a series of public meetings to seek input and suggestions for developing regulations based on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. A schedule has been provided in an effort to keep you informed about the remaining meetings:

- The fifth public meeting will be held Tuesday, February 15, 2005, from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM and from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at Frederick Douglass High School in Atlanta, Georgia.
- The sixth public meeting will be held Friday, February 18, 2005, from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM and from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the University of Wyoming.
- The last public meeting will be held Thursday, February 24, 2005, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Academy for Educational Development.

Individuals can register to comment at the door on a first-come first-served basis. Registered individuals will have two to five minutes to comment, depending upon the number of individuals registered. Our intent is to ensure that all who wish to provide public comment have the opportunity to do so. Individuals can provide oral and written comments at the meetings; written comments that accompany oral remarks are optional. Written comments or suggestions can also be submitted electronically (by February 28) to comments@ed.gov.

Questions can be directed to OSERS' main number, 202-245-7468, or, if a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) is needed, individuals may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339. There will be a second series of meetings in the spring and summer of 2005 to provide the public an opportunity to comment on proposed regulations developed to implement the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). Exact cities and locations will be announced as that information becomes available.

For a copy of the law, please visit the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) website, < <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html> >, and go to The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

On a Roll Documentary: Family, Disability and the American Dream, February 15

(From Monday Morning in Washington, D.C. and PACER Center)

Airing on PBS on February 15, 2005

To check your local listings for stations and broadcast times, go to

http://www.thestrengthcoach.com/oar_pbs_stationlistings2.html

On Tuesday, February 15th, Joanne Caputo's award-winning film, "On a Roll: Family, Disability and The American Dream" will debut nationally on PBS! In this film, Greg Smith and his family bare all in this unflinching portrait of a 65-pound man striving for the American Dream. Fueled by discrimination, Smith created "On A Roll Talk Radio on Life and Disabilities" from his power wheelchair in 1992, the father of three travels the globe in a new civil rights movement, but finds his own nation's capital inaccessible - a minor challenge compared to living independently. Dozens of disability rights advocates are shown in the one hour movie, including Kyle Glozier, Judy Heumann, Becky Ogle, Heidi Van Arnhem, Justin Dart, Mitch Tepper and many others.

Disability News and Views Radio Show, WXRL 1300 AM, Sundays 3-4 pm MST

Monica Moshenko hosts the only live radio show in the US that focuses exclusively on disabilities issues and related news. Based in western New York, Moshenko founded the news program in late 2004 and Disability News Radio became a subsidiary of Power Advocates. The February 6 show highlighted All Purpose Canines, an Aberdeen, SD, service-dog center. Upcoming topics include Cerebral Palsy, Dyslexia, Non-verbal Learning Disabilities, Bipolar Disorder, and Alzheimer's disease. Listen online at <http://www.disabilitynewsradio.com> and call your local talk radio station to request syndication for Disability News and Views Radio.

NBC Series on Autism Airs February 21, 2005

NBC's Today show is preparing a 10-part series that will run the week of February 21 airing at 8:10 AM and 9:10 AM. The series will look at autism from a variety of angles, with segments exploring topics such as etiology, diagnosis, treatment, educational programs, affect on siblings, and how to be an advocate for your autistic child. Be sure to tune in for the "How to be the Best Advocate For Your Child" segment airing on February 24 featuring Autism Coalition board member, Gary Mayerson. He will be interviewed on his new book, "How To Compromise With Your School District Without Compromising Your Child."

In conjunction with the Today show series, CNBC is airing a four-part series from Tuesday through Friday, Feb. 22-25. Segments will air at 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM during CNBC's Power Lunch program. Titled "Autism: Paying the Price," the CNBC series will focus on the financial implications of the disorder, with segments on the financial impact on families, the roles of government and private funding for research, the opportunities in healthcare and pharmaceuticals and autism in the workplace. Both the NBC and CNBC series will feature interviews with leading members of the autism community, from researchers and physicians to activists, educators and parents.

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/3032633/?ta=y>

Family Support Network Focus Groups in Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, Kalispell and Miles City

The Missoula Focus Group will be Tuesday, Feb. 22 6:30-8:30 pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2512 Sunset Lane (corner of Reserve & Sunset, between 3rd & Mount). Childcare is available for no charge at The Parenting Place. Call 546-7006 to reserve child care or to arrange a ride to the meeting. A strong presence of families at these meetings will help shape the future development of a comprehensive mental health system in Montana. Contact Family Support Network at fsntoo@aol.com.

Region III CSPD Nomination Deadlines

- Yes I Can! Montana Awards Program

February 14 is the deadline for nomination forms for the 2005 Yes I Can Award

Completed forms must be typewritten and mailed to Region III CSPD, any supplementary material will not be returned. Categories: Academics/Arts/Athletics/Community Service/Employment/Extracurricular Activities/Independent Living Skills/Technology/Self-Advocacy. To Nominate: Nominee must be 2-21 years old. Nominees are only eligible for one category and both nominators must select the same category.

- Montana Paraprofessional/Paraprofessional and Teacher Team of the Year

February 14 is the deadline for nomination forms for the 2005 Awards

Nominate an outstanding Paraprofessional or a Paraprofessional/Teacher team and mail the completed form to the Region III CSPD office.

Contact Debra Miller, dmiller@msubillings.edu or fax (406) 2313, for the Yes I Can or Paraprofessional Award nomination forms.

Newsletters Available from Montana Center on Disabilities

The Montana Center on Disabilities publishes the Equity Outreach for Young Women with Disabilities project newsletter, "New View." Check out the current issue at <http://www.msubillings.edu/equityoutreach/newsletters.htm>.

Focus on Bullying and Harassment Concerns, Unique Giftedness, from the Special Ed Advocate (Wrightslaw)

The February 1, 2005 issue of Wrightslaw's "Special Ed Advocate" is devoted to resources on harassment and bullying prevention, and offers free publications, websites, and essential facts. The issue also features resources and information for "twice-exceptional" children who have special education needs and are also gifted, including the websites <http://uniquelygifted.org> and the 2e Newsletter online, <http://2enewsletter.com>. To view this issue, go to <http://www.wrightslaw.com/nltr/05/nl.0209.htm>.

New Inclusive Education Book from TASH

TASH has published a second edition of the book "The Foundations of Inclusive Education: A Compendium of Articles on Effective Strategies to Achieve Inclusive Education." The book presents the latest research on inclusion including the theory behind it and effective inclusion strategies that have been used across the county.

The book can be purchased at: http://www.tash.org/publications/foundations_for_inclusion.htm

Guide on IEP Facilitation Available

Developed by CADRE and its partner the Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers, Facilitated IEP Meetings: An Emerging Practice provides an introduction to IEP facilitation for parents and other family members to help orient them to this emerging practice. To read or print the document, go to <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/facilitatediep.cfm>

Spanish Version of Steps to Success: Communicating with Your Child's School Available ~ Los Pasos hacia el Éxito: Cómo Comunicarse con la Escuela de su Hijo

Developed by CADRE and its partner the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY), this resource offers specific communication skills that may be helpful to parents as they develop and maintain partnerships with their child's school. To read or print the Spanish version of the document:

<http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/successesp.cfm>.

To read or print the English version of the document: <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/success.cfm>

Touch a New Frontier at ThinkCollege.Net

Youth with intellectual disabilities have not had many chances to go to college. This is changing as individuals across the country begin to create opportunities for these youth to reap the benefits of postsecondary education. This website will provide information and links to anyone interested in finding out more about the possibilities. The site is divided into sections for students, family members, and professionals and features the following:

- Searchable database of postsecondary education programs that support youth with intellectual disabilities
- Designed to allow individuals to submit information about additional postsecondary education programs
- Discussion board designed by students, for students who are interested in sharing college experiences
- "Choice for Everyone" Listserv, hosted by the Institute on Disability, at the University of New Hampshire; membership includes family members and a wide range of professionals
- Resource section contains web-based resources with links to other sites and a bibliography listing related publications. Individuals will be able to submit suggestions for additional links and publications.

Check out the possibilities at <http://www.thinkcollege.net/>

Abuse and Neglect of Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Problem of National Significance

The Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University announces the new Web course, Abuse and Neglect of Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Problem of National Significance. Registration begins February 1, 2005. Funded by the ADD as a Project of National Significance, the course was written for health and other professionals and students serving people with developmental disabilities (see flyer

<http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/maltreatment/flyer.pdf>). For Annotated Outline and Sample Module, go to: <http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/maltreatment/>.

Contact Peggy O'Neill at 804-827-0194, <mailto:poneill@vcu.edu>.

2005 EXITE Camp

It's time to start thinking about your summer activities, and PACER has a great offer!

The EXITE (Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering) Camp, hosted by IBM, will be held at PACER Center July 21, 25, 27, 29, August 2, and 4. The camp is a free opportunity open to any middle school girl with a disability.

To learn more about the camp or to acquire an application, visit <http://www.pacer.org/stc/exite.htm> or call 952-838-9000. An information session for parents will be held on Monday, March 7, 2005 and Monday, April 18, 2005 from 7 to 8 p.m. at PACER. Applications are due on May 2, 2005.

U.S./Japan Cross-Cultural Exchange Opportunity

Mobility International USA (MIUSA) is accepting applications for a summer leadership and disability exchange program in Tokyo, Japan. They are looking for young people with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 24 to take part in this exciting international exchange experience. The tentative dates are July 31-August 15 2005, and the application deadline is May 15, 2005. The program fee is \$850 and scholarships are available. More information can be found on MIUSA's Web site at: http://www.miusa.org/exchange/japan_summer_2005.

Learn The Signs—Act Early, Health Care Provider Resource Kit

A national campaign to increase awareness and action in the early identification of children with autism or other developmental disorders

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched an awareness campaign to educate parents about childhood development, including early warning signs of autism and other developmental disorders. The earlier a child with a developmental delay receives appropriate assessment and intervention, the better the developmental outcome can be. To help prepare the health care community for the anticipated increase in questions and requests for information from parents, CDC has developed a Provider Resource Kit. This kit contains materials designed to help health care professionals communicate with parents about childhood development, what parents should be concerned about, and the warning signs of autism and other delays.

Please visit the campaign Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/actearly> to view the campaign resources designed for health care professionals - download them from the website or order materials to be mailed to your office at no charge to you.

LD Resources.org "Officially" Relaunched

The LD Resources web site has been providing information for people with learning disabilities and people who work with people with learning disabilities since 1995. It started as a place to share handouts with people in digital form and since then has grown to include hundreds of articles by dozens of authors on all aspects of learning disabilities. The site now contains lists of tools, schools, organizations and professionals and other resources for the LD community as well as new articles and commentaries. This new version of LD Resources is technically a weblog (blog) and as such provides RSS feeds, commenting, and all of the things you expect from a weblog. Visit LD Resources at <http://www.ldresources.org>.

New Product Helps Web Managers with Web Accessibility

HiSoftware, Inc. recently announced the new integration between AccMonitor Compliance Server 2005 and Microsoft SharePoint Portal Server version 2.0. The solution provides website managers with an automatic way to manage Web accessibility, site testing, content maintenance, and management of corporate standards. HiSoftware has also worked with Microsoft to provide new templates that enable Web site managers who use SharePoint to extend and enhance their accessibility efforts. Read more at <http://www.hisoftware.com/press/mssp2005.html>.

NCBDDD: Developmental Screening for Health Care Providers

A new web page for pediatric health care providers has been added to the CDC Child Development Web site. The new page provides tips for primary care practitioners on integrating developmental screening into their practices efficiently, at low cost, and while ensuring coordination of care. A sample flowchart of clinical screening activities and an example of how physician and non-physician staff roles may be delineated to make routine screening feasible are provided as well (these can be printed from the web site). The web page can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/child/screen_provider.htm.

Peer-Reviewed Journal on Nursing Care for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Launched

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center in Massachusetts has launched a free, online journal titled International Journal of Nursing in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for professionals and families interested in promoting optimal health and nursing supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Access the journal online at <http://journal.hsmc.org/ijnidd/index.asp>.

AlphaGrant Program 2005

Schools will have an opportunity to participate in the AlphaGrant Program for 2005. Program information and application materials for 2005 will be available online by February 15, 2005. The deadline for submitting your AlphaGrant application is April 29 and awards will be announced at NECC on June 28. We look forward to collaborating with schools as they identify effective uses of technology to improve instruction and ultimately student achievement.

To learn more about AlphaGrants, visit <http://www.alphasmart.com/k12/solutions/alphagrants.html>.

"Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes"

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes seeks nominations for its 2005 awards. The Barron Prize honors young people ages 8 to 18, who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people and our planet. Each year, ten national winners each receive \$2,000 to support their service work or higher education. Nomination deadline is April 30. For more information and to nominate, visit: <http://www.barronprize.org/>.

Online Advocacy Course: Making Your Case

Making Your Case is a three-hour online course that focuses on how to communicate with public officials by telling your personal story, writing letters, providing testimony, and communicating in positive ways. Check out <http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/makingyourcase> for more details.

Easter Seals Project ACTION: Information Needed on Accessibility and Safety of Bus Stops

Nelson Nygaard Consulting Associates under contract with Easter Seals Project ACTION is assembling a toolkit for bus stop accessibility and safety assessment. The toolkit will be available to transit and public works agencies, as well as disability advocates, providing methods on evaluating bus stop accessibility and designing accessible stops. The toolkit will address a broad range of issues, including usage by people with a variety of disabilities, optimal bus stop design and bus stop environments.

In order to assemble the toolkit, a literature search will be conducted to gather as much information as possible on the subject of accessible bus stops. Information may include architectural access, accessible ergonomics, safety regulations, ADA regulations and bus service plans. If you are aware of documents or information on the subjects mentioned above, or can give us good examples of bus stops in your area that are fully accessible, please let us know, either by calling Krute Singa at 415-281-6927 (we'll call you back if this is long-distance), sending the information via e-mail to Krute Singa at ksinga@nelsonnygaard.com.

For more information on Easter Seals Project ACTION visit http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA_homepage.

PLUK trainings and activities planned for Winter/Spring 2005::

PLUK associate boards around the state are sponsoring a number of trainings and activities this coming year. Mark your calendar if you are interested in participating.

Go to <http://www.pluk.org/training> for more detailed information and registration.

March 2005

Title: Bullying: an Introduction to What we can do

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Where: Interactive video conference airing statewide from Kalispell

Presenters: Stephanie Luehr

Title: ADHD: Where We Stand Today

Date: March 9, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Kalispell

Presenter: Stephanie Luehr

Title: Staying Cool When Our Buttons are Pushed: Part 2

Date: March 21, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Kalispell, The SUMMIT

Presenter: Doug Cochran-Roberts

Other Community Activities

- February 19, 2005, Sports & Recreation Festival, Rocky Mountain College Athletic Building, Billings. Contact Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540. Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.
- May 13, 2005, Kids at Heart Gala with a performance by the *Mid Life Chryslers*, Sheraton-Billings, call Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540. Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.

Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana::

STEP Offers Parent and Advocate Training February 17 in Billings

Training for parents and advocates of children and adults with developmental disabilities will be presented in selected modules taken from STEP's Empowerment series. The goal of this training is to equip participants with information, tools, and skills that support them to advocate effectively for desired services. The following topics are scheduled for the first quarter of 2005:

- Getting What You Need Through Collaboration—Feb. 17, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
- Making Integration a Reality: Using Community Resources—Mar. 17, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

All sessions will be held at the STEP offices. Training Coordinator Ann Treece will be facilitating the sessions. There is no charge to participate. If you are interested in one or more topics or if you would like further information, please contact Ann at 869-3013.

Region IV Paraeducator Midwinter Conference—Bozeman, February 21st

Region IV CSPD is sponsoring a Paraeducator Mid-Winter Conference on February 21st at the Bozeman Holiday Inn from 9:00 - 3:30. The presenters are Kathleen Gallacher (Behavior Management), Brenda Mast (Interpersonal Skills) and Linda Reiten (new Paraeducator orientation guide). Lunch will be provided and there is no cost for the workshop! 5 CEUS's will be awarded and districts will be reimbursed \$20.00 for each para attending. For registration information, please contact Paula Schultz at 587-1305.

EFFECTIVE READING INTERVENTIONS – Missoula, February 22, Kalispell, February 23

Focus on Fluency (Six Minute Solution) and other reading strategies for students struggling in reading in grades 4-12.

Managing Anti-Social Behavior: Effective Behavior Management Techniques—Missoula February 23, March 2, 16 and 30. 4-7 pm. (UM Credit Pending)

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Parent Workshop, "Advocating for Your Child with a Disability/Serious Health Care Need," Belgrade, MT-February 26, 2005

This free workshop runs from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. Registration is required. Topics Include:

- Special Education Basics/the IEP (Individual Education Program)
- Working Together with your School District – it's a Team Effort
- Record Keeping
- Finding Resources
- Support for Yourself

Location: Career Transitions, 20900, East Frontage Rd., Belgrade. To register, contact Rebecca toll-free at 1-877-847-8890.

Working with Angry and Resistant Youth: Strategies for Fostering Hope and Resilience, March 1, 2005, Polson

This presentation focuses on factors that contribute to the creation of a positive school climate for both students and staff. Dr Brooks discusses these factors by outlining the key dimensions of the mindset of effective educators and other professionals including an appreciation of: (a) empathy and exercises to promote empathy, (b) our own memories of school as guideposts for what we do today, (c) the lifelong impact we have on children and adolescents, (d) the mindset of resilient youth, (e) the components of motivation, (f) the importance of a strength-based approach that identifies and reinforces each student's "islands of competence," and (g) specific interventions for fostering motivation, learning, self-discipline, self-esteem, cooperation, caring, hope, and resilience in students. Strategies will be shared for professionals and parents about how to strengthen their own "stress hardiness" so as to be less stressed and more effective in working with or raising these challenging youth.

Dr. Brooks is a clinical psychologist and faculty member at the Harvard Medical School. He also serves as an advisory board member of the Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder (CHADD). His most notable publication is The Self-Esteem Teacher. He spends most of his time conducting motivation, resilience, and self-esteem workshops nationally and internationally.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

"Nutrition Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder" Seminar, Great Falls, MT-March 2, 2005

Speaker: Elizabeth Strickland, MS, RD, LD.

Dates:

March 2, 2005
 March 3, 2005
 March 4, 2005
 March 9, 2005
 March 10, 2005
 March 11, 2005

Locations:

Great Falls, MT
 Spokane, WA
 Boise, ID
 Eugene, OR
 Portland, OR
 Seattle, WA

Elizabeth Strickland, MS, RD, LD nationally known Nutritionist specializing in nutritional treatment of Autism, will be Great Falls, MT on March 2, 2005, presenting the 1-day seminar, "Nutrition Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder." This seminar is designed to be beneficial for both parents and professionals seeking reliable science-based information on nutrition interventions for the treatment of Autism and related disorders. For more information and seminar brochures, please contact Cross Country Seminars at email: JWJones@ccuniv.com or website: <http://www.crosscountryuniversity.com>. Questions about the seminar content? Email Elizabeth Strickland at ASDpuzzle@aol.com or visit the website <http://www.ASDpuzzle.com>.

Eastern Montana Graduate to Work Project Teleconference—March 2, 2005

This free training session will feature nationally renowned employment trainer and consultant Norciva Shumpert (Marc Gold & Associates and Employment for All). She will share tips and techniques for proceeding from Discovery, the Vocational Profile, and Employment Planning to real-world job development for customized employment. Registration is due by February 22, 2005 and OPI Renewal units are available.

- ❖ Glendive: Note – our original Glendive site had to cancel because of a scheduling conflict. If you are interested in being the Glendive location for this conference call, please notify Kim Brown.
- ❖ Miles City: Miles Community College Conference Room (room #106) (note room change from 2/9/05 teleconference), 2715 Dickenson
- ❖ Billings: MSU Billings, MT Center on Disabilities Training Room, Education Building
- ❖ Bozeman: Bozeman High School Conference Room, 205 N. 11th
- ❖ Lewistown: HRDC Conference Room, 203 Centennial Plaza
- ❖ Missoula: Curry Health Center Classroom, 634 Eddy at the U of M
- ❖ Glasgow: Northeast Montana Job Service Workforce Center Conference Room, 74 4th St. North

The session will be broadcast over speakerphone, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, and facilitated by an onsite volunteer. If you are unable to attend one of these locations but wish to participate, contact Kim Brown at 888-648-7267 or 406-243-4852, or by email at brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu; or Ellen Condon at 406-243-4134 or by email at condon@ruralinstitute.umt.edu by 2/22/05.

ADHD Overview and Medical Intervention, March 9, Billings

Presented by: Dr. Laurie Nicholson, The Children's Clinic

March 9, 2005, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, Madison Room, Holiday Inn Grand Montana

Region III CSPD and the Eastern Yellowstone Special Services Cooperative invite you to an informative luncheon featuring Dr. Laurie Nicholson. Dr. Nicholson will be presenting on ADHD and the implications of medical intervention. The luncheon will provide information appropriate for school counselors, social workers, psychologists, administrators, teachers, and mental health providers. The lunch treat luncheon will cost approximately eight dollars. Please attempt to be seated by 11:30. Register online at <http://www.msbillings.edu/mcdregister>.

Self-Employment Part, April 4, 2005, Teleconference, (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings, Lewistown)

4/4/05 1:00-4:00 PM, METNET: "Self-Employment Part 1", Overview of self-employment as an option for people with disabilities; case studies, (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings, Lewistown)

For information contact Kim Brown, Transition Project Coordinator at 406/243-4852 or brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu.

Montana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference, April 13-15, 2005, Billings

<http://www.mtcec.org/conference.htm>

Region I CSPD "Child Abuse and Neglect," Glasgow, Cottonwood Inn, April 22-23

April 22 - 6:00 - 8:00

April 23 - 8:00 - 4:00

Cost - \$20.00, includes lunch on the 23rd. This training is an 8-hour approved training for participants on the Practitioner Registry and for Day Care Provider Renewals and CEU's.

For more information or to register contact: Jody King at 406-228-9431 or 1-800-659-3673.

Step Up to Writing- A Key to Academic Success, April 25-26, 2005 (Missoula), April 27-28, 2005 (Kalispell)

Step Up to Writing is a writing program which makes a dramatic difference in student success. This two-day workshop is designed for teachers who want to help struggling students learn to communicate in an organized and effective manner. Participants will leave the workshop with a wealth of strategies which motivate students as they significantly increase their academic success.

The trainer, Neilia Solberg, B.A., is a Step Up to Writing consultant for Sopris West Educational Services. Included in her years of teaching are elementary school and staff development in the language arts and content reading. Recent experience in Academic Achievement plans across the curriculum and grade levels as well as expanded responsibilities in coordinating instruction development.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Session 3: Getting Students Past the "Gatekeeper" Courses in Math-Creating Success in Pre-Algebra and Algebra, May 5, 2005, Missoula - May 6, 2005, Kalispell

Effective instruction, especially at the middle school level, is a critical component for laying the foundation for higher level mathematics. This one-day workshop focuses on the "big picture" concepts and those topics necessary for algebra success. By tackling the important topics and modeling the "big picture" concepts for students, teachers and students can "tear down" these roadblocks to algebra success.

To register or for further information please go to <http://www.cspd.net>.

Self-Employment Part 2, May 6, 2005, Teleconference, (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings, Lewistown)

5/6/05 1:00-4:00 PM, METNET: "Self-Employment Part 2", Assessing business feasibility and developing business plans, (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings, Lewistown)

For information contact Kim Brown, Transition Project Coordinator at 406/243-4852 or brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu.

June 10-11-12: A Family Learning Weekend for the Visually Impaired, hosted by the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind—MDSB, Great Falls

A FREE three-day weekend in Great Falls at MSDB is designed specifically for families with children who are visually impaired. This weekend is packed with ideas. A nationally renowned keynote speaker, Judith Lesner from the National Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired (NAPVI), will be speaking to families about the importance of parent advocacy. She will present with her son, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, who will be addressing the current issues in the education of the blind. Both Judith and Jacob are experienced will be working with our parents to design a Montana chapter of NAPVI. For more information, please contact MSDB at 1-800-882-6732 or Barb Rolf, Outreach Vision Consultant at (406) 251-5674.

Please Join NAAR – June 12, 2005 to support autism research

To date, NAAR has committed \$21.1 million to fund 211 autism research projects and fellowships worldwide - more than any other non-governmental organization. NAAR has been able to make these investments, in large part, through the success of Walk F.A.R. for NAAR, the signature fundraising and autism awareness event of NAAR. Each year, walks throughout the USA, Canada and England attract thousands of walkers and raise millions for research.

Why Support Autism Research?

Autism is a serious health concern, occurring in as many as 1 out of every 166 births! We do not know what causes autism. There are no specific medical treatments or a cure for autism. Through biomedical research NAAR is enabling investigators to develop better, more targeted interventions and, someday, will find a cure for autism spectrum disorders. Despite strikingly high prevalence, autism research remains one of the lowest funded areas of medical research by both public and private sources.

Interested? Want to Learn More? Make a Difference!

Local Volunteer Leadership – Penny Martin – 406.771.3998 or j.martin@bresnan.net

Scott R. Moore – Pacific Northwest Regional Director

National Alliance for Autism Research - 1370 Stewart Street – Seattle WA 98109

206.464.5182 smoore@naar.org <http://www.autismwalk.org> or <http://www.naar.org>

October 19-20-21: The Northern Rockies Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired (NRAER) Conference—Bozeman, Montana, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center.

This conference is designed for professionals in the field of visual impairment, but welcome those who may have an interest in working with the blind. A full schedule is planned. Keynote speakers will include those from the Helen Keller Institute and EagleMount-Bozeman to name a few. The conference will provide an opportunity for hands-on experiences with technology for the blind. Classroom teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, parents and other interested individuals are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Barb Rolf, Outreach Vision Consultant for the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, at (406) 251-5674.

Online Training/Workshops/Events::

Family Center on Technology & Disability Online Discussions, February 1-28, 2005

"What Does the Research Say? Locating and Interpreting Special Education Technology Research," Moderated by Dr. Dave Edyburn.

<http://www.fctd.info/webboard/index.php>

Questions about the research base for special education technology practices are increasingly asked at the local, state, and federal levels. Join our expert Dave. L. Edyburn, PhD. to learn how to access the latest research. Dave and others will discuss how research is addressing important questions about the use and value of assistive and instructional technology for students with disabilities.

Dave Edyburn is an Associate Professor in the Department of Exceptional Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He earned his Ph.D. in special education from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Dr. Edyburn is a well-respected national expert on AT and has authored a number of books on the subject. He is the co-editor of the upcoming book, *The Handbook of Special Education Technology Research and Practice*.

Education News Parents Can Use: Next broadcast, February 15, 2005

A television series about ways to ensure children's educational success.

<http://www.ed.gov/news/av/video/edtv/index.html>

Education News Parents Can Use focuses on schools, learning and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. On the third Tuesday of each month during the school year, Education News airs live via satellite, offering parents and anyone else with an interest in education vital information about getting involved in children's learning.

- Drug and Alcohol Prevention: Keeping Kids on the Right Track
Tuesday, February 15, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- Arts Education: Improving Students' Academic Performance
Tuesday, March 15, 2005 — 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm ET
- Early Childhood Development: What Parents Need to Know
Tuesday, April 19, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- Science Education: Preparing Students for the Global Economy
Tuesday, May 17, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- Service Learning: Creating Community & Developing Citizens
Tuesday, June 21, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET

If you have any comments or questions, feel free to send a message to Education.TV@ed.gov or call at 1-800-USA-LEARN.

NBC, CNBC Series on Autism Beginning February 21, 2004

(From Monday Morning in Washington D.C. and the Autism Coalition)

NBC's Today show is preparing a 10-part series that will run the week of February 21 airing at 8:10 AM and 9:10 AM. The series will look at autism from a variety of angles, with segments exploring topics such as etiology, diagnosis, treatment, educational programs, affect on siblings, and how to be an advocate for your autistic child. Be sure to tune in for the "How to be the Best Advocate For Your Child" segment airing on February 24 featuring Autism Coalition board member, Gary Mayerson. He will be interviewed on his new book, "How To Compromise With Your School District Without Compromising Your Child."

In conjunction with the Today show series, CNBC is airing a four-part series from Tuesday through Friday, Feb. 22-25. Segments will air at 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM during CNBC's Power Lunch program. Titled "Autism: Paying the Price," the CNBC series will focus on the financial implications of the disorder, with segments on the financial impact on families, the roles of government and private funding for research, the opportunities in healthcare and pharmaceuticals and autism in the workplace. Both the NBC and CNBC series will feature interviews with leading members of the autism community, from researchers and physicians to activists, educators and parents.

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

Deadline Is Extended for First People On the Move session, February 14

The deadline has been extended to sign up for the first "People on the Move: Using All Transportation Options (ADA and Beyond...)," in Honolulu, Hawaii: Monday, February 14. The program consists of two days of instruction for travel trainers, teachers, job coaches, bus operators, transportation coordinators, independent living specialists and others who

assist people with disabilities in their use of public and private transportation so that they can go to school, jobs and other community destinations.

If you can't be in Hawaii, there are other dates and cities. Each is followed by the application deadline:

March 15-16, 2005: Honolulu, Hawaii (Feb. 14)

April 13-14, 2005: Ann Arbor, Mich. (March 2)

June 8-9, 2005: Salt Lake City, Utah (May 27)

September 7-8, 2005: Boston, Mass. (Aug. 3)

November 14-15, 2005: New Orleans, La. (Oct. 3)

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Workshops on IDEA 2004 beginning February 18

If you are a policymaker, educator, administrator, researcher, or interested in the impact the new IDEA law will have on the education of students with disabilities, attend a CEC workshop to learn more. The Council for Exceptional Children will be conducting single-day workshops in San Francisco on February 18, Chicago on February 23, at CEC's Arlington, Virginia headquarters on March 4; and in Miami on March 11. For more information on these workshops and to register, go to

http://www.cec.sped.org/conventions/maryland_2005/pdfs/IDEA_workshops.pdf.

Institute for Family-Centered Care, 2nd International Conference on Patient and Family-Centered Care—February 21-23, 2005, San Francisco

Expand your knowledge and skills, share your own experiences, network with colleagues, and celebrate this opportunity to advance patient- and family-centered care. The Institute for Family-Centered Care, with support from Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and Stanford Hospitals and Clinics will convene the 2nd International Conference on Patient- and Family-Centered Care. An outstanding conference program will showcase innovative health care programs that are dedicated to collaborative efforts with patients and their families. The conference will offer presentations from hospitals, community-based programs, family-led organizations, physician practices, and schools of medicine, nursing and other health and helping professions. It will feature a diverse range of educational opportunities from which to choose that apply to a variety of practice settings, including adult care, maternity care, newborn intensive care, child and adolescent care, environment and design, professional education, mental health, and chronic illness care.

Registration costs include plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, welcoming reception, refreshment breaks, and conference syllabus:

Individuals \$545, Patients/Family Leaders \$375, Teams of 4 or more \$500 per person, One Day \$225

On-line payment does not automatically register you for the conference. You must also complete a Registration Form and fax or mail it to the Institute. For more information, please visit <http://www.familycenteredcare.org/>

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) National Teleconference Tuesday, February 22, 2005

Standards, Assessments, and Accountability: Implications of NCLB and IDEA Reauthorization

1:00 - 2:00pm Central Standard Time (9:00am - Hawaii; 11:00 - Pacific; 12:00 - Mountain; 2:00pm - Eastern)

Presented by: Martha L. Thurlow, PhD, Director, National Center on Educational Outcomes

University of Minnesota

NCSET Teleconference information is available at: <http://ncset.org/teleconferences/#022205>

Learning Disabilities Association 42nd Annual International Conference on Learning Disabilities, March 2-5, 2005—Reno, NV

The largest learning disabilities conference in the world is coming to Reno, Nevada, and bringing more than 300 workshops and exhibits. Topics include: adult issues; medical research; health issues; workshops on early childhood, reading, classroom strategies; and NIFL "Bridges to Practice."

When: March 2-5, 2005

Where: Nugget Hotel, Reno

Registration: \$75-\$230

Contact: <http://www.lidaamerica.org>

Association for Positive Behavioral Support (APBS) Second International Conference on Positive Behavioral Support, March 10-12, Tampa, FL

Sponsored by the University of South Florida and the OSEP Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, the 2005 conference focuses on "The Expanding World of PBS: Science, Values, and Vision."

Costs vary from \$40 per workshop (APBS Member half-day) to \$100 per workshop (Non-member full-day). CEUs and BCBA Type 2 credits are available.

Advanced Registration deadline: February 18, 2005. Register online at www.apbs.org.

Abuse of Children & Adults with Disabilities, March 14-16, 2005, Riverside, CA

Hosted by Arc Riverside, the Only Ongoing Conference on abuse and other crimes against children, adults and seniors with disabilities brings you up-to-date and provides basic information for those new to the field.

Who should attend? Anyone responding to crimes, abuse, children and adults with disabilities. Law enforcement, victims services, protective services, advocacy services, health care, mental health, sexual assault response, domestic violence, family violence, among others. Meet the top national experts in the field!!!

The full conference cost for early bird registration (before March 10th) is \$265 - after March 10th and on-site is \$340. Attending for one day is \$170. CEUs are also available!

Register online at: <http://www.disability-abuse.com/cando/conf>

Pervasive Developmental and Learning Disabilities Conference, March 17-18, Miami FL

The University of Miami School of Education and the Center for Research in Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) announce the first annual international Pervasive Developmental and Learning Disabilities Conference. The conference will take place March 17-18, 2005 at the Learning Center at the University of Miami. Email jmesler@miami.edu for registration information.

Disability Research Institute 2005 Symposium -- SSA Disability Programs: Comprehensive Work Opportunity Initiative--April 5, 2005, National Press Club, Washington, DC

The Disability Research Institute (DRI) 2005 Symposium will bring together nationally recognized disability scholars to discuss key policy questions affecting Social Security disability programs and policies as related to DRI research. This interactive discussion will include designated time for audience participation. Detailed information on DRI research projects will be made available throughout the day and researchers will be available to discuss their work during the scheduled poster session. The Symposium will include four interactive sessions that will address the following key policy questions:

- What are your reactions to the currently identified barriers to return to work in the Comprehensive Work Opportunity Initiative? What other barriers are there (if any) that need to be addressed and what recommendations would you make to SSA regarding strategies that should be employed to decrease or eliminate those barriers?
- How can SSA modify or restructure the disability determination process to facilitate return to work simultaneously with determination of eligibility of benefits?
- What are the most important issues for SSA to address to integrate and coordinate the long-term process of transitioning youth with disabilities to work? What are the educational, career planning, assistive technologies and other transition issues that need to be addressed in order to help youth with disabilities maximize their economic self-sufficiency?
- What are the critical research and policy questions that need to be addressed in order to maximize the impact of research outcomes and policy recommendations on fully integrating persons with disabilities in the workforce and society at large?

Access <http://www.dri.uiuc.edu/symposium2005.asp> for more information, including registration. There is no charge to attend the Symposium; however, registration is required due to limited space.

2005 CEC Convention and Expo, April 6-9 2005, Baltimore MD

<http://www.cec.sped.org>

2005 ADA Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion, and Disability Conference, April 11 - 13, 2005, Ohio State University

April 11th Pre-conference seminar presented by ADA-OHIO

Demystifying the Interplay of the ADA, FMLA & Workers Compensation

April 12th and 13th Multiple Perspectives on Access Inclusion & Disability

The Fifth Annual Multiple Perspectives conference will provide opportunities to share practical information on best practices, explore current research, and develop collaborations. The conference will continue its tradition of bringing together a diverse audience (individuals & employers, students & educators, advocates & policy makers, consumers & service agencies) to reflect on the many dimensions of disability. This year's theme, sameness, difference and equity, is summed up by the two quotes below:

In her opinion in *Tennessee v. Lane* Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said "Including individuals with disabilities among people who count in composing 'We the People,' Congress understood in shaping the ADA, that it would sometimes require not blindfolded equality, but responsiveness to difference; not indifference, but accommodation."

In an article discussing accommodations for college students with disabilities Paul Grossman, attorney for the Office For Civil Rights, described the accommodation mandate in disability law as an opportunity for rewarding self-examination. "No other set of laws so entreats academia to take its own temperature, examine its traditions, and thoughtfully deliberate about which of its standards are essential and which are merely unexamined habits." Grossman's observation is as true for the workplace and wider society as it is for education.

For more information, contact: ada-osu@osu.edu or ADA Coordinator's Office, 614-292-6207 (V); 614-688-8605 (tty).
<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/2005.htm>

Autism One Conference, May 26-29, 2005, Chicago IL

<http://autismone.org/homepage.cfm>

RESNA's 28th International Conference on Technology & Disability, June 25-27, Atlanta GA

Research, Design, Practice, and Policy

Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA

- Pre-Conference Instructional Courses: June 23-24, 2005
- Full Conference Workshops: June 25-27, 2005

RESNA takes the 2005 Conference to Atlanta, GA, where assistive technology's leading researchers, renowned clinicians, and policy experts will create a conference program with unmatched levels of knowledge and expertise. RESNA presenters and attendees will experience a surprisingly intimate conference environment where:

- information is contemporary and innovative
- uncommon questions find in-depth answers
- sharing knowledge, ideas, and experiences is easy, and
- new connections last a lifetime.

How you can participate: Obtain proposal kits at <http://www.resna.org> and submit a proposal for a workshop or Instructional Course or Download an author kit and submit a paper for inclusion in the Interactive Poster Sessions or one of the student competitions!

Selected Sources::

1. *Monday Morning in Washington, DC*, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. *Rocky Mountain DBTAC*, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. *PEN Weekly NewsBlast* <http://www.publiceducation.org>
4. *Health and Disability Training Calendar* <http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/training.htm>
5. *The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar*
<http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>
6. *Technology for Nonprofits*: <http://www.techsoup.org>

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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.
- ❖ *Statement on accessibility:* Today, we endeavor to be conscious of the need for making all electronic information accessible, as we are aware of physical accessibility issues in our community. For design guidelines visit <http://ncam.wgbh.org/cdrom/guideline/>.
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