



PHOTO: **Inside the PLUK Sports Festival, February 19, 2005**

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.

**“Life is the art of drawing without an eraser.” —John W. Gardner**

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### New Bone Marrow Model May Help Treat Sickle Cell Disease

Researchers at Imperial College London, where the bone marrow model was created, hope that clinicians will eventually use it to advance effective treatments for sickle cell disease. The model "mimics the movement of oxygen and all the cells in the bone marrow," according to a February 20 News-Medical.Net article announcing the presentation of the model at a recent European conference. Researchers believe that "ultimately this should make it possible to analyze how the cells would react to different drugs," since "examining the living bone marrow that produces blood cells is difficult because currently it can only be looked at through very invasive surgery."

To read the rest of this News-Medical.Net article, go to <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=7842>.

### WXRL 1300 AM, Disability News and Views Radio Show on Bullying, Sunday, Feb. 27, 3-4PM MST

Sunday February 27th 3-4PM MST, Disability News and Views, Topic: Bullying. Guests: Stephanie Bryn, U.S. Dept. of Health Resources and Services Administration and Teen Expert's Matthew Cavedon and Lindsey Good.

Call 716-681-1313 to make on-air comments Sunday 3-4 PM MST or email [monica@disabilitynewsradio.com](mailto:monica@disabilitynewsradio.com).

Monica Moshenko, Host

Does YOUR school district have an anti-bullying policy and program in place?  
Are you aware of the current laws in your State on bullying?

FACT: Children who are bullied are more likely to be depressed, lonely, anxious, have low self-esteem, feel unwell and absent from school frequently, think about suicide and commit suicide.

FACT: Students who are bullied may fear going to school, using the bathroom, and riding on the school bus.

FACT: Research indicates that children with special needs are at a higher risk of being bullied than other children.

FACT: Children that bully are more likely to get in frequent fights, vandalize property, steal, drink alcohol, smoke, be truant from school, drop out of school and carry a weapon?

Tune in Sunday to hear Youth Expert Panel (YEP) "Tweens" Matthew Cavedon and Lindsey Good, along with Captain Stephanie Bryn, MPH, U.S. Public Health Service, HRSA/Maternal and Child Health Bureau as they share important information about bullying and answer your questions.

TAKE a Stand, Lend A Hand, Stop Bullying Now! Campaign.

Learn more at <http://www.disabilitynewsradio.com>.

#### NAAR Program Focus of Feb. 28th Cover Story

(Courtesy of NAAR) **Newsweek: Baby Sibling Research**---NAAR's *High Risk Baby Sibling Autism Research Project* is the focus of the Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> cover story in Newsweek magazine. The story calls the baby siblings research project "some of the most exciting new work" taking place in the field of autism research. The project, a partnership with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), focuses on early detection and diagnosis. Learn more at [http://www.autismwalk.org/site/R?i=yrIWso7zt5P3SBmqSLYN\\_g...](http://www.autismwalk.org/site/R?i=yrIWso7zt5P3SBmqSLYN_g...)

#### Newsletter Available From the Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation

(From CABF) The Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation (CABF) is a parent-led, not-for-profit, Web-based membership organization of families raising children diagnosed with, or at risk for, early-onset bipolar disorder. Membership is free for families. CABF was founded by a national steering committee of concerned parents active in BPParents, an Internet support group. The CABF online community includes parents, researchers, medical doctors, neuroscientists, social workers, therapists, civic leaders, teachers, and others. The Professional Advisory Council includes leading experts on bipolar disorder.

To access the CABF Newsletter visit <http://www.imakenews.com/cabf/>. To learn more about CABF go to <http://www.bpkids.org/>

#### Internships At The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

##### INTERNSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES AT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Internships offer meaningful learning opportunities and on-the-job experiences to college juniors/seniors, graduate students, and recent college graduates (within two years of graduation) who are interested in beginning careers in performing arts management and/or arts education. The Kennedy Center welcomes and encourages students with disabilities to apply. Deadline for application is March 1, 2005. Information and application forms can be found at [www.kennedy-center.org/education/vilarinstitute/internships](http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/vilarinstitute/internships).

#### WHERE WOULD THE CUTS BE MADE UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET? An Analysis of Reductions in Education, Human Services, Environment, and Community Development Programs

CBPP recently released a new analysis of the impact of the President's budget on an array of domestic programs, including education, environmental protection, and programs that serve low- and moderate-income families, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The analysis includes **state-by-state** estimates of the President's proposed funding reductions by 2010 -- expressed either in dollar terms or numbers of people impacted -- for several specific program areas: education, WIC, children & family services, housing vouchers, child care, LIHEAP, HIV/AIDS treatment, community development, and grants in aid to states & localities.

Check out the links below for more detailed information (both web and PDF versions are available).

##### Press Release:

<http://www.cbpp.org/2-22-05bud-pr.htm>

<http://www.cbpp.org/2-22-05bud-pr.pdf> 3pp.

##### Report:

<http://www.cbpp.org/2-22-05bud.htm>

<http://www.cbpp.org/2-22-05bud.pdf> 16pp.

##### State Tables:

<http://www.cbpp.org/2-22-05bud-tables.pdf> 22pp.

##### Report with State Tables:

<http://www.cbpp.org/2-22-05bud-reportandtables.pdf> 42pp.

### Preemie Boutique Online at BabyLinQ.com

The need for preemie clothes and the desire for preemie products and gifts is at the heart of Sjona Lindquist's website <http://www.babylinq.com>. According to a recent press release from PR Newswire, Lindquist is "a recognized authority in preemiewear" and "listens to the needs of parents whose preemies are in the Neonatal NICU."

To visit this unique site, click on <http://www.babylinq.com>.

To read the PR Newswire, go to <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2005/2/prwebxml205827.php>.

### Region III CSPD: Seating, Positioning, and Power Mobility Workshop, April 11, MSU-Billings

This is a one-day workshop where vendors and suppliers will show their products including seating systems, power and manual wheelchairs and standers. There will be plenty of opportunity for hands-on training in all of the sessions. The focus of this workshop will be equipment for the pediatric patient. A representative from Quickie, Jay and Sammons/Preston will present a half-day morning session. The one-hour morning session will include a presentation on "seating" and an opportunity for hands-on training. In the afternoon, there will be one-hour sectionals with Invacare, Snug Seat, Prime Engineering and Pride power wheelchairs. Registration deadline is April 4, 2005.

Registration Fee: \$10.00

Register Online at [www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister](http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister)

### Support PLUK at the Apple MUG Store

Check out the Apple Mug Store and the PLUK user group gets one percent back on everything you purchase from the MUG Store ... which means that if you and your fellow PLUK Supporters buy from the MUG Store, PLUK can get everything from software to new computers for FREE! The MUG store has free freight, RAM rebates, aggressive pricing on new and pre-owned Macs and great closeout deals.

The passwords to get into this exclusive User Group site are:

12/1/2004 - 3/30/2005

User ID: mug / Password: store

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

### Getting There: Helping People with Mental Illness Access Transportation

GETTING THERE: HELPING PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES ACCESS TRANSPORTATION (SMA04-3948). Studies find that transportation services and resources for mental health consumers are fragmented, unused, or unavailable in many communities. SAMHSA/CMHS developed this report in response to these findings to outline specific transportation barriers and to discuss ways to address or resolve them for mental health consumers. Now available in print only. To order, go to <http://store.mentalhealth.org/publications/ordering.aspx> or call 1-800-789-2647 for bilingual information services; (TDD) 1-866-889-2647.

### GAO Autism Report Published

The GAO (Government Accountability Office) recently released a new report entitled "Special Education: Children with Autism." The report examines several trends, including: the number of students with autism being served under IDEA, the services provided to those children, and the estimated costs of the special education services. The full report can be accessed online at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05220.pdf>.

### Art and Poetry Contest for Youth, Deadline February 28, 2005

Every year the National Center for Learning Disabilities conducts a national art and poetry competition for youth between the ages of 4 and 18. The competition is highlighted at their annual Benefit, Voices of Our Children, Voices of our Future. A first place prize of \$100, and two second place prizes of \$50, will be awarded to the winning schools in each category. All winners will be publicly acknowledged on NCLD's Web site, [www.LD.org](http://www.LD.org), and at the Benefit on April 21, 2005 in New York City. Entries are due February 28, 2005. For more information go to <http://www.ld.org/awards/>.

### National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities Telephone Seminar, February 28

The NDPC-SD is hosting "Dropout Prevention: The Ex-Student's Perspective" a telephone seminar presented by Dr. Larry Kortering, Professor of Special Education, Appalachian State University. The seminar will explore student's opinions of high school and the impact of those opinions when developing retention policies and intervention strategies. Participants can call in questions during the question and answer period.

Registration Fee: \$75.00. Includes single-line telephone access and one set of reproducible materials. Register by calling 1-800-775-7654 (to pay by purchase order), or online at <http://www.dropoutprevention.org/NDPC-SD/>.

### ICARE Schools Project, Call for Nominations

The ICARE Schools project at Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) seeks nominations of middle-grades schools that successfully involve all families in the education of their children with disabilities. The project will study schools that use innovative approaches to engage families from culturally, linguistically, and socio-economically diverse backgrounds in the creation and implementation of their child's Individual Action Plan (IEP). Nominations must be received by March 15, 2005.

After a systematic nomination, application, and review process, the project will select three middle-grades schools that demonstrate successful parent involvement and positive outcomes for students with disabilities. The study will explore the attitudes and activities of educators and families that foster meaningful involvement at these schools. Selected schools will receive national recognition, professional development opportunities, and a stipend.

To learn more, or to nominate a school, visit <http://www2.edc.org/icareschools/> or contact [icareschools@edc.org](mailto:icareschools@edc.org) or 1-800-969-3440 x2183. ICARE Schools is funded by the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

### 2005 EXITE Camp

"PACER and IBM are looking for 30 motivated girls with disabilities" to participate in the EXITE (Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering) Camp. Hosted by IBM, the camp 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. The application deadline for interested individuals is May 2, 2005.

To learn more about the camp or to fill out an application, visit [www.pacer.org/stc/exite.htm](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.

### 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](http://www.miusa.org/exchange/japan_summer_2005).

### Exceptional Parent 2005 Resource Guide

EPLibrary is extremely pleased to announce the 2005 Edition of the Annual Resource Guide: Directories of National Organizations, Associations, Products & Services is now available at \$19.95. Hot off the presses, and for a limited time only, this brand new updated version comes with FREE SHIPPING AND HANDLING.

This year's guide, the largest ever, contains almost 200 pages of information including:

- Comprehensive Listing of National Resources for Specific Disabilities
- Parent to Parent Programs
- Parent Training and Information
- Alliance for Technology Access Center and State Assistive Technology Programs
- Adaptive Recreation Organizations
- Title V
- Federal and Federally Funded Information Resources
- National Information and Advocacy Resources
- National Association of Protection and Advocacy Services
- Association of University Centers
- ADA Projects
- Early Intervention, toddler programs and preschool special education resources
- Canadian Resources
- Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

To order go to:

<http://www.goemerchant7.com/index.cgi?ST=buy&Action=add&Merchant=exceptionalparentmagazinen&ItemNumber=EP650RGCC1&Add=1>

### Medical ID Bracelets A Kid Would Wear? You Bet!

Medical ID tags can be difficult for style-conscious kids to wear. Daisy Sutherland has eased the minds of parents nationwide with her beaded Medical ID bracelets. Made of high quality materials and completely customizable, the

lobster-clasp bracelets can coordinate with any of the other jewelry pieces that Art Wear by Daisy offers, and are suitable for boys or girls. The bracelets are also offered in adult sizes.

The bracelets do not include the ID tag in case customers want to use their original tag. For those who want a handmade gift, they can purchase the ID tag from Art Wear or from Oneida Medical Jewelry ([www.oneida-medical-jewelry.com](http://www.oneida-medical-jewelry.com)) who will send the tag to Art Wear.

For more information, visit Art Wear by Daisy at <http://www.artwearbydaisy.com> to browse the catalog of bracelets and other handmade jewelry.

## Closing the Gap Forums

### **February Closing the Gap Forum: Video Magnification: The Good, the Bad, and the Future**

Moderator: Lou Lipschultz, CEO, OcuSource.com

We will be discussing features and ergonomic considerations of video magnifiers currently available. To participate in this discussion visit:

<http://www.closingthegap.com/forums> and check out the "Featured Discussions"

### **Upcoming Forums**

#### **IntelliFeatures Match**

Begins: March 1, 2005

Moderators: Mariangeles "Nena" Murphy-Herd, e-Learning Design Lab, University of Kansas; Mary Dunbar, e-Learning Design Lab, University of Kansas; Susan Bashinski, PhD., Bureau of Child Research, Assistant Research Professor; Cathy Drobny, Educational Technology Consultant; Suzanne Feit, Curriculum Developer and Training Specialist, IntelliTools

With a limited budget, what are creative ways to use limited hardware for access assessment and training using the IntelliTools Classroom Suite?

#### **Electronic Mentoring for Students with Disabilities**

Begins: March 1, 2005

Moderators: Scott Bellman, Project Coordinator/Counselor DO-IT (Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, & Technology)

Discuss the benefits to students, available online programs, how to start your own online mentoring community.

#### **Activities and Camp for Families**

Begins: March 20, 2005

Moderators: Jill E. Senner, PhD, CCC-SLP; Lesly Levitas, OTR/L; Pam Harris

Participants in this discussion will learn about camp and how naturalistic summer recreation activities can provide rich communication opportunities for AAC users.

#### **Using Technology With Children With Cerebral Visual Impairment**

Begins: March 25, 2005

Moderators: Roger Bates, Information Director, Inclusive Technology Ltd/Inclusive TLC; Kay Wrench, Team Leader, Oldham Education Authority

A chance to share expertise and experiences on working with CVI children

## ***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: Transition Services in the Public Schools for Special Ed Students

Date: March 19, 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

Where: Billings, Mary Alice Fortin Center Rm. A

Presenter: Sandy Taylor and Bobbie Thurston

Register for this session by calling 406-225-0540 or email [bthurston@pluk.org](mailto:bthurston@pluk.org), or [staylor@pluk.org](mailto:staylor@pluk.org). You may participate by phone or in person.

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*

- 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::

#### **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" 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>.*

#### **Managing Anti-Social Behavior: Effective Behavior Management Techniques—Missoula 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>.*

#### **"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](mailto:JWJones@ccuniv.com) or website: <http://www.crosscountryuniversity.com>. Questions about the seminar content? Email Elizabeth Strickland at [ASDpuzzle@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu); or Ellen Condon at 406-243-4134 or by email at [condon@ruralinstitute.umt.edu](mailto: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.msubillings.edu/mcdregister>.

#### HUD Fair Housing FIRST Training – March 17-18, 2005; Sheraton Hotel; Billings, MT

Coming in March HUD will be holding a **FREE Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST Training March 17-18<sup>th</sup>** in Billings, MT (at the Sheraton). This is a comprehensive training covers the design requirements of the Fair Housing Act, and is aimed at architects, attorneys, builders, contractors, developers, disability advocate, multi-family housing industry, realtors, and more. Only a few of these trainings will occur around the country. Continuing education credits are available; architects, builders, realtors, and attorneys should check with their respective organizations for details. Please see below for more details.

In conjunction with this training, the Montana Home Choice Coalition with partners: Fannie Mae; Montana Board of Housing; Montana Department of Commerce Housing Division; the Montana Building Industry Association; Montana Association of Realtors; Montana Fair Housing; the Montana Building Industry Association; AWARE Inc.; and the Montana Independent Living Councils; is hosting a Universal Design and Accessibility Expo. There will be food and displays and information on the many quality Universally Designed and accessible building products, and related services. If you are interested in a display table, we have a few slots available, and we would welcome Universal Design or Accessible product or services showcases, kiosks, or displays. **We are also seeking expo sponsors.**

For more information about the training and the Universal Design Expo, go to <http://fairhousingfirst.org/trainingprogram.asp>.

You may register by email to Faith Ballenger ([Faith.A.Ballenger@hud.gov](mailto:Faith.A.Ballenger@hud.gov)), Robin Brown ([Robin.L.Brown@hud.gov](mailto:Robin.L.Brown@hud.gov)), or online at <http://fairhousingfirstorg/calendar.asp>.

**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](mailto:brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu).

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

The 2005 Montana Conference on Diverse Abilities will feature a variety of topics on policies and best practices in special education and early childhood fields. Check it out at <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 that 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 that 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](mailto: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—MSDB, 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, and 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](mailto: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](mailto: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*.

### Olmstead, Advocacy, and Community—New Online Courses Beginning Soon!

Sign up today for this unique, in-depth study of the U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead decision and its important implications for people with disabilities and independent living professionals. Participants are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to enroll in the complete series of courses to get the most benefit from the training experience. Each of the three sessions is led by a national expert and covers topics that are vital to advancing community living policies and practices:

#### **Part 1: Disability Policy and the Olmstead Decision**

**Class: March 14-April 1, 2005**

**Registration Deadline: March 4, 2005**

**Registration Fee: \$65**

Instructor: Richard Petty, MBA has extensive experience in the independent living movement and has served as a center for independent living director. He is currently the Director of IL Net and the Partners project (CMS training and technical assistance).

#### **Part 2: Consumer Direction and Living in the Community**

**Class: April 18-May 6, 2005**

**Registration Deadline: April 8, 2005**

**Registration Fee: \$65**

Instructor: Helen Roth has had extensive experience in the independent living movement and has served as the director of center for independent living in Utah. She is currently serving as a consultant to the 2005 CMS Real Choices System Change Grantees.

#### **Part 3: Medicaid and Community Supports**

**Class: May 16-June 3, 2005**

**Registration Deadline: May 6, 2005**

**Registration Fee: \$65**

Instructor: Catherine Chambless, PhD, is the director of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant in Utah. She has been actively involved in developing work incentives for people receiving SSI and SSDI. She was also instrumental in developing supported employment in Utah and has served as the Executive Director of the Utah Governor's Council for People with Disabilities.

**FORMAT OF CLASSES**

Participants will be part of an interactive, internet-based training with discussion questions and exercises; and will devote an average of 3-5 hours per week to assignments and activities.

Check our website for more information and the online registration form at:

<http://www.ilru.org/news/Training/ILNET/online2005.htm>.

***Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::***

**Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Workshops on IDEA 2004, March 4**

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

**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](http://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>.

**"Beyond the Bandage: Practical Approaches to Addressing Mental Health and Behavioral Issues in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Classroom" 2005 NDA Conference—March 16-18, 2005, Orlando, FL**

The National Deaf Academy provides residential psychiatric care for deaf and hard of hearing people. The organization's annual conference offers "educational sessions relating to Mental Health, Deafness, and Educational issues" and, according to the NDA "CEU's will be offered for: Nurses, Interpreters, Social Workers, Licensed Mental Health Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Counselors."

Registration Costs: \$200 USD. Download a registration form from the NDA website at [www.nationaldeafacademy.com](http://www.nationaldeafacademy.com).

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### **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](mailto: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**

The "largest and most exciting professional development event devoted to special and gifted education" the CEC Convention and Expo offers pre-convention workshops, more than 700 program sessions, the world's top exhibit show for professionals who work with exceptional students, the CEC Career Connections (with school district representatives from throughout the U.S.), and a variety of special events—including the CEC Teacher of the Year luncheon and the Yes I Can! Awards Gala. Convention registration varies (\$50-\$525), group discounts and CEUs are available.

Register by phone 1-888-232-7733, TTY 1-866-915-5000, fax 1-703-264-9494, or online at <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](mailto:ada-osu@osu.edu) or ADA Coordinator's Office, 614-292-6207 (V); 614-688-8605 (tty).  
<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/2005.htm>

#### People On the Move Session and Application Dates, April 13-14

"People on the Move: Using All Transportation Options (ADA and Beyond...)," 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 Ann Arbor, there are other dates and cities. Each is followed by the application deadline:

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)

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

As always, Autism One 2005 features four major tracks to help parents and professionals make the most informed choices and decisions. They are:

Biomedical Treatments

Behavior / Communication / Education Therapies

Complementary / Alternative Treatments

Government / Legal / Personal Issues

Each track offers three days of presentations focusing on particular treatments, research, and/or issues of that field. All presentations are open on a walk-in basis—conference registration covers them all. Meet and be inspired by Dr. Jill James, Dr. Rashid Buttar, Dr. Mady Hornig, Dr. Richard Deth, Dr. Andrew Wakefield, Dr. Temple Grandin, Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh and over a hundred other experts. Learn about the most effective treatments and therapies; how to obtain services and how to deal effectively with schools. Learn what to expect in future for the fields of medicine, education, government, and law.

##### **More Focus**

This year in addition to the four major tracks, four mini-tracks provide emphasis and focus on:

- Families New to the Diagnosis
- Puberty, Adolescence, and Adulthood
- Environmental Medicine/Issues
- Stem Cell Research

The mini-tracks provide additional answers by focusing on specific topics of great importance. The mini-tracks are part of the four major tracks developed as cohesive units and scheduled to allow folks to attend each presentation.

##### **Bringing Together the Lawmakers**

For the last several years, we have been pleased to bring CDC, IOM, and NIH officials to present. This year we are moving in a direction to foster change. Several states have passed legislation removing mercury from childhood vaccines and many other states are preparing or considering similar legislation. In a Special Lawmaker Panel discussion, we will bring together lawmakers from several states to discuss their legislative initiatives. Lawmakers will learn from each other, better understand the pressing needs and potential obstacles and return to their states better equipped to successfully shepherd similar bills.

From the biomedical to the behavioral and all points in between, Autism One empowers parents and professionals to provide the best possible care for our children. We'll see you in May!

Registration rates: \$99-\$295

Register online at <https://www.exporeg.com/autismone/>. Questions or registration concerns, email

[Registration@AutismOne.org](mailto:Registration@AutismOne.org).

For more information, visit <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.
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