

Welcome to PLUK's electronic newsletter!

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



"PLUK" the chicken and friend.

**"So many of our dreams seem impossible, then improbable, then inevitable."  
-- Christopher Reeve**

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**Christmas Ornament Art Workshops November 2, 9, & 16**

Info as follows:

- Christmas Ornament Art Workshops
- Tuesdays November 2, 9 & 16
- 3:30 - 5:00PM
- \$1.00/child/day
- at Parents, Let's Unite for Kids

For information contact Bernice at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540

**Montana Council on Disability Assists with Voting**

The general election is two weeks away! Through the Help America Vote Act efforts the Council continues to ride match persons who are in need of a ride to a qualified ride provider in their home community. If you are in need of a ride or would like to provide a ride, please contact Council offices at 406/443-4332 or toll-free 1/866-443-4332. If you are experiencing any barrier or accessibility issues in your polling place contact the Montana Advocacy Program at 406/449-2344 or toll-free 1/800-245-4743.

**Local nonprofit to deliver 75 wheelchairs to disabled children in Peru**

*By JOHN STROMNES of the Missoulian*

*When Eleanore Kittelson-Aldred died in July 2001, her mom and dad wanted to do something for the millions of disabled kids like her around the world. Tamara Kittelson-Aldred and her husband, Rick Aldred, started Eleanore's Project, which provides wheelchairs to some of the world's disabled children.*

Worldwide, 6.7 million children are so severely disabled they need wheelchairs to get around. In November, 75 will get them thanks to Eleanore's Project, a nonprofit foundation started by the parents of a disabled Missoula girl who died just before her 12th birthday in July 2001.

The wheelchairs will be delivered in November to a school for impoverished children with disabilities in Lima, Peru by a team of 35 folks from Bozeman, Helena, Missoula and the Flathead Valley.

Some of the team members are proficient in wheelchair design, manufacture, setup and maintenance; some speak Spanish; some are professional occupational or physical therapists who can custom-fit each chair to its occupant; and some are just local folks who want to help.

*To read the complete article, visit:*

<http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2004/10/13/news/local/znews04.txt>

**How you can help**

Eleanore's Project is in the process of applying for nonprofit status, but has not yet received its tax-deductible donation number. Those who wish to support the project may make tax-deductible donations through ROC Wheels, 7275 Sypes Canyon Road, Bozeman MT 59715; mention Eleanor's Project. Those not concerned with tax-deduction benefits may contact Tamara Kittelson-Aldred directly at 406/549-9521 or by e-mail at [tamaralka@qwest.net](mailto:tamaralka@qwest.net). To suggest a gift or to make a donation to the team visiting La Alegria en el Senor School in Lima, Peru in November, e-mail [rickaldred@yahoo.com](mailto:rickaldred@yahoo.com). Gifts must be small enough to be carried in personal luggage.

**New Support Groups in Helena**

Kelly Newman of Helena is sponsoring two new support groups in her home.

The first meets every Tuesday at 10:30AM. It is a group just for Mom's of high-needs kids.

The second is an Autism Awareness group which meets every Saturday at 3:00 PM. It is for individuals, couples and kids.

For more information contact Kelly at 406/449-2371.

**Yellowstone ARC Halloween Dance, October 31, Billings**

On Sunday, October 31, the Yellowstone ARC is sponsoring a Halloween dance from 1:30-4:30 PM at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, 1223 Mallowney Ln.

For information, contact Bev Owens at 652-5510 or Leona at 656-9549.

## Survey on Autism for Montana Parents & Professionals

The Montana Office of Public Instruction is distributing a survey for parents and educational professionals to determine your interest in receiving training in topics related to Autism and Asperger's Syndrome. This survey is located at [http://data.opi.state.mt.us/scripts/metrics.cfg/websurveys.exe/ws?\\_133=16](http://data.opi.state.mt.us/scripts/metrics.cfg/websurveys.exe/ws?_133=16) and will be available until November 15. We encourage you to respond to the survey and share it with others who may be interested.

Results of the survey will be used to help set priorities for the type and location of future trainings on Autism. Once the survey results have been reviewed we will provide notice of any scheduled trainings.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

*Bob Runkel, Administrator, Division of Special Education, Montana Office of Public Instruction*

## Psychiatrist: Some kids need meds to battle depression

*By DIANE COCHRAN, Billings Gazette Staff*

While studies have linked some antidepressant drugs to suicide in youths, at least one Billings psychiatrist says he believes it would be unethical to not prescribe them in some cases.

"We do not have adequate data on treatment of children, and we desperately need improved research," said John Blodgett, a child psychiatrist at Deaconess Billings Clinic Behavioral Health Center. But "do you let a child whose life is disrupted and who is suffering wait until better evidence comes along? I don't make them wait."

"I feel compelled to do something," Blodgett said. "I feel ethically there is enough scientific basis, enough promise, in these things that I can use them. It would be unethical to withhold treatment when people are severely depressed."

Children suffering from depression can benefit from antidepressants, but the controversial medications do not work for everyone and should not be prescribed without careful attention from a doctor, he said.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2004/10/07/build/local/35-kids-depression.inc>

## People who have uncontrolled seizures on the left side of their brains are more likely to have learning disabilities

*Posted By: News-Medical in Medical Study News, Published: Tuesday, 12-Oct-2004*

A recent study published in *Epilepsia*, the official journal of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE), indicates that people who have uncontrolled seizures on the left side of their brains are more likely to have learning disabilities, in comparison to people who have seizures on the right side of their brains.

Epilepsy, a neurological disorder associated with recurrent seizures, affects 0.5% to 1% of the population. In the U.S., about 2.5 million people have this disorder and about 9% of Americans will have at least one seizure during their lives.

In the study conducted at the LSU Epilepsy Center of Excellence, adult patients of normal intelligence with either left temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE) or right TLE were evaluated with reading comprehension, written language, and calculation tests. The Center researchers found that 75% of patients with left TLE had one or more learning disabilities. This was found in only 10% of those with right TLE. Additionally, those with left TLE reported higher rates of literacy and/or career development problems, such as a history of special education, repeating grades, or disrupted educational progress.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=5529>

## Campaign 2004: the Big Issues

The New York Times has been running a series of editorials on the "big issues" of the presidential election. Visit <http://www.nytimes.com/ref/opinion/campaign-issues.html?pagewanted=all> for an archive of issues discussed.

## Rural Schools in Need of Guidance, GAO Says

*October 6, 2004, By Michelle R. Davis*

The Department of Education should do more to assist small, rural school districts as they struggle to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, a federal report released last week says.

The Government Accountability Office found that although the Education Department has taken some steps to address issues faced by rural schools, much more needs to be done on issues such as helping them with teacher training.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=06rural.h24>

## **New No Child Left Behind e-Learning Tool Offers Teachers Free, On-Demand Professional Development**

*October 7, 2004*

In its continuing effort to support classroom teachers, the U.S. Department of Education today unveiled a new No Child Left Behind e-Learning tool that offers teachers on-demand professional development training to meet a variety of educational needs and improve student achievement.

"The e-Learning workshops are a response to teachers who told us they needed access to in-depth, quality learning options that fit their busy schedules so they can earn and maintain their teaching credentials," said U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige. "The courses—which are offered free of charge and may be taken for credit—will be especially helpful to rural and other high-need areas as they seek to place highly qualified teachers in every classroom over the next two years, per the No Child Left Behind law."

Read more at: <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/10/10072004.html>.

## **IDEA Conference Committee Appointed**

On October 8, 2004 the U.S. House of Representatives appointed a 14 member conference committee to negotiate the IDEA reauthorization bill differences with the Senate conferees. The House conferees included a mixture of representatives from the Education and Workforce Committee, Judiciary Committee and Energy and Commerce Committee. It is expected that those from Judiciary will focus on procedural safeguards and those from Energy and Commerce will focus on Medicaid issues contained in the bill.

With the appointment of conferees both bodies have signaled a desire to complete the negotiations during this session of Congress, so they don't have to start the reauthorization process anew in 2005. The U.S. House and Senate have adjourned until November 15, 2004, at which time a "lame duck" session will convene to address a variety of unfinished business. A "lame duck" session is held after a national election, but before terms of newly elected Representatives and Senators begin.

The House Conferees are listed below.

From the Education and Workforce Committee:

1. Rep. John Boehner (R-OH)
2. Rep. Mike Castle (R-DE)
3. Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-MI)
4. Rep. Ric Keller (R-FL)
5. Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)
6. Rep. George Miller (D-CA)
7. Rep. Lynn Woosey (D-CA)
8. Rep. Major Owens (D-NY)

From the Judiciary Committee:

9. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI)
10. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX)
11. Rep. John Conyers (D-MI)

From the Energy and Commerce Committee:

12. Rep. Joe Burton (R-TX)
13. Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL)
14. Rep. John Dingell (D-MI)

During the last week of September, the Senate appointed all members of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to the joint House-Senate Conference Committee. These members are as follows.

1. Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH)
2. Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN)
3. Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY)

4. Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
5. Sen. Christopher Bond (R-MO)
6. Sen. Mike Dewine (R-OH)
7. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)
8. Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL)
9. Sen. John Ensign (R-NV)
10. Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC)
11. Sen. John W. Warner (R-VA)
12. Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA)
13. Sen. Christopher J. Dodd (D-CT)
14. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)
15. Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD)
16. Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)
17. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)
18. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)
19. Sen. John R. Edwards (D-NC)
20. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)
21. Sen. James M. Jeffords (I-VT)

### Announcing Virtual Pencil Algebra

<http://www.HenterMath.com>

Henter Math is pleased to announce the release of Virtual Pencil Algebra, computer software for interactive access to algebra for students who are Pencil Impaired. VPAlgebra provides solutions to the basic issues that a pencil impaired student encounters when dealing with simple Algebraic equations. It is an answer to the serious need for educational software to help students with disabilities who cannot use pencil and paper and therefore require an alternative environment for manipulation of numbers.

Using VPAlgebra a student can read, create, or manipulate equations involving a variety of elements and expressions, such as quantities, radicals, exponents, subscripts, matrices, fractions, and Greek symbols. VPAlgebra can be used by the student just like a pencil working through the problem step by step creating new equations. Teachers can use VPAlgebra to create an assignment or test, password protect it, and then send it to the student via email, save it to a diskette, or print out the answers. The password prevents students from changing the assignment. The same assignment can be printed-out for able-bodied students in the class, saving the teacher a lot of time.

Future versions of this product will handle higher levels of math, such as advanced algebra, trigonometry, calculus, and graphs. There will also be support for nemeth Braille output on embossers and refreshable Braille displays, alternative input devices for motor impaired students, and enhanced visual/audio displays for learning disabled students. For this first version a blind student will need the Jaws screen reader to work with VPAlgebra. We plan to configure other screen readers and screen magnifiers to work with this product in the future.

You can read more about VPAlgebra at <http://www.HenterMath.com>, and download a version for a free trial. The price is \$299 plus shipping and handling. For less-advanced math check out our VP Arithmetic.

### New Webpage for Parents – the OPI Parents Page

*Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Public Instruction*

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/parents/>

Parents are their children's first and most important teacher. For Montana's children to be successful students, a strong school and family partnership is essential.

The OPI Parents Page was created to help parents more easily find information about K-12 public education in Montana.

The evidence is clear, family involvement in schools matters. And the OPI Parents webpage helps communicate with parents about public education in Montana.

The types of information available to parents on the OPI website are:

- A section to help your child Getting Started in school.
- Many children have Special Needs and parents need to know resources and organizations that can help.
- Health and safety is always front and center for parents and schools.

- No Child Left Behind can often leave parents with more questions than answers. This section helps guide parents on the Federal law and Montana implementation.
- Testing guidelines and tips for students that may calm both parent and student fears.
- Reading is fundamental for students to be successful and this section offers resources and tips for parents and students to read together.
- The Homework section offers a hotline for that assignment that seems impossible to do.
- Resources, Resources, Resources... Not sure who to call at OPI, or where to find information about public education? This section summarizes some handy websites that can help.
- The Career and College section offers links to Montana and national resources to help high school students think about their future.

The purpose of this website is to be responsive to the issues that are important to parents and their students. If you don't find what you need, please let me know.

\*\*\* Linda

[OPISupt@state.mt.us](mailto:OPISupt@state.mt.us)

### **New EEOC Fact Sheet Addresses Employment Rights of People with Intellectual Disabilities**

#### *Dispelling Myths and Fears Can Promote Employment Opportunities*

WASHINGTON - In observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) today released a fact sheet on the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to persons with intellectual disabilities in the workplace. The new publication is available at [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov).

The term "intellectual disability" describes the condition once commonly referred to as "mental retardation." Approximately one percent of the United States' population, an estimated 2.5 million people, have an intellectual disability. Estimates indicate that only 31 percent of individuals with intellectual disabilities are employed, although many more want to work.

"More often than not, individuals with intellectual disabilities face barriers in the workplace posed not by mental impairments but by other people's attitudes," said Commission Chair Cari M. Dominguez. "With this fact sheet, the EEOC aims to break down myths, fears and misperceptions that stand in the way of employment opportunities and sometimes even lead to harassment on the job. People with intellectual disabilities want to work and have a lot to contribute. Employers who are not tapping into this community are missing out."

Read the complete press release at: <http://www.eeoc.gov/press/10-20-04.html>

View the fact sheet at: [http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/intellectual\\_disabilities.html](http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/intellectual_disabilities.html)

### **Dictionary of Educational Euphemisms**

In this delightful article, Education World columnist Linda Starr, shares 20 excerpts from her "Dictionary of Education Euphemisms." Here's a sample to whet your appetite: "'Sarah exhibits exceptional verbal skills and an obvious propensity for social interaction.' (She never stops talking.)" Okay, one more: "'Jonathan accomplishes tasks when his interest is frequently stimulated.' (He has the attention span of a gnat.)" Follow the link below and read them all: [http://www.education-world.com/a\\_issues/issues225.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_issues/issues225.shtml)

### **"Get Tough" Youth Programs are Ineffective, Panel Says**

Boot camps and other get-tough programs for adolescents do not prevent criminal behavior, as intended, and may make the problem even worse, a new study has found. Further, laws transferring juveniles into the adult court system lead these teenagers to commit more violence, the study said. More promising, reports Laura Meckler, are programs that offer intensive counseling for families and young people at risk.

[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2004/10/16/get\\_tough\\_programs\\_for\\_youths\\_crititized/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2004/10/16/get_tough_programs_for_youths_crititized/)

### **What Are Schools Legal Obligations Regarding Student Sexual Orientation? This New Guide Provides Questions and Answers.**

Alexandria, Va. -- Oct 12 -- A consortium of national organizations, under the leadership of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), has issued a resource document to help school leaders address legal issues surrounding students' sexual orientation and gender identity.

Aimed at school policy makers and administrators, "Dealing with Legal Matters Surrounding Students' Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity" provides practical guidance on schools' legal rights and responsibilities with respect to students, school programs, and curriculum. It is intended to answer questions about students' civil rights which regularly arise in public schools.

Read more at: [http://www.nsba.org/site/doc\\_micro.asp?TRACKID=&VID=38&CID=90&DID=34611](http://www.nsba.org/site/doc_micro.asp?TRACKID=&VID=38&CID=90&DID=34611)

### **The Economic Boost of Early Childhood Education**

Investment in early childhood development pays off -- literally. A new Economic Policy Institute report shows how education programs for 3 and 4 year old children ultimately provide many financial benefits to local governments and taxpayers, including higher earnings and reduced crime and poverty. In "Exceptional Returns: Economic, Fiscal, and Social Benefits of Investment in Early Childhood Development," author and EPI research associate Robert Lynch finds high-quality early childhood development (ECD) programs contribute directly to higher employment and earnings, better health, less crime and poverty, solvency of Social Security, greater government revenues, and higher levels of verbal, math and intellectual achievement for participating students. The report calculates future savings and finds, for example, good early childhood education programs produce at least \$3 in benefits for every dollar of investment.

[http://www.epinet.org/content.cfm/books\\_exceptional\\_returns#exec](http://www.epinet.org/content.cfm/books_exceptional_returns#exec)

### **Massive Shortfall of Early Care & Early Education for Working Families**

A comprehensive new study reveals an enormous gap between the early care and education needs. The report found that "early care and education programs . . . are unevenly funded and administered, and vary in quality and accessibility." Quality child care and early education are widely available in many industrial countries, but a system "to allow parents to keep working and better prepare children for school and life is not yet available to parents around the United States," according to the report. It paints a dismal picture of quality standards in American child care and early education. Only 15 percent of center-based child care programs and 10 percent of home-based programs are rated as good or better, based on observations by a study team. The report calls on federal and state policymakers to work toward a universal, voluntary early care and education system that will provide all families with access to a dependable, safe, and nurturing system of care for preschool-aged children. It recommends federal funding to help states expand their early care programs without sacrificing their efforts to raise quality standards, and calls for more Head Start funding to allow more low-income children to become eligible.

<http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/PressReleaseEarlyCare10-21-04.pdf>

### **New Wheelchair Video Camera Mount Delivers Creative Accessibility**

Become A Rolling Video Professional! VGO, gives a wheelchair user full control over their video camera. This new wheelchair video system helps broadcasters, educators, AV and media departments meet ADA and Section 508 compliance\* in a new creative way. Physically disabled, wheelchair dependent videographers can now adapt their wheelchairs to mount video cameras, monitors and more. The VGO wheelchair system brings creative accessibility to people with disabilities for shooting broadcast, wedding, and training videos as well as other multimedia productions. Get the creative juices going and create your own productions for business or pleasure.

The broadcast video wheelchair system comes equipped with a steel swing out arm and a camera tripod head mounted on it for safe and steady camera movement. The arm can easily swing out of the way when the user needs to enter or exit their wheelchair. The entire system can be removed simply from the wheelchair by releasing the two locking knobs.

More information at: <http://www.lairdtelemedia.com/products/lairdcam.html#LTMM1>

### **Health Care Information through Medical Homes**

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently published curricula around the concept of a Medical Home. A medical home is not a building, house, or hospital, but rather an approach to providing health care services in a high-quality and cost-effective manner. Children and their families who have a medical home receive the care that they need from a pediatrician or physician whom they know and trust.

The National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs, sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics, is working to make sure that children with special needs have a medical home where health care services are accessible, family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally-competent. To download the Every Child Deserves A Medical

Home curriculum go to the National Center Web site at:  
<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/training/materials.html>.

### **Center for the Improvement of Child Caring (CICC) Launching National Partnership Campaign to Find and Help Young Children with Special Needs**

CICC has developed and put on the Internet, the CICC Discovery Tool and Referral System. Consisting of a series of age-specific questions, it helps parents and others quickly identify a variety of learning, communication, motor skill and behavioral problems that may not have been recognized or simply overlooked. It also connects them immediately to important community services and agencies throughout the United States that can help.

The CICC Discovery Tool and Referral System has been used successfully throughout the nation by thousands of parents of young children, caregivers, agencies, and professionals in the early childhood education field. It is unique in that it provides - simultaneously - the following three types of services on-line:

- It educates parents and staff about normative child development during their child's first five years of life.
- It assists in identifying whether a young child may have special needs that require professional attention.
- It connects users of the Tool to a wide range of professionals, community resources and educational materials.

The results of the Tool are in the form of a Developmental Profile that can be printed out and shared with others.

Visit the CICC web site at <http://www.ciccparenting.org/>

Go to the Discovery Tool at <http://www.ciccdiscoverytool.org/Welcome.aspx>

### **Made in Montana: Custom Weighted Blankets By Eileen**

I specialize in making custom weighted blankets for children, teens and adults who are comforted and benefit from them. I make larger blankets for sleep, in addition to wrap and lap blankets which are smaller and used mainly as a calming tool.

This would include those people affected by Autism, ADHD, ADD, PDD, have sensory issues. etc. I have several customers who have purchased sleep blankets who just have trouble sleeping and have found the blankets helpful.

It started with my autistic son not being able to sleep without waking every few hours. We tried all types of "therapies" to help him sleep, short of using drugs. Since he started using a weighted blanket for sleep, his night time sleep goes most nights without waking during the night. It was not only his therapy, but was also ours. He has a lap blanket and it only calms him sometimes. The sleep blanket works all the time and you may also find this to be true. One type of blanket may work and another will not.

So I now make blankets for anyone that asks, it is almost a full time job.

Contact Eileen at 406/642-3253 or [mtcustomblankets@aol.com](mailto:mtcustomblankets@aol.com).

Visit her web site at: <http://members.aol.com/mtcustomblankets/weightedblanket.html>

### **McKeon Bill to Expand Access to Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Approved by House, Ready for President's Signature**

WASHINGTON , D.C. - The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed legislation authored by 21st Century Competitiveness Subcommittee Chairman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA) to expand access to technology for individuals with disabilities. The bill, the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 (H.R. 4278), is now headed to President Bush for his signature.

"This bill shifts the focus of the program to provide greater benefit to individuals with disabilities. Our goal is to help states get more assistive technology directly into the hands of individuals with disabilities," said McKeon. "I know this will help states continue to make progress in their efforts to expand access to assistive technology, and that increasing numbers of individuals with disabilities will be able to participate in society more fully everyday."

The bipartisan bill, approved last week by the U.S. Senate, will strengthen assistive technology programs by refocusing resources to provide more direct aid to individuals with disabilities. By requiring states to spend the majority of their assistive technology grants on activities that directly benefit individuals with disabilities, the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 will help guarantee individuals will have

greater access to assistive technology. The bill encourages states to invest in the programs that have been shown the most effective in providing assistive technology devices.

Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), chairman of the Education & the Workforce Committee, praised the bill's reforms. "This bill is a milestone for Americans with disabilities who depend on assistive technology to improve their quality of life," said Boehner. "By devoting fewer resources to building bureaucracy, this bill will expand access to needed technology for Americans of all ages living with disabilities."

A summary of the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 can be accessed at:

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/issues/108th/education/at/billsummary.htm>

### **Book on "Parenting Your Complex Child" needs support to get published**

I am the adoptive parent of a 21 year old man with major complexities including, but not limited to Down's Syndrome, bipolar, ADHD, Autism (in dispute), & Down Syndrome related Dementia. He is one of the children the professionals refer to as "one of the most complicated cases I have ever worked with".

I wrote a book presently titled, Parenting Your Complex Child, which has been circulating to publishers through a literary agent for about a year. Presently there is an editor interested in it. However, her concern is that because I do not have an MSW, MD or PhD it makes it more difficult to sell. I am looking for professionals and others who would be willing to review the concepts presented in the book and basically verify to publishers that this is helpful and needed materials.

At the encouragement of my literary agent I created a website <http://www.parentingyourcomplexchild.com> which has some of my materials.

If you know of anyone who might be able to help with endorsing my work I'd appreciate that information. Contact me at 503/873-4432 or [peggy@lighthouseparents.com](mailto:peggy@lighthouseparents.com).

Sincerely, Peggy Lou Morgan

**"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." -- Benjamin Franklin**

### ***PLUK trainings and activities planned for 2004-05***

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

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

#### *Statewide Interactive Videoconferences*

- November 9, 6-8pm, "Issues in Hearing and Vision," airing from Great Falls

#### *Other Training Activities*

- November 1, all-day workshop on "Staying Cool When Our Buttons are Pushed," with Doug Cochran Roberts, Kalispell
- November 3, all-day workshop on Assistive Technology with Roger Holt, Bozeman
- November 10, all-day workshop on Assistive Technology with Roger Holt, Great Falls

#### *Other Community Activities*

- October 26, Magical Tymes party, Missoula, contact Deborah Hayes Hyde at 406/543-8405 in conjunction with Missoula Children's Theatre production of Beauty and the Beast. Sponsored by the Missoula Associate Board.
- February 19, 2005, Sports & Recreation Festival, Rocky Mountain College Athletic Building, Billings. Contact Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540. Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.
- May 13, 2005, Kids at Heart Gala with a performance by the *Mid Life Chryslers*, Sheraton-Billings, call Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540. Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.

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

### **"HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?" 2004 Statewide Early Childhood Conference, October 21-23, Hellgate Elementary School, Missoula**

This will be a three track conference for Early Care and Education Stakeholders, Parents, and K-3 Educators. An individual could earn as many as 23 hours of Training Credits, or Renewal Units, and some courses will be offering CEU's for those who desire college credits.

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

### **Parent Expo, October 23, Missoula**

Parent Expo is an annual conference in Missoula that offers parents and community members an opportunity to attend workshops that help them strengthen their parenting skills and create positive learning environments in the home and family. Workshops are given by trained professionals.

In fall 2004, Parent Expo will be held in cooperation with the 2004 Montana Early Childhood Conference, which is scheduled Oct. 21-23 at Hellgate Elementary School. Both conferences are sponsoring keynote speaker Robin Karr-Morse on Friday evening, Oct. 22, at the University Center Theater. Parent Expo will be held Saturday, Oct. 23, at Sentinel High School.

The event will include three "micro-keynotes" in the high school theater, along with 10-12 smaller workshops in various classrooms throughout the day.

Registrants who have paid to attend the early childhood conference can attend Parent Expo workshops on Saturday, Oct. 23, at no cost.

In addition, spouses or family members who are in Missoula can attend both Friday's keynote lecture and Saturday's Parent Expo workshops for just \$8 (or just \$6 if attending only workshops on Saturday).

Child care is provided at no cost onsite to parents who attend Parent Expo workshops on Saturday. Children must be preregistered. No child care is available at Friday's Keynote lecture. Lunch will be for sale onsite during the Parent Expo on Saturday, Oct. 23.

The Expo is sponsored by MCPS Adult & Continuing Education, Families First, The Parenting Place, and Women's Opportunity and Resource Development, Inc.

Registration materials, including a list of workshops, will be available on Monday, Sept. 27, by calling Missoula County Public Schools at 406-728-2400, ext. 1024. You can also access registration materials online (in late September) at <http://www.mcps.k12.mt.us>. Workshops are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### **Addressing Behavior Problems in School and Home Environments, October 23, Kalispell**

Billie Jo Davis, PH.D, BCBA is a nationally Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Currently, she works out of Coeur d'Alene, ID and travels throughout the Northwest and Canada working with schools and families designing behavioral and educational programs for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Participants will acquire skills that can be used to decrease problem behaviors in school and home environments.

This workshop is designed to teach parents and educators how to collect and analyze data in order to understand the causes of problem behaviors and design interventions to decrease problem behaviors. Lecture and small work groups will focus on the acquisition of strategies that are easy to use and implement.

For more information contact: [davisbillie90@hotmail.com](mailto:davisbillie90@hotmail.com) or (208) 699-2595.

### **WHAT'S NEW FROM INTELLITOOLS (Session I), October 26, Polson**

Terry Lankutis- Polson- This workshop will provide an overview of the new products from IntelliTools. Persons attending this workshop will gain an understanding of the new Classroom Suite products from IntelliTools and how they compare to the previous products. They will also see examples of how to use these technology products in the general education classroom.

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

### **Guided Practice using IntelliTools Products (Session II), October 27-28, Polson**

This two-day workshop is a continuation of Session I. Participants will share activities they have created for a student in their class. On the last day we will discuss ideas for implementing these products in a wide variety of curriculum areas as well as purchase options for those interested in wider implementation.

Persons taking graduate credit are required to attend the "What's New from IntelliTools" session and both Sessions I & II of "Guided Practice using IntelliTools."

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

### **Parent Support Group meeting in Kalispell October 28**

All parents are invited to the Summit in Kalispell October 28 at 7pm. Future meeting will be November 18th. For information, contact Stephanie at 756-6159.

### **Yellowstone ARC Halloween Dance, October 31, Billings**

On Sunday, October 31, the Yellowstone ARC is sponsoring a Halloween dance from 1:30-4:30 PM at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, 1223 Mallowney Ln.

For information, contact Bev Owens at 652-5510 or Leona at 656-9549.

### **Person Centered Planning, November 3-5, Butte**

The Developmental Disabilities Program and Department of Public Health & Human Services is sponsoring a three-day person-centered planning workshop November 3-5 at the Copper King in Butte.

For more information, contact Perry Jones, [pjones@state.mt.us](mailto:pjones@state.mt.us) 406/444-5662, or Sandi Cory, [scory@state.mt.us](mailto:scory@state.mt.us) 406/444-2995.

### **Signing Exact English, November 4 & 18, Billings**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, there is a class for Signing Exact English at the Scottish Rite Language Clinic in Billings from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. Call 259-1680 for more information.

### **MBI Youth Day, November 7 & 8, Helena**

*Presented by Patty White and James Vollbracht*

This event for MBI School Teams will focus on creating action plans for school sites regarding the implementation of the MBI process as well as addressing leadership skills, harassment, and bully prevention at your school. Sessions and activities will be mostly student directed with school staff participation. This event includes opportunities for fun, networking, and developing future and current leaders.

To register contact Susan Bailey-Anderson at 406/444-2046 or email at [sbanderson@state.mt.us](mailto:sbanderson@state.mt.us). View flyer at <http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/MBI%20Youth%20Day%20Brochure%202004.pdf>

### **Read Well and Beyond, November 8, Polson**

This workshop focuses on the use of ReadWell, a field tested and research based beginning reading program. Participants will have an opportunity to participate in either a introductory session or for those who have been using this program, will have an opportunity to learn some more advanced strategies to make the connection between ReadWell and the classroom curriculum.

Contact Region V CSPD Coordinator Nancy Marks at 406/728-2400 ext 5036 or [admin@cspd.net](mailto:admin@cspd.net). Find additional information and register online at <http://www.cspd.net>.

### **ReadWell Kindergarten, November 9, Polson**

ReadWell Kindergarten is a field-tested and research-based early literacy program for kindergarten students which includes: \*\*age-appropriate thematically- based whole class activities (phonemic awareness, oral language and vocabulary development, music games, art, writing, etc.); \*\*individually-appropriate, mastery-based small group instruction in systematic, explicit phonics, story reading, fluency, and comprehension; \*\*regular assessment with built-in interventions when needed; and \*\*teacher-friendly implementation and instructional materials.

Contact Region V CSPD Coordinator Nancy Marks at 406/728-2400 ext 5036 or [admin@cspd.net](mailto:admin@cspd.net). Find additional information and register online at <http://www.cspd.net>.

### **Asperger Syndrome Support Group, November 11, Billings**

Anyone whose life is affected by Asperger Syndrome is invited to attend these meetings. Meetings are scheduled for November 11, January 13, March 10 and May 12 at 7:00 PM. Meetings take place at: 17<sup>th</sup> Street Station, 1648 Poly Drive, Billings. Contact Valerie at 245-1770 or Paula at 248-6186 for information.

## **Maintain Sanity While Differentiating Instruction, November 16 & 17 (Billings); November 18 (Lewistown)**

Presented by Rick Wormeli, a practicing middle school teacher who brings innovation, validity and high standards to both his presentations and his instructional practice, which includes years of teaching math, science, English, and history. This session presents perspective and practicality on how to deal with diverse learners in heterogeneous classrooms from a Nationally Board Certified Teacher. Lesson formats and how to engage and motivate early adolescents are presented. Get the cut-to-the-chase principles of differentiated instruction for any subject, find out what the latest brain research suggests, and how to employ highly effective differentiation practices.

View flyer at: <http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/We%20Teach%20All%20Flyer.pdf>

View Region III CSPD events at: <http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/events.htm>

## **Parent Involvement training event for Head Start/Early Head Start staff, parents, and community partners, November 17 & 18, Helena**

Contact Tiffany Roman at 406/444-7067 or [troman@state.mt.us](mailto:troman@state.mt.us)

## **Spectrum Disorder Support Group, November 19, Billings**

On the third Friday of each month, there is a support group meeting at the Scottish Rite Language Clinic at 7:00 PM. Call 259-1680 for more information.

## **Focus on Decoding: REWARDS, November 29 (Kalispell), November 30 (Missoula)**

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 multi-syllabic decoding program that has been well documented as an effective remedial strategy for students in grade 4-12.

The trainer, Dr. Feldman is the Director of Reading and Early Intervention with the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), Leadership Team Consultant for the California Reading and Literature Project and Independent Consultant in the area of PreK- 12 Literacy.

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

## **Guided Practice using IntelliTools Products – Part 2, December 1-2, Polson**

This two-day workshop is a continuation of Part 1. Participants will share activities they have created for a student in their class. On the last day we will discuss ideas for implementing these products in a wide variety of curriculum areas as well as purchase options for those interested in wider implementation.

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

## **Pre-K Handwriting Without Tears, December 9 (Lewistown) & December 10 (Billings)**

Presented by Carol Rushing-Carr

Handwriting Without Tears® (HWT) is the easy way to teach pre-printing, printing, and cursive! It was developed by Jan Z. Olsen, OTR, an occupational therapist and handwriting specialist. HWT is an inclusive method for teaching children of all ability levels. Parents and new teachers enjoy the simple and clear directions that make it easy to help children. Experienced teachers appreciate the innovative techniques and limited preparation needed to have great success with the entire class.

View flyer at: <http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/HWT%2004%20flyer.pdf>

View Region III CSPD events at <http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/events.htm>

## **Introduction to SSI/SSDI, December 13, Teleconference (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings)**

SSA Part 1: Introduction to SSI/SSDI, 12/13/04 1:00-4:pm, METNET, impact of wages on Benefits and PASS (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings).

For information contact Kim Brown, Transition Project Coordinator at 406/243-4852 or [brown@ruralinstitute.umd.edu](mailto:brown@ruralinstitute.umd.edu).

**Overview of SSA Work Incentives, January 6 2005, Teleconference (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings)**

SSA Part 2: Overview of SSA Work Incentives (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings).

For information contact Kim Brown, Transition Project Coordinator at 406/243-4852 or [brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu](mailto:brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu).

**Ideas! Ideas! Ideas! The Teacher's Toolbox for Differentiating Instruction, January 18, 2005, Missoula - January 19, 2005, Kalispell**

This session is filled with strategies, tips, tools, and techniques that are both highly effective and extremely practical in helping your students succeed. Specific strategies will help your students get organized, be accountable for results, compensate for difficulties and improve reading, writing, and math skills. Effective tools for positive behavior and building self-confidence will also be included. The focus is on high expectations and high standards for all students while differentiating instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners. The strategies suggested are time-efficient for the teacher and highly effective for students. This session is designed to include ideas for all content areas and will benefit general educators and special educators as well as paraeducators, other school support staff and administrators. These are the "nuts and bolts" strategies that you will take back and use immediately!

**Session 2: Managing the Mathematics Classroom, February 3, 2005, Missoula - February 4, 2005, Kalispell**

Managing a classroom so that time on task and student engagement in math are maximized is an art. Potential problems in the classroom involve motive and opportunity. You remove motive by keeping all students engaged, remove opportunity through careful planning and management of manipulatives and groups. This workshop focuses on how to organize and manage cooperative groups along with differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners. Effective management maximizes learning and minimizes behavior problems.

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

**Writing PASS plans, February 3 2005, Teleconference (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings)**

Writing PASS plans (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings).

For information contact Kim Brown, Transition Project Coordinator at 406/243-4852 or [brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu](mailto:brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu).

**Effective Reading Interventions, February 22, 2005, Missoula - February 23, 2005, Kalispell**

This is the second of a series of three workshops that focuses on specific research-based strategies and materials for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Online Training/Workshops**

**Voting Rights of Citizens with Disabilities, October 27, Web cast**

Clyde Terry, JD will present this Web cast on Wednesday, October 27, 2004, from 3:00-4:30pm Eastern, 2:00 Central; 1:00 Mountain; 12:00 Pacific; 11:00 Alaska; 9:00 Hawaii.

Clyde Terry is the Executive Director of Granite State Independent Living in New Hampshire. Prior to this position, Mr. Terry was the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council where he authored state and federal legislation on issues impacting the lives of persons with disabilities. Mr. Terry also spearheaded a national coalition of disability organizations on election reform and election accessibility for persons with disabilities. He is the co-author of the 2001 publication Voters Denied Equal Access at the Polls: A Status Report of the Accessibility of Polling Places in the United States.

This Web cast will focus on the rights of citizens with disabilities to vote, and to have their polling places and processes accessible to and usable by them. We will examine the impact of the laws enhancing voting rights for people with disabilities; namely the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (VAEHA), and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Additionally, Mr. Terry will share ideas about practical steps to take during the short-term, before we are able to accomplish systems change.

To link to this Web cast and download accompanying materials visit:

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

For instructions on how to access a Web cast visit: <http://www.ilru.org/online/instructions.html>

Please visit this site ahead of time to test and ensure your computer is configured and updated to participate in the Web cast.

For technical assistance, please check out our FAQs (frequently asked questions) at:

<http://www.ilru.org/online/FAQ.html> or contact a Web cast team member at [webcast@ilru.org](mailto:webcast@ilru.org) or 713/520-0232(v/tty).

**Dare to Dream for Adults, October 28, Teleconference**

Thursday, October 28, 2004

2:00-3:00 p.m. Central Time

(9 a.m. Hawaii, 12 noon Pacific, 1 p.m. Mountain, 3 p.m. Eastern)

Dr. Webb is the co-author of *Dare to Dream*, a strength-based book designed to encourage young adults and adults with disabilities to make choices and find options that are aligned with their preferences, abilities, and needs.

*Dare to Dream for Adults* is designed to be used either independently by an individual with a disability or with the support of a facilitator (teacher, service provider, family member, friend). Dr. Webb will discuss the components of *Dare to Dream* (e.g., choosing employment or postsecondary education, building relationships, managing finances) and how it can be used to assist young adults and adults with disabilities develop self-determination skills.

Access *Dare to Dream for Adults* here (PDF, 206 pages):

[http://www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/pdf/dream\\_adults.pdf](http://www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/pdf/dream_adults.pdf)

Presented by:

Kris Web, Ph.d

Associate Professor

Department of Special Education

University of North Florida

*Instructions for Participation*

Dialing In: Dial 703-639-1366 a few minutes before the call begins, and refer to the "NCSET Teleconference Call" if asked by the operator. During the call, if using a speakerphone, please press the mute button when listening. The only cost to you is the long distance fee to the 703 area code. You do not need to RSVP to participate in this call.

What to Expect: The first 30-45 minutes of the call consists of the speakers' presentation. Participants are then given the opportunity to ask questions.

Speaker Phones: To limit static noise, please press the mute button when listening.

Transcript Announced via E-News: The transcript of this call will be available a few weeks after the date of this call from the Transcripts Page (<http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/transcripts/default.asp>). If you sign up for NCSET's E-News you will receive an e-mail announcement that the transcript is available, and you'll also get lots of information about other NCSET and national resources such as upcoming events, publications and electronic resources, funding opportunities, and more. It's free, and you can remove yourself from the list at any time. You can sign up at

<http://www.ncset.org/eneews/eneewsSignup.asp?=#hit1>.

<http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/default.asp>

### **Contemporary Issues in ADD/ADHD, November 4-7, Teleconference**

The objective for this FREE On-line Seminar & Teleconference is to present what the current body of scientific literature tells us is happening in the brain of a child or adult with ADD/ADHD. There are chemical imbalances, and there are a wide array of pharmacological and behavioral interventions used in the treatment of ADD/ADHD, once a differential diagnosis is made. All of these issues and more will be addressed in this Web-based interactive symposium.

Register at: [http://www.eparent.com/web\\_seminar\\_add\\_adhd/](http://www.eparent.com/web_seminar_add_adhd/)

### **Series on Cortical Visual Impairment November 5, Webcast**

Cortical Visual Impairment (or Cerebral Visual Impairment, CVI) is now the leading cause of vision impairment in very young children in the United States. It is a very complex vision disorder that is just beginning to be understood. Dr. Lea Hyvarinen, a world renowned pediatric ophthalmologist from Helsinki, Finland, has been working in diagnosis, evaluation and therapeutic interventions with young children with CVI. During this six-part Internet series, Dr. Hyvarinen will use lecture, PowerPoint visuals and videoclips. She will discuss how she evaluates a child with CVI, how she comes to understand the child's use of vision, and the interventions she uses to help the child learn to use vision for communication, orientation and movement, daily living skills, and sustained near vision tasks (e.g., reading).

Dr. Hyvarinen's lectures on CVI have been filmed and prerecorded at Utah State University. Each lecture will be posted on the website and made available for viewing starting on the dates and times listed below. Each lecture will remain posted on the Internet for the duration of the series and can be viewed at any time-assuring they can be viewed at times convenient to each participant. PowerPoint slides used by Dr. Hyvarinen during each lecture will be posted on the website so that participants may view/print them as desired.

- Lecture 1: Introduction
- Lecture 2: Pathways, Friday, Oct 15, 10 am MST, 1 hour

- Lecture 3: Visual Acuity and Contrast Sensitivity, Oct 22, 10 am MST, 1 hour
  - Lecture 4: Visual Field and Spatial Awareness, Nov 5, 10 am MST, 1 hour
  - Lecture 5: Vision for Communication, Nov 12, 10 am MST, 1 hour
  - Session 6: Question/Answers, Nov 19, 10 am MST, 1 1/2 hours
- For information/registration, go to <http://www.ksar.usu.edu/leacvi/>.

### Education News Parents Can Use: Next broadcast, November 16

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

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

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

- Dropout Prevention: Catching Students Before It's Too Late  
Tuesday, November 16, 2004 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- No Child Left Behind 3rd Anniversary Show: Stories of Success  
Tuesday, January 18, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- Drug and Alcohol Prevention: Keeping Kids on the Right Track  
Tuesday, February 15, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- Arts Education: Improving Students' Academic Performance  
Tuesday, March 15, 2005 — 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm ET
- Early Childhood Development: What Parents Need to Know  
Tuesday, April 19, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- Science Education: Preparing Students for the Global Economy  
Tuesday, May 17, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- Service Learning: Creating Community & Developing Citizens  
Tuesday, June 21, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET

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

## Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

### Workshop on The CICC Discovery Tool and Referral System and a National Campaign to Find and Help Young Children with Special Needs, October 26, Washington DC

The Early Childhood Development Division of the Children's Defense Fund is hosting a free workshop on "Using the CICC Discovery Tool and Referral System as an Early Childhood Education and Early Identification Methodology." The workshop will also introduce a National Campaign to Find and Help Young Children with Special Needs in which the Discovery Tool plays a central role.

The workshop will be led by CICC's founder and executive director, Dr. Kerby T. Alvy, an internationally respected authority on parenting and parenting education.

Early childhood education and health professionals, parent leaders and child advocates are cordially invited. The workshop is free but seating is limited. Enroll as soon as possible.

ENROLLMENT: E-mail Dr. Alvy at [kalvy@aol.com](mailto:kalvy@aol.com) or call CICC's toll-free number, (800) 325-2422.

### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum and Related Neurobehavioral Disorders, October 28-29, Riverside CA

*Sponsored by Arc Riverside, California Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Organization and Arc California*

Titled "On the FAS Track to Understanding," the conference will educate attendees about the characteristics, needs and diagnoses of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Who: Service providers in the health, social service, mental health, addictions treatment, education, and criminal justice systems should attend, as well as people and families living with this devastating disorder.

What: Attendees will learn about the barriers to services, interventions and practices that are known to be most effective. Attendees will also learn how to prevent "secondary disabilities" and prevent FASD itself. Finally participants will understand the heart of the issues by hearing personal experiences of individuals with FASD and their families.

Where and When: Join us at the Riverside Convention Center in Riverside California on October 28th and 29th 2004. The host hotel for this conference is the Riverside Marriott.

Invited speakers include: Ed Riley, David Boulding, Susan Doctor, Diane Malbin, Susan Carlson, Kathy Mitchell, Teresa Kellerman, Deb Evenson, Kay Kelly, and Stephen Neafcy

Fee: The Early Bird registration fee for attendees is \$150, before September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

[http://www.arcriverside.org/fs\\_pressrelease.html](http://www.arcriverside.org/fs_pressrelease.html)

### **ICDL Eighth International Conference, November 3-7—DC Metro Area**

The Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders conference "Autism and Disorders of Relating and Communications, Reversing the Core Deficits: Progress and New Directions"

When: Preconference Workshops November 3-4, Conference November 5-7

Where: Hilton Mclean, Tysons Corner, Virginia (Washington, DC Metro Area)

Registration: \$295-\$430

Mail all registration details and payments to:

ICDL, 4938 Hampden Lane, Suite 800, Bethesda, MD 20814

For more information and Preconference details, please visit <http://www.icdl.com>.

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

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

The conference is presently seeking proposals and intends addressing:

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

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

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

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

### **TASH Conference 2004, November 18-20, Reno NV**

The TASH conference is one of the largest and most progressive international conferences to focus on model, innovative, and effective strategies for achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities. This invigorating conference brings together some of the best hearts and minds in the disability movement with several hundred presenters and features over 450 breakout sessions, exhibits, roundtable discussions, poster sessions and much more, jam-packed with info. It provides a forum for individuals with disabilities, families, researchers, administrators, educators, scholars, and others to create dialogue and action for social and systems reform. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a conference with over 2500 other people from around the world (15 nations last time) which showcases national and local achievement and brings a global perspective to the community on issues of importance in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. For renewing the spirit, lifting the heart, and challenging the mind:



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

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

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

### **Third National Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Special Education, December 2-4, Washington DC**

CADRE will convene the Third National Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Special Education at the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, D.C. from December 2-4, 2004. As we get nearer to the event we'll provide you with additional details about the agenda and other logistics.

For some limited additional information, click here:

[http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/2004\\_conference.cfm](http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/2004_conference.cfm).

### **International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, December 5-8, Chicago IL**

*Lessons Learned: Weaving Our Future From the Threads of the Past*

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the DEC conference! In remembering the individuals and events that have shaped our profession, we'll see just how far we've come and use these accomplishments to build excitement as we shape the future of our field.

At DEC•2004 you can:

- Learn the latest skills to help you make a difference in the lives of young children.
- Meet with representatives from companies that develop the resources you need.
- Share thoughts and experiences with colleagues from around the world.
- Participate in discussions with leaders in your profession.
- Become involved in shaping policy that affects young children and their families.
- Attend exciting workshops, sessions, and special events.
- Celebrate 20 years of early childhood special education.

Taking time for professional development is essential for all who work in early childhood special education. The DEC conference is just the place to get the skills, information, and resources you need to meet the changing needs in our field. Take time to refresh your professional skills and take advantage of this unique opportunity to network with colleagues from around the globe!

[http://www.dec-sped.org/conference\\_04/about\\_the\\_conference.html](http://www.dec-sped.org/conference_04/about_the_conference.html)

### **Adventures in Education: conference on Inclusive Education, January 27-29, Denver CO**

Visit <http://www.peakparent.org> for information and registration.

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

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

When: March 2-5, 2005

Where: Nugget Hotel, Reno

Registration: \$75-\$230

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

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

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

Demystifying the Interplay of the ADA, FMLA & Workers Compensation

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

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

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

In an article discussing accommodations for college students with disabilities Paul Grossman, attorney for the Office For Civil Rights, described the accommodation mandate in disability law as an opportunity

for rewarding self-examination. "No other set of laws so entreats academia to take its own temperature, examine its traditions, and thoughtfully deliberate about which of its standards are essential and which are merely unexamined habits." Grossman's observation is as true for the workplace and wider society as it is for education.

For more information, contact: [ada-osu@osu.edu](mailto:ada-osu@osu.edu) or ADA Coordinator's Office, 614-292-6207 (V); 614-688-8605 (tty).

<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/2005.htm>

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

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

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

Research, Design, Practice, and Policy

Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA

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

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

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

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

## Selected Sources::

1. Monday Morning in Washington, DC, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. Rocky Mountain DBTAC, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. PEN Weekly NewsBlast <http://www.publiceducation.org>
4. The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>
5. 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  
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*Mission Statement:* Parent's Let's Unite for Kids unites parents, professionals, families and friends of children with special needs to support one another, and share information for the benefit of their children.

*Vision Statement:* Given information and support, individuals with disabilities and their families will feel empowered to advocate for themselves and participate fully in educational and community opportunities.

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