

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.

"I have learned silence from the talkative, tolerance from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet strangely, I am ungrateful to these teachers." —Kahlil Gibran (Lebanese born American philosophical essayist, novelist and poet, 1883-1931)

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Volunteers Needed for PLUK Tutoring Program in Billings



Great volunteer opportunity! Looks good on a resume! Tutors needed for summer and school year program to work with children with special needs.

Tutoring requires a commitment for one day a week, one hour per day. Accepting volunteer applications for High School age and older. If interested contact PLUK (Parents Let's Unite for Kids) at 255-0540.

Impact of Childhood Disability on the family, June 10-11, Billings



In a long-awaited conference opportunity, parents and caregivers are invited to join national presenter and author, psychologist Ken Moses, PhD, for a two-day conference exploring childhood disability and its impact on families and caregivers. The conference—sponsored by St. Vincent's Healthcare (and in cooperation with Billings Public Schools,

STEP, and ECI)—will be held at the Mansfield Health Education Center. CEUs are available and free childcare will be offered during the Saturday session. Space is limited please register early. Call Health Access, St. Vincent Healthcare, at 406-657-8792 to register.

Cost: \$50-\$100. A limited number of scholarships, courtesy of the Children's Clinic, are available to parents of children with special needs. Financially strapped, need to attend, and can't swing full registration? Call Health Access, St. Vincent Healthcare, at 406-657-8792 and ask about the "\$10 dollar option."

Petro Theater Screening "Charlie's Lake" Features Billings Native, May 26, Billings

(From Ian Elliot, MSU-Billings)

Mayfair Films, in collaboration with the Montana Center on Disabilities at MSU-Billings is proud to announce the screening of "Charlie's Lake" the story of Jon Whitmer and his family, long time residents of Billings, MT. The 45-minute film reveals Jon Whitmer's perspective on his life as a survivor of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and the various issues and events that come up in a typical year. The screening will also provide an opportunity for audience members to dialog with individuals directly involved with the making of this documentary.

When: 7:00 PM Thursday May 26th—Doors open 6:30 PM

Where: Petro Theater, MSU-Billings campus

Seating is on a first come, first serve basis. The facility is accessible and admission is free.

A reception, arranged by Sue Dow of STEP, will follow in the Fireplace Lounge, located on the ground floor of the adjoining Student Union Building. Petro Theatre is located on the lower level of Petro Hall on the MSU-Billings campus (building #4 on the MSU-Billings campus map located at <http://www.msubillings.edu/campus/maintour.htm>).

For further information please call Ian Elliot at the Montana Center on Disabilities - MSU-Billings at: 406-657-2172 or toll free at 1-888-866-3822

Disability News Show Syndicated on Global Talk Radio

(PRWEB) May 18, 2005 -- "Disability News & Views Radio Show", hosted by Monica Moshenko, is now in syndication on the Global Talk Radio network www.GlobalTalkRadio.com. Her mission is to build bridges between people with disabilities and people without, breaking down mental and physical barriers, while realizing the unique gifts and talents that every human being has.

Join host Monica Moshenko and her distinguished guests each week for their news, views and insights that are truly making a difference in so many lives! You can listen to several recent shows, email the host, and increase your awareness by going to <http://www.GlobalTalkRadio.com/shows/disabilitynews> anytime, 24 hours per day.

Global Talk Radio was launched in late 2004, and has quickly become a dominant force in the Internet talk radio industry available 24 hours per day on-demand.

Moshenko is really excited about being a part of Global Talk Radio's regular line-up. With over 56 million people in the country with a disability, I wanted to fill a void in talk radio today and provide an opportunity for people with disabilities to be heard and understood. DisAbility News & Views motto is "Our TALK makes a difference!"

For more information about sponsoring the radio show, or about Monica, visit the website www.disabilitynewsradio.com.

US NEWS - Some Simple, Cheap Blood Tests Could Save Thousands of Kids' Lives Every Year

(Courtesy of US News)

Rare But Deadly: Some simple, cheap blood tests could save thousands of kids' lives every year

5/30/05, By Susan Brink

Two cousins, two babies, two states. The six years between the birth of Toni Cline's daughter and Sharon Allen's son made all the difference between tragedy and joy. Kasie Cline died in Richmond, Va., in 1991 of a rare disorder called medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, or MCAD.

Joshua Allen, born in 1997 in Wilson, N.C., with the same disorder, is today a healthy, energetic 7-year-old. What happened after Kasie's death and before Joshua's birth was the development of technology called tandem mass spectrometry, capable of screening newborn infants for MCAD as well as a variety of other rare disorders. With screening, physicians and metabolic nutritionists can develop treatment plans, often as simple as dietary changes, to save lives.

But even today, which side of a state border an infant is born on can make a life-or-death difference. Some states screen for as few as six disorders, while others screen for more than 50. That may change soon, as Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt acts in the next few weeks on the recommendations of the American College of Medical Genetics' newborn screening expert group. The panel recommended that all 50 states screen for 29 rare disorders. All are treatable if discovered early, and none is obvious to pediatricians in the hospital nursery. Together, they affect no more than 5,000 of the 4 million infants born in the United States annually.

Read the entire article at <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/health/articles/050530/30child.htm?track=rss>.

UCLA Study Tackles Aging Issues of Adults with Developmental Disabilities

(From Eureka Alert)

Some 4.5 million Americans have a developmental disability. As people live longer, adults with developmental disabilities are no exception, yet their conditions also bring aging-related challenges. A new study by UCLA and Casa Colina Centers for Rehabilitation reports that a geriatric evaluation and follow-up visits by a nurse practitioner can detect and reduce health problems in this population that often go unaddressed by the healthcare system.

Published in the June edition of the *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, the research suggests that a health screening by a nurse practitioner and follow-up home visits can significantly lower the number of health risks experienced by a person growing older with a developmental disability.

Read the article at: http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2005-05/uoc--ust052005.php

Edward J. Kame'enui Named Department's First Commissioner for Special Education Research

(From U.S. Dept. of Education)

Edward J. Kame'enui, an international authority on learning problems and special education, has been named the nation's first commissioner for special education research. He will lead the National Center for Special Education Research, a newly established office within the Institute of Education Sciences (IES)—the research, evaluation and statistical arm of the U.S. Department of Education. The center was established by Congress in the 2004 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

"We are so pleased to have someone with Ed Kame'enui's background and considerable skills fill this key position," said Grover "Russ" Whitehurst, IES director. "In establishing this center, Congress charged us with sponsoring research to expand knowledge and understanding of students with disabilities in order to improve their education results, and Ed is uniquely qualified to lead that effort."

Read the complete press release at <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/05/05182005.html>.

CBC Radio - Early Diagnosis of Autism, May 14, 2005

(Courtesy of CBC/Radio-Canada)

For parents of children with autism, having another child can mean years of nervous hand wringing. Siblings of children with autism have a much higher risk of having the disorder. In most cases autism is not diagnosed until a child is around three, so all parents can do is wait and see if the fate of their second child will be the same as that of their first. But now, **Dr. Wendy Roberts** and her colleagues have identified a range of very consistent risk markers that can identify children with autism as early as age one. This means parents can find out much sooner, and the child can start therapy sooner -- and earlier intervention often means better results. Dr. Roberts is a developmental paediatrician and the director of the Autism Research Unit at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Listen to or download the program, Early Diagnosis of Autism, from <http://www.cbc.ca/quirks/archives/04-05/may14.html#2>.

Information and Publications Available from the University of South Dakota Center for Disabilities

(Courtesy of USD)



To accomplish its mission, the Center for Disabilities conducts diverse yet integrated activities through academic training, community service, information dissemination, and research/evaluation, all reflecting state-of-the-art knowledge and experiences in the area of disabilities.

The four core focus areas are:

- **Academic Training** (<http://www.usd.edu/cd/core/training.cfm>) The Center for Disabilities provides interdisciplinary preservice preparation of graduate students and fellows. Emphasis is placed on the interdisciplinary preparation of leadership personnel. Traineeships are tailored to the student with site-specific training opportunities available.
- **Community Services**
 - **Community Education** (<http://www.usd.edu/cd/core/commed.cfm>) The Center for Disabilities provides community and outreach training that allows access to training in a variety of disability areas through conferences, workshops and seminars. Programs offered vary depending on current training needs of practicing professionals.
 - **Technical Assistance**—The Center for Disabilities provides technical assistance on a wide range of disability issues to consumers, families, agencies, and professionals in the health and education fields.
 - **Services and Supports**—The Center for Disabilities provides diagnostic services and supports through a variety of programs and through contractual agreements with various agencies.
- **Information Dissemination** (<http://www.usd.edu/cd/core/infodiss.cfm>) The Center for Disabilities provides South Dakota and the Northern Plains region easy access to current disability information. In January of 1998, the Center for Disabilities became a partner in the Wegner Health Science Information Center (Wegner Center). The Center for Disabilities collection was incorporated into the Wegner Center collection. This partnership allows Center for Disabilities consumers to have access to the Wegner Center collection as well as the Center for Disabilities collection.
- **Research and Evaluation** (<http://www.usd.edu/cd/core/research.cfm>) The Center for Disabilities staff and graduate students conduct research on a wide range of topics.
- **Disability Services at The University of South Dakota** (<http://www.usd.edu/ds>) The Center for Disabilities is responsible for the administration of Disability Services at The University of South Dakota. Disability Services ensures that students, faculty and staff at The U who have disabilities receive the accommodations to which they are entitled.

Access specific publications, information, and other resources at <http://www.usd.edu/cd/>.

Transition Resources from the Waisman Center at UW-Madison

(From The Waisman Center)

The Waisman Center is an internationally renowned center dedicated to research and programs that benefit people with developmental disabilities and their families. The Center is one of only nine centers in the nation that houses both a Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities Research Center (designated by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development) and a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Research, Education and Service (designated by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities).

Transition to Adult Healthcare http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/hrtw/Adult_Teen.pdf

This training guide is intended to serve as a framework for anyone interested in helping young people with special health care needs and their parents prepare for the transition to adult health care. The Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines a child with special health care needs.

Transition Stories <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/hrtw/Transitionstories.pdf>

The road to adulthood is rarely smooth, even for young people who have had the best possible preparation. When a young person has a significant disability, that journey can be even more challenging. Work experiences can be harder to come by and require more support. A young person may have to learn how to manage medications and talk to doctors along with learning how to cook and balance a checkbook. Inadequate transportation and long county waiting lists further complicate the ability to live and work in the community.

Needs Assessment Research Questionnaire for Teachers & Parents of children with genetic disorders

(Courtesy of UCLA)

The UCLA Behavioral-Genetics Clinic and the UCLA Lili Claire Family Resource Center is conducting a needs assessment of teachers and parents of children with specific genetic disorders (Prader-Willi, Williams, Down, or Fragile-X Syndromes). We are seeking your participation in answering our research questionnaire about your child's educational strengths and limitations, behavior concerns, and the degree to which your child's school program is tailored to his or her specific needs. The questionnaire should take no more than 30-40 minutes to complete.

For more information or to participate in the study, please contact:

Rebecca Cox, PhD
Technical Support Coordinator
Room 58-218E
760 Westwood Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90024

Or call 310-794-9516 (Lili Claire Family Resource Center), or contact us by email at GENESTUDY@mednet.ucla.edu
Principal investigator—Bhavik Shah, MD, UCLA Dept. of Pyschiatry, UCLA IRB #G03-01-073-02

Consumer Driven Services Directory

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

Directory of Consumer-Driven Services (CDS), a project of the National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse. The CDS Directory offers essential information on consumer-driven programs across the country, and provides links to education, training and technical assistance resources.

MedlinePlus: Kids given home remedies don't get shots

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_24390.html

Researchers from the University of Alberta, the University of Toronto, McMaster University and the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine studied the charts of 482 children at a naturopathic clinic. They found that 35 percent of the children had already been treated with alternative therap...

Secretary establishing Medicaid Commission

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/mc/default.asp>

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services is establishing a Medicaid Commission under Public Law 92-263, Federal Advisory Committee Act, to advise the Secretary on ways to modernize the Medicaid program so that it can provide high-quality health care to its beneficiaries in a f...

Helping Stressed Moms-To-Be Stay Healthy - Yahoo! News

http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/hsn/20050521/hl_hsn/helpingstressedmomstobestayhealthy

FRIDAY, May 20 (HealthDay News) -- Women facing a slew of unhealthy events or behaviors during pregnancy -- such as depression, domestic violence and smoking -- can benefit most when specialists tackle all of these troubles simultaneously, and when these "psycho-behavioral" interventions continue...

U.S. Surgeon General Offers Toddler Health Tips - Yahoo! News

http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/hsn/20050522/hl_hsn/ussurgeongeneralofferstoddlerhealthtips

SATURDAY, May 21 (HealthDay News) -- The health and welfare of children are in the spotlight this year at the office of the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Richard H. Carmona. His team has released a dozen tips to help American parents keep toddlers safe and healthy this summer and throughout their lives.

Birth Factors Associated With Risk For Autism

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/05/050521155202.htm>

Prenatal environmental factors and parental mental health may be associated with a risk of autism, according to an analysis conducted by researchers at the Aarhus University in Denmark, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

IDEA Regulations on Fast Track, Expected in June – Wrightslaw

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/idea/news/05/0518.regs.interview.htm>

On May 18, 2005, Troy Justesen, Acting Director of the Office of Special Education Programs, was interviewed by Rachel Kosoy of the Disability Law Resource Project. During this interview, Dr. Justesen said he expects the proposed regulations for Part B of IDEA to be published during the first or ...

Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits Journal (ATOB)

<http://www.atia.org/atob/ATOBV1N1/index.htm>

ATIA announces the first edition of the Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits Journal (ATOB). ATIA in partnership with the Illinois State University, SEAT Center has produced this journal to further promote the outcomes and benefits of Assistive Technology. The ATOB Journal is free for downl...

More sleep, less TV fends off child obesity

<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=8560461&src=rss/healthNews>

Scientists have drawn up a check-list of early warning signs of child obesity, among them too much television and not enough sleep.

A Guide to Traveling with Overactive Bladder in the United States.

<http://www.cbc.ca/story/science/national/2005/05/20/loo050520.html?ref=rss>

CBC News:Where to Stop and Where to Go: A Guide to Traveling with Overactive Bladder in the United States.

USD - Center for Disabilities - Publications - Nick: A Story About A Boy

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/publications/nick.cfm>

Nick: A Story About a Boy introduces Nick to his classmates. It explains the things Nick has in common with his classmates and also that Nick has Autism. The text is easy to read and every page includes a picture which can be colored.

USD - Center for Disabilities - Publications - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Handbook

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/publications/fashandbook.cfm>

The Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Handbook is produced by the Center for Disabilities, Department of Pediatrics, The University of South Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences.

USD - Center for Disabilities - Publications-Developmental Disabilities Handbook

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/publications/ddhandbook.cfm>

The Developmental Disabilities Handbook is designed only as an informational resource. When describing a condition we have tried to include the characteristics that occur most often.

USD - Center for Disabilities - Publications - Autism Handbook

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/publications/autismhandbook.cfm>

The Autism Handbook is produced by the Center for Disabilities Autism and Related Disorders Program, Department of Pediatrics, The University of South Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. The Autism Handbook is made possible in part by a grant from the South Dakota Council on Developmenta...

The Dictionary for Parents of Children with Disabilities

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/publications/dictionary.cfm>

The Dictionary for Parents of Children with Disabilities contains terminology used in the fields of testing/evaluation, early intervention, special education, medical services, therapeutic services, family supports, vocational training, independent living and guardianship.

Birth to three training, October 5, Sioux Falls SD

Early Brain Development, Relationships with Families & Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/b3training/homepage.cfm>

This workshop will be presented by Christopher Watson, M.S., M.A. and Lillian Duran, M.A. from the Center for Early Education and Development at the University of Minnesota.

USD - Center for Disabilities – Summer & Fall Autism Trainings

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/autismtrainings/homepage.cfm>

The Autism and Related Disorders Program at the Center for Disabilities provides trainings on a wide variety of topics throughout the year. This page will serve to provide information on all upcoming trainings offered in the area of Autism, Asperger Syndrome, and other Pervasive Developmental Dis...

RespiteMatch.com

<https://www.respitematch.com/about.php?PHPSESSID=46ab5af8b5089001397afdbf8dfd24a3>

RespiteMatch.com was born from the need to find a comprehensive source on the Internet for caregivers, nurses, LPN, CNA, mid-wives, physical therapists, occupational therapists, elder care, and other healthcare professionals to work in the home setting. RespiteMatch has search capabilities unpara...

Free download: Single Switch Performance Test

<http://www.aac institute.org/Resources/ProductsandServices/SSPT/intro.html>

Many people with disabilities use single switches to control various items of assistive technology. Overall performance of an assistive technology system is determined by many factors, including how well the individual can activate the switch. The choice and positioning of switches is most effect...

Angelman Syndrome Foundation: 2005 Conference, June 29 – July 2, Anaheim

<http://www.angelman.org/angel/index.php?id=106>

The 2005 ASF National Conference will be held June 29 - July 2, in Anaheim California at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove.

AAC Institute Home Page

<http://www.aac institute.org>

The AAC Institute is a not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to the most effective communication for people who rely on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).

ISAAC - International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication

<http://www.isaac-online.org/en/home.html>

ISAAC promotes the best possible communication for people with complex communication needs. Its 14 Chapters and members in more than 50 countries around the world share a vision of a world in which everyone can communicate.

The Importance of Developing and Investing in Online Course Materials That Enrich the Classroom Experience for Special-Needs St...

<http://www.thejournal.com/magazine/vault/A5352.cfm>

In early 2002, I participated in a training institute for online methodology that provided several practical techniques for teaching online, including how to select and place content, as well as how to facilitate online discussions and assessm

Youth with Disabilities: The State of Transition Webcast 4-27-05 archive available

<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/employ/webcast-youthed.htm>

The transition from school to the adult world of work is difficult, especially for youth with disabilities. Many find there is little coordination of services and supports to help them find and retain jobs as they move from school into the workplace.

It's time to change how we view a child's growth.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly/>

Do you know all the ways you should measure your child's growth? We naturally think of height and weight, but from birth to 5 years, your child should reach milestones in how he plays, learns, speaks and acts. A delay in any of these areas could b...

The Choice of Life: aftermath of a son's suicide attempt

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/16/AR2005051601145.html>

Aftermath of a Son's Suicide Attempt, a Family Wonders What Went Wrong -- and How the Warning Signs Escaped Notice

Common Mistakes Young Adults Make with Money and How to Avoid Them

<http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnspr05/cvrstry.html>

Everybody makes mistakes with their money. The important thing is to keep them to a minimum. And one of the best ways to accomplish that is to learn from the mistakes of others. Here is our list of the top mistakes young people (and even many not-so-young people) make with their money, and what y...

Wrightslaw - Schaffer v. Weast: SPED Due Process Hearings

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/news/05/schaffer.weast.htm>

On February 22, 2005, the U. S. Supreme Court agreed to resolve a split among circuits on whether parents or school districts bear the burden of proof in special education due process hearings.

AG Bell Awards \$330,000 in Cochlear Implant Fellowships

http://www.agbell.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?p=CI_Awards

The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) has awarded \$15,000 fellowships to 22 cochlear implant centers to train professionals in the field of cochlear implants and auditory rehabilitation. The fellowships, made possible by grants from the Advanced Bionics ...

Pediatrician Outreach Phone Conference Lectures

http://www.agbell.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?p=Pediatrician_Outreach

Pediatrician Outreach Phone Conference Lectures: Preview Regarding Pediatric Hearing Loss and Technology.

Video Games May Help Stroke Victims

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/12/AR2005051201066.htm>

DALLAS -- When stroke victims played virtual reality games in which they imagined they were diving with sharks or snowboarding down a narrow slope, their ability to walk eventually improved, researchers reported in a small study.

Language Cues Provide 'Glue' For Visual Learning In Children

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/05/050518103540.htm>

Language cues can provide the "glue" that helps fasten certain visual patterns into small children's memories, according to results to be presented by a Johns Hopkins University graduate student at the 17th annual meeting of the American Psychological Society, held May 26-29 in Los Angeles.

Teen's Ability To Multi-task Develops Late In Adolescence

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/05/050518104401.htm>

Parents of teenagers frustrated by their children's inability to focus on more than one thing at a time can take hope: a new study from researchers at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis finds behavioral evidence that the part of the brain responsible for the ability to multi-task continue...

Medical robots start work at London hospital - Yahoo! News

http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/health_robots_dc

Science-fiction moved a step closer to reality Wednesday when robots nicknamed "Sister Mary" and "Doctor Robbie" started work at a London hospital.

Teens with eating disorders visit diet websites

<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=8545583&src=rss/healthNews>

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Four out of 10 teenagers with eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia visit pro-eating disorder web sites devoted to helping people lose weight and hide the disorder from friends and family, according to new study findings.

NPR: 'Against Depression' Urges Ending a Disease

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4655051&sourceCode=RSS>

Peter D. Kramer's new book is *Against Depression*. In it, the author of *Listening to Prozac* puts forth an understanding of depression as a modern scourge. Kramer argues that depression should be considered a disease -- and treated as such. Kramer is a clinical professor of psychiatry at Brown Uni...

Spelling makes a comeback

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0517/p12s02-legn.html>

After decades of neglect, the teaching of spelling is receiving new emphasis and scrutiny.

Speech Kids Texas Press, publisher of Illustrated Children's books on communication needs

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

Speech Kids Texas Press, Inc. started in 2005 because of the growing need for reader friendly, educational resource books written for young children about children with communication needs.

The Reading Matrix database – to support students with reading disabilities

<http://www.nationaltechcenter.org/matrix/default.asp>

The Reading Matrix is a searchable database that presents evidence and products for the use of technologies that support the instruction of reading for students with reading disabilities.

Evergreen Spina Bifida Association serves Montana

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

Evergreen Spina Bifida Association promotes well being, education, and socialization of all people affected by Spina Bifida and fosters public awareness of this birth defect. ESBA serves the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska.

Nonverbal Learning Disorders on the web

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

Nonverbal Learning Disorder (NLD), also called Nonverbal Learning Disabilities, is a developmental disability which all too often goes undiagnosed. Individuals with this potentially debilitating disorder generally suffer in silence. They are often bright, sometimes incredibly so. As young children they may actually be targeted as gifted, due to their mature vocabulary, rote memory skills, and apparent reading ability.

Delta Society - Health Benefits of Animals, Therapy Animals, and Service Dogs

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

Delta Society program descriptions and reference information related to human-animal interactions. Delta Society, a non-profit organization, improves human health through service and therapy animals.

WOLF PACKS-- Dog Backpacks and Supplies for Working Dogs

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

Wolf Packs is a manufacturer of dog equipment. We specialize in dog backpacks and related items for adventurous dogs.

Assistance Dogs International

<http://www.adionline.org>

Assistance Dogs International, Inc. is a coalition of members representing organizations and individuals training and placing Assistance Dogs. The purpose of ADI is to improve the areas of training, placement, and utilization of Assistance Dogs. Members of ADI meet annually to share ideas, attend.

Assistance Dog Institute

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

The only college offering AS and MS degrees in dog studies - Assistance Dog Education and Human-Canine Life Sciences; and certificate courses in Service Dog Training and Assistance Dog Client Training.

NCWD-Youth & Employment Homepage

<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/index.html>

NCWD/Youth is your source for information about employment and youth with disabilities.

Kids as Self-Advocates

<http://www.fvkasa.org/index.asp>

KASA is a national, grassroots network of youth with special needs and our friends, speaking on behalf of ourselves.

Adolescent Health Transition Project

<http://depts.washington.edu/healthtr/index.html>

As adolescents become adults, they must assume responsibility for their health care. Assuming responsibility for one's own health care, as developmentally able, is part of growing up, becoming independent from one's family, and finding a place in the adult community.

John Williams' Column: People with Disabilities Put Cell Phones to Good Use

<http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=1430&nodeID=1&FeatureID=1514&redirected=1&CFID=3018654&CFTOKEN=41307938>

Cell phones have become one of the major ways we communicate with people in our everyday lives. Cell phones have become so ubiquitous, that often it seems as though we can not escape from them. However, for people with disabilities, wireless and digital technologies are becoming more and more use.

AccessIT: electronic and information technology resources

<http://www.washington.edu/accessit/index.php>

AccessIT promotes the use of electronic and information technology (E&IT) for students and employees with disabilities in educational institutions at all academic levels. This Web site features the AccessIT Knowledge Base, a searchable, growing database of questions and answers regarding accessible E&IT. It is designed for educators, policy makers, librarians, technical support staff, and students and employees with disabilities and their advocates.

Setting sites on Section 508

http://www.gcn.com/23_31/buyers_guide/27674-1.html

Software tools and a little forethought can make sure your Web pages work for every user.

Pre-K expulsions: A sign teachers need more help

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0518/p12s01-legn.html>

A new study shows expulsion rates for state-funded preschools is three times higher than for K-12 public schools.

SAT Essay Scores Are In, but Will They Be Used- - New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/15/education/15SAT.html?ex=1273809600&en=9e7760206b61af00&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

Three months after the SAT test with a new handwritten essay debuted, many universities are still grappling with how, when and even whether they will use the new scores.

Research Finds a High Rate of Expulsions in Preschool - New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/17/education/17expel.html?ex=1273982400&en=467adf8aef6a7e77&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

Typical 3-year-olds just out of diapers are plenty old enough to be expelled, the first national study of expulsion rates in prekindergarten programs has found.

Testing, testing: New Writing section of SAT

http://www.salon.com/mwt/feature/2005/05/17/sat/index_np.html

Critics of the new writing section of the SAT say that the only thing the test measures is a student's aptitude for B.S.

Scanning Pens in Special Education

<http://www.ldresources.org/?p=1113>

I came to the conclusion that there were a number of determining factors which made the vocabulary scanning pen a good to very poor choice for students with a variety of decoding and language based problems.

Drug's Effect on Cancer Stuns Doctors - Yahoo! News

http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20050518/ap_on_he_me/cancer_surprise

No one could have been more surprised than the doctors themselves. They were just hoping to relieve the symptoms of a deadly blood disorder — and ended up treating the disease itself. In nearly half of the people who took the experimental drug, the cancer became undetectable.

Antidepressants Can Affect Newborns - Yahoo! News

http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20050518/ap_on_he_me/antidepressants_newborns

Women who take Prozac or certain other antidepressants late in pregnancy raise the risk that their babies will suffer jitteriness, irritability and serious respiratory problems during their first couple of weeks, researchers say.

Ramapo for Children Summer Camp Overview

<http://www.ramapoforchildren.org/html/scoverview>

Ramapo for Children, founded in 1922, is a nationally recognized, non-profit residential program which annually serves over 1,700 special needs and at-risk children from early childhood through adolescence.

Events/Conferences in Montana::

Petro Theater Screening "Charlie's Lake" Features Billings Native, May 26, Billings

(From Ian Elliot, MSU-Billings)

Mayfair Films, in collaboration with the Montana Center on Disabilities at MSU-Billings is proud to announce the screening of "Charlie's Lake" the story of Jon Whitmer and his family, long time residents of Billings, MT. The 45-minute film reveals Jon Whitmer's perspective on his life as a survivor of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and the various issues and events that come up in a typical year. The screening will also provide an opportunity for audience members to dialog with individuals directly involved with the making of this documentary.

When: 7:00 PM Thursday May 26th—Doors open 6:30 PM

Where: Petro Theater, MSU-Billings campus

Seating is on a first come, first serve basis. The facility is accessible and admission is free.

A reception, arranged by Sue Dow of STEP, will follow in the Fireplace Lounge, located on the ground floor of the adjoining Student Union Building. Petro Theatre is located on the lower level of Petro Hall on the MSU-Billings campus (building #4 on the MSU-Billings campus map located at <http://www.msubitings.edu/campus/maintour.htm>).

For further information please call Ian Elliot at the Montana Center on Disabilities - MSU-Billings at: 406-657-2172 or toll free at 1-888-866-3822


Ronald McDononald Care Mobile Schedule, Mon.—Thurs. MAY 16-31, Billings

What is the Care Mobile? The Care Mobile is a pediatric clinic on wheels that delivers free medical and dental care to uninsured children in the region.

Who are potential Care Mobile patients? Children who have no health insurance are a priority, but service is not limited to those children. The Care Mobile is designed to see children ages 1-18 and children who have CHIPS or Medicaid as their primary insurance.

Where will the Care Mobile go? The Care Mobile will visit sites in and around Yellowstone County. It will go where the children are – to schools, neighborhoods and communities.

The schedule is subject to change. Please call to verify the time and location of your appointment.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
16	17	18	19
Hygienist, PM Med 120 Poly Med 3pm-7pm	Hygienist, AM Med Atonement	Dentist, PM Med Garfield	Hygienist, AM Med St. Pius
8:30-12:00 1:00 -4:00	8:30-12:00 1:00 -2:00	8:30-12:00 1:00 -4:00	8:30-12:00 1:00 -4:00
23	24	25	26
Hygienist & Med 120 Poly Med 3pm-7pm	Hygienist & Med Headstart	Dentist & Med No Dentist	Hygienist & Med Day off
8:30-12:00 1:00 -4:00	8:30-12:00 1:00 -2:00	1:00 -4:00	
30	31		
Hygienist & med Day off	Hygienist only Riverside 8:30-12:00 1:00 -2:00		

For more information, call the Care Coordinator at 406.238.6766. For appointments, call 406.238.6008.

Financial Planning for Families Teleconference, June 2, Missoula, Butte

Date: June 2, 2005, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Missoula, Ruby's Convention Center

Teleconference site: Butte

Presenters: Nancy Gibson, Chris Siegler, & parent panel

Information/Registration: <http://www.pluk.org/training/Financial.htm>

LDA OF MONTANA ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, June 4, Billings

(From LDA of Montana)

We are reorganizing the Learning Disabilities Association of Montana! After years of service to this organization, Rosie Wathen has asked to step down from her position of leadership. Barbra Lefler has asked for help with arrangements for an organizational meeting of people in Montana interested in re-activating LDA of Montana. Ms. Lefler will arrive in Billings from the national headquarters in Pittsburg to help us organize.

The meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the Mansfield Health Educational Center. Lunch will be provided. We will be electing new leadership and developing strategies for the kind of organization that we want in Montana. Everyone is welcome. New board members and officers are expected to stay and attend the entire meeting.

Help shape the future of your LDA! Your input is welcome, spread the word and join us!

For more information, contact Mark Taylor, LDA of Montana, at (406) 259-3110, or mark@learningclinic.com.

Region 3 CSPD: REWARDS Decoding Program, June 6, Billings

Presented by Gail Adams

Many students falter in reading at the middle school level because they have not learned strategies to use in decoding longer words. This lack of advanced decoding ability affects fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary achievement. This session will teach participants to use REWARDS, a multisyllabic decoding program that has been well documented as an effective remedial strategy for students in grades 4-12.

Register online at <http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister>.

Two-Day Picture Exchange Communication System Training Workshop, June 6 & 7, Great Falls

Presented by Christine Cavarretta, BCBA & Michela Figini-Myers, BCABA, Holiday Inn- Great Falls, 1.3 ASHA CEUs

For registration information, visit us online at <http://www.pecs.com> or call toll free 888-732-7462. For general information, contact Judy Barrett at jbarrett@pecs.com or call 302-368-2515. If you are interested in sending 5 or more people, please contact us regarding group discounts.

2nd Annual Montana Institute on Educational Technology, June 6-10, Great Falls

This event combines topical seminars on classroom technologies, best practices, applications and more.

An Administrator / Counselor track has been added this year. Four (4) short workshops will be offered on Tuesday, June 7 covering topics such as online learning, dual enrollment, gender equity and more. Please see insert for more information and how to register.

Credit and CEU's: All workshops are eligible for the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Renewal Units. 2 Graduate Credits are available, but require that participants enroll in all five days of the institute as well as an additional assignment. Participants wishing to receive college credit will be required to pay tuition/fee costs.

Location: Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology

Registration: \$75 per day or \$200 for full institute; fee includes lunch and course materials. RITE Project Partners and Central Montana Tech Prep Consortium Members will receive registration fee waivers.

For more information or to register, visit <http://outreach.msugf.edu/MIET/>.

BraveHearts Grief Support Group, June 7, Billings

BraveHearts is a grief support group for children, teens, and families. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the Mayflower Congregational Church. Every meeting includes refreshments, fun activities, and story time. Registration is required for this free program. Please call Amy at 247-3300 for more information and to register.

Meeting Schedule:

June 7 Memories (A Year to Remember)

June 21 Memory Box (Be sure to bring keepsakes . . . photos, cards, music, etc. to put in the box.)

Input Sought from Healthcare Providers and Client Advocates at PASSPORT Summits, June 8, Kalispell



As the PASSPORT to Health program enters its twelfth year of successfully managing the delivery of health care to Montana's Medicaid clients, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is planning summits to determine if the current operation of the PASSPORT to Health program is the most effective way to meet its objectives.

The Department stresses that attendees should look at the program in a truly comprehensive way; therefore, no idea is off the table for consideration. "Change to the PASSPORT program, whether slight or radical, may be in order," said Mary Angela Collins, Managed Care Bureau Chief. "These summits will provide a forum for providers to identify parts of the program they feel are ineffective or outdated. All we ask is that ideas fit within our goals for managed care."

PASSPORT to Health's objectives include fostering a medical home between providers and clients, which promotes appropriate care and reduces costs, as well as assuring adequate access to primary care.

One-day facilitated summits are planned for locations across the state:

- o **Kalispell** on June 8, Kalispell Regional Medical Center
- o **Missoula** on June 15, St. Patrick's Hospital

A cross-section of PASSPORT stakeholders are invited, including: PASSPORT providers, specialists, and other non-PCPs, representatives from billing companies, hospitals, FQHCs, RHCs, the tribal health community, and client advocates.

Implemented in 1993, the PASSPORT program has been successful in saving over \$20,000,000 annually. These savings allow the program to provide services to people who may not have otherwise received them, and help maintain provider reimbursement rates. In addition to meeting its financial objectives, the PASSPORT program has been well received by 80% of its PCPs and clients.

If you have ideas to offer, and would like to participate in one of the summits, contact PASSPORT Program Officer Niki Scoffield at (406) 444-4148 or niscoffield@mt.gov. For a copy of the agenda and more details, visit Montana Medicaid's website at www.mtmedicaid.org.

Impact of Childhood Disability: Understanding the Parents' Journey from Grief to Growth, June 10-11, Billings



In a long-awaited conference opportunity, parents and caregivers are invited to join national presenter and author, psychologist Ken Moses, PhD, for a two-day conference exploring childhood disability and its impact on families and caregivers. The conference—sponsored by St. Vincent's Healthcare (and in cooperation with Billings Public Schools,

STEP, and ECI)—will be held at the Mansfield Health Education Center. CEUs are available and free childcare will be offered during the Saturday session. Space is limited please register early. Call Health Access, St. Vincent Healthcare, at 406-657-8792 to register.

Cost: \$50-\$100. A limited number of scholarships, courtesy of the Children's Clinic, are available to parents of children with special needs. Financially strapped, need to attend, and can't swing full registration? Call Health Access, St. Vincent Healthcare, at 406-657-8792 and ask about the "\$10 dollar option."

Family Learning Weekend for the Visually Impaired, Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, June 10-12, 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.

The Power of Early Childhood Relationships in Shaping a Lifetime of Health and Resilience, June 11, Kalispell

(Courtesy of The Nurturing Center)

Dr. Bruce Perry (Senior Fellow, Child Trauma Academy and longtime clinician, teacher and researcher) will present "The Power of Early Childhood Relationships in Shaping a Lifetime of Health and Resilience" at the West Coast Hotel in Kalispell. This workshop is recommended for medical professionals, social service and educational professionals, child care professionals, foster parents, family members and other interested individuals.

Dr. Perry will:

- Provide an overview of the key principles of neurodevelopment crucial for understanding the role of experience in defining functional and physical organization of the brain
- Describe emerging clinical and research findings concerning maltreated children that suggest the negative impact of abuse, neglect, and trauma on brain development.
- Outline the clinical implications of a neurodevelopmental approach to child maltreatment.

Registration rates vary (\$40, \$75). CEUs are available. For more information and a registration form, please contact The Nurturing Center at (406) 756-1414, Toll Free 1-800-204-0644, or email info@nurturingcenter.org. Registration forms are due by June 1st.

MASP Summer Institute, June 12-14, Billings

Jack M. Fletcher, PhD (professor, Dept. of Pediatrics at University of Texas Health Sciences Center-Houston, Assoc. Director Center for Academic and Reading Skills (CARS)), will present "Neuropsychology of Developmental Disorders." Explore the origins of brain dysfunction, review the behavior systems model, discover the current concepts behind the behavior-brain relationship, and investigate learning disabilities identification, intervention, and research.

The Institute will be held from Sunday June 12 through Tuesday June 14, 2005, at the Mansfield Health Education Center in Billings. CEUs are available. Fees vary (\$110-\$145)

Download the MASP SI Brochure at http://www.pluk.org/MASP_SumInst_2005.pdf.

Walk F.A.R. for NAAR Autism Walk, June 12, Great Falls

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.

Great Falls Walk (<http://www.autismwalk.org/greatfalls>)

Help spread the word about the Montana Walk F.A.R. for NAAR event. Download the event flyer at http://www.autismwalk.org/site/DocServer/Great_Falls_Walk_Flyer_FINAL.pdf?docID=705. Want to build a Walk F.A.R. team, check out http://www.autismwalk.org/site/PageServer?pagename=fundraising_tips.

Find out more about the Walk F.A.R. for NAAR Events at <http://www.autismwalk.org/site/PageServer?pagename=homepage>.

Interested? Want to Learn More?

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

Scott R. Moore--Pacific Northwest Regional Director

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

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

Power Mobility Camp, June 13-17, Billings

Located at MSU-Billings campus, the purpose of the camp is to allow any individual an opportunity to try power mobility. Several sessions are encouraged for evaluation. For more information, please call Mary O'Connell, PT, ATP at 1-800-732-0323 or 406-243-5688. People of all ages, with any disability, are welcome.

Special Education in Montana Teleconference, June 16, Missoula

Date: June 16, 2005, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Billings, Mansfield Center

Teleconference sites: (none at this time)

Presenter: Kathy Manley Coburn

Information/registration: <http://www.pluk.org/training/SPEDlaw.htm>

REGION 1 CSPD Reading Institute, July 25-28, Glendive

Region I CSPD Reading Institute (8:00 - 5:00) July 25-28, Dawson Community College
OPI Renewal Units Available

Graduate Credits (15 hours, \$100 ea. 2 credits max.) from MSU-Billings

July 25 - "Read Naturally" Esther Eustice, 8 AM-5 PM

July 26 - "REWARDS" Judy Bushman, 8-11:30 AM—12:30-2:30 PM, "Phonics for Reading" Helen Murphy, 2:30-5:00 PM

July 27 - "Beginning Early Literacy and Language" Lucy Hart Paulson, 8 AM-5 PM

July 28 - "DIBELS" Janell Pickart, 8 AM-5PM

Registration Costs: \$25/day, \$100 for all 4 days. Contact Helen Murphy for registration information at dmurphy@midrivers.com. Registration Deadline: July 11, 2005

Region 3 CSPD: Discipline and the Difficult Child, August 16, Billings

Presented by Gene Bedley

In this session, you will discover the importance of how you define your children. You will learn proven strategies for working with young children who are angry, difficult, or challenging. Highly practical solutions and strategies will be shared to help your students develop more responsibility and self-discipline at a young age. Ideas will also be shared for discussing difficult behavior with the child's parents.

You'll learn how to:

- Apply specific strategies that will help your difficult children make better choices
- Strengthen your young children's responsible and cooperative behavior within your program
- Organize your classrooms around the seven core ethical values that promote respect and responsibility
- Develop classroom management strategies to meet the fifteen needs of your difficult young children
- Help your preschool through second grade students accept responsibility for their choices
- Increase the work ethic in your young students
- Utilize music to strengthen student character in your classroom
- Help your troubled students achieve daily success in your classroom
- Encourage the development of problem solving strategies
- Intervene and calm down the angry young child

Register online at <http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister>.

Online Training/Workshops/Events::

Online Notetaker Training

Online training of student notetakers is now available - it's comprehensive, interactive and free!

- Three modules take about 90 minutes to complete.
- Learn effective notetaking strategies!
- Complete the training at your convenience.
- Receive a printed certificate of completion.

Notetaker Coordinator's handbook suggests selection criteria, policies, and practices for using student notetakers effectively.

Collaborative effort of Camden County College, NETAC Central Office and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology.

Go to <http://www.netac.rit.edu/onlinenotetakertraining.html>.

Events/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

Autism One Conference, May 26-29, 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.

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.

Registration rates: \$99-\$295. Register online at <https://www.exporeg.com/autismone/>. Questions or registration concerns, email Registration@AutismOne.org. For more information, visit <http://autismone.org/homepage.cfm>.

IDEA Public Meetings, June 6, San Antonio

John H. Hager, assistant secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), U.S. Department of Education, is pleased to share with you the schedule of a series of public meetings to be held during calendar year 2005 to receive comments on the proposed rules to implement programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

Schedule:

- Monday, June 6, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

- San Antonio, TX
- Friday, June 17, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Nashville, TN
- Wednesday, June 22, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Sacramento, CA
- Friday, June 24, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Las Vegas, NV
- Monday, June 27, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
New York, NY
- Wednesday, June 29, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Chicago, IL
- Tuesday, July 12, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Washington, DC

People on the Move Sessions, June 8-9, Salt Lake City UT

The People On The Move program consists of two days of instruction for travel trainers, teachers, job coaches, bus operators, transportation coordinators, independent living specialists and others who assist people with disabilities in their use of public and private transportation so that they can go to school, jobs and other community destinations.

- **Next Session is June 8-9, 2005: Salt Lake City, Utah (Register by May 27)**

If you miss the May 27th deadline for Salt Lake City (June 8-9), there are other dates and cities; each is followed by the application deadline:

- September 7-8, 2005: Boston, Mass. (Aug. 3)
- November 14-15, 2005: New Orleans, La. (Oct. 3)

The Collaborative Assistive Technology Conference of the Rockies, June 9-11, Westminster CO

Attendees will learn about local and national perspectives on state-of-the-art assistive technology devices and services. Don't miss the largest assistive technology conference in the Rocky Mountain Region, with attendance estimated at over 600. With over 70 sessions geared toward every age and disability, there is something for everybody! Presenters are among the most respected in their fields. The goal of the conference is to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through the appropriate selection and use of assistive technology. Anyone with an interest in assistive technology devices and services is welcome. Breakout sessions will focus on funding issues and legislation, education, employment, hands-on assistive technology training and the design and development of low-tech adaptive devices.

This conference is designed for people with disabilities and their families, special educators, teachers, government agency representatives, occupational & physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, public health administrators, legislators, rehabilitation counselors, employers, insurers, and people who need up-to-the-minute information about technology devices and services.

If you use or recommend assistive technology now - or you're planning to take advantage of all that technology can offer—this conference will give you the "inside track." With 70+ sessions covering all aspects of assistive technology, you'll have the opportunity to take a walk along today's technology landscape and 'surf' what tomorrow's technology will offer. With local and national presenters, this conference is your hands-on route to new insights and information, including:

Today's Assistive Technology Devices and Services

- Future Trends
- Changes in Legislation
- Case Studies
- Innovative Technology Applications
- Funding Strategies and Procedures
- Technology Assessment

Access a registration form at <http://www.uchsc.edu/atp/conf2005/conf2005reg.htm>.

National Leadership Summit on Employment for Youth with Disabilities, June 14-15, Washington DC

(From Monday Morning in Washington, D.C.)

In response to the need to improve high school experiences and post school outcomes for youth with disabilities, National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) hosted its first National Leadership Summit on Improving Results for Youth in September 2003. More than 250 participants attended, including state agency leaders; policymakers; professionals representing general education, special education, career and technical education, workforce development, vocational rehabilitation, and other agencies; parents; and youth with disabilities.

In order to continue the national conversation which occurred at the 2003 Summit, NCSET in partnership with federal agencies and national organizations will co-host a second National Leadership Summit on Improving Results for Youth in Washington, DC in June 14-15, 2005.

The goal of this event is to convene state-level teams of policymakers to examine the progress made in the implementation of the strategic action plans developed at the 2003 Summit, and to further build state/territory capacity to improve high school experiences that lead to successful post school outcomes for all youth.

Access <http://www.ncset.org/summit05/> for more information and registration.

Classroom Strategies for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders, June 14-17, Rapid City SD

The Center for Disabilities is presenting its Summer Autism Workshops, Structured Teaching and Classroom Strategies for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

June 14-17, 2005 in Rapid City, South Dakota

This workshop will focus on young or developmentally young individuals with Autism.

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/autismtrainings/summer05.cfm>

From Roots to Wings: Guiding Youth With Disabilities to Employment, June 16-17, Washington, DC

(From Monday Morning in Washington, D.C.)

[Note, this conference follows the 2005 National Leadership Summit on Improving Results for Youth.]

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), State VR agencies, State educational agencies, youth leadership organizations, consumer organizations, and other stakeholder groups are planning a national conference that will offer learning experiences and networking opportunities for State VR agency and State education agency staff at both the state and local levels. This conference will bring together VR and education policymakers and practitioners, as well as personnel from collaborating agencies that work with transitioning youth with disabilities.

Access <http://www.dtiassociates.com/rsatransitions/> for more information, including an agenda and registration.

Making Connections, Strengthening Communities, June 17-19, Cleveland OH

(Courtesy of CTCNet)

The Community Technology Center Network's major event is "the largest national gathering of community technology organizations, programs, and experts." The goal for the 2005 conference is to "to chart the progression of the community technology movement from a small grassroots effort, focused on technology access, to a growing national and international field of practice harnessing technology to meet human and social needs." According to CTCNet, the Annual Conference "is a gathering of our member organizations, leaders in the field, and others in related fields interested in creating equitable participation in information technology. CTCNet members receive a discounted registration rate and repeatedly cite this conference as one of the most important services CTCNet offers."

For registration rates and more information, visit the CTCNet website at

<http://www.ctcnet.org/conf/2005/attending/registration.asp05>.

Universal Design for Community and Systems Change, June 23-24, Portsmouth NH

(From Institute on Disability)

The Institute on Disability invites you to participate at "Communities for Everyone: Universal Design for Community and Systems Change," June 23 and 24, 2005 at the Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth Hotel and Conference Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Community services and supports for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their families continue to evolve. We have seen a significant paradigm shift over the past 30 years from an institutionally based system to a community based services system. Unfortunately, many people still are not part of their communities. In order for meaningful community participation to be successful, local communities must be accessible, welcoming, and inclusive of all residents.

Communities for Everyone is a two-day institute that will explore innovative approaches to building inclusive communities and creating sustainable systems change to support all residents to be full participants in community life.

Workshops and keynote presentations will provide information that reflects current practices as well as future designs to create welcoming, accessible, and inclusive communities that support all residents.

Registration

Participants are registered on a first-come, first-served basis. A confirmation notice will be sent upon receipt of your registration. **Registration and payment of the conference fee of \$275 must be received no later than 5:00 PM on Friday June 17th, 2005.** Late registrations will be considered only as space is available.

Mail or fax the registration form to: UNH, Institute on Disability, Real Choice

10 Ferry St. Unit #14

Concord, NH 03301

Telephone: (603) 228-2084 Fax: (603) 228-3270

For additional information or questions about registration, please contact Judy King at jaking@unh.edu.

Visit the conference website at <http://www.realchoicenh.org/June2005.html> for more details.

Angelman Syndrome Foundation: 2005 Conference, June 29 – July 2, Anaheim CA

<http://www.angelman.org/angel/index.php?id=106>

The 2005 ASF National Conference will be held June 29 - July 2, in Anaheim California at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove.

National Down Syndrome Conference, July 7-10, Chicago IL

(From NDSS)



The NDSS National Conference is the country's premier conference on Down syndrome. The 2005 conference, "Imagine," will bring together parents, family members, professionals, teens and adults with Down syndrome, and siblings from across the country for education, networking, celebration and much more. This year's conference invites attendees to imagine the possibilities for the Down syndrome community – and how together we can make that potential a reality. The 2005 NDSS National Conference is presented in collaboration with the National Association for Down Syndrome, which serves the Chicago metropolitan area.

Why Should You Attend "Imagine"?

- Actively participate in helping to shape the vision of the future for people with Down syndrome.
- Learn best practices in education, health care, employment, community living and inclusion.
- Attend the Festival of the Arts 2005, featuring the many talents of people with Down syndrome.
- Learn from and meet top experts from around the country.
- Find out about the newest products, programs and services in the exhibit hall.
- Acquire the most up-to-date information on education, research and advocacy.
- Network with more than 900 conference participants.
- Learn about resources for babies, children, adolescents and adults with Down syndrome.
- Meet and network with hundreds of affiliate leaders from across the U.S.

Who Should Attend?

- Parents and family members
- Individuals with Down syndrome
- Siblings of individuals with Down syndrome
- Parent group leaders and advocates
- Educators and early intervention specialists
- Physicians, nurses and genetic counselors
- Psychologists, social workers and counselors
- Speech-language, physical and occupational therapists

Register online at <https://programs.regweb.com/resourceone/ndss05/register/>. Registration costs vary: \$125-\$275.

For more information, visit <http://www.ndss.org/content.cfm?fuseaction=NwsEvt.EvtConfNC>.

Classroom Strategies for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders, July 19-22, Rapid City SD

The Center for Disabilities is presenting its Summer Autism Workshops, Structured Teaching and Classroom Strategies for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

July 19-22, 2005 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

This workshop will focus on individuals with High Functioning Autism or Asperger Syndrome.

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/autismtrainings/summer05.cfm>

5th National Early Childhood Inclusion Institute, August 3-5, Chapel Hill NC

(Courtesy of NECTAC)

The Fifth National Early Child Inclusion Institute starts August 3rd in Chapel Hill, NC. Geared toward supporting inclusive environments for children from birth to age five, the institute offers speakers from NECTAC, PACER, CEC, and NCCIC, as well as presenters from the FPG Child Development Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Who should attend the Institute?

- State and Local Administrators
- Teachers
- Early Interventionists
- Service Providers
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Physical Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Inclusion Specialists
- Technical Assistance Providers
- Staff from Federally Funded Projects
- Parent

Attendees will

- Learn about research findings and resources to guide inclusive policy and practice
- Develop better collaborative relationships and cross-agency systems to support early childhood inclusion
- Gain awareness of strategies and models to support inclusive services
- Enjoy the opportunity to meet, learn from and problem solve with peers

Registration fees:

\$100 if paid by June 15, 2005

\$125 if paid June 16 through July 15, 2005

Register online at <http://www.nectac.org/~meetings/InclusionMtg2005/mtgregform.asp>

Registration closes July 15. Please register early to assure your place at the Institute. We do not anticipate being able to accommodate walk-ins. The registration fee includes continental breakfasts, breaks, lunches, and a North Carolina barbecue party Wednesday evening. Questions about registration? Contact Judi Shaver at judi_shaver@unc.edu or call (919) 962-7316.

For more information, visit <http://www.nectac.org/~meetings/InclusionMtg2005/mtghomepage.asp>

2005 National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH) Annual Conference, August 4-6, Honolulu HI

(Courtesy of NARMH)

The presentation tracts for this year's conference stretch beyond the customary and traditional mental health program areas, extending explicitly into the areas of dual diagnosis and forensic mental health services, with an emphasis on culturally based deliveries of care. The conference is fostering this effort to create greater dialogue among participants from the many sectors that touch people in need of mental health and substance abuse care and treatment, and to aide in dissolving some of the barriers to collaboration and integrated service development and delivery.

NARMH 2005 Conference Tracts:

- Systems Design and Management
- Child / Adolescent Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program/Services
- State of the Art, New Bio-Medical Advances and Ethics
- Junior Rural Researchers Review

Register online <http://www.narmh.org/pages/O5cofra.html> before June 15, 2005 for the best rates.

Registration costs vary from \$185 to \$460 dollars. Conference details are available at www.narmh.org or by calling (320) 202-1820.

Asperger Syndrome: Early Years and Beyond, September 12-13, Sioux Falls SD

Asperger Syndrome: Early Years and Beyond - Characteristics and Interventions

Presenter - Teresa Bolick, Ph.D. author of *Asperger Syndrome and Adolescence: Helping Preteens and Teens Get Ready for the Real World* and *Asperger Syndrome and Young Children: Building Skills for the Real World*

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/autismtrainings/homepage.cfm>

Birth to three training, October 5, Sioux Falls SD

Early Brain Development, Relationships with Families & Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/b3training/homepage.cfm>

This workshop will be presented by Christopher Watson, M.S., M.A. and Lillian Duran, M.A. from the Center for Early Education and Development at the University of Minnesota.

New Horizons in Learning Disabilities: Research Based Practices, October 20-22, Fort Lauderdale FL

The 27th International Conference on Learning Disabilities will take place at the Fort Lauderdale Marina Marriott. This year's theme is "New Horizons in Learning Disabilities: Research Based Practices." Through high-quality topical sessions, parents, practitioners, and researchers will review "what is working" for individuals with learning disabilities in a range of environments.

The opening keynote speaker, John Maag - University of Nebraska-Lincoln - will discuss how to respond to the student who says, "Make me!" Pointing out that teachers cannot "make" others do anything, Maag's keynote will focus on resistance. In the presentation resistance will be reconceptualized, and techniques for managing it will be presented. Dr. Maag will continue this theme in a special workshop titled "Controlling Your Emotions and Behavior Regardless of How Disagreeably Others Treat You."

More information at: <http://www.cldinternational.org/c/@sOOJbCbrrlcc/Pages/home.html>

Autism, Asperger Syndrome and the Transition to Adulthood, May 5-6, 2006, Sioux Falls SD

Presenters - Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D., Gerhardt Autism/Aspergers Consultation Group and Michael Powers, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Children with Special Needs in Tolland, Connecticut and author of Asperger Syndrome and Your Child.

<http://www.usd.edu/cd/autismtrainings/homepage.cfm>

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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