



Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 17, Issue 3, Fall 2009

15th Annual Early Start Symposium

YOU Make the Difference

The Region 9 Infant Services Committee is proud to present the 15th Annual Early Start Symposium which will take place Monday, November 2nd in Stockton at the San Joaquin County Office of Education. Back by popular demand, David Love, MFT returns as the keynote speaker. Mr. Love's keynote presentation is "Helping Families in Challenging Times" and he will address the issues families raising young children with special needs face in these uncertain times. He will also look at ways that professionals can assist families. Mr. Love's previous presentations received some of the highest reviews of any Symposium speaker.

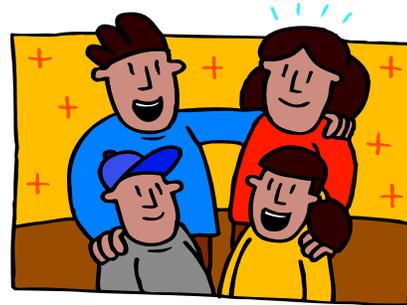
After Mr. Love's presentation there will be breakout sessions on topics including behavior, language, autism, brain development, transition from Early Start, feeding issues, deaf-blind, cultural diversity and more. Attendees will have their choice of one morning and one afternoon breakout session.

Parent scholarships are available to families whose children are in the Early Start program in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus or Tuolumne Counties. There are a limited number of scholarships for preschool children in those counties who are receiving special education services.

Registration material is available on FRN's website, www.frcn.org and click on calendar, or contact FRN at 209-472-3674.



Positive Empowering Parenting Project PEP



Family Resource Network is excited to offer this new series of parenting workshops for families of children who are receiving services through Valley Mountain Regional Center. The children must be between the ages of 3 and 10. 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 will be 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 8 workshops in the series and parents are asked to commit to attending all sessions. Sessions will be starting on Tuesday, October 13, 2009. Sessions will be conducted on Tuesday nights through December 8th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton. There will be no meeting on November 24th, (Thanksgiving week).

It is unknown at this time if FRN will be able to secure funding to offer this series of workshops in the future so if you are interested, NOW is the time!

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.

Family Resource Network Newsletter
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Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com website: www.frcn.org

Congrats to the WINNERS of FRN's
latest drawing:
Claramaria Granados
Megan Mathison
Shannon Moreland-Garcia



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

Friday, September 25, 2009
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.



SPARK is an information and discussion group for families raising children with special needs. This year the group will be meeting at San Joaquin County Office of Education, 2707 Transworld Drive in Stockton. The group meets from **6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17th**, Lisa Drake, M.A., CCC-Sp will identify ways parents can encourage language in their children who have speech concerns. **Thursday, October 15th** will have representatives from Valley Mountain Regional Center discussing how that agency can assist families raising children with developmental disabilities. Topics for future meetings will be posted on FRN's website. We regret that we are unable to provide childcare. There is no cost to attend but registration is requested. You can call FRN or go to www.frcn.org and click on calendar to register.



Did you get the news?

FRN received lots of info this summer regarding proposed changes to laws affecting children with special needs, and those families on FRN's email list were kept informed as events were happening. 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

Training Opportunities

Sept. 24 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area VI Board • Lathrop 1 Community Room, 15445 7th Street, **Lathrop**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

Sept. 29 - Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program • San Joaquin County Office of Education, **Stockton**, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., free for parents, \$15 fee for professionals, for info call 800-847-3030.

October 7– Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • Amador County GSA Building, 12200 –B Airport Road, **Jackson**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030. **FREE childcare is available by contacting First 5 Amador at 209-257-1092.**

November Date To Be Announced - Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • Site is to be determined, **Stanislaus County**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for more information call 800-847-3030 to check FRN's website, www.frcn.org and click on Calendar.

November 4 - 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.

Creativity can solve almost any problem. The creative act, the defeat of habit by originality, overcomes everything.

George Lois

Financial and Estate Planning Workshop

Frank Quacinella, First Vice President and National Spokesperson for Families with Special Needs Planning Network for Merrill Lynch, and Mark Drobney, Attorney at Law, will once again be the presenters for FRN's Financial and Estate Planning workshop. It will take place on the **evening of November 10th**. As of this writing the exact location of the workshop is to be determined, but we know it will be in Stockton. Topics for the workshop include:

- ◆ Understanding the importance of financial planning,
- ◆ Preparing for when you're not there to help.
- ◆ Protecting government benefits through proper estate planning.
- ◆ Special Needs Trusts – the basics of how they work and when they are appropriate.
- ◆ Conservatorship – What is it? Situations under which it should be considered and when it should be avoided.
- ◆ Personal estate planning

There is no cost to attend this workshop, but reservations are requested. Call FRN or go to www.frcn.org and click on calendar for registration information.



Tis The Season...

well...not quite yet, but it will be before we know it. FRN's Annual Holiday Open House will take place on Saturday, December 5th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at FRN's office, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Stockton. This FREE event will have food, fun and Santa will be stopping by. Call or email FRN to let us know how many people will be in your party.

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.

New FRN Library Resources

This summer FRN added over 50 resources to its library. Below is a partial list of the additions. Visit www.frcn.org and click on Library to see a complete listing of all of FRN's library resources and to find out how to borrow resources from the library. If you don't have access to the internet you can contact FRN at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

Books

- A is for Autism, F is for Friend
- Asperger Syndrome in Adolescence
- Autism and Asperger Syndrome – Preparing for Adulthood
- Autism Early Intervention - Fast Facts
- Autism Life Skills
- Autism Now What?
- Does My Child Have Autism
- Dr. Thompson's Straight Talk on Autism
- Facilitating Play Dates for Children with Autism and Typically Developing Peers
- Freedom From Meltdowns
- Getting the Best for Your Child with Autism
- The Hidden Curriculum
- IDEA Due Process Survival Guide
- Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities
- Just Give Him the Whale
- No More Meltdowns
- Talk to Me, Baby!
- Toilet Training for Individuals with Autism or Other Developmental Issues
- What To Do About Your Brain-Injured Child - *donated by Teresa Duff*

DVDs

- Autism – The Musical
- Navigating the Social World – *donated by Wanda Luis*
- Successfully Parenting Preschoolers with Special Needs
- Successfully Parenting Your Baby with Special Needs

En Espanol

- Esperanzas Para El Autismo Y Dificultades De Comportamiento y Aprendizaje
- Los Trastornos Del Espectro de Autismo

Video

- Everyone Counts-Teaching Acceptance and Inclusion
- My Friend Isabelle

Trailer Bill Language Affecting the Lanterman Act

Information provided by Disability Rights CA

Editor's Note: The Lanterman Act is the legislation that outlines services provided by Regional Centers throughout CA. Therefore, this article is of interest to parents whose children are served through Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC). Parents of children receiving Early Start services from VMRC should see the related article on page 7.

The CA Legislature required \$334 million reduction in the Developmental Disabilities Services budget. This was achieved through a combination of increases (primarily in federal revenue) and decreases in expenditures. These changes generally are effective with the July 28 signing of the budget.

The Trailer Bill Language (TBL) temporarily suspends the purchase of the following services:

- 1) camping and associated travel expenses;
- 2) social recreation activities, except for those activities vendored as community-based day program (this does not include social skills training);
- 3) educational services for children ages three to 17; and
- 4) non- medical therapies, including, but not limited to, specialized recreation, art, dance, and music pending implementation and certification of the Individual Choice Budget. Because regional centers must give a 30-day notice before terminating these services, suspended services which currently are on a consumer's IPP should continue through August.

The regional center may grant an exemption on an individual basis in extraordinary circumstances to permit the purchase of a suspended service when the regional center determines that:

- 1) the service is a primary or critical means for ameliorating the physical, cognitive, or psychosocial effects of the consumer's developmental disability; or
- 2) the service is necessary to enable the consumer to remain in his or her home and no alternative service is available to meet the consumer's need.

The TBL temporarily limits the amount of respite a regional center may purchase absent an exception. Specifically, a regional center may not purchase more than 21 days of out-of-home respite services in a fiscal year nor more than 90 hours of in-home respite in a quarter, for a consumer. The regional center may grant an exemption from the respite limits if it is demonstrated that

- 1) the intensity of the consumer's care and supervision needs are such that additional respite is necessary to maintain the consumer in the family home, or
- 2) there is an extraordinary event that impacts the family member's ability to meet the care and supervision needs of the consumer.

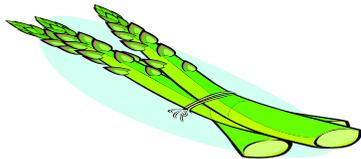
The amendments also prohibit a regional center from purchasing day care services to replace or supplant respite services. "Day care" is defined as regularly provided care, protection, and supervision of a consumer living in the home of his or her parents, for periods of less than 24 hours per day, while the parents are engaged in employment outside of the home or educational activities leading to employment, or both.

The amendments also provide that a regional center may only consider IHSS a generic resource when the approved IHSS hours meet the respite needs as identified in the IFSP/IPP.



**FRN extends its thanks to the following
for their generous donations:**

- Julie Arndt
- Lupita Barajas
- Big Valley Down Syndrome Association
- Sue and Tom Chinchio in memory of Mary Westin
- Catherine Coughlan
- Teresa Duff
- Athena Guardiano
- Rita Gutierrez
- Tamaran Hollingworth
- Alicia Manzo
- Margaret McKain
- Rhonda Martinez and a matching donation from PG&E Corp. Campaign for the Community
- Shirley Pepys
- Efrain and Alicia Rosas
- Eroica Siazon
- Sonya Steinruck



**FRN Asparagus Festival Volunteers
They've got the spear-it!!**

Ann Gulick
Roger Valdez
Connie Weiman



*Kinds words may be short,
but their echo endless.*

Mother Theresa



Thank you United Way Donors!!

- Ron Cook
- Thea Etheridge
- Kathleen Werner
and
Anonymous Donors



Healing Hearts Society

Many, many thanks go to those listed below who so generously donated to **FRN's Healing Hearts Society**. Funds from these donations are given to families to assist with burial expenses upon the death of their child with special needs. To date, FRN has provided Healing Hearts Society funds to **15** families.

Healing Hearts Society Members include:

- Sue Allyn
- Lorraine Lane
- Andrew Langry
- Vicky & Cliff MacKinnon
- Marie Muzio
- Marie O'Sullivan
- Sangita & Rahul Patel
- PEDS, LLC
- Michelle Rodriguez
- Judy Sterling
- Thelma Stewart
- Mapy Torres
- Peggy Traverso
- Don & Linda Vest
- Catherine Whitesides



FRN's Fantastic Volunteers

- Edward Klunk
- Leia Simms
- Sarah Werner



A Fire Safety Message from the Stockton Fire Department

The primary concern of the Stockton Fire Department is safety for everyone, including our children with special needs. The Stockton Fire Department has a special procedure that is intended to provide an extra measure of safety for individuals with special needs. Parents are encouraged to complete and submit a Residential Premise History. This form will provide added information and security for field units who may need to respond to an emergency or other call from your home, in identifying and/or assisting you or your child. It is essential that the location of your child with special needs is known by the first responding unit so they can concentrate their life saving efforts on the area that can make the biggest impact and resolution of the emergency.

To complete your Residential Premise History these steps must be taken:

1. Go to the Stockton Fire Department web site:
<http://www.stocktongov.com/fire/>
2. Under the Safety section, click the Brochure link.
3. Scroll down to #11 – Fire and Safety for People with Disabilities. Click on the link.
4. Print and fill out in its entirety, the Residential Premise History Form.
5. Mail residential Premise History Form to:
City Hall/Stockton Fire Department
425 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95203

<http://www.stocktongov.com/fire/documents/PremiseHistory.pdf>

http://www.stocktongov.com/fire/documents/Disabilities_01.pdf

The information on the Residential Premise History Form will expire in one year from entry date.

Fire Safety Information For Families Residing Outside of Stockton

Families are encouraged to contact their local fire department to see if they have a Residential Premise History form. If they don't have a form but are interested in having that same type of information on file, you can download FRN's Residential Premise History form from FRN's website and submit it to your fire department. FRN created this form with input from fire officials. The form is located at www.frcn.org and click on Special Projects.



Turning 18 soon?

If you have a child with special needs who will be turning 18 in the next year or so, you might want to check out some checklists FRN has created to help parents as their children transition to adulthood. Go to www.frcn.org and click on Resources. You can download "Transition from Special Education to Adult Services Checklist" and "Suggested Steps for Investigation of Adult Service Options". These checklists have been created by and for parents. FRN has received feedback from parents and professionals alike who felt that these checklists provided valuable information.

Another great resource is www.db101.org. This website was created by the CA Work Incentives Initiative at the World Institute Disability along with multiple other agencies. The website provides easy to read descriptions of state, federal and private benefit and health coverage programs. It also has a benefits planning calculator so people can see how changes in their lives might or might not affect their benefits. DB101 has taken some complicated material and presented it in user-friendly, easy to understand language.

CA Legislation Makes Significant Changes to Early Start Program

*The following information was provided by
Disability Rights CA*

Changes to Early Start for Infants and Toddlers

- Eligibility Criteria

Currently, eligibility due to a developmental delay requires a "significant difference" between the expected level of development for an individual's age and the current level of functioning. That significant difference was measured as a 33% delay in one of five developmental areas. Prospectively, eligibility due to a developmental delay will be a 33 percent delay in one of the five developmental areas before 24 months of age, or, at 24 months of age or older, either a delay of 50 percent in one of the five developmental areas or a 33 percent delay in two or more developmental areas.

California's Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has indicated currently eligible infants/toddlers with a developmental delay remain eligible for Early Start services. For new referrals, the age for use in the determination of eligibility due to a developmental delay for Early Start shall be the age of the infant or toddler on the date of the initial referral to the Early Start program.

Effective October 1, 2009, the Trailer Bill Language (TBL) also alters the Early Start program eligibility requirements such that infants and toddlers who are at high risk of having a substantial disability due to a combination of biomedical risk factors do not qualify for Early Start program services. For infants/toddlers who are currently receiving services due to being "at risk", regional centers must provide 30-day notice that their services will end on September 30, 2009. At risk individuals may be eligible for a Prevention Program. At risk individuals may also ask to be evaluated as to whether they are eligible under the developmental delay category. This change requires an Early Start State Plan amendment. If the amendment is not approved, or approval is delayed the changes will not be effective October 1.

- Required Services

The TBL also specifies that effective October 1, 2009, regional centers are only responsible for the provision of appropriate

and federally required early intervention services and durable medical equipment. Required services are those early intervention services that are designed to meet the unique developmental needs of the child and the needs of the family related to enhancing the child's development. Non required services include: Child care, diapers, dentistry, interpreter, translator, genetic counseling, music therapy, social recreation programs, housing, medical service unrelated to the child's development, hospitalization, immunizations, well-baby care, family or marital counseling unrelated to the infant's development and substance abuse counseling.

- Prevention

The TBL requires DDS to establish a prevention program for at-risk babies. "At-risk baby," means a child under 36 months of age who is otherwise not eligible for Early Start and whose genetic, medical, developmental, or environmental history is predictive of a substantially greater risk for developmental disability than that for the general population. The program is to provide intake, assessment, case management, and referral to generic agencies. DDS will allocate specific funding for the program to each regional center. DDS will establish policies and procedures for implementation of the program. Disability Rights California staff is participating on a workgroup to develop this program.

- Use of Private Insurance

At the time of development, review or revision of the IFSP, the regional center is required to have families use their private insurance or health care service plan for medical services identified in the IFSP, other than for evaluation and assessment, in compliance with applicable federal and state law and regulation. Regional centers must continue to ensure the timely provision of required early intervention services. This provision is in addition to the general use of generic resources, use of generic medical and dental services. As noted above, IFSP teams are also to look at neighborhood preschools and use of group training in lieu of some or all of the in-home behavioral training.