



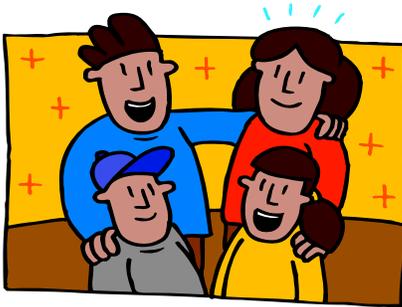
Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 18, Issue 4, Fall 2010 Edition

Saturday Series – January 2011 Positive Empowering Parenting

Project PEP



Family Resource Network is excited to once again have the opportunity to offer this series of parenting workshops for parents of children, age 14 or younger, who are receiving services through Valley Mountain Regional Center. Project PEP has been designed by, and for, parents of children with special needs. For the first time ever, **Project PEP will be offered on Saturday mornings.**

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 4 workshops in the Saturday series and parents are asked to commit to attending all sessions. **Sessions will be conducted Saturdays, January 8th through 29, 2011, at FRN's Stockton office from 9 a.m. to noon.**

We are working on the registration form which will be posted on the calendar page on FRN's website. You can email or call FRN now to let us know that you want to be notified as soon as the registration form is ready. There has already been a lot of interest in this Saturday series so we anticipate that it will fill up quickly.

16th Annual Early Start Symposium

What Makes You Smile?

Tuesday, November 2, 2010 marks the date for the 16th Annual Early Start Symposium. Paul Glassman, DDS, M.A., MBA, from the University of the Pacific's School of Dentistry will be a keynote presenter on a topic the Symposium has not presented before - "The Importance of Getting An Early Start on Good Oral Health." Dr. Glassman has years of experience serving the special needs community and he brings to the event a wealth of knowledge on the subject of oral health and the important role it plays in a child's early development.

We will have a second keynote presentation this year. Kris Faith and Katie Faith Lingo will share their very personal story of being twins - one of whom has Down syndrome. Parents and professionals alike will find their presentation informative and inspirational.

There will be breakout sessions in the afternoon on dental care associated with syndromes, bringing structure to home and social environments, using sign language to foster language development, addressing behavior issues, and ideas to help children with motor issues gain stability and move towards mobility.

The registration form is available on FRN's website and click on "calendar". Scholarships are available to parents living in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus or Tuolumne Counties whose children are receiving Prevention Program or Early Start services. There are a limited number of scholarships for parents of preschoolers receiving special education services. Registration fee for individuals from the 5 county service area is \$40; \$55 for out of area. For more information call Family Resource Network.



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

Congrats to the WINNERS of FRN's
latest drawing:
Ana Garcia
Gilda Romero
Lidia Sanchez

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

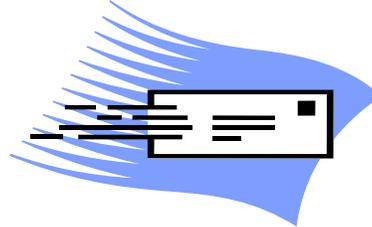
Friday, September 24th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton.

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.



Stay In the Know

Want up to the minute info on issues affecting children with special needs? You can have your email address added to FRN's email list. FRN's newsletter is published only a few 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



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 4th 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.

Training Opportunities

Sept. 23 – 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.

Sept. 29- 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.

Oct. 20- Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program • FRN, Valley Mountain Regional Center, 1820 Blue Gum Ave., **Modesto**, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., free for parents, \$15 fee for professionals, for info call 800-847-3030.

Oct. 28 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • Amador County GSA Bldg, 12200 – B Airport Road, **Jackson**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030. **FREE childcare available through First 5 Amador, call 257-1092 for details.**

Nov. 4– Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area VI Board • **United Cerebral Palsy, Modesto**, 6 – 8:00 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

The central struggle of parenthood is to let our hopes for our children outweigh our fears.

Ellen Goodman



Reprinted from Special Education Rights and Responsibilities by CASE and DRC:

What happens to my child's special education program if we move from one school district to another?

When a pupil moves during a school year into a new school district that is not part of the same Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), the new school district must provide the student with a free appropriate public education, including services which are comparable to those in his previous district's IEP for the first 30 days of attendance in the new district. A SELPA is either a single large school district or a collection of school districts which constitutes a geographic region and which is organized to pool special education resources and to determine special education fund distributions to the various programs or school districts within the SELPA. During those first 30 days, the new district must either adopt the old IEP or develop, adopt, and implement a new IEP that is consistent with federal and state special education law. [Cal. Educ. Code Sec. 56325(a)(1).]

If a pupil moves to a new school district that is within the same SELPA, the new district must continue, without delay, to provide services comparable to that contained in the previous IEP, unless the parents and district develop, adopt and implement a new IEP which conforms to state and federal special education law. [Cal. Educ. Code Sec. 56325(a)(2).]

If a child transfers into California with an IEP from another state, his new school district must provide him with a free appropriate public education, including services comparable to those in his previous IEP, in consultation with his parents, until the new district conducts any new assessments determined to be necessary, and then develops a new IEP. [Cal. Educ. Code Sec. 56325(a)(3).] The child's new school district must take reasonable steps to promptly obtain the child's school records, and the child's previous school district must take reasonable steps to respond to the new school district's request for these records. [Cal. Educ. Code Sec. 56325(b)(1); 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1414(d)(2)(C)(ii).]

Additional Resource: NICHEY has an in depth article on issues related to moving including a checklist for parents posted at <http://www.nichcy.org/FamiliesAndCommunity/Pages/moving.aspx>

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.

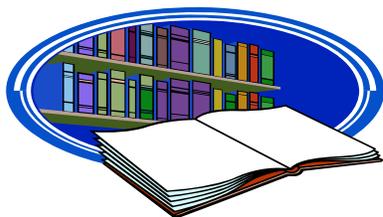
FRN Library Resources

This summer FRN added over 60 resources to its library. Here are just a few of the additions:

- Aspergirls
- Can I Tell You About Asperger Syndrome?
- Divorce and the Special Needs Child
- Grandparenting a Child with Special Needs
- How to Raise an Emotionally Healthy Children
- Making Sense of Sex

Topics of new resources include autism, mental health, behavior and many more. 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.

You don't need to come in to FRN's office in order to use the library. We are happy to mail resources to you. We just ask that you be responsible for returning the items to FRN. You can mail them to FRN, swing by the office, or drop them off with the building receptionist. You may check out up to two resources for a period of 3 weeks.



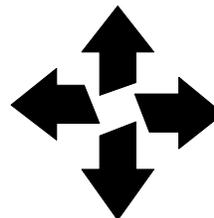
Financial and Estate Planning Workshop

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. Topics will 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

This workshop will take place Saturday, October 16th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at United Cerebral Palsy, 333 W. Benjamin Holt Dr., Stockton. The registration form is available at www.frcn.org and click on calendar or call FRN at 209-472-3674.

CHOICES 2011



SAVE the DATE!

Friday, April 8, 2011

FRN is one of the cosponsors that proudly presents the 24th Annual CHOICES Institute

This year's theme is
Work = CHOICES

and we will be looking at different types of work choices that are available to people with developmental disabilities. Registration forms will be available in February. Contact the CHOICES Institute at 209-948-8011 or CHOICESInstitute@hotmail.com for more info.



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

Lisa Cosentino
Elizabeth & Gage Courtois
Paul Cruz
Elegant Essence
Wanda Farinelli
Beverly Klunk
Jeanette Kudron
Rhonda Martinez
Judy Murray
Patrick O'Connor
Tamara Polley
Eleanor Reimer
Efrain Rosas
Stockton Ports Baseball Club
Patti White
Dr. and Mrs. Jerrold Yecies



FRN's Fantastic Volunteers

Carissa Balcao
Joe Cirimele
Sylvia Isordia
Edward Klunk
Don Okura
Alicia Rosas
Lorena Smalley



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world;
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead



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 29 families.

Healing Hearts Society Members include:

- Robert Alcantar
- Sue Allyn
- Always Home Nursing
- Bank of America Matching Gift Program
- Kathy Barnes
- Dawn Bauleke
- Frank & Lisa Drake
- B.E.S.T./Sally Grevemberg
- Andrew & Maribel Langtry
- Lorraine Lane
- Cliff & Vicky MacKinnon
- Carlos & Amarisa Murillo
- Marie Muzio
- Marie O'Sullivan
- Dr. and Mrs. Rahul Patel
- Pediatric Association of Stockton
- PEDS
- Ray & Karen Pekarck
- Reydecel Pena
- Dan & Marilyn Platt
- Frank & Nancy Quacinella
- Michelle Rodriguez
- Judy Sterling
- Thelma Stewart
- Peggy Traverso
- Catherine Whitesides

The following donations to the Healing Hearts
Society were made in memory of Walton
Sanborn, Sr.:

- Joseph & Ann Cirimele
- Richard & Janice Jones
- Don & Colleen Okura
- Stockton Anesthesia Medical Group



Tech News

AbleCloset is a 501c3 non-profit organization that was founded on the vision of providing children with special needs a resource for borrowing needed equipment. Obtaining rehabilitative equipment can be costly and time consuming. AbleCloset hopes to provide another resource for families that find themselves in these situations, allowing them to browse and then borrow from their “library” of equipment. For more information contact <http://ablecloset.com>



IEP Checklist iPhone Application

By Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC, www.peatc.org) and Nurvee (www.nurvee.com)

Offered free of charge in both English and Spanish, this new IEP app helps parents of students with special needs become better informed advocates by keeping IEP information organized and making it easier to access. It displays 13 primary categories that relate directly to IEP meetings. Each category displays a quick reference guide of essential information and has room for a parent's own notes. Some comments on the application: “This is just the sort of tool that families that have children in special education need to prepare and participate in the IEP. It not only gives them the information on IDEA 2004 and the IEP but also assists in keeping their child's information organized and easily accessed.”

For more information and free download:
<http://www.peatc.org/peatc.cgim?template=IEPchecklistiPhone>

Also available for free download from iTunes:
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iep-checklist/id348702423?mt=8>

Save the Date!



Saturday, February 5th, 2011 marks the date for FRN's 11th Annual Mothers Retreat. Our theme is “*The Gardens of Our Lives*”. The event will take place at San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FRN will be having door prizes for the event and would love to receive donations of items that will help Moms feel pampered – maybe a spa day, a bottle of perfume, a CD of inspiring music. All items are gratefully accepted.



FRN Welcomes its New Program Coordinator – Valerie Crump!

Valerie has been a resident in the Stockton area for 16 years and has worked with various private organizations that serve the community. She has worked in the areas of homeless relief and resources, parent education, and is on the board of directors for Training Camp for Life, a non profit organization aimed at helping at-risk teens.

She is the mother of four children, two with special needs. She has had extensive experience dealing with the needs of children with autism and children with various learning disabilities, including ADHD.

Community Advisory Committee for Special Education

CAC PURPOSE

The role of the CAC is to advise the School District's Board of Education about special education issues, to provide access to training and information and to work collaboratively with the school district to improve student outcomes.

The CAC participates in the development, amendment and review of the Local Plan for Special Education, and recommends annual priorities to be addressed by the plan. The Local Plan describes how services will be delivered to special education students in accordance with federal and state laws.

The California department of Education (CDE) divides the state into areas for the purposes of planning and monitoring how the special education services are delivered to students with disabilities. These areas are called Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA). CDE mandates that all SELPAs maintain a Community Advisory Committee for Special Education.

CAC MEMBERSHIP

The Community Advisory Committee for Special Education CAC membership is composed of volunteers, including parents of individuals with exceptional needs enrolled in public and private schools, parents of other students enrolled in school, pupils and adults with disabilities, general and special education teachers, other school district personnel, representatives of other public and private agencies, and others concerned with the needs of individuals with exceptional needs. Members are appointed by the Board of Education.

CAC PARTICIPATION

Any parent of a student in the district (public or private), staff or community member may attend and participate in CAC meetings. Ask questions, share concerns and have your voice be heard. If you have any ideas about how the CAC can help students with exceptional needs and promote parent and community involvement, please contact your local CAC.

Many CACs offer presentations on topics of interest as part of their CAC agenda. You can contact your local CAC to get a schedule of meetings for the school year or to find out how you can be added to the CAC's mail or email list.



SELPAs

Special Education Local Plan Area

Amador County:

209-257-5330

Calaveras County:

209-736-6020 or 209-736-6016

Lodi Unified/New Hope/Oak View:

209-331-7061 or 209-331-7062

Modesto City Schools:

209-576-4155

San Joaquin (except Lodi and Stockton Unified):

209-468-4925

Stockton Unified:

209-933-7120 x 2560

Stanislaus County (except Modesto City Schools):

209-541-2944

Tuolumne County:

209-536-2040

What is Workability?

The Workability program provides comprehensive pre-employment skills training, employment placement and follow-up for high school students in special education who are making the transition from school to work, independent living and post secondary education or training.

Workability offers special education students the opportunity to complete their secondary education while also obtaining marketable job skills.

Workability program seeks employers in the business community who will give students with special needs a chance to prove themselves.

The WAI program is funded and administered by the CDE. Not all schools districts or SELPAs offer Workability. Some districts offer programs similar to Workability. Contact your district or SELPA for information on a work experience program in your area.