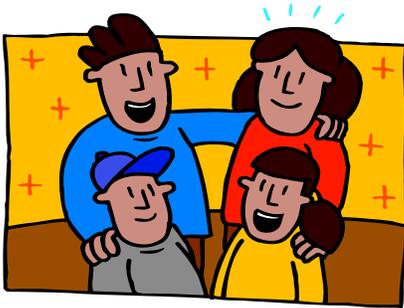




Back by Popular Demand!!

Positive Empowering Parenting

Project PEP



Family Resource Network is excited to once again have the opportunity to offer this series of parenting workshops for families of children who are receiving services through Valley Mountain Regional Center. The children must be age 14 or younger. Project PEP has been designed by and for parents of children with special needs. In addition to being a parent of a special needs child, one of the creators of Project PEP has over 30 years experience in the field of early childhood development.

Project PEP is a fun, informative way for parents to learn ways to enhance their parenting skills. There is no cost to attend Project PEP and space is limited. There are 6 workshops in the series and parents are asked to commit to attending all sessions. Sessions will be starting on Wednesday, April 21st. Sessions will be conducted on Wednesday nights through June 2nd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at FRN's office building in Stockton. There will be no meeting on May 12th.

Space is limited so you are encouraged to register soon for this popular workshop series.

You can get the registration form for Project PEP at www.frcn.org and click on calendar, or by contacting FRN or your child's VMRC Service Coordinator.

California's New Prevention Plan

PREVENTION PROGRAM

On 10/01/09, California directed the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to establish... "a prevention program for at risk babies" and to "establish policies and procedures for implementation of the prevention program by regional centers. This new regional center program is charged to provide, for eligible children ages birth through 35 months, the following services: intake services, assessment, case management, and referral to generic agencies."

Children eligible for this program will receive these services through the regional centers. These are children who are at substantially greater high risk for a developmental disability but who would otherwise be ineligible for services through the California Early Intervention Program Services Act.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All infants or toddlers potential eligible for any regional center program will enter through a single point of entry at the regional center to determine eligibility for services.

The regional center shall serve all eligible infants and toddlers. An infant or toddler is eligible for the Prevention Program when the regional center determines that an infant or toddler has:

1. A combination of two or more of the following factors
 - a. Prematurity of less than 32 weeks gestation and/or low birth weight of less than 1500 grams.
 - b. Assisted ventilation for 48 hours or longer during the first 28 days of life.
 - c. Small for gestational age: below the third percentile on the National Center for Health Statistics growth charts.
 - d. Asphyxia Neonatorum associated with a five minute Apgar score of 0 to 5.
 - e. Severe and persistent metabolic abnormality, including but not limited to hypoglycemia, academia, and hyperbilirubinemia in excess of the usual exchange transfusion level.
 - f. Neonatal seizures or nonfebrile seizures during the first three years of life.
 - g. Central nervous system lesion or abnormality.
 - h. Central nervous system infection.
 - i. Biomedical insult including, but not limited to injury, accident or illness which may seriously or permanently affect developmental outcome.
 - j. Multiple congenital anomalies or genetic disorders which may affect developmental outcome.

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**Congrats to the WINNERS of FRN's
latest drawing:
Lorena Lemus
Lizette Martinez
Jennifer Strootman**



The recreational support group for non-disabled siblings, ages 7 through 13:

Friday, May 7th, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton

Meet other siblings who have the same kinds of issues. There are games, crafts, discussion activities, food and lots of fun! There is no cost to attend.

Registration is required and must be submitted one week prior to event. Call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030 to request a registration packet.

Info on Local Support Groups

Local support groups are encouraged to email or mail flyers and information on their groups to FRN. FRN will have the information on display in the office and will share information as appropriate with families who call FRN asking for info on specific disabilities or support groups.



Keep Informed This Summer

Want up to the minute info on issues affecting children with special needs? You can add your email address to FRN's email list. FRN's newsletter is published only 3 times per year so email is a great way to keep up on important information. If you would like to be added to FRN's email list, email the following info to FRNfamilies@aol.com:

- Your name
- The county you reside in
- Please indicate if you are a parent of a child with special needs or a professional working with special needs children

Thank YOU!

To all of FRN's generous donors. In these troubled financial times FRN is exceptionally grateful to all those people who have made donations to FRN. Remember, FRN is a 501 ©3 nonprofit, so your donation is tax deductible. All donations are used to support FRN services to families.

Autism Forum

The Autism Forum is Saturday, April 10th at San Joaquin County Office of Education and FRN has a limited number of parent scholarships. Call 800-847-3030 for details.

Training Opportunities

March 30 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area VI Board • Lodi Public Library, **Lodi**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

April 14- Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program • FRN, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., **Stockton**, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., free for parents, \$15 fee for professionals, for info call 800-847-3030.

April 20 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area VI Board • Sonora Public Library meeting room, **Sonora**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

April 22 –Moving Forward: Helping Your Child Transition to Adult Services • Presenters: Area VI Board DRAIL •FRN, Sherwood Executive Center, **Stockton**, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. FREE for parents, \$15 for professionals, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

April 29 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area VI Board • **Tracy Sports Complex, Tracy**, 6 – 8:00 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

New Library Resources

Books

- Autism & PDD – Answering Questions – Level 1 and Level 2
- Going to Work

DVDs

- Adoption Decisions – Birthmothers Tell Their Stories
- Teachings of Jon

New Prevention Plan

Continued from Page 1

- k. Prenatal exposure to known teratogens.
- l. Prenatal substance exposure, positive infant neonatal toxicology screen or symptomatic neonatal toxicity or withdrawal.
- m. Clinically significant failure to thrive, including, but not limited to weight persistently below the third percentile for age on standard growth charts of less than 85 percent of the ideal weight for age and/or acute loss or failure to gain weight with the loss of two or more major percentiles on the growth curve.
- n. Persistent hypotonia or hypertonia, beyond that otherwise associated with a known diagnostic condition.

2. High risk for a developmental disability also exists when the regional center determines that the parent of the infant or toddler is a person with a developmental disability.

3. A toddler is eligible for the prevention program when the regional center determines that a toddler between the ages of 24-35 months and has a developmental delay in one domain of 33 percent through 49 percent. The developmental domains a regional center must consider are communication, cognitive, social/emotional, self-help/adaptive, and physical.

PREVENTION PROGRAM PLAN

Upon determining eligibility for the Prevention Program, and in collaboration with the child's parents and family, the regional center shall prepare a written Prevention Program Plan (PPP). The written PPP will be developed and a copy given to the parent within 60 days of the initial referral to the Prevention Program.

The case manager will help facilitate the development of the PPP and guide families in the early childhood development of their infant or toddler, identify and navigate generic services, and monitor the developmental progress of the infant or toddler. The case manager will access regional center clinical expertise for support and guidance concerning assessing child progress and the appropriate utilization of generic resources. VMRC will partner with parents and families to ensure parents remain an integral part of the Prevention Program planning process for each child.

At minimum, each family must be contacted within 90 days after the development of the PPP and every six months, thereafter. Frequency will be determined on an individual basis. Exit planning and referral to schools for over 3 programs (LEA) or ongoing Regional Center services (Lanterman) will be done (if appropriate) by 35 months of age.

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Check FRN's website, www.frcn.org and click on "calendar" for updated information on trainings and events. Registration forms for FRN events are on the website.



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New Prevention Program, *continued from Page 3.*

VMRC's case manager will monitor the progress of the child. Should a child begin to exhibit developmental delays, the child will be referred for evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation will be an eligibility review for Early Start or Lanterman Act services.

Valley Mountain Regional Center has contracted with Family Resource Network to provide the family support component of the Prevention Plan. Families whose children are eligible for the Prevention Plan will receive parent support and access to other FRN services including FRN's newsletter, the lending library, workshops and other events.

Additionally, FRN will be assisting Regional Center staff with gathering information on local resources that may be of interest to families in the Prevention Plan. Family Resource Network looks forward to working with families in the Prevention Plan!

