



PLUK eNews June 21-25, 2004
Vol 2 Num 50

Welcome to the weekly PLUK eNews!

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.

Have a great summer!!

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##

eNews takes summer break!

With this issue of eNews, we will be taking a break until the end of July. Look for a new issue then.

We will be sending out a reader survey in the next week. Please let us know what you would like to see in this publication in the upcoming year.

##

Conference Call Training on Cerebral Palsy, June 30

Bobbie Thurston, Family Support Counselor at PLUK will present June 30 from 10-11:30am on a conference call devoted to issues of children with cerebral Palsy.

Anyone may participate by phone, but you must be registered as there are a limited number of lines. Telephone Bobbie at 800-222-7585 or email bthurston@pluk.org and we'll send you the toll free number and access code.

##

Yellowstone Art Museum Workshops, July 15 & 22, Billings

All children are invited to attend workshops at the Yellowstone Art Museum 10-11:30am on July 15 & 22. Their purpose is to help kids explore their creative abilities and have fun! Participants will be working with paint and should wear clothing that is appropriate. There is no fee to participate, but you must register in advance for both sessions. Space is limited so call the PLUK office soon at 255-0540.

##

Augmentative Communication Seminar, September 23, Billings

Tanya Rose Curtis of Augmentative Communication Solutions will present a half-day seminar on communication devices September 23 at Billings Clinic Room #3 from 3:00-7:00pm. More detailed information will be available later in the summer.

##

Scottish Rite Phonological Awareness Camp, July 12-16, Billings

Children 5 and older are welcome to attend if they are delayed in the area of phonemic awareness or at risk of delay in pre-reading skills.

Scottish Rite Social Language Camp, July 26-30, Billings

Designed for children ages 6-10 who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Asperger's or PDD and demonstrate difficulty with social language.

Register for both camps by calling 259-1680, there is a \$50 fee.

##

U.S. Senate Passes Hate Crimes Legislation – Disability Added to Protected Classes

On June 15, 2004, the Senate approved, by a vote of 65 to 33, the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, which among other things, expands federal hate crime protection to include disability, sexual orientation and gender. The bill was sponsored by Senators Gordon Smith (R-OR), Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and attached as an amendment to the Department of Defense authorization bill.

Current law permits the federal government to assist local and state authorities prosecuting certain types of crimes committed on the basis of the victim's race, religion or ethnic background. The legislation approved by the Senate would broaden it on two counts: allowing federal involvement in many more types of crimes, and adding disability, sexual orientation and gender to the list of covered categories. It also provides for more effective

investigation and prosecution of bias-motivated crimes by removing some of the obstacles to federal prosecution.

Under the amendment, federal technical assistance would also be made available to state and local law enforcement officials for the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes that fall under federal categories, and grants would be given for training in local law enforcement.

Read the complete article at: http://www.ucp.org/ucp_generaldoc.cfm/1/8/28/28-28/5584

##

PARENT GUIDANCE HANDBOOK 2003

This Parent Handbook is provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a tool for all Native American parents of school-aged children as an aid in advocating for their children's education. The overall objective is to increase the quality of education and enhance the academic performance of Native American students. This manual serves as a template for each tribe and state to adapt to their specific needs, concerns, and culture.

<http://sva.echalk.com/www/bia/site/hosting/Early%20Childhood/Parent%20Handbook.pdf>

##

MOVING ON TO HIGH SCHOOL: A TIP SHEET FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN ON INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS

Time spent in school is probably the single greatest feature of a young person's life. So it only makes sense for parents to make sure their sons and daughters get what they need from school. Even though families don't have much influence over how schools structure courses, there are things they can do to make the most of what their schools have to offer. This tip sheet is based on the experiences of students with disabilities in public schools and their families and can be found at Moving On to High School --

<http://www.communityinclusion.org/publications/pub.php?page=to19>

##

Asperger's Syndrome: Guidelines for Treatment and Intervention

Ami Klin, Ph.D., and Fred R. Volkmar, M.D., Yale Child Study Center, New Haven, Connecticut

<http://info.med.yale.edu/chldstdy/autism/astreatments.html>

Asperger syndrome (AS) is a severe developmental disorder characterized by major difficulties in social interaction, and restricted and unusual patterns of interest and behavior. There are many similarities with "autism without mental retardation" (or "Higher Functioning Autism"), and the issue of whether Asperger syndrome and Higher Functioning Autism are different conditions is not yet resolved. Nevertheless, a considerable body of knowledge regarding this condition has been evolving in the past few years. A summary of issues regarding assessment and diagnosis of Asperger Syndrome are discussed in some detail in a related booklet circulated by the Learning Disabilities Association of America, and readers are advised to consult that text prior to reading the following guidelines. The present text is an attempt to summarize a series of concrete proposals for treatment and intervention, with a view to provide parents and care providers with specific suggestions that may be helpful in devising educational and treatment programs for children and adolescents affected by this severe form of social learning disability. Because of space

constraints, these suggestions are by necessity brief. Parents and care providers seeking additional information are referred to the more comprehensive reviews listed in our reference page.

##

OUR CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND Conference Committee Dialogue Preparation

With the IDEA reauthorization moving toward the Conference Committee stages in the legislative process, we thought that we'd remind everyone of the importance of becoming familiar with the actual text of both IDEA "reauthorization" bills: H.R.1350/EAS (as passed by the Senate on May 13, 2004) and H.R.1350/EH (as passed by the House of Representatives on April 30, 2003).

For your convenience, OCLB has downloaded these bills from the Library of Congress and added navigational links. (Please note that after S.1248 passed through the Senate, it was renamed H.R.1350/EAS.)

H.R.1350/EAS (The Senate Version)

<http://members.aol.com/OCLBinfo/108th/HR1350EAS.htm>

H.R.1350/EH (The House Version)

<http://members.aol.com/OCLBinfo/108th/HR1350EH.htm>

We have been told that it is wise for parents to be prepared and know exactly what is most important to us about IDEA '97, what needs to be retained, and why. It is important to note the precise sections that we feel have made (and continue to make) significant positive differences in the school days of our student(s). We all need to be prepared to explain this and describe real life examples whenever we ask our Senators or their staff members to preserve specific sections, language, and terminology found in IDEA '97.

The current law (IDEA '97) may be found at:

<http://www.ideapractices.org/law/downloadLaw.php>

Did you know that NAPAS has recently updated its user-friendly side-by-side-by-side comparison of Parts A and B? OCLB has added bookmarks, for ease of navigation, and uploaded it to: <http://members.aol.com/OCLBinfo/side-by-side-by-side.pdf>

Additionally, NASDSE has updated its side-by-side-by-side comparison of the bills. It is accessible via http://www.nasdse.org/government_relations/ideareauthorization.htm

##

Some parents just say 'whoa' to school-required medications

As parents seek more legal protection, controversy over drugs' impact deepens.

By Kelly Hearn | Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

When Patricia Weathers's son Michael had problems in his first-grade class, a school psychologist told the New York mother he had attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD, and needed to be medicated with stimulants. If not, he would be sent to a special education facility near his Millbrook, N.Y., school.

Confused and intimidated, Ms. Weathers says she consented to put Michael on Ritalin, a commonly used stimulant that doctors prescribe to decrease the symptoms of ADHD - restlessness, disorganization, hyperactivity.

But Michael exhibited negative effects from the drug, such as social withdrawal. Instead of spotting the side effects, Weathers says, school officials again pressured her back to the psychiatrist's office, where Michael's diagnosis was changed to social anxiety disorder and an antidepressant prescribed.

Finally, says Weathers, "I saw that the medicines were making Michael psychotic, so I stopped giving them to him." When she stopped the medicine, the school reported her to state child protective services for child abuse.

Though charges were dropped, the Weathers case has become a symbol of the simmering controversy surrounding attention deficit disorder/ADHD, treatment for it, and the subjective diagnostic tests some critics say has led to an overuse of stimulants in schools.

Though there is no official count of people claiming coercion, (Weathers says some 800 parents have logged complaints of similar coercion on her website www.ablechild.org), child abuse allegations appear to be infrequent, perhaps because states are moving to pass laws that to some degree limit what schools can say or do regarding ADHD and other behavioral disorders.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0614/p12s01-legn.html>

##

PLUK trainings and activities planned for 2004-05

PLUK & associate boards around the state have planned a number of training and activities for this upcoming school year. Mark your calendar if you are interested in participating.

Statewide Interactive Videoconferences

- September 14, 6-8pm, "Parents Working with Schools"
- October 12, 6-8pm, "The Process of Transition"
- November 9, 6-8pm, "Students with Deaf-Blindness"

Other Training/Community Activities

- July 15 & 22, Art Workshops, Billings
- August 14, Softball Tournament, Billings
- September 8, Founders Day Celebration, Billings
- September 22, Legislative Forum, MSU-Billings
- September 28, "Closing the Achievement Gap" with BJ Wise in collaboration with MCASE
- First week of October, Flathead Valley Children's Theater event, Kalispell
- October 14, "Stop the Bullying" with Dr. Marlene Snyder
- October 26, Magical Tymes party, Missoula
- Late February 2005, Sports Festival, Billings
- May 13, 2005, Kids at Heart, Billings

##

Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana::

Assistive Technology - Matching Student Needs to Available Resources, June 21-24, & July 19-22, MSU-Billings

Course No.: SPED 493-400 or SPED 593-400

This workshop introduces IEP Team members to a student centered decision-making process used to identify individual student need for assistive technology. Many IEP teams are unsure how to address the issue of assistive technology in an IEP. Using case studies from their own situation, participants will 1) define assistive technology and IEP requirements 2) identify local and national resources 3) be introduced to the student centered decision-making process 4) match individual student need to appropriate technology 5) identify the different types of non-tech, low tech and high tech solutions 6) learn the difference between assistive technology and instructional technology. Groups of

IEP team members and general educators are encouraged to attend. OPI renewal units are available.

You can register at <http://www.msubillings.edu/outreach>

For information, contact Ms. Terry Lankutis, 406/388-7831 or LankutisT@aol.com.

##

Davis Learning Strategies Introduction and Lab workshop, June 21-22, Kalispell

Elsie Johnson, associate member of Kalispell PLUK board announces a Davis Learning Strategies Introduction and Lab workshop here in Montana saving attendees the cost of traveling to Reading Research Council in California.

Davis Learning Strategies goal is to give K-3 classroom teachers a way to develop accomplished readers with life long skills in 'how to learn'. Core Strategies include Davis Focusing Skills, Symbol Mastery, and Reading Exercises. Would you like to reach all the children regardless of their learning style, manage your classroom more effectively, have methods easy to implement and flexible, meet early intervention reading needs the prevent special ed referrals?

Contact Elsie Johnson of Learning Options at elsie@thelearningoptions.com or 1.800.276.3138 for more information or visit the web site at <http://www.thelearningoptions.com>

##

NAMI-Billings Upcoming Events: Support Group, June 22, Billings

- Tuesday, June 22—Support Group, 7PM @ NAMI-Billings office
- Tuesday, July 6—Support Group, 7PM @ NAMI-Billings office
- Education Meeting, July 20—Cheryl Ikeda (Employee Assistance Program, DBC) will be speaking on stress management.
- Tuesday, July 27—Support Group, 7PM @ NAMI-Billings office
- Prairie Winds Bike Ride Dinner & Silent Auction, August 1—Cactus Creek Steak Outfitters and Saloon, 5:30PM. Please call the NAMI-Billings office at 256-2001 if you are interested in donating items for the silent auction.
- Prairie Winds Bike Ride, August 28—The major fundraiser for NAMI-Billings. We encourage all of you to support and participate in this fun family day. To get involved, please call the NAMI-Billings office (256-2001).

New NAMI-Billings Support Group Meeting in the Heights—Scheduled for 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month, 2225 Main Street #7, from 7PM to 8:30PM—For more info, please call 256-7780.

##

MSDB Summer Skills Program, July 11-17

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB), and the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation will co-sponsor summer programs at MSDB. The programs will target communication, social interaction, independent living skills and use of technology for students between the ages of 9-16 who have blindness or visual impairments. The dates this year are July 11th through the 17th for visually blind or impaired children.

The weeklong programs for both blind students are provided at no cost to the student for room, board and transportation. Transportation to and from the program will be reimbursed at state rates.

For more information call 800-882-6732 or visit <http://www.sdb.state.mt.us>.

##

Scottish Rite Phonological Awareness Camp, July 12-16, Billings

Children 5 and older are welcome to attend if they are delayed in the area of phonemic awareness or at risk of delay in pre-reading skills.

Register by calling 259-1680, there is a \$50 fee.

##

Loving Touch Certified Infant Massage Instructor CIMI Training, July 16-18, Bozeman

Friday, Saturday, Sunday 8:00am - 4:30 pm

Location: Healthworks Institute, Bozeman, MT

The International Loving Touch Foundation, Inc. invites you to further your knowledge and education by becoming a Certified Infant Massage Instructor (CIMI). Participants will be certified to teach parents to massage their newborns and children. This 3-day training is presented through lecture, audiovisuals, discussion, demonstration, and hands-on participation with dolls and through a virtual parent-infant lab.

The CIMI program is specifically designed for Nurses, Massage Therapists, Early Interventionists Specialists, Occupational and physical Therapists, Childbirth Educators, Child Life Specialists, Social Workers and other health care professionals who work with young families.

Register on line at: <http://www.lovingtouch.com>

##

Montana Youth Leadership Forum, July 19-23, Billings

<http://www.msubillings.edu/mtcd/mylf/>

The Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) for Students with Disabilities is a unique career leadership-training program for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors with disabilities. By serving as delegates from their communities at a four-day event on the campus of Montana State University - Billings (July 19-23, 2004), young people with disabilities will cultivate leadership, citizenship and social skills.

##

Scottish Rite Social Language Camp, July 26-30, Billings

Designed for children ages 6-10 who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Asperger's or PDD and demonstrate difficulty with social language.

Register by calling 259-1680, there is a \$50 fee.

##

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Update, July 26, Helena

CF occurs in 1 in 2,500 births in Montana. Advances in medications and treatments have dramatically improved the quality of life as well as increasing life expectancy. Topics will include: genetics, nutrition, physical therapy, and personal stories.

RSVP before June 28th by calling 800-762-9891

When: Monday, July 26

Where: Montana Association of Counties, 2715 Skyway Dr, Helena

Time: 9am - 4pm

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)

Call BJ Archambault at 406/444-0984 for more information

##

Using Digital Photos & Videos to Enhance Learning & to Document Student Progress A Field Study Course, July 26-29, Yellowstone Park

Course No.: EDCI 493-417 or EDCI 593-417

In this course participants will learn to use video and digital photos to enhance learning and as a tool for documenting student progress. Examples of documentation in a variety of settings will be discussed from gifted students, to students with severe learning disabilities and students with severe physical and cognitive challenges. Within the context of Yellowstone National Park, the workshop will simulate a classroom setting to 1) demonstrate the necessity to create lessons which meet the diverse learning styles present in all classrooms 2) give instruction and practice on using digital video and still camera equipment 3) learn new ways to apply this technology as a teaching and learning tool 4) give instruction and practice on importing digital media into a computer 5) create dynamic activities utilizing a variety of educational computer applications which import video and pictures. Groups of educators are encouraged to attend. OPI renewal units are available.

You can register at <http://www.msubillings.edu/outreach>

For information contact Ms. Terry Lankutis at 406/388-7831 or LankutisT@aol.com

##

S'Cool Moves, August 9-11, Miles City

by Debi Heiberger-Wilson, Miles City at MCC

Contact: Helen Murphy 406/485-2321 or email: dmurphy@midrivers.com

##

7th Annual Region 5 CSPD August Institute: August 11-13, Missoula

For more information or to register go to the Region V CSPD Online Registration website at <http://www.cspd.net> or contact Nancy Marks at admin@cspd.net or 728-2400ext 5036 for more information.

##

S'Cool Moves, August 16-18, Billings

by Debi Heiberger-Wilson, SUB Ballroom, MSU-Billings

For more information on the program, visit: <http://www.schoolmoves.com>

To register or download the brochure, visit: <http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/events.htm>

For information, contact Deb Miller at the Montana Center on Disabilities at 406/657-2312 or dmiller@msubillings.edu.

##

AIMSweb Training Seminar, August 19-20, Billings

AIMSweb® is a formative assessment system that 'informs' the teaching and learning process by providing continuous student performance data and reporting improvement to students, parents, teachers, and administrators to enable evidence-based evaluation and data-driven instruction.

Based on over 25 years of scientific research, the AIMSweb system consists of Standard Curriculum-Based Measurement (CBM) testing materials and web-based data management and reporting applications.

Combined, these components provide schools a pro-active and preventative solution for documenting student achievement, identifying students at risk, demonstrating adequate yearly progress, and establishing and ensuring accountability.

Visit

<https://aimsweb.edformation.com/training/TrainWrapper.cfm?inc=TrainList.cfm&step=1> or <http://www.learningclinic.com/seminar.html> for information.

##

Bright Solutions for Dyslexia, August 26, Hardin

Susan Barton will do an all-day presentation in Hardin, Montana. The public is invited, free of charge.

Speaker: Susan Barton, Founder, Bright Solutions for Dyslexia

Date: Thursday, August 26, 2004

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Subject: Dyslexia: Symptoms, Causes and Solutions

Venue: Hardin Middle School Auditorium, 611 W. 5th Street, Hardin, MT

Cost: FREE

Come learn the warning signs of dyslexia, the latest brain research, the genetic link- and how to help students with dyslexia.

Lunch will be provided

Reservations are required by August 18.

To reserve a spot, contact Anna Gregerson at Bright Solutions for Dyslexia.

Phone: 408-559-3652 x8

E-mail: anna@brightsolutions.us.

<http://www.dys-add.com/>

##

Quality of Life Montana Realtor Run, August 28, Billings

TIMES: 8am for 5mile run/8:15am for 2 mile run

FEE: \$15

REGISTER: Billings Association of Realtors Office, 1643 Lewis Ave., Ste. 12
248-7145 (phone), boardoffice@billings.org (email)

PURPOSE: To raise funds to help the YMCA

FOR MORE INFO: Call 248-7145

##

Augmentative Communication Seminar, September 23, Billings

Tanya Rose Curtis of Augmentative Communication Solutions will present a half-day seminar on communication devices September 23 at Billings Clinic Room #3 from 3:00-7:00pm. More detailed information will be available later in the summer.

##

2004 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference, October 21-22, Helena

'Let the Light In: Teach a Child'

Registration information will be coming to MEA-MFT's K-12 local presidents after Labor Day.

For more information, go to: <http://www.mea-mft.org/edconf04.htm>.

##

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

Child, Family and Community Advocacy, June 21-25, Wisconsin



http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/pda/hhi/child_advocacy.htm

The University of Wisconsin offers a unique opportunity this summer to learn how to advocate for children, families, and your communities.

Spend a week on the vibrant and beautiful UW-Madison campus while earning 30 hours of professional continuing education approved by the Association of Social Work Boards for social workers, the National Board of Certified Counselors, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for Equivalency Clock Hours. Learn how to bring about positive change for children and families in your communities back home.

FULL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!! Contact Lynet Uttal at luttal@wisc.edu.

##

Teleconference: "Addressing Discrimination and Stigma Through Mental Health Consumer Contact" June 22

This training is presented by the Resource Center to Address Discrimination and Stigma (ADS Center), a program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services.

Date: Tuesday June 22, 2004

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Cost: Free

Speakers: Patrick Corrigan, PsyD; Carmen Lee; Ramiro Guevara

Objectives: Participants on the call will learn how contact with mental health consumers can help the general public reduce their fear and misperceptions about mental illnesses. The goal is to provide participants with the theory behind this method of reducing discrimination and stigma, as well as practical information about models that they might replicate or become involved in.

Register: <http://www.adscenter.org/regpage.shtml>.

For more information, contact Jennifer Melinn at info@adscenter.org.

##

JUNE 23 - 27, 2004 "DEVELOPING LOCAL SYSTEMS OF CARE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCES AND THEIR FAMILIES: EARLY INTERVENTION" TRAINING INSTITUTE, San Francisco

Sponsored by the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health and held at the Hilton San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. For more information go to <http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/institutes.html>

##

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) in Anaheim, CA, June 25-29, 2004

This biennial event offers attendees five days of unique learning experiences featuring the latest information on hearing loss, education and early intervention models, and hearing technology.

- Discover new ideas and gain skills at more than 100 short courses, concurrent educational sessions, and poster presentations on deafness and spoken language.



- Meet new and old friends at the world's largest gathering of parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing, adults with hearing loss, and education and medical professionals.
- Explore the AG Bell Exhibit Hall and attend product demonstrations with a wide range of industry representatives.
- Join the fun at Special Events such as the Association Banquet, Association Luncheon, Family Dance, and AG Bell Night at Disney.

Attendees who register by March 25 will receive the early registration rate of \$225.00 for members, \$325.00 for nonmembers.

<http://www.agbell.org/>

##

JUNE 27 - JULY 2, 2004 "MY FUTURE, MY LIFE" TRANSITION SUMMER CAMP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, Wisconsin

Sponsored by the U of WI - Whitewater Center for Students with Disabilities. For more information go to http://www.uww.edu/StdRscs/csd/my_future_my_life.php

##

Technology in Education, June 28 – July 1, Colorado

TIE IS COMING...The 18th Annual Colorado Technology In Education (TIE) Conference is scheduled for June 28th - July 1st. Join 1200+ Elementary and Secondary Teachers, Librarians, Information Literacy Specialists, Administrators, and Technologists for 4 days of HANDS-ON training with Windows, Macintosh, Palms, GPS, Digital Cameras and other education technologies. Join 80+ Exhibitors with displays and presentations on the latest hardware and software available for K-12 classrooms. University credit is available through the UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO. Keynote speaker is David Warlick, speaking on "Redefining Literacy for the 21st Century." Registration Forms and Information are available at: <http://www.tie-online.org/2004/>.

##

Disability Law Resource Project (DLRP) at ILRU Webcasts: June 30 – July 28

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

Please join The Disability Law Resource Project (DLRP) at ILRU for a three-part Web cast series on Title I of the ADA.

Part II: Wednesday, June 30, 2004, 2:00 PM Central: Smart Disability--Related Employment Policies - James Passamano, Beth Sufian

Part III: Wednesday, July 28, 2004 2:00 PM Central: Challenging Accommodation Issues: Ask the Job Accommodation Experts - Linda Batiste and other JAN Consultants

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

##

Higher Education and Disability: Leading the Dance, July 13–17, Miami Beach

<http://www.ahead.org/train/conference/2004/index.html>

This conference has scheduled symposia, concurrent sessions, and poster sessions on a wide range of topics including accessible technology, such as:

- Creating Accessible Distance-Learning Websites
- Presenters from: WGBH National Center for Accessible Media & League for Innovation in Community Colleges
- Making Campus Web Pages Accessible: Policy and Administration

- Presenters from: University of Washington DO-IT & Georgia Institute of Technology Print to Electronic Text Conversion and Reading E-text
- Presenters from: University of Montana, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, & University of Michigan
- Technology Access Requirements for Students with Disabilities
- Presenters from: University of Georgia
- Waltzing the Internet: A Review of Online Campus Resources for Disabled Students
- Presenters from: George Mason University

##

People on the Move: Using All Transportation Options, July 15-16, Madison WI

Easter Seals Project Action is again sponsoring this free train-the-trainer initiative to expand community transportation options for passengers with disabilities. This two-day, train the trainer, bus familiarization program is a perfect tool for transit personnel, human service providers, school personnel, individuals who use community transportation, and advocates who support community change. There are a limited number of seats available for three remaining sessions in Madison, WI, Brooklyn, NY, and Charleston, SC. (July 15-16 in Madison, Wis., Oct. 7-8 in Brooklyn, N.Y., and Dec. 2-3 in Charleston, S.C.) For more information as well as to fill out an application, access: <http://www.projectaction.org> and click on the link to "Trainings & Conferences."

##

Enhancing Young Children's Learning Through Objects and the Arts, July 18 – 21, Gallaudet University

Contact: Deborah Krichbaum

deborah.krichbaum@gallaudet.edu

Learn a new twist on tried-and-true methods to enhance learning for hearing impaired, special needs or typical preschoolers. This active-learning workshop uses everyday objects to create a bridge between what children already know and new experiences, using visual arts, creative movement, and children's literature. This hands-on, multi-sensory technique is appropriate for a variety of settings. The four-day workshop includes daily sessions in Washington's famous Smithsonian museums and is offered through a partnership with the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center.

The *Learning Through Objects and the Arts* workshop runs from Sunday afternoon, July 18 through Wednesday, July 21

<http://clast.gallaudet.edu/summer/special/enhancing.html>



Participants will explore objects from community collections as well as from museums.

##

JULY 24 - 27, 2004 "LEARNING, LIVING, LEADING: YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES CONTINUING THE LEGACY" 2004 NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, Washington DC

This conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.nyln.org/appl>

NYLN
National Youth Leadership Network

The national voice for young leaders with disabilities

[y/2004conference.html](#)

##

Closing the Gap, October 21-23, Minneapolis MN

Pre-conference sessions October 19-20

Closing The Gap's Annual Conference has an international reputation as a leading source for information on innovative applications of

computer technology for persons with disabilities. The 2004 Conference builds on a tradition of providing a comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them.



Topics will cover a broad spectrum of technology as it is being applied to all disabilities and age groups in education, rehabilitation, vocation, and independent living. People with disabilities, special educators, rehabilitation professionals, administrators, service/care providers, personnel managers, government officials, and hardware/software developers will share their experiences and insights at what has become known as the most significant networking experience of the year -- the annual Closing The Gap Conference.

<http://www.closingthegap.com/conf/>

##

"Assistive Technology and Accessible Media in Higher Education" November 9 –12, Boulder, CO

<http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference>

The conference is presently seeking proposals and intends addressing:

- The beneficial implementation of Assistive Technology in post-secondary education for individuals with
 - physical, sensory, and learning disabilities;
 - ADA and Section 508 compliance; and
- Accessible university information, web, library, and media resources and services.

"This conference is intended for disability service providers in the post secondary setting, Assistive Technologists, faculty, Web designers and programmers interested in accessibility, special educators, college administrators responsible for legal policy related to disability and accommodation, rehabilitation counselors and persons with disabilities."

<http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference/coverview2004.html>

Kathy Martinez, Deputy Director of the World Institute on Disabilities, will be the keynote speaker. She is internationally recognized for her work with employment, gender and minority disability rights issues. Martinez oversees the National Technical Assistance Center for Latinos with Disabilities, and the NIDDR funded International Disability Exchanges and Studies (IDEAS) for the New Millennium Project.

##

TASH Conference 2004, November 18-20, Reno NV

The TASH conference is one of the largest and most progressive international conferences to focus on model, innovative, and effective strategies for achieving full

inclusion of people with disabilities. This invigorating conference brings together some of the best hearts and minds in the disability movement with several hundred presenters and features over 450 breakout sessions, exhibits, roundtable discussions, poster sessions and much more, jam-packed with info. It provides a forum for individuals with disabilities, families, researchers, administrators, educators, scholars, and others to create dialogue and



action for social and systems reform. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a conference with over 2500 other people from around the world (15 nations last time) which showcases national and local achievement and brings a global perspective to the community on issues of importance in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. For renewing the spirit, lifting the heart, and challenging the mind:

For more information and call for papers: <http://www.tash.org/>

Some of the more than 40 topics at the TASH Conference will focus on the following themes:

- Building Partnerships & Relationships, Communication
- Inclusive Education Across the Lifespan
- Transition, Community Living & Employment
- Diversity, Values, Equality, Advocacy & Ethics
- Quality of Life

##

Fun Events!:

Latch Hooking for Kids, July 9 – August 6, Billings

PLUK is sponsoring a 5-week class for kids of all ages and abilities.

July 9th-Aug. 6th, 2004

Fridays 12:30-2:30PM

You will need to purchase a small latch hook kit to work on.

Call or stop by PLUK to sign up. Hurry! Space is limited and tuition is FREE!

Parent's Let's Unite for Kids, 516 N 32nd St, Billings MT 59101, 255-0540

##

How you can help!:



Birthday Time?

Does your child have a birthday coming up? Are you dreading the decorating, food preparation and cleanup? If so, Contact Bill at Montana Candy Bar & Deli at 294-2327. Montana Candy Bar & Deli offers birthday parties at their store located at 111 South 24th Street West in the Rimrock Mini Mall.

They will do the decorating, provide lunch, ice cream and activities for the kids giving you an opportunity to sit back, relax and enjoy the party for a change. Be sure to take your camera for great photo of all the activities.

AND PLUK will receive a portion of the proceeds!

##

Get your Albertson Community Partners card!



PLUK has joined Albertson's Community Partners Card Program. This program is designed to help non-profit organizations raise funds needed for their programs. A percentage of your grocery total will be donated to PLUK. All that is needed is to show your Community Partners card each time you make a purchase at Albertson's. It does not cost you anything.

If you are interested in assisting PLUK in raising funds this way,

please contact Bernice at 255-0540 to get a Community Partners card.

##

Selected Sources::

1. *Monday Morning in Washington, DC*, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. *Rocky Mountain DBTAC*, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. *Transition Newsflash*, Montana Center on Disabilities, <http://www.msubillings.edu/transition>
4. *PEN Weekly NewsBlast* <http://www.publiceducation.org>
5. *Reference Points: Transition updates from the TATRA Project*, <http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm>
6. *The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar* <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>
7. *Rural Policy Matters*, <http://www.ruraledu.org/rpm/rpm.htm>
8. *Technology for Nonprofits*: <http://www.techsoup.org>

##

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- View an *archive* of all Weekly eNews at <http://www.pluk.org/eNews.htm>

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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