

PLUK eNews May 3-7, 2004  
Vol 2 Num 43

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.



Linda Ewart leading Kids Art Workshop at the Yellowstone Art Museum.

***The end of all education should surely be service to others. We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sake and for our own. --Cesar Chavez***

**Highlights:**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Family in Miles City looking for Video Monitoring System for Lovaas Training .....                            | 3  |
| Signing 'increases deafness rates'.....   | 3  |
| Free Publications from WrightsLaw!.....   | 3  |
| Senate to Vote on IDEA; Call-In Day.....  | 3  |
| <b>Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana: :</b> .....  | 6  |
| ADHD Seminars in Montana by Dr John F Taylor, May 3-8.....  | 6  |
| How to Recognize if Your Child is at Risk, May 5, Billings .....  | 6  |
| PLUK Teleconference on Fragile X, May 11 .....  | 7  |
| Assistive Technology Seminar, May 12, Billings .....  | 8  |
| Parents of Children with Spectrum Disorders Support Group, May 14, Billings.....                              | 8  |
| PLUK Empowerment Series, May 18, Billings.....  | 8  |
| Community Lifespan Respite Training, May 18, Billings.....  | 8  |
| Assistive Technology Seminar, May 19, Kalispell.....  | 9  |
| Native American Traumatic Brain Injury Conference, May 20-21, Billings .....                                  | 9  |
| End of Life Care Conference for persons with Developmental Disabilities, May 21, Great Falls .....            | 9  |
| Section 504 in the Schools – Perry Zirkel, May 21, Polson.....  | 9  |
| Facing Autism, June 7, Miles City .....   | 9  |
| Facing Autism, June 8, Glendive.....  | 9  |
| Facing Autism, June 9, Wolf Point.....  | 9  |
| Reading Literacy/Math Competency: Assessment & Prevention of Learning Disabilities, June 13-15, Billings..... | 10 |
| Transition Institute, June 14-15, Polson .....  | 10 |
| Power Mobility Camp 2004, June 14-18, Great Falls .....   | 10 |
| Montana Behavior Institute, June 14-18, Bozeman .....   | 10 |
| MSDB Summer Skills Program, June 20-26 & July 11-17 .....   | 10 |
| Montana Youth Leadership Forum, July 19-23, Billings .....  | 11 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Davis Learning Strategies Introduction and Lab workshop, June 21-22, Kalispell .  | 11 |
| S'Cool Moves, August 9-11, Miles City.....  | 11 |
| 7th Annual Region 5 CSPD August Institute: August 11-13, Missoula.....  | 12 |
| S'Cool Moves, August 16-18, Billings .....  | 12 |
| AIMSweb Training Seminar, August 19-20, Billings .....  | 12 |
| <b>Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana: :</b> .....  | 12 |
| YAI International Conference on Developmental and Learning Disabilities, May 3-7,<br>New York.....  | 12 |
| Effective Strategies to Access the General Ed Curriculum and Achieve Inclusive<br>Outcomes for Children with Significant Disabilities, May 5-24 .....   | 12 |
| National ADA Symposium, May 11-13, 2004, Kansas City, Missouri.....   | 13 |
| AccessAbilities Conference 2004, May 20, New Jersey .....   | 13 |
| PECS Training, May 20-21, Boise ID .....  | 13 |
| The Power of Art: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities, May 21,<br>Washington DC.....   | 14 |
| BETTER HEARING 2004, May 22, Denver CO.....   | 14 |
| Autism One Conference, May27-30, Chicago IL .....   | 14 |
| Intermountain Special Study Institute, June 7-10, Idaho .....   | 14 |
| COLLABORATIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, June 10-12, Colorado   | 15 |
| Access For All: Building, Funding and Improving Community Transportation, June<br>14-15, Seattle WA .....   | 15 |
| JUNE 20 - 22, 2004 "BYE-BYE BULLIES: UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN IN 2004",<br>Alaska.....  | 15 |
| RESNA 27th Annual Conference, June 18-22, Florida.....  | 16 |
| JUNE 23 - 27, 2004 "DEVELOPING LOCAL SYSTEMS OF CARE FOR CHILDREN AND<br>ADOLESCENTS WITH EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCES AND THEIR FAMILIES: EARLY<br>INTERVENTION" TRAINING INSTITUTE, San Francisco ..... | 16 |
| JUNE 27 - JULY 2, 2004 "MY FUTURE, MY LIFE" TRANSITION SUMMER CAMP FOR<br>HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, Wisconsin.....  | 16 |
| Technology in Education, June 28 – July 1, Colorado.....  | 16 |
| Enhancing Young Children’s Learning Through Objects and the Arts, July 18 – 21,<br>Gallaudet University.....  | 17 |
| JULY 24 - 27, 2004 "LEARNING, LIVING, LEADING: YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES<br>CONTINUING THE LEGACY" 2004 NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE,<br>Washington DC.....                                   | 17 |
| Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) in<br>Anaheim, CA, June 25-29, 2004.....   | 17 |
| Closing the Gap, October 21-23, Minneapolis MN.....   | 18 |
| TASH Conference 2004, November 18-20, Reno NV .....   | 18 |
| <b>Fun Events: :</b> .....  | 18 |
| Art Workshop May 5 in Billings.....   | 18 |
| <b>How you can help!:</b> .....   | 19 |
| Birthday Time? .....  | 19 |
| Get your Albertson Community Partners card!.....  | 19 |
| <b>Selected Sources: :</b> .....  | 19 |
| 1. <i>Monday Morning in Washington, DC</i> , <a href="http://www.inclusionresearch.org">http://www.inclusionresearch.org</a> .....  | 19 |
| 2. <i>Rocky Mountain DBTAC</i> , <a href="http://www.adainformation.org">http://www.adainformation.org</a> .....  | 19 |
| 3. <i>Transition Newsflash</i> , Montana Center on Disabilities,<br><a href="http://www.msubillings.edu/transition">http://www.msubillings.edu/transition</a> .....                                 | 19 |
| 4. <i>PEN Weekly NewsBlast</i> <a href="http://www.publiceducation.org">http://www.publiceducation.org</a> .....  | 19 |
| 5. <i>Reference Points: Transition updates from the TATRA Project</i> ,<br><a href="http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm">http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm</a> .....                            | 19 |

6. *The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar*  
<http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm> ..... 19  
PLUK eNews is published by: ..... 20

##

## ***Family in Miles City looking for Video Monitoring System for Lovaas Training***

If you have a video monitoring system available, please call Jack or Karen Austin at 406/234-7465.

##

## ***Signing 'increases deafness rates'***

*A mutation in one gene causes 50% of inherited deafness*

*Sign language may be behind rising rates of inherited deafness, according to researchers.*

The proportion of people who are born with profound hearing loss has doubled over the past 200 years.

Researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University in the United States have traced the increase back to the introduction of sign language in the early 1800s.

They say the introduction of sign language allowed people who are deaf to communicate with each other more easily.

Read more at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/3665939.stm>

##

## ***Free Publications from WrightsLaw!***

[http://www.wrightslaw.com/links/free\\_pubs.htm](http://www.wrightslaw.com/links/free_pubs.htm)

- Autism & Child Mental Health
- Behavior & Discipline
- Bullying & Harassment
- High Stakes Tests
- IDEA & Special Ed
- IEPs
- LD & Dyslexia
- No Child Left Behind Act
- Reading I Retention & Social Promotion
- Section 504 & ADA
- Teachers
- Zero Tolerance

##

## ***Senate to Vote on IDEA; Call-In Day***

*From: The Special Ed Advocate Newsletter, April 30, 2004*

**O**ur sources in Washington, DC say that Senate Bill 1248 to Reauthorize IDEA may come to the Senate floor for a vote on **Wednesday, May 5, 2004**.

This Alert includes requests for action from two special ed advocacy groups. While different groups have different views on Senate Bill 1248 (see below), most agree that the current IDEA is a good law that is often not enforced. (**Note:** The voting date may change, depending on events)

If you are the parent of a child with a disability, you represent your child's interests. You need to stay informed about changes to the law that will affect your child. If you are a teacher or special education service provider, the reauthorized law will affect you and your job.

---

## **1. May Day! National Call-in Day is Monday, May 3, 2004**

Several groups, including [TASH](#), the [League of SpecialEd Voters](#), and [Our Children Left Behind](#) have organized a national "May Day! Save Our Students" call-in day, Monday, May 3, 2004. The purpose of the national call-in day is to refresh Senators' memories about objections to this bill.

When you call your Senators, tell them that S.1248 will hurt our children by:

- \* removing short-term objectives from IEPs
- \* allowing children with disabilities to be removed from classrooms for non-disruptive, non-dangerous behaviors
- \* restricting the due process rights of families

To get the names and contact information of your Senators, go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or call the Senate switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or 800-839-5276.

Call President Bush 202-456-1111  
Call Senator Frist 202-224-3344  
Call Senator Kerry 202-224-2742

### **Sample Call-In Script**

These groups suggest that you use a script to help you remember what you want to say. First, say your child's name (or the name of the child about whom you are calling) early and often in the conversation. The Senate aide needs to know that she/he is talking to a family member, not an organizational lobbyist or representative.

When you speak to the Senator's office, say that you need to speak with someone about your Senate Bill 1248 concerns (instead of just saying you oppose S. 1248). Your Senators need to know why you oppose S.1248.

If the aide asks about your ideal resolution of the issue, tell her/him that the current IDEA (IDEA 97) should remain in effect but should be enforced. If S. 1248 is introduced, the Senator should vote NO. Before you hang up, ask the aide to call you or send you an email and let you know how your Senator voted.

Please email [spedvoters@optonline.net](mailto:spedvoters@optonline.net) or [parentvolunteer@ourchildrenleftbehind.com](mailto:parentvolunteer@ourchildrenleftbehind.com) and let us know how your conversations went and what responses you received from the Senate aides.

For more information about the May 1 call-in day, visit [www.ourchildrenleftbehind.com](http://www.ourchildrenleftbehind.com) and/or [www.spedvoters.org](http://www.spedvoters.org)/ Please forward this call to action to friends and family.

***Take 5 minutes to help our kids! Call your Senators on Monday, May 1, 2004.***

---

## **2. States Ask to be Relieved of IDEA Compliance Obligations**

The [Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund \(DREDF\)](#) reports that The National Governors Association is lobbying on Capitol Hill, telling members of Congress that IDEA enforcement provisions should be eliminated or watered down.

The Governors' message is that there should be no enforcement until there is full funding. Their policy position states: "if the federal government does not fully fund its 40 percent share of Part B services, states should be relieved from any obligation to meet any new performance measures and implement compliance plans."

Congress passed the special education law (Public Law 94-142) in 1975. After nearly 30 years, the law has never been fully funded. We do not expect this to change in the near future.

However, the failure to fully fund the IDEA should not relieve states and school districts of their responsibility to enforce and comply with the law.

Read the full text of the [National Governors Association policy statement](#) at [http://www.nga.org/nga/legislativeUpdate/1,1169,C\\_POLICY\\_POSITION^D\\_542,00.html](http://www.nga.org/nga/legislativeUpdate/1,1169,C_POLICY_POSITION^D_542,00.html)]

**ACTION NEEDED:** Get the message out to members of Congress that enforcement of IDEA is abysmal and that this lack of enforcement **HURTS OUR KIDS**.

Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) will carry this message. He needs to hear from parents. Please help Senator Kennedy by sending him your stories about how the failure to comply with the law HURT YOUR CHILD. We need to let Senators know that it is an outrage to strip parents of the help they need to advocate for their children.

Write a letter to say that if S. 1248 goes to the floor, THERE MUST BE STRONG MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT OF IDEA BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. Each story should start with "**WHY ENFORCEMENT OF THE IDEA IS NECESSARY.**"

Tell your child's story. If you had to use an attorney, describe how your case evolved, how your concerns were resolved and through what means, and why it is important to keep the attorney fees provisions.

Please email or fax your stories to:  
Sen. Edward M. Kennedy  
Email: [connie\\_garner@labor.senate.gov](mailto:connie_garner@labor.senate.gov)  
Fax: 202-224-2417

Please send a copy of your letter to [preserveIDEA@dredf.org](mailto:preserveIDEA@dredf.org) or fax it to 510-841-8645. You may also want to send copies to the Senators from your state - they are supposed to represent your interests.

To receive "alerts" about IDEA from the [Disabilities Rights group](#), visit <http://www.dredf.org> and complete the online subscription form. You can read earlier Briefings on their [website](#).

---

### 3. Learn More About IDEA Reauthorization

To learn why S. 1248 is a bad IDEA, read [Parents Urge Senate to Vote "No"](#) and [Advocacy Groups Speak Out, Organize](#).

Read [IDEA Talking Points](#).

Visit [Our Children Left Behind](#) for materials you can use when you contact your Senators.

For news, progress reports, and other important information about the IDEA Reauthorization, please go to the [IDEA Reauthorization News Page](#).

To learn more about the issues, including reports, surveys and recommendations about how the law may be changed, please visit the [IDEA Resources page](#).

The [National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. \(NAPAS\)](#) published a side-by-side comparison of H.R.1350, S.1248, and IDEA '97. You can download this publication from their homepage or [click to download the side-by-side comparison in PDF](#) (**Note:** This is a large file so be patient when you download)

##

### ***Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana:***

#### **ADHD Seminars in Montana by Dr John F Taylor, May 3-8**

*For details visit: <http://www.add-plus.com>*

May 3 Billings MT ADHD for 2004: The Forward Edge 800-847-1233 Best Western Ponderosa Inn -

I-90 business loop, 2511 1st Ave N (406-259-5511)

May 4 Bozeman MT ADHD for 2004: The Forward Edge 800-847-1233 Comfort Inn - 1370 N 7th Ave

(406-587-2322)

May 5 Butte MT \*FREE 7-9:00 pm - AD/HD Parent Survival Guide 406-723-4061 ext 214 Business Development Ctr - 305 W Mercury St, Call or e-mail Todd Hoar sbddc@bigskyhsd.com

May 6 Butte MT ADHD for 2004: The Forward Edge 800-847-1233 Red Lion Hotel - I-90/I-15 exit 127-B, 2100 Cornell Ave (406-494-7800)

May 7 Helena MT ADHD for 2004: The Forward Edge 800-847-1233 Elkhorn Mountain Inn - I-15 exit 187, 1 Jackson Creek

May 8 Missoula MT ADHD for 2004: The Forward Edge 800-847-1233 Thunderbird Motel - I-90 exit 105 (Van Buren St), 1009 E Broadway (406-543-7251)

##

#### **How to recognize if Your Child is at Risk, May 5, Billings**

Dr Foster Cline, co-founder of "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent" will present on "How to Recognize if Your Child is at Risk" on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-9:30pm at the Billings Holiday Inn, Missouri Room. Cost is \$50 with dinner. To register, contact Tumbleweed at 406/259-2558.

##

## **PLUK Teleconference on Fragile X, May 11**

<http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm>

*Topic:* Fragile X: the World's Leading Genetic Cause of Mental Impairment

*WHEN:* Tuesday, May 11 2004: , 6:00-8:00pm MST

*Speakers:*

Gloria Novak, Ed.S., Department of Genetics, Emory University School of Medicine

Mary DeBernardis, MS, Rd, parent of daughter with Fragile X and founder of Fragile X Resource of Montana

*Session Description:*

What is Fragile X syndrome? Fragile X syndrome is the most common inherited cause of mental impairment, affecting approximately 1 in 3,600 males and 1 in 4,000 to 6,000 females with the full mutation worldwide. It is estimated that 1 in 250 females and 1 in 700 males are carriers of the premutation. It is second only to Down Syndrome as a cause of mental retardation. Both males and females may be affected by a wide variety of symptoms. Fragile X syndrome appears in children of all ethnic, racial and socio-economic backgrounds.

Learn how one gene and lack of FMR1 protein can lead to the following symptoms:

- mental impairment, ranging from learning disabilities to mental retardation
- attention deficit and hyperactivity
- anxiety and unstable mood
- autistic-like behaviors
- long face, large ears, flat feet, and
- hyperextensible joints, especially fingers
- Seizures (epilepsy) affect about 25% of people with fragile X

Boys are typically more severely affected than girls. While most boys have mental retardation, only one-third to one-half of girls have significant intellectual impairment; the rest have either normal IQ or learning disabilities. Emotional and behavioral problems are common in both sexes. About 20% of boys with fragile X meet full criteria for autism. Most boys and some girls have some symptoms of autism, but many tend to be very social and interested in other people.

This is a MUST for anyone working with children/adults including all health professionals, teachers, adult/child care providers. Fragile X is severely underdiagnosed. Those attending will learn the characteristics in order to defer patients/students for diagnosis.

Please register as soon as you can!!!

To sign-up online go to <http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm>, or call the PLUK office at 800-222-7585 or 255-0540.

Current sites for May session:

(We will book sites by request if there are 3 or more registrants.)

- Billings: Granite Tower, 222 N 32nd St Ste 300, 690-2518
- MSU Bozeman: Room 127 EPS Building, South 7th & Grant, 994-6553
- Browning: Blackfoot Community College US-2 & US-89, 338-5441
- Great Falls: VisionNet Classroom, 1211 NW Bypass, 727-5994
- Helena: Hustad Center, 1084 Helena Ave, 727-5994
- Kalispell: Byte Savvy, 309 S Main, 257-5050
- Missoula: Blackfoot Telephone Co-op, 1221 N Russell, 721-2121
- Miles City: (streaming site), Holy Rosary Health Center, Community Room #1, 951-1357

##

### **Assistive Technology Seminar, May 12, Billings**

Visit <http://www.pluk.org/ATconf.htm> for details.

This full-day seminar offers a unique opportunity to gain valuable information on the topic of assistive technology. The two morning sessions will cover the basic information of technology and the law and how to make technology decisions. The afternoon sessions will cover specific strategies, devices, resources and what may be expected in the future.

##

### **Parents of Children with Spectrum Disorders Support Group, May 14, Billings**

Autism, Asperger Syndrome, & AD/HD.

Where: 934 Bench Blvd

Call Jaime & Nicholas Moran at 256-8007 if able to attend.

##

### **PLUK Empowerment Series, May 18, Billings**

May 18, 2004, 6-8:00pm: CP panel. A wide variety of Adults with Cerebral Palsy will speak regarding their experiences and what resources have assisted them as they transitioned into adulthood.

All sessions are two hours long and go from 6 to 8pm. If there is a subject that is of high interest to anyone, we can offer teleconferencing in different areas of the state upon request. Anyone is welcome to attend. However, registration for each session is required—to register please email [bthurston@pluk.org](mailto:bthurston@pluk.org), or call the PLUK office.

##

### **Community Lifespan Respite Training, May 18, Billings**

Community Lifespan Respite is a collaborative inter-agency program administered through STEP to provide respite (short, temporary care) to children and adults with disabilities, healthcare concerns, special needs and to those at risk of abuse and neglect.

The primary purpose of respite is to provide relief from demands of ongoing care, thereby reducing stress, preventing abuse and neglect and enhancing family preservation and support.

The goal of CLR is to ensure all families have access to some form of respite service. CLR does not provide the respite itself or employ providers, but is a point of contact and resource for families in need.

CLR has three major components:

- Information, referral and education for families
- Provider recruitment, screening and monthly trainings
- Financial assistance information and other resources available

CLR provides trainings that are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from Noon — 1pm, at the STEP office at 1501 14h St. West, Suite 210. For those attending the trainings we provide a light lunch. We try to offer a wide variety of topics for the trainings. The trainings are free and all we ask is that you RSVP so we are prepared with the correct number of materials and right amount of food. The upcoming trainings that are scheduled are:

- May 18, 2004 — Sue Bailey from YCCOA on Aging Sensitivity
- June 15, 2004— Nancy Meyers from STEP on Safety and Universal Precautions

For further information please contact, Tami Haan, Lifespan Respite Coordinator at 248-2055.

##

### **Assistive Technology Seminar, May 19, Kalispell**

Visit <http://www.pluk.org/ATconf.htm> for details.

This full-day seminar offers a unique opportunity to gain valuable information on the topic of assistive technology. The two morning sessions will cover the basic information of technology and the law and how to make technology decisions. The afternoon sessions will cover specific strategies, devices, resources and what may be expected in the future.

##

### **Native American Traumatic Brain Injury Conference, May 20-21, Billings**

Third Annual Native American Traumatic Brain Injury Conference at MSU-Billings Student Union Ballroom 8:30 - 5:00. This year we are pleased to have keynote speakers LT. Betty Hastings, MSW, Indian Health Service EMSC Coordinator, U.S. Public Health Service, Rockville, MD, and Clayton Small, Ph.D., an enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and current director of PHS Indian Health Service Northern Cheyenne Service Unit. More information and online registration are available at: <http://www.msubillings.edu/mtcd/events.htm>

##

### **End of Life Care Conference for persons with Developmental Disabilities, May 21, Great Falls**

Angela King, MSW will be presenting. She is Program Director for "Volunteers of America" and speaks nationally on "End of Life Care". The manual, "End of Life Care, A guide for supporting people with intellectual disabilities and their families", will be supplied and utilized at the conference. There will also have presentations on using alternative care such as music and art therapy with the DD population in end of life care.

The Conference is being held on Friday, May 21 at the Benefis Healthcare East Campus (Dufresne Room) in Great Falls.

Cost is \$50/person and registration begins at 7:30 am and the conference will end approximately 4:00pm.

Space is limited to 75 participants, so please contact Jeanne Dussault or Kelly Keilman at Peace Hospice of Montana in Great Falls. Phone: 406-455-3040 Address: 1101 26th St. South, Great Falls MT 59405.

##

### **Section 504 in the Schools – Perry Zirkel, May 21, Polson**

Perry Zirkel will present step by step strategies and guidelines for schools in the implementation of 504 procedures including developing legally sound forms and standards for eligibility, evaluation, parental rights and actual "504" plans.

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](mailto:admin@cspd.net) or 728-2400ext 5036 for more information.

##

### **Facing Autism, June 7, Miles City Facing Autism, June 8, Glendive Facing Autism, June 9, Wolf Point**

by Lynne Hamilton

Contact : Helen Murphy at 406/485-2321 or email: [dmurphy@middrivers.com](mailto:dmurphy@middrivers.com)

##

**Reading Literacy/Math Competency: Assessment & Prevention of Learning Disabilities, June 13-15, Billings**

<http://www.pluk.org/masp04.pdf>

The Montana Association of School Psychologists' Summer Institute 2004 will be held at the Mansfield Health Education Center in Billings on June 13-15, 2004. Download the brochure at the link above for information on the presenters, agenda, credit, and registration.

##

**Transition Institute, June 14-15, Polson**

This two day conference is designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for providing information about services and partnerships in the areas of housing, employment, and education to assist at-risk students who are transitioning from high school.

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](mailto:admin@cspd.net) or 728-2400ext 5036 for more information.

##

**Power Mobility Camp 2004, June 14-18, Great Falls**

Power Mobility Camp 2004 - Will take place in Great Falls, MT from June 14-18, 2004. This camp provides an opportunity for individuals of any age to try power mobility. Interested persons can contact Mary O'Connell, PT at 1-800-732-0323 or 406-243-5688. Sponsored by the Montana Adaptive Equipment Program.

##

**Montana Behavior Institute, June 14-18, Bozeman**

Contact: <http://www.montana.edu/cs/mbi>

##

**MSDB Summer Skills Program, June 20-26 & 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 9-14 (7 and 8 year olds will be considered on a case-by-case basis for the deaf camp only) who have hearing impairments or deafness, and the ages of 9-16 who have blindness or visual impairments. The dates this year are June 20th through the 26th for deaf or hearing impaired students and July 11th through the 17th for visually blind or impaired children.

The week-long programs for both deaf and 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>.

##

## **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.

##

## **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.

Day One provides K-3 teachers with unique and innovative strategies for effective reading instruction, classroom management, and equips students with life long skills in "how to learn". Instruction includes [1]theory and reasoning for each Strategy [2]video demonstrations of each Strategy in a classroom setting [3]Q&A session on each Strategy [4]Classroom implementation suggestions

Day Two provides supervised experiential practice on each Strategy. Attendees will work in pairs or small groups to practice each skill, followed by a Q&A session on each Strategy. NOTE: Students may delay attending this second day to a future date when this workshop or the lab is offered alone. Included in the workshop [1]detailed manual with suggested yearlong guides, black-line masters, and numerous tips for each Strategy and various curriculum activities. [2]video tape demonstrating each classroom Strategy [3]Teacher Kit briefcase which includes all the materials needed to start and proceed with confidence working with 1-2 students: alphabet strip, letter recognition, cars, clay, clay cutter, 2 Koosh balls, dictionary (Additional materials recommended for working with 3 or more students). - [4]Verification of attendance letters [5]post workshop email consultation with a DLS Mentor [5]deli lunch on each day [6]continental breakfast. The cost for both days is \$570. Day One Only: \$385. Day Two Only (prior attendance of Day One required): \$285. Group Discounts: 5% for 2-5 persons, 10% for 6-10 persons, 15% for 11 or more.

This approach serves learners who are predominantly visual/spatial/kinesthetic learners and has the added benefit of pointing out the positives of this learning style. I integrate it into my practice, so now its time to provide this opportunity for classroom teachers to have these tools available in the classroom.

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](mailto:elsie@thelearningoptions.com) or 1.800.276.3138 for more information or visit the web site at <http://www.thelearningoptions.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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://aimswedformation.com/training/TrainWrapper.cfm?inc=TrainList.cfm&step=1> for information.

##

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

### **YAI International Conference on Developmental and Learning Disabilities, May 3-7, New York**

For information, call 212/273-6193 or email [awittenberg@yai.org](mailto:awittenberg@yai.org). Beginning in March, information will be online at <http://www.yai.org/pid.cfm>.

##

### **Effective Strategies to Access the General Ed Curriculum and Achieve Inclusive Outcomes for Children with Significant Disabilities, May 5-24**

- Alternatives to Over-Reliance on Paraprofessionals - Wednesday, May 5th
- Six and ½ Lessons for Inclusive Educational Outcomes - Wednesday, May 12th
- Beyond Access: Students with Autism Learning General Ed Curriculum -Tuesday, May 18th
- The Least Dangerous Assumption in Practice - Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>
- Communication Supports within General Education Classrooms, Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

Visit <http://www.tash.org/teleconferences/index.htm> for registration and pricing.

##

### **National ADA Symposium, May 11-13, 2004, Kansas City, Missouri**



Featuring Dateline NBC correspondent, John Hockenberry as Keynote speaker.

The National ADA Symposium, hosted by the 10 Regional ADA & IT Technical Assistance Centers, has earned the reputation as the premier training event available on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related disability issues. Hockenberry received an Emmy for his Dateline reporting and is the author of *Moving Violations: War Zones, Wheelchairs and Declarations of Independence*, that describes his experiences as a wheelchair user and foreign news correspondent in the Middle East.

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

##

### **AccessAbilities Conference 2004, May 20, New Jersey**



William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ

The Departments of Special Education and Counseling, Communication Disorders, and Continuing Education are proud to host the AccessAbilities Conference 2004 at William Paterson University.

The focus of this conference is how to effectively implement augmentative communication and assistive technology in an educational setting. This conference is geared toward educating teachers, therapists, child study teams, vocational rehab counselors, school administrators, parents, and consumers about successful strategies and devices that can be used to improve the academic and social well-being of students with disabilities.

<http://www.accessabilitiesconference2004.com>

##

### **PECS Training, May 20-21, Boise ID**



Boise, Idaho, May 20 & 21, 2004: Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)

2-Day Workshop, Presented by Donna Banzhof, M.Ed. & Christine Cavarretta, BCBA

\$375 professional tuition

\$235 parent tuition

Includes 2nd Edition PECS Manual and handout packet for note taking  
Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc., the developer of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), is sponsoring a dynamic talk that focuses on enhancing the education and communication skills for individuals with autism and other related disabilities. Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc. is proud to announce the arrival of:

- The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) 2-Day Workshop

We are confident that special educators, administrators, speech language pathologists, parents and anyone who works with individuals with autism and other disabilities will leave our workshop with fresh ideas and practical new strategies to enhance their students' communication and learning environments.

As a special offer, mention Sarah Moore on your registration form and receive a \$30.00 discount off the two-day workshop.

For registration information, visit us online at <http://www.pecs.com> or call 888-732-7462. For general information, contact Sarah Moore at [smoore@pecs.com](mailto:smoore@pecs.com) or call 302-368-2515.

##

### **The Power of Art: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities, May 21, Washington DC**

*May 21, The Lab School in Washington DC*

This one-day workshop is for art teachers. The program will present ways art can be used to teach academic skills to students with learning disabilities.

For more information: 202/965-6600, [DAwamleh@aol.com](mailto:DAwamleh@aol.com), <http://www.LabSchool.org>.

##

### **BETTER HEARING 2004, May 22, Denver CO**

BETTER HEARING COLORADO 2004...Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc., (SHHH) is hosting the Better Hearing Colorado 2004 Conference on May 22, 2004 at the Doubletree Hotel, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This conference will include equipment exhibits and speakers on a wide range of topics of interest to people with hearing loss, their families, and professionals in the hearing healthcare field. The organizing committee, Sharon Campbell, Robert Knox and Debbie Mohny, invites interested volunteers to help with the many tasks to be done to make this conference a success, and to attend the conference. Any companies, organizations or individuals who might be interested in contributing financially or items for a silent auction are very welcome! Please contact Sharon Campbell at 42 Tulane Street, Pueblo, CO 81005, 719-561-0648, [SLCCOM@hotmail.com](mailto:SLCCOM@hotmail.com) for more information, to volunteer, or with suggestions for the conference. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at this first annual conference. Check out the SHHH website at <http://www.betterhearingco.org>.

##

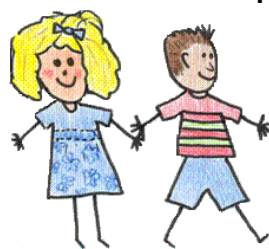


### **Autism One Conference, May 27-30, Chicago IL**

Autism One 2004, the most comprehensive conference on autism ever assembled, will be held May 27 - 30, 2004, in Chicago. It is a conference for parents and professionals discussing the care, treatment, and recovery of children with autism. For more information please visit our web site at <http://AutismOne.org>.

##

### **Intermountain Special Study Institute, June 7-10, Idaho**



Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, will hold its Intermountain Special Study Institute on Deafness, June 7-10, in Pocatello, Idaho. This institute is an excellent opportunity for teaching and related services personnel to share knowledge, as well as to learn effective teaching strategies from recognized professionals in the field of deafness. The Office of Public Instruction will again be providing a limited number of stipends to pay for the registration fees of teachers of the deaf, regular education teachers and speech-language pathologists who are providing services to students who are deaf or hearing impaired in the public schools in Montana. Renewal units, as well as ASHA CEUs will be available to participants. Personnel who wish to apply for a stipend should contact Marilyn Pearson at [mpearson@state.mt.us](mailto:mpearson@state.mt.us).

Go to <http://www.isu.edu/issi> for more information on the institute.

##

### **COLLABORATIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, June 10-12, Colorado**

COLLABORATIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE... of the Rockies will be held June 10 –12, 2004 in Westminster, Colorado. Assistive Technology Partners, at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the Colorado Department of Education SWAAAC teams are proud to announce the upcoming merger of their conferences. The new venue, the Collaborative Assistive Technology Conference of the Rockies, will be the largest assistive technology conference in the Rocky Mountain Region. With over 50 sessions geared toward every age and disability, there is something for everybody! For more information, contact Maureen or Sherri at ATP/SWAAAC, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 200, Denver, CO 80218, 303-315-1280, TTY 303-837-8964.

##

### **Access For All: Building, Funding and Improving Community Transportation, June 14-15, Seattle WA**



*June 14-15, 2004 - Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA*  
The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) and the University of New Hampshire Institute on

Disability are sponsoring Access For All. This two-day conference, which will focus on building, funding and improving community transportation, will provide information on what you can do to further expand transportation services in your community. Special emphasis will be placed on expanding transportation options for persons with disabilities.

This conference is being held in conjunction with the annual Community Transportation Association EXPO, June 13-18. For more information on the EXPO, access: <http://www.ctaa.org/expo/>. During the Access For All conference:

- Share ways to develop federal, state and local investment to increase accessible transportation services.
- Hear from colleagues who have developed models for community-based transportation planning.
- Learn ways to elevate the issue of transportation on a broad range of community agendas.
- Further hone your leadership skills for building effective transportation partnerships.
- Take home resources that will support you in expanding transportation in your community.

For registration, agenda and available scholarships, visit: <http://www.ctaa.org/expo/2004/accessforall.asp>.

##



### **JUNE 20 - 22, 2004 "BYE-BYE BULLIES: UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN IN 2004", Alaska**

This anti-bullying conference will be held at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts in Anchorage AK. For more information and to get on the conference mailing list please call or e-mail John Hoover (320-308-4091)

(jhhoover@stcloudstate.edu). Please include surface and electronic mailing addresses.

##

**RESNA 27th Annual Conference, June 18-22, Florida**

Join us at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando, Florida to attend RESNA's 27th International Conference on Technology & Disability: Research, Design, Practice & Policy, the premier conference for people interested in technology and disability.



For more information, go to <http://www.resna.org/Conference/2004Conference/Conference2004.php>

##

**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>

##

**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](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/>.

##

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

Contact: Deborah Krichbaum

[deborah.krichbaum@gallaudet.edu](mailto: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>

##

## 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/apply/2004conference.html>

**NYLN**  
National Youth Leadership Network

The national voice for young leaders with disabilities

##

## 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/>

##



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



## **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/>

##



## **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::**



### **Art Workshop May 5 in Billings**

Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK) is sponsoring an Art Workshop on May 5th for young people at the Yellowstone Art Museum. The workshop is being co-sponsored by PLUK and the Yellowstone Art Museum in an effort to introduce the world of art to children and teens. It's not necessary that participants have any

previous experience, but those with experience are invited to attend too. It is necessary that parents call PLUK's Office and pre-register their child to attend, as space is limited and there are a fixed number of slots for participants. The workshop is open for children from age 6 through the teen years. It should be great fun and an interesting and artistic experience! The workshop begins at 3:30pm and lasts until 5. Participants should wear casual clothing. To register or for more information, call PLUK's Office at 255-0540. It is necessary to be registered to attend the session.

##

## 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 111South 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 Albertsons' 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 Albertsons. 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>

##

## **PLUK eNews is published by:**

Parent's, Let's Unite for Kids – PLUK  
516 N 32nd St  
Billings MT 59101-6003  
800-222-7585; 406-255-0540; 406-255-0523 (fax)  
[plukinfo@pluk.org](mailto:plukinfo@pluk.org)  
<http://www.pluk.org>

*Edited by:* Roger Holt [rholt@pluk.org](mailto:rholt@pluk.org)

*Proofed & condensed by:* Elisabeth Mills [scribe@pluk.org](mailto:scribe@pluk.org)

Feel free to *reprint* and pass on to others.

To be *removed*, just send a message to [plukinfo@pluk.org](mailto:plukinfo@pluk.org) with "remove" as the subject.

To be *added* to the list, send a message to [plukinfo@pluk.org](mailto:plukinfo@pluk.org) with your name/address/telephone and email address.

If you have activities, events, trainings, news or information you would like to *share*, send it to [plukinfo@pluk.org](mailto:plukinfo@pluk.org).

- Please be aware that some links provided are *time sensitive*. Contact us if you have difficulty accessing any of the information.
- View an *archive* of all Weekly eNews at <http://www.pluk.org/eNews.htm>

*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/>.

*Privacy Policy:* We do not sell, rent, or lend the e-mail addresses of our subscribers.