



The Link

A Newsletter of the Parent Information Center of Delaware, Inc.

Nonverbal Learning Disorders It's Not What You Say, It's What You Don't Say That's the Problem

People with a nonverbal learning disorder (NVLD) have trouble processing information that is not spoken or written. Although the syndrome has been recognized as a disability in the last twenty years, many psychologists, diagnosticians and educators are unfamiliar with it. But the problems children with this disability face in visual-spatial-organizational learning, motoric and social domains present real challenges - ones that are often ignored or sadly misunderstood.

That's because children with this disability don't appear to have problems early in their school years. Verbal to the point of being precocious, often excellent readers and spellers - NVLD children look at first to be far more talented than their peers who cannot read, spell or express themselves well.

But learning by rote and orally takes a child only so far. While language-based communication is critical to academic success, it has been found that more than 65% of all communication is actually conveyed nonverbally. This places the NVLD child at a particular disadvantage.

As children progress through school, the work requires broader skills than the NVLD child possesses. For them, what first appear as strengths in elementary school can become compensating and eventually self-limiting skills by late elementary and middle school. No wonder one expert called nonverbal learning disorders "more debilitating than verbal disabilities."

A Profile of the NVLD Child

Motor Mouth

NVLD children depend on auditory information to learn. As a result, they need to talk their way through a process or description or have someone else do it for them.

Not comfortable with examining an object to find out about it, they ask questions instead and talk, often excessively, to comprehend information.

Parts is Parts

In visual/spatial processing and organizing material, NVLD children cannot see the whole for its parts. Because they cannot create a mental picture of what they see, they focus on details, and often fail to grasp the whole picture.

While they may be able to read a paragraph well, they cannot extract the main idea or recognize cause-effect relationships in the material. Inference is also confusing, as they tend to be literal, linear thinkers. This makes it hard for them to answer questions at the end of a chapter, understand test questions when they are worded differently than those studied, and organize thinking for written reports. In math, word problems or math reasoning are challenging as are higher math skills that require spatial recognition or knowledge of spatial relations. The concepts of time, money and measurement can be hard for them to grasp.

Poor Motor Control

NVLD children tend also to have poor fine and gross motor skills. As toddlers, they resist using a spoon or fork. Later on, tying shoes, using scissors and writing can take a long time to master, and even then, be arduous tasks. Math mechanics also frustrate them because they cannot keep columns straight, often failing to line up or carry over numbers in division and multiplication.

Gross motor problems are often the first ones parents notice. Poor balance accounts for the "drunken" gait that some NVLD toddlers display when learning to walk. Because they often fall and are

afraid of heights, the NVLD infant may depend on objects or adults to maintain balance long after other children outgrow such supports.

They avoid activities that require crossing the midline. Learning to ride a bike takes years. Jumping jacks that require coordination on both sides of the body are very difficult to master. As a result, the NVLD child often prefers to eat and do homework on the floor where they derive security from being "grounded" there.

Socially Inept

NVLD children speak to understand the

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Thinking Out LOUD! LOUD! LOUD!

Real life is more than just a test!

A few years ago, I was informed that my soon to be “thirty something” son, Stefan, not only continued to be a person with autism (surprise!), but also that his IQ had sunk to an all time low of 20. Needless to say, I was very confused and upset. Here was a child who had made considerable gains throughout his school years, and now as an adult holds a part-time job, swims, rides a bike, plays frisbee and runs road races.

In addition to his physical abilities which demand considerable concentration and coordination, Stefan also has an uncanny memory for places, things and events that, in my opinion, require a thought process in an IQ range above 20. He can find his way back from anywhere and will remember the most astonishing details from his travels. This talent of his proves to be handy when I can’t find my car in the supermarket parking lot or when I get lost without a map.

Another amazing ability of Stefan’s is creative problem solving. A few days ago, while we were eating dinner, Stefan asked for *soda*. I told him that he could have juice, not soda. Not discouraged in the least, he asked for *mustard* for his hamburger. Thrilled to see him handle refusal in such a mature way, I directed him to the refrigerator to fetch the mustard. Uncharacteristically, he jumped up immediately and with a smile larger than life, produced a can of *soda*...not the Grey Poupon!

I am not claiming that Stefan is on his way to becoming a brain surgeon, but I also believe that tests don’t necessarily reflect the many abilities he and other children with disabilities possess. It is encouraging to know that not everything we humans do can be measured, tabulated or categorized.

After twenty nine years of dismal test results and poor prognosis, I still marvel at some of the remarkable things Stefan has in store.

The Link is a quarterly publication of the Parent Information Center of DE, Inc. (PIC/DE). Please do not duplicate The Link in its entirety or partially without permission from PIC/DE.

The Link is made possible through reader contributions, funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and the Exceptional Children/Early Childhood Division/Delaware Department of Education. Articles contained herein are for informational purposes only and do not imply endorsement by funding sources.

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Newsletter Circulation: 3,777

Have a great summer and enjoy your children
because they all are truly awesome!

Nonverbal Learning Disability

Continued from page 1

world around them. But while they can be very talkative, they use “cocktail party speech,” where they talk a lot, but say very little. That’s because they’ve missed the 65% of communication that is nonverbal.

Strong in content knowledge, they lack the context of “reading” social cues that often leads them to monopolize conversations or make inappropriate comments. Lost on the NVLD child is the hidden meaning or intentions behind a person’s words. NVLD children take people at their word, and can become scapegoats because “they should have known better.”

People often label their behaviors as annoying or attention getting when NVLD children have simply failed to grasp the subtleties of body language and facial expression. In conversation, what others view as self-absorption is simply the NVLD child’s mode of communication. As a result, NVLD children tend to have few friends; those they form are usually with older or younger children, not their peers.

Adult Dynamics

Despite the many challenges that this disability presents, the higher functioning person with NVLD often attends college, due largely because of his or her language abilities and can even obtain a master’s degree. However, deficits in higher level thinking, poor social and organizational skills can make it hard for NVLD adults to attain jobs or build careers. In adulthood, fostering intimate relationships can be a great frustration, leading many to depression and anxiety.

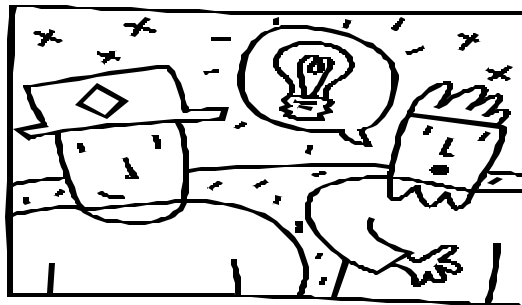
Its Causes

While there is no known cause for this disorder, experts believe it stems from either deficits in the right hemisphere or in subcortical white matter of the brain where integrative processing occurs. Nonverbal learning disorders share a number of common symptoms with right hemisphere dysfunction, Asperger’s Syndrome and central processing disorders. While some contend that Asperger’s Syndrome and NVLD are similar, one expert thinks higher functioning children with Asperger’s Syndrome may instead be children with a nonverbal learning disorder. Because it is largely unrecognized as a disorder, NVLD children often are mislabeled with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or emotionally disturbed. Proper assessment is essential for treatment and interventions for these children.

Identifying Educational Needs

Because verbal and rote memory can be so good in these young children, it is easy for teachers to overlook their problems in other subjects. Overlearning and other compensatory skills may also mask their learning disabilities.

Depending on the diagnostic tests administered and their evaluation, NVLD children initially may be denied special education services because the tests do not show “a severe discrepancy” between intelligence and academic performance. However, when the tests do



identify a problem, NVLD children may be classified as learning disabled (especially in math), as emotionally disturbed (due to social and emotional problems) or as needing occupational therapy for fine motor problems. However, their problems are more global and should be addressed holistically. One researcher suggests that NVLD children qualify for special education services under the disability category of “traumatic brain injury.” Barring that, because NVLD limits “one or more major life activities,” the child with this disability should qualify for 504 accommodations.

With comprehensive educational supports, the child with NVLD should be able to succeed in “fully included” mainstream classes.

Web Resources for Nonverbal Learning Disorders

To find out more about this disorder, refer to www.asperger.org/articles or www.nldontheweb.org.

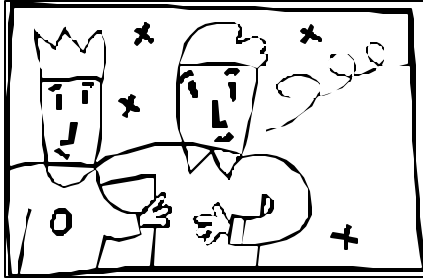
Professional Resources offers [The Source for Nonverbal Learning Disorder](#), a guide to identifying and teaching children with this disorder. If you have a child or a student who ignores nonverbal cues, is clumsy or uncoordinated, makes inappropriate social remarks, has difficulty with visual-spacial-organizational tasks, then you probably need this book. You’ll get checklists, anecdotes and methods providing valuable information such as: steps toward diagnosis, teaching tips and strategies for improving social skills. Similar information is also available for children with Dyslexia and Dysgraphia.

This and other materials can be ordered by phone (1-800-PRO-IDEA) or on the internet at www.linguisystems.com.

Have you visited our library lately?

The PIC library is growing by leaps and bounds! Some of our new arrivals are highlighted on [page 5](#). Summer could be the perfect time to catch up on your reading. Just contact the PIC office or visit www.picofdel.org for a complete listing of all of the books (as well as videos) that we have available for loan.

Focus on Family Services and Supports



Finding services and supports for your family when you are dealing with troubling issues can be frustrating. You may feel alone, unsure of where to turn for help and even discouraged about your own parenting skills. There are many agencies and support groups that offer information, educational classes and support for families. Some local resources that may be helpful to you are listed below. And as always, the PIC website at www.picofdel.org is also a great way to learn about other resources!

Child Inc. - Statewide organization offering a variety of services and programs for families

Family Support and Parent Education Services: Includes the WarmLINE at 762-8939 (toll free number in Kent/Sussex Counties 1-800-874-2070) for parents to call with non-medical, child-related questions and concerns. The WarmLINE is staffed by trained parent facilitators eager to take your calls!

Parent Education Classes and Workshops: Parenting classes are held to address issues involving adolescents, troubled teens, dynamics of stepfamilies, coping with separation and divorce and effects of domestic violence on children.

Foster Care: Includes quality training for foster parents, counseling and support for youth in care with an emphasis on addressing youngsters with severe behavioral problems.

Youth and Family Services: Emergency shelters for children and youth, counseling and shelter for runaway youth and assistance to school personnel about child abuse and other family issues are included. Runaway Hotline is 654-0808.

Domestic Violence Services: Crisis counseling, victim therapy and transitional housing offered.

New Castle (762-8989), Kent (697-2292 or 697-0411), Sussex (629-7220)

Children & Families First - Statewide private social service agency dedicated to improving the quality of individual, family and community life in Delaware through prevention, treatment, education and training services

Parenting Plus: Home-based service designed to support and help parents learn the skills needed to be effective with their children.

Community Education: Offers relevant short courses, workshops and lectures to enrich family and interpersonal relationships.

Special Needs Adoption: Ongoing support is offered through one year post placement of children ages 0-17 with significant disabilities.

Family Counseling: Individual, group and family therapy and supportive services for families.

A Parent and Child ADHD Group: For children ages 5-8 years who have been diagnosed with ADHD and currently taking medication and their parents - Call for times and dates.

Grandparent Support Groups - meetings held at the Wilmington and Newark Senior Center.

New Castle (658-5177), Kent (674-8384), Sussex (856-2388)

Children & Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders - Newark Chapter, New Castle County

The Parent Support Group meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month (excluding June, July, August, December) at 7:00 pm at the United Church of Christ on Main Street in Newark. Educational sessions, guest speakers and support for parents dealing with children who have attention deficit disorder and co-existing conditions such as: obsessive behaviors, tics, learning differences, oppositional defiance disorder and more. The Newark Chapter is also happy to receive calls or assist in helping others start chapters in Kent or Sussex Counties. Call 737-5063 or visit the website at www.chadd.org

FamQuest, Inc. - Personal development, training and coaching firm offering various programs for families and youth

Parents As Leaders (PALS) Program: Parenting program designed to assist parents in raising responsible and purposeful children. Topics include: What every child wants their parent to know; Attitude of a champion; Your best discovery yet: keys to unlocking your child's potential.

New Castle (498-5191) or visit the website at www.famquest.com

Books New to the PIC Library

The following books are on loan to the PIC library courtesy of the **Autism Society of Delaware (ASD)**.
To learn more about the ASD, visit www.wserv.com/delautism

Asperger's Syndrome - Atwood, Tony (1995) A guide for parents and professionals about Asperger Syndrome.

Autism: Identification, Education, and Treatment - Berkell, Diane (1999) Chapters include medical treatment, early intervention and facilitating language communication development in autism.

Autistic Spectrum, The: A Guide for Parents and Professionals - Wing, Lorna (1997) This book shows how a child with autism views his world, the difficult behavior and emotional problems that must be expected, and how these can be coped with.

Babysitters Club: Kristy and the Secret of Susan - Martin, Ann (1990) This book, from the popular children's Babysitters Club series, is about autism.

Captain Tommy - Messner, Abby Ward (1996) A children's book about friendship.

Joey and Sam - Katz, Illana and Ritvo, Edward (1993) "A heart-warming storybook about autism, a family, and a brother's love."

The New Social Story Book - Gray, Carol (1994) The book has five main sections - stories about home, school, community, addressing social skills, and writing your own social stories. The book also includes the Social Story Kit.

Play & Imagination in Children with Autism - Wolfberg, Pamela (1999) This book provides a wealth of information for parents, educators, and professionals about play theory and autism. Examines the problems experienced by children with autism in social and play situations.

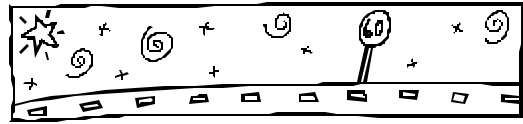
Reaching the Child with Autism through Art - Flowers, Toni (1992) Practical fun activities to enhance motor skills and to improve tactile and concept awareness.

Teaching Children with Autism: Strategies to Enhance Communication and Socialization - Quill, Kathleen Ann (1995) This valuable book describes teaching strategies and instructional adaptations which promote communication and socialization in children with autism.

Toilet Training for Individuals with Autism & Related Disorders - Wheeler, Maria (1998) This guide provides more than 200 toilet training tips as well as case studies.

Treasure Chest of Behavioral Strategies for Individuals with Autism - Wheeler, Maria (1997) Resource manual applies theory and best practices in behavior management to individuals with autism

Trevor Trevor - Twachtman-Cullen, Diane (1998) Children's book focuses on Trevor, a 2nd grader with autism.



The books listed below just arrived and are waiting for you! Call to reserve your copy today.

Building Cultural Reciprocity with Families: Case Studies in Special Education - Harry, Beth (1999) This book will assist educators and professionals to be more prepared to meet the needs of every student while respecting individual beliefs.

Children's Psychological Testing: A Guide for Nonpsychologists - Wodrich, David (1997) This book explains in layman's terms the principles behind psychological testing and how data is interpreted.

Culture in Special Education: Building Reciprocal Family-Professional Relationships - Kalyanpur, Maya (1999) This research based book brings to light the potential impact of imbedded and often unrecognized cultural assumptions that influence family-professional interactions in special education.

Dangerous Minds - Johnson, LouAnne (1992) Collection of stories from Ms. Johnson's experience with a group of students who were considered dangerous and the methods she used to teach them.

Developing Cross-Cultural Competence: A Guide for Working with Children and Their Families - Lynch, Eleanor (1998) This book offers practical advice for working with children and families of diverse heritage.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: A Guide for Families and Communities - Streissguth, Ann (1997) This informative book will help all to work toward an educated community and better futures for people living and growing with FAS.

Health Care Reform Tracking Project: 1999 Impact Analysis - Pires, Sheila (2000) Tracking state managed care reforms as they affect children and adolescents with behavioral health disorders and their families.

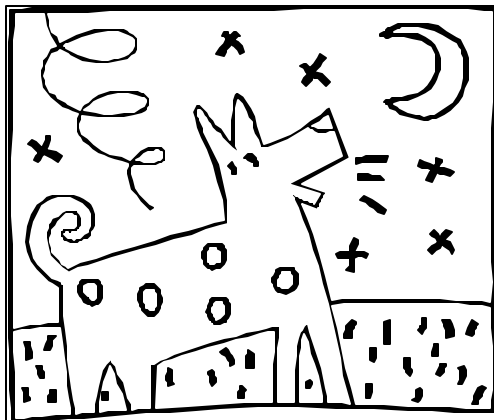
Learning to Listen: Positive Approaches and People with Difficult Behavior - Lovett, Herbert (1996) This book offers logical alternatives to the ineffective and controlling practices so often used with people who have disabilities.

Parent Page

Children as Pets—The *Cat* Years

I just realized that while children are dogs—loyal and affectionate—teenagers are cats. It's so easy to be a dog owner. You feed it, train it, boss it around. It puts its head on your knee and gazes at you as if you were a Rembrandt painting. It bounds indoors with enthusiasm when you call it.

Then around age 13, your adoring little puppy turns into a big old cat. When you tell it to come inside, it looks amazed, as if wondering who died and made you emperor. Instead of dogging your doorsteps, it disappears. You won't see it again until it gets hungry -- then it pauses on its sprint through the kitchen long enough to turn its nose up at whatever you're serving.



When you reach out to ruffle its head, in that old affectionate gesture, it twists away from you, then gives you a blank stare, as if trying to remember where it has seen you before. You, not realizing that the dog is now a cat, think something must be desperately wrong with it. It seems so antisocial, so distant, sort of depressed. It won't go on family outings.

Since you're the one who raised it, taught it to fetch and stay and sit on command, you assume that you did something wrong. Flooded with guilt and fear, you redouble your efforts to make your pet behave. Only now you're dealing with a cat, so everything that worked before now produces the opposite of the desired result. Call it, and it runs away. Tell it to sit, and it jumps on the counter. The more you go toward it, wringing your hands, the more it moves away.

Instead of continuing to act like a dog owner, you can learn to behave like a cat owner. Put a dish of food near the door, and let it come to you. But remember that a cat needs your help and your affection, too. Sit still, and it will come, seeking that warm, comforting lap it has not entirely forgotten. Be there to open the door for it.

One day your grown-up child will walk into the kitchen, give you a big kiss and say, "You've been on your feet all day. Let me get those dishes for you." Then you'll realize that your *cat* is a **dog** again. (Source: anonymous)

PEOPLE WHO HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Many thanks to *Diane Stokes* who, this past November, organized a trinket sale to benefit the PIC. Diane and her co-workers at **DUPONT Pharmaceuticals** raised over \$600 for the PIC library!

Thanks to Euretta Schultheiss, the PIC received \$2,160 toward *educational materials, books and videos* from The Grand Chapter of Delaware Order of the **Eastern Star** Summer Benefit.



Needless to say, we love getting funds for resources that families can use.

THANK YOU!

Our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals and agencies who contributed generously to the Parent Information Center of Delaware throughout the year!

Marie-Anne Aghazadian	James/Anita Delaney	J P Morgan	Jordan Rosen
Kathy Andzejewski	Delaware Children's Trust	Barbara James	Jeffrey Roth
Robert Arn	Fund, Inc.	Kristen Jefferson	Robin Russell
Jim/Barb Ashmead	Delaware-Maryland Paralyzed	Cynthia Jenkins	John/Celeste Ryan
Robert Aviles	Veterans Assoc.	Jeanne Jerzak	Thomas Sager
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Todd/Sylvia Bachman	Maria DeLuce	Cecilia Kee	Joanne Sassi
Steven Bachrach	Steve/Linda DiLouie	Brian/Patricia Kelly	Janet Schukoske
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Rebecca Bailey-Bell	Jan Drake	Guy Kline/Dawn Ferrin	James Selsor
Linda Bakomenko	David Dwyer	Maryann Kreisher	Monika Shafi
Louis Bartoshesky	John Eckerd	Michelle Lamers	Keshia Shepherd
Karen Bashkow	Lanny/Micki Edelson	Virginia Lane	Mary Simpson
Kris Battagliani	John/Lisa Elias	Harry Lehman, III	Barry/Angela Sipple
Iris Bauer	Katherine Esterley	David Levitsky	Terry/Lynn Sklar
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**Thank you
for participating in the
1999 United Way
Campaign and our
PIC Annual Appeal.**

Disability Related Groups for Support, Information & Advocacy

New Castle County

ADD Network for Young Adults A support, advocacy and information group for young adults 16-21. Parent group meets concurrently. Meetings once a month. Call for times/location. Rick/MaryEllen Foulds (302) 234-0208.

Appoquinimink Special Education Support Group Parent mutual support group. Call for meeting times/location. Yvonne Coleman (302) 378-4574 yfcol@aol.com or Ellie Laws (302) 653-6375 elaws@aol.com

ARC of Delaware (Association for the Rights of Citizens with Mental Retardation) Self-Advocacy Group - DE People First. One meeting each month - date/time varies, please call for information. Employment, Housing, Friend-to-Friend. Rita Mariani, Exec. Dir. (302) 996-9400 .max@dca.net

Brain Injury Association of Delaware Meets the 3rd Thursday of every month (Jan-Nov) at Christiana Care Health System, Newark, Room 1100, at 7:00 p.m. Contact : Margie Goodier, Facilitator (302) 378-3035 or (800) 411-0505 www.biausa.org/Delaware/bia.htm

Children & Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (CHADD) Greater Newark Chapter of CHADD Parent Support Group meets 3rd Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m.-United Church of Christ (UCC), Main Street, Newark, DE. Adults with ADHD Support Group meets 4th Thursday of month 7:15 p.m. at Stoney Batter Building, 5301 Limestone Road, Suite 222. Neither group meets in the months of June, July, August or December. Meetings feature a speaker presentation and or group discussion. Presentation on ADHD to interested groups. Contact: Ruth Wolfe, Chapter Coordinator (302) 737-5063, newarkchad@aol.com or www.chadd.org

Children & Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (CHADD) Brandywine Valley Chapter Call for meeting times. Contact: Genevieve Tighe (302) 376-0900

Delaware Assistive Technology Resource Center Barrier-free centers are open to the public and house assistive technology devices and materials that are available for demonstration and short-term loan. Maureen Schweitzer, Coordinator (302) 328-2872 or (302) 328-2905 TDD

Delaware Chapter of the American Society for Deaf Children Affiliate of national organization. Main goals are to distribute information, provide educational and emotional support. Contact: Joanne Koston (302) 731-4879 Voice & TTY

Delaware Learning Resource System Educational materials for borrowing. Materials include all subjects and levels birth through adult. Collection includes books, games, toys, video tapes, manipulatives, audio cassettes, software, etc. (302) 831-8148

Disabilities Law Program Provides free legal assistance to individuals with disabilities in civil areas of law. Brian Hartman (302) 575-0660 or (800) 292-7980

Early Intervention Program (DMR) Offers developmental testing and care management. Contact: Nancy Colley, Director (302) 995-8576 or ncolley@state.de.us

Easter Seal Society of Del-Mar Medical rehabilitation, independent living services, camping & recreation opportunities, vocational and educational services, other. Contact: Sandra Tuttle, President (302) 324-4444

Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware Maintains resource file of community services for persons with epilepsy. Adult support group meetings are held 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Richard Park United Methodist Church. Contact: Barbara Blair, RN (302) 324-4455

Family Forum For families of children with developmental delays and

disabilities, ages birth to five years. Contact: Denise Cole (302) 577-4556

Muscular Dystrophy Association Provides clinic services and informational pamphlets; organizes fund raisers to support MD research and treatment. Contact: Elaine Mann (609) 770-9232

National Multiple Sclerosis Society Offers information and lending library, assists in service referrals. Contact: Sharon Saunders (302) 655-5610 or sharon.saunders@nmss.ded.org or www.skycon.com/mssdel

National Reye's Syndrome Foundation (Delaware Chapter) Provides information on Reye's Syndrome. Contact: Arthur Patch or Carol Lee Patch (302) 478-3624

Parents of Children/Adolescents with Mental Illness Meetings held 3rd Thursday monthly, Cedar's Church of Christ. Contact: Mike/Judy Barker (302) 998-7684

Parents of Emotionally Disturbed Youth Support Group (PEDY) Provides support, referrals, and education to parents of emotionally disturbed youths. Contact: Connie Williams (302) 737-8522

Tourette Syndrome Support Group Meetings held 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 p.m., Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2313 Concord Pk. (Rt. 202) Room 132, Wilmington. Contact: Jean Deerlove (610) 274-2321 or Joy D'Avanzo (302) 999-1916

United Cerebral Palsy of DE Offers support, advocacy, and referrals for children with Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities; operates a summer camp and client assistance program. Contact: Marge Turner (302) 764-2400

Kent County

ARC of Delaware (Association for the Rights of Citizens with Mental Retardation) Self-Advocacy Group - DE People First. One meeting each month - date/time varies, please call for information. Employment, Housing, Friend-to-Friend. Mary Horn, Office Mgr. (302) 736-6140

Brain Injury Association of Delaware Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month (Jan-Nov) at Kent General Hospital Outpatient Therapy Facility, 560 S. Governors Avenue, Dover, at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Rusty Sheridan, Facilitator (302) 653-9433 www.biausa.org/Delaware/bia.htm

CHILD, Inc. Education Department Education Department handles Parent Education Classes and home visits. Contact: Donna Todd, Coordinator (302) 697-2292 or Lynette Lee (302) 697-0411

Delaware Assistive Technology Resource Center Barrier-free centers are open to the public and house assistive technology devices and materials that are available for demonstration and short-term loan. Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact: Alma Cordero (302) 739-6885 or (302) 739-6886 TDD

Delaware Learning Resource System Provides educational material and services to help educate children, including those with special needs. Hours Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Summer hours differ - please call first. Contact: Beverly Bresnahan (302) 672-1958 or (302) 672-1959

Disabilities Law Program Provides free legal assistance to individuals with disabilities in civil areas of law. Christopher White (302) 674-8503 or (800) 464-4357

doORS Is opportunity knocking heavily but you haven't found the right key to get to it? Disabled Outreach Options Resources and Support, is a group of individuals with all types of disabilities that meets with their fami-

Continued on page 9

lies, friends and caregivers, the first Tuesday of each month at Easter Seals 1404 Forrest Ave. Dover from 6-8 pm. Call John Jefferson at (302) 678-3353.

Easter Seal Society of Del-Mar Independent living and outpatient rehab services. Contact: Gary Cassedy, Director (302) 678-3353

Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware Millsboro Easter Seals-Information and Referral Only - Carol Hudson 674-9857, FAX 934-9868 Support Group Meetings held 2nd Monday of every month 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at General Foods Conference Room, 1st Floor, Bayhealth Medical Center (formerly Kent General Hospital), 640 State Street, Dover. Contact: Donna Goldsborough, RN, MSN (302) 674-7135

Exceptional Family Member Program, Family Support Center, DAFB Assists families with a member with special needs through referrals, facilities, and housing. Contact: Tech. Sgt. Gary Scott (302) 677-3386

Family Forum-Birth to Three Early Intervention For families of children with developmental delays and disabilities, ages birth to five years. Family Forum meets once a month in Dover & Georgetown. Sandy Ward (302) 422-1335 or sward@state.de.us

National Multiple Sclerosis Society Mon., Wed., Fri., 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Provides information and a support group meets at Kent General Hospital in General Foods Conference Room. Please call for times. Contact: Regina Byers (302) 698-0847

United Cerebral Palsy of DE Offers support, advocacy, and referrals for children with Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities; operates a summer camp and client assistance program. Carma Carpenter (302) 335-5626

Sussex County

Arc of Delaware (Association for the Rights of Citizens with Mental Retardation) Self Advocacy Group - DE People First. One meeting each month - date/time varies, please call for information. Contact: Carol Reid-Hall, Outreach Coordinator (302) 856-6019

Attention Deficit Disorder Support and Information Group for Indian River School District For parents and professionals - meets at the Frankford Elementary School once a month at 6:30 p.m. Contact : Tom Amrhein (302) 732-3808

Brain Injury Association of Delaware Meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at Wesley United Methodist Church, 102 E. Laurel and Race Street, Georgetown, 7:00 p.m. Contact: Eve Tolley, Facilitator (800) 411-0505 or (302) 537-5770 www.biausa.org/Delaware/bia.htm

CHILD, Inc. Education Department Education Department handles Parent Education Classes and home visits. Contact: Tasha Mullen (302) 629-7220

Delaware Assistive Technology Resource Center Barrier-free centers are open to the public and house assistive technology devices and materials that are available for demonstration and short-term loan. Call for hours of operation. Contact: Carolyn Keene (302) 856-7946 or (302) 856-6714 TDD

Delaware Learning Resource System Educational materials for borrowing. Materials include all subjects and levels birth through adult. Collection includes books, games, toys, video tapes, manipulatives, audio cassettes, software, etc. Contact: Patti Payne (302) 855-1649 or ppayne@outland.dtcc.edu

Disabilities Law Program Provides free legal assistance to individuals with disabilities in civil areas of law. Patricia Shipe (302) 856-0038

Easter Seal Society of Del-Mar Independent living and outpatient rehab services. Cathy Anderson, Director (302) 856-7364

Family Forum-Birth to Three Early Intervention For families of children with developmental delays and disabilities, ages birth to five years. Family Forum meets once a month in Dover & Georgetown. Contact: Sandy Ward (302) 422-1335 or sward@state.de.us

National Multiple Sclerosis Society Provides information and a parent support group meets at Beebe Medical Center, 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. in

the cafeteria. Contact: Laura Morris (302) 645-1844

United Cerebral Palsy of DE Offers support, advocacy, and referrals for children with Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities; operates a summer camp and client assistance program. Carma Carpenter (302) 335-5626

Statewide

Adoptive Families with Information and Support (AFIS) Provides support to families during all phases of the adoption process including pre-adoptive information. Call for meeting dates/times. Contact: Mary Jo Wolfe (302) 239-6232 or AFIS@delanet.com

Alliance for the Mentally Ill in Delaware (AMID) Offers advocacy, support and housing information for individuals with mental illness and their families. Meetings for support groups are held in all three counties. Call for meeting dates/times. Contact: Allan Williams, Program Director (302) 427-0787 or Oya ALatur, Support Services & Outreach (888) 427-2643 x21 or NAMIDE@aol.com

Architectural Accessibility Board Reviews all construction plans and documents for state facilities, facilities that receive state funds, and state leased facilities in regard to accessibility issues. Contact: Dan Muterspaw (302) 739-5644

Aspergers Network of Delaware (AND) Support group for Delaware area parents of children with Asperger's Syndrome and related disorders, including High Functioning Autism (HFA), Hyperlexia, Nonverbal Learning Disorder (NLD), Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), and Semantic-Pragmatic Disorder. Call or email for meeting time and location. Contact: (302) 822-3327 or Deasperger@aol.com or www.syncreticsoft.com/Deasperger

Autism Society of Delaware Support and information for parents of children with Autism/PDD. Plans for a lending library, speakers, conference, public awareness efforts. Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 7:00 pm usually at the Delaware Autistic Program (4 times a year in Dover). Contact: Artie Kempner (302) 777-7273 or Marie-Anne Aghazadian (Info & Referral Only) (302) 366-0152 or delautism@aol.com www.wserv.com/delautism/

CHILD, Inc. Statewide parent education, foster care, and counseling. WARMLINE 800-874-2070 - confidential telephone support service for parents of young children. Also provides referrals to community services. Contact: Corrine Lawrence, Director (302) 762-8989 or (800) 874-2070 or clawrence@childinc.com

CHILD, Inc. Foster Care Foster Care Department handles foster care and foster care support groups. Contact: Kathy Roe (302) 697-0411 or (302) 697-2047

Client Assistance Program (CAP) CAP assists persons who are seeking or receiving rehabilitation services with questions or problems they may encounter. Contact: Teresa Gallagher, Director (302) 698-9336 or Melissa Shahan, Client Advisor (800) 640-9336

Coordinating Council for Children with Disabilities Promotes coordinated action among all service providers and organizations concerned with disabilities in Delaware. Contact: Robert Piech (302) 654-6987

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Delaware Federation Advocacy and support to parents and professionals in the education of exceptional persons. Contact: Annette Maymar (302) 684-8516

Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI) Maximize access to assistive technology for all Delawareans with disabilities. Statewide - (800) 870-DATI Beth Mineo Mollica, Director (302) 651-6790 or (302) 651-6794 TDD dati@asel.udel.edu

Delaware Association for the Blind To provide services that improve the quality of life for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. (302) 655-2111

Continued on page 10

Delaware Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (DELARF) Information and advocacy for adult service providers. Barbara McBride (302) 378-7460

Delaware Special Olympics Sports training for eligible participants in 14 different athletic pursuits; organized competitions. Contact: Ann Grunert (302) 831-4653

The Delawareans With Special Needs, Medicaid Managed Care Panel is a parent run group which meets monthly to address health issues and services for our children. Contact Gail Launay (302)226-5232 for more information.

Developmental Disabilities Council To assure that individuals with developmental disabilities receive services, supports, and other assistance and opportunities that promote independence, productivity, and inclusion in the community. Meetings open to the public - call for times. Contact: James Linehan (302) 739-3333 TDD

Down Syndrome Association of Delaware Support & information for families of a person with Down Syndrome. Call for information on meeting location, date, time. Contact: Theresa Moore, President (302) 239-2860

Educational Surrogate Parent Program Recruits, trains, and supports volunteers who represent children in state custody who receive special education services. Call (302) 577-3545

Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens Provides advocacy for people with disabilities. Contact: Ron Sibert, Chair or Wendy Strauss, Exec. Admin. (302) 739-4553

Governors Council on Deaf Equality Provides advocacy and information to members of the deaf community and their families. Contact: Kyle Hodges (302) 739-3673

Independent Resources, Inc. Resource center for persons with disabilities and the communities in which they reside. Satellite offices in Kent County (302) 735-4599 and Sussex County (888) 561-2120 Contact: Larry Henderson (302) 765-0191 or (302) 765-0194 TTD

Leukemia Society of America Offers free educational materials - Leukemia, Hodgkins Disease, Multiple Myeloma, Lymphoma. Patient Aid Financial Program. Contact: Judy Stoddard, RN (302) 661-7300 or Bob Hessler, Exec. Dir. stoddard@de.leukemia.org

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation Offers programs, educational services, research, advocacy for the prevention of birth defects and the improvement of maternal and infant health. Contact: Cathy Kanefsky (302) 737-1310

Mental Health Association of Delaware Offers support, advocacy and information. Contact: Diane Treacey (302) 765-9740 or (800) 287-6423.

Nurses 'N' Kids at Home Provides "Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care" to medically/technologically dependent children; prescription from primary physician required. Statewide services available. Call: (302) 323-1436 or (302) 424-4467 Kent & Sussex

Prader-Willi Syndrome Delaware Association Provides information and support to families, teachers, caregivers, and physicians. Meetings held monthly at varied locations and times. Please call for details. Contact: Karen Swanson, RNC (302) 836-6213 or Becky Trump (302) 791-0102

Reading Assist Institute Support for parents of children with reading difficulties; lending library at the Edgmoor Community Center. Volunteer tutoring teams in local schools. Referrals for private tutoring. Instruction for volunteers & teachers. Contact: Lisa Simon (302) 764-1010 or Ruth Baxter readinfo@projectassist.org

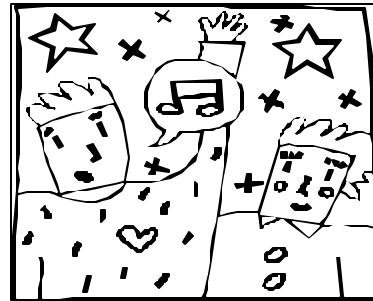
Spina Bifida Association of Delaware To promote the prevention of SB and to enhance the lives of all affected. Provides seasonal newsletter and social activities. Meetings held every other month on Wed. 7:00 p.m. at Easter Seals, Commons Blvd. Contact: Kelly Moore (302) 478-4805 or sbaofde@juno.com or www.angelfire.com/de/sbaofde

State Council for Persons with Disabilities Provides advocacy for and reviews

issues related to disability. Contact: Bob Osgood, Chairman or Kyle Hodges, Staff (302) 739-3613

Supported Employment Program, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Provides services related to supported employment such as job coaching, training and follow-up services. Office hours: M-F 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Contact: Tracy Connolly (302) 761-8275

University of DE Center for Disabilities Studies University affiliated program whose mission is to enable people with disabilities to achieve their personal goals. (302) 831-6974



Are you looking for a topic for your next support group meeting OR staff training?

PIC staff will be happy to visit your meeting and present information about the services and resources offered by the Parent Information Center of Delaware.

We also have a variety of 1 to 2 hour workshops that we offer for families and professionals.

Topics include:

Basic information about special education;
Thorough overview of IDEA regulations;
Guidelines for successful transition for high school students;
IEP participation and implementation;
Discipline regulations under the IDEA;
disAbility awareness;
Effective advocacy;
Establishing and maintaining positive school partnerships and...
Much more!!

Please call early to schedule a workshop.

Legislative Updates



CHIP/The State Children's Health Insurance Program

CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) was established in 1997 through title XXI of the Social Security Act. Every State submitted a plan for a CHIP program with the HCFA (Health Care Financing Agency) and all states including five territories have been approved for funding for the next five years. The funds for the CHIP stem from a \$24 billion tobacco companies settlement. CHIP funds provide insurance coverage to low income uninsured children whose families are not covered by Medicaid or employer insurance. Delaware calls its CHIP Delaware Healthy Children Program and offers coverage for children whose families income is less than \$22,120 for a family of two to incomes less than \$44,680 for a family of six. For more information, or if you wish to apply call 1-800-996-9969 (source: Family Voices: www.familyvoices.org)

Supreme Court case decision is prompting Delaware to improve residential services for individuals with developmental disabilities

The United States Supreme Court Case Olmstead vs. Zimrig 577U.S 581(6/1999) ruled that unjustified institutional segregation of persons with disabilities constitutes discrimination that violates the integration mandate of the ADA. The court further suggested that states develop comprehensive plans for increasing access to residential services for people with disabilities. On the basis of this landmark decision, the Delaware ARC voted to pursue litigation against the State of Delaware. On May 17th, Governor Thomas R. Carper responded by signing Executive Order seventy nine. This Order suggests that agencies serving adults with developmental disabilities must develop a comprehensive plan to increase community based services for people with mental retardation/mental illness by legislative or administrative order. Plans for serving individuals with mental retardation must be submitted by November 2000 while plans for people with mental illness are due on March 1, 2001. Included in the plans shall be recommendations on a five year time table for providing increased community-based opportunities where appropriate for people with mental retardation currently residing at the Stockley Center. The plan shall also address the unmet needs of persons who already reside in the community but need alternatives services. Requirements for services to people with mental illness are similar and focus on services away from the Delaware Psychiatric Center aka Delaware State hospital. Kudos to the ARC for pushing the State to face a major gap in services! (source: Delaware Legislative Council)

Other important legislation in Congress... The Ashcroft Amendment: Senator John Ashcroft (R-MO) is proposing an amendment to the IDEA that proposes cessation of services to ALL students who bring a weapon a firearm into a school or school function. Although Senator Kennedy and disability advocates are vehemently opposing this amendment there is a strong possibility that it could pass. To keep current about this serious issue go to: www.npnd.org

Family Opportunity Act: S.S.2274

This bill if enacted would permit states to allow middle income families with children who have severe mental or physical disabilities to buy into the Medicaid program on a sliding scale basis. Families who are required to accept employer health coverage would still be able to buy into Medicaid to supplement the usually limited coverage for children with extensive needs. The bill would further allow states to set up demonstration programs for children whose potentially severe disabilities do not yet meet the criteria for federal disability (SSI) benefits. Additionally, the bill would permit states to include children with serious emotional disturbance who often receive very limited services under private insurance plans. Our Senator Roth (R-DE), who is the chair of the Senate Finance Committee, needs to hear from you. Fax: (202) 228-5798 or Email: comments@roth.senate.gov (source Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law)

You can have your say by logging onto: www.osepplanning.org and responding to the Special Education Consumer Survey

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) authorizes national program activities and funding for research and development, family involvement, evaluation, program improvement, systems change, dissemination, technical assistance, and professional development. The purpose of the comprehensive planning process is to develop a five-year national program plan that will support these various Part D activities designed to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. The Special Education Consumer Survey is one part of the comprehensive planning process. In prior planning activities, OSEP worked closely with over 30 national disability organizations; these organizations helped in the development of the survey, and are currently promoting it to their members and communities. Later this summer, OSEP will convene panels of individuals with disabilities, family members, practitioners, and researchers. These panels will consult your opinions while formulating potential long-term research, training, and technical assistance strategies for the IDEA Part D National Program. OSEP will use the panels' recommendations, along with findings from current research and best practice, to develop the long-range program plan. *If you don't have access to the Internet, please call PIC and we will send you a paper survey.*

Mark Your Calendar For These Events

For weekly updates, please visit our website at www.picofdel.org

DELAWARE

June 29, 2000, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Easter Seals Conference Room, 62 Corporate Circle, New Castle, **Child Development Watch June Family Forum/Financial Planning**. Steve Evans of the ARC of Delaware will present financial planning for children with special needs. For information call Marie Miller, (302) 577-4643.

July 8, 2000, 10:00am - 11:30am, Winterthur, **Bringing up KiDS! Raising Responsible Kids**. Free. Betsy Garret will explore children's household responsibilities in the past. William Damon, author of *Greater Expectations* and *The Moral Child* will discuss how much responsibility children should receive, when and how in today's world.

July 20 - 21, 2000, Sheraton Inn Dover, DE, **Wraparound Service Planning, A Service Planning Process and Service Delivery System, featuring John Vandenberg, Ph.D.** Contact (302) 892-6405.

July 25 & October 24, 2000, 12:00pm - 3:00pm, Carroll's Plaza, Conference Room D&E, Dover, **Interagency Coordinating Council**. The purpose of the council is to create direction and vision in the early intervention program in Delaware, to enhance overall development of infants and toddlers with disabilities and/or developmental delay, and to promote families' capacity to promote growth and development.

September 27, 2000, 7:30am-12:30pm, Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington, DE, **Behavioral Health Symposium: Pediatric Anxiety Disorders - Update 2000**. Symposium will focus on anxiety disorders to include obsessive compulsive disorder - how to identify and recognize as well as treat them. (302) 651-6750.

September 29, 2000, 8:00am-4:00pm, Double Tree Hotel, Wilmington, DE, **Delaware Psychological Association, Anger Control: A Life Span Cognitive**

Behavioral Treatment Perspective. (302) 475-1574.

September 30, 2000, 9:00am - 1:00pm, **PIC's Annual Conference Sheraton - Dover, Delaware**. SAVE THE DATE - More details coming soon!

October 7, 2000, 10:00am - 12:00 noon, Christina Cultural Arts Center. **Helping Teens Become Adults** Listen to Thomas Hine, author of *The Rise and Fall of the American Teenager*, portray how, when, and why the concept of teenager involved in American history. Then parents and teens will learn ideas on how to help children move towards adulthood.



OUTSIDE OF DELAWARE

July 2-5, 2000, Atlanta, GA, **2000 ASA National Conference on Autism** Contact: (1-800) 3AUTISM or visit their website www.autismsociety.org. Registration Deadline June 16, 2000

July 10 - 14, 2000, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, **The Summer Institute on Autism** This institute will offer practical approaches in the area of autism that can be directly utilized by parents and practitioners. Contact: Theresa Freeman, Special Programs Coordinator, Office of Summer Studies, (610) 758-6563 or FAX to (610) 758-5942.

July 16-18, 2000, Wyndam Washington, DC Hotel, **Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) Workshop/Legislative Summit**. Learn all about the programs and initiatives that affect the field of special education. For information - www.cec.sped.org or call (888) CEC-SPED.

July 18 - 21, 2000, New Haven Omni Hotel, New Haven, CT, School of the 21st Century, **Yale University "Schools as Resources for Families and Communities: A NEW DAY"**, National Confer-

ence. Special Focus on: Family Involvement, Funding opportunities, Violence Prevention, Literacy. (203) 432-9945. Registration Deadline July 11, 2000.

July 24 - 25, 2000, 9:30am - 3:30pm, Church on the Mall, Plymouth Meeting Mall, **"The Autism Spectrum: Food for Thought"**. Call (215) 699-0241, or email dsilva@nni.com. Deadline July 10, 2000.

July 27-29, 2000 **National Down Syndrome Society "VISIONS For the 21st Century" National Conference**. Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, DC. (800) 221-4602 Registration deadline July 14, 2000.

July 29-31, 2000, Seattle, WA, **Funding Freedom Citizenship, 1st International Conference on Self-Determination & Individualized Funding**. Groundbreaking conference for people with disabilities, families, advocates, professionals, service providers. (410) 828-8274 x103.

August 4-6, 2000, Hilton Washington and Towers, Washington, DC, **National Down Syndrome Congress Convention**. For information call (800) 232-NDSC. For scholarships provided by the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware contact Jim Roth (410) 392-5591.

August 7-11, 2000, Manassas, VA, **The Pyramid Approach to Education**. 5-day workshop for professionals, parents, students, who work with autistic children, adolescents, adults or others with limited communication skills. (703) 369-3476.

August 17-19, 2000, Washington Court Hotel, Washington, DC, **President's Committee on Mental Retardation, "The Next Generation of Leadership Millenium Summit" - 5th Annual**. For information - www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/pcmr/

August 31-September 3, 2000, Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI, **Ride the Wave 2000 - The Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered 5th**

National Self-Advocacy Conference. Self-advocacy movement is like a giant wave. (401) 785-2028.

September 8-9, 2000, Wayfarer Inn, Bedford, NH, **Education-A-Must Inc., "Special Education Law" IDEA 97 Special Education Law EVALUATIONS and the LAW, ADD, ADHD.** (603) 437-6286, or for more information www.education-a-must.com.

September 28-29, 2000, Westin-Francis Marion Hotel & Charleston Lightsey Conference Center, Charleston, South Carolina **The Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD) "Putting Research into Practice"** National Conference. A practitioner's conference for bridging the gap between research and practice. Research supported interventions for students with learning disabilities. To request a registration brochure write to: DLD National Conference P.O. Box 1304, Lawrence, KS 66044.

October 15-18, 2000 Harrisburg Marriot, Harrisburg, PA, **Family Involvement Conference XXVI 2000. Focus on the family, school, and community in the new millenium.** A conference for school administrators, teachers and parents promoting school/family partnerships. (570) 455-8196.

October 19-21, 2000, Radisson South Hotel and Hotel Sofitel, Minneapolis, MN, **Closing the Gap, 18th Annual Conference, Computer Technology in Special Education and Rehabilitation.** Comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them. (507) 248-3294 www.closingthegap.com

November 1-4, 2000, Portland, OR, **The International Adolescent Conference X, Preparing for a New Century:**

November 3-5, 2000, Hilton Alexandria Hotel, Alexandria, VA, **Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc., National Conference 2000.** (718) 224-2999 x 232.

November 30, 2000 (Pre-Conference Policy Day Training), December 1-3, 2000

(Full Conference) Renaissance Washington DC Hotel. **Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health – 12th Annual Conference, Juvenile Justice and the Mental Health System: "Improving Services and Supports for Children, Youth and Families"**. (202) 898-9000 or www.bcfamily.com.

December 7-10, 2000, Albuquerque Convention Center Albuquerque, NM, **DEC International 16th Annual Early Childhood Conference on Children with Special Needs "Early Childhood in the Millennium: Partnerships & Practices for the Future"**. Registration Deadline: November 22, 2000. For registration inquiries only, call: (407) 628-3602 or send email to: mandy@regmaster.com. For online registration visit their website.

December 13-15, 2000, **US Department of Education's 2000 Regional Conferences on Improving America's Schools.** (800) 203-5494 or for additional information www.ncbe.gwu.edu/iasconferences.

January 24 - 27, 2001, Radisson Hotel Universal Orlando, **2001 ATIA Conference (Assitive Technology Industry Association)**. Learn about the latest products, software and technology for: ****Blind and Low Vision, **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), **Computer Access and Curriculum Adaptations, **Electronic Aids to Daily Living.** Phone: (877) 687-2842 / (847) 869-1282, Email: ATIA@northshore.net, Website: www.ATIA.org.

SAVE THIS DATE!

Start the school year off right...
and join us for the
PIC Annual Conference

Saturday, September 30, 2000



Martial Arts Training Seminar for Advanced Belt Instructors

Sponsored by the DE Developmental Disabilities Council in collaboration with the YMCA of Delaware, this dynamic teaching seminar for instructors will cover the following areas: Challenges of the student with a disability; Disability awareness exercises; Generation of power; Compromise of kata, Technique and adaptation; Therapeutic value of martial arts and T'ai Chi.

Saturday, September 23, 2000 10:00 am—3:00 pm

YMCA—site to be determined

\$55.00 per instructor (certificate of completion to be awarded)

Sensei Kenneth Perry & Sensei Skip McClurg
(Certified martial arts instructors of Philadelphia)

Community members and martial arts students are encouraged to attend and will be welcome at no cost!

Call Kathie Herel at PIC for registration information.

Did You Know....?

TeamXtreme makes it possible for people with disabilities to play any Nintendo, NES, Super NES or N64 video game, full speed, with anyone. For more information, visit <http://www.pathwaysdg.com>.

Many children with learning disabilities benefit from being able to underline material in their textbooks. Highlighter tape is great for doing underlining in books that you do not own. It is removable and transparent so it can be used instead of a HiLiter pen. Plus, it has the added benefit of allowing people who don't know what to highlight to make mistakes and correct them easily. Highlighter tape can be ordered directly from Crystal Springs Books at 800-321-0401, or you may order online at their website: http://www.crystalsprings.com/shopsite_sc/store/html/teachingtools.html.

The National Association of School Psychologists recently released the second edition of Behavioral Interventions: Creating a Safe Environment in Schools and has posted it on the web for download. The publication, created by NASP's National Mental Health and Education Center offers tips and insight into how to handle the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's new discipline provisions. Website: <http://www.naspweb.org/center/pubs.htm>.

HotBraille.com, inc. is the only free Braille transcribing service on the Internet. Located in Oakland, California, HotBraille was founded by a group of Web and Braille enthusiasts with the mission of providing anyone with free Braille. Visit <http://www.hotbraille.com> for more information.

"I Can Read..." is a unique, diagnostic/prescriptive reading program that identifies more than 500 specific skills in the categories such as: phonetic analysis, phoneme awareness, structural analysis, vocabulary development, comprehension

research and study skills. This tutoring program provides a variety of easy-to-use teaching-learning strategies that work to remediate and/or enhance student performance while using items that are commonly found around the house or in the community. "I Can Read..." can be used successfully with any age group and with any ability level. To attend an Information Seminar (at no obligation) or to learn more, please call the "I Can Read..." Family Learning Center at (302) 266-0246 or email a message to educationalalternatives@WorldNet.ATT.Net.

CHOICES is a motivational 8th grade program that is being offered to students in local public schools. CHOICES consists of a two-hour seminar emphasizing the importance of education and life decisions. Its purpose is to encourage students to stay in school by stressing motivation, time management, academic decisions and career consequences. Session One focuses on having students identify factors that influence their life and continues with decision making, time and money management exploration. Session Two emphasizes the connection between school decisions and impact on the student's future. If you are interested in learning more about this program or volunteering to present CHOICES, please contact Sherry Netta at (302) 831-3102 at the University of Delaware Business, Industry, Education Alliance. A 20-minute video of how CHOICES is presented in a classroom is also available.

Word Dance is a quarterly children's literary magazine created for and by young people that includes short stories, poems and artwork from children in kindergarten through eighth grade. In its Winter 2000 issue which is a national publication, writing and artwork is featured from Delaware students attending Warner Elementary, West Park Place Elementary, Downes Elementary, East Millsboro Elementary, Cab Calloway School for the Arts and Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary. For subscription in-

formation, call 1-800-378-8815. You may also want to visit their website at www.worddance.com

Are you looking for a beautiful park to visit this summer? You might want to pack a picnic lunch and stop by Carousel Park off of Route 7 in Wilmington. Carousel Park consists of approximately 200 acres of parkland with walking trails where horses, ducks, rabbits and other wildlife are visible. Although the trails are covered with bark chips which prevents them from being accessible, a small picnic area with handicapped parking spaces has been created at one of the entrances to the park. Through letter writing and phone calls, Kathie Herel asked the New Castle County Dept. of Special Services to review the accessibility issue at the park. Kathie also encouraged the DE Developmental Disabilities Council - Adult Issues Committee to support the request which they did with enthusiasm. Kudos to New Castle County for responding with this small, but significant addition which now allows individuals to enjoy some of the breathtaking aesthetics of this parkland!

Topamax (Topiramate) is now approved to be an add-on drug to control partial epileptic seizures in children aged 2-16 years. The drug, which has been available for use in adults since 1996, is the first "new generation" antiepileptic drug to be approved for treating partial-onset seizures in young children. Source: PLUK News Oct-Nov 199



Be the change you want to see in the world. Gandhi



BULLETIN BOARD



**Saturday, September 30th
9:00 am—1:00 pm**

PIC's Annual Conference will be held at the Sheraton in Dover this Fall.

Conference topics will include:

Proven models of wrap-around services for children with special education and mental health needs

Approaching inappropriate behaviors positively and effectively

I don't have time...tips and techniques for helping "busy parents" to be involved in their children's lives

Registration information will be available later this summer!

Grow with PIC!

The Parent Information Center is growing and needs staff for some of its new initiatives.

Currently we are looking for family consultants to staff our partnership project with the Division of Child Mental Health Services and Child, Inc. Full and part-time positions, bi-lingual (Spanish/English) preferred, are available.

For more information, contact Marie-Anne at PIC.

PIC Opens Office in Sussex County

The PIC/DE is pleased to announce that their **Georgetown office** is open!

109 N. Bedford Street
Georgetown, DE 19947

(302) 856-9880 *Voice*
(302) 856-9882 *Fax*

(888) 547-4412 *Voice*
(Toll Free for Families in Kent County)

Picofgtown@aol.com *E-mail*

Our parent consultants are anxious to hear from you!

Wheelchair Tennis Tournament in September!

Watch the wheels turn and the athletes compete in the USTA National Clay Court Wheelchair Tennis Championships this Fall! This is a one of a kind event and the only national wheelchair tennis tournament played on clay courts!

**September 8, 9 and 10, 2000
Dupont Country Club, Wilmington**

Don't miss the action...
Call Kathie at PIC for more details.

PIC Page—What are Parent Centers?

Parent centers daily affect the lives of children and youth with disabilities across the nation. Whether it's the family of a Georgia two-year-old who cannot walk, a Texas 10-year-old squirming through social studies class, or a young Montana woman with mental retardation seeking a job, parent centers are there to help.

Parent centers— Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) and **Community Parent Resource Centers** (CPRCs) — serve families of children and young adults from birth to age 22 with all disabilities: physical, mental, learning, emotional and attention deficit disorders. Parent centers do the following:

- Train and inform parents and professionals
- Help families obtain appropriate education and services for their children with disabilities
- Work to improve education results for all children
- Resolve problems between families and schools or other agencies
- Connect children with disabilities to community resources that address their needs



Parent centers are funded by the U.S. Department of Education, under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). Each state has at least one parent center, and states with large populations may have more. There are approximately 100 parent centers in the United States.

In Delaware, the PIC/DE is such a center and the Delaware Parent Education Resource Center, administered through Child, Inc., is the Community Parent Resource Center for our state.

Parent centers are as individual as the families and communities they serve. Whatever their size or geographic location, commitment is the mark of parent centers. Staff are likely to be parents and siblings of children with disabilities—or have disabilities themselves. They personify the philosophy: Parents Helping Parents.

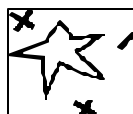
Here's How Parent Centers Throughout The Country Help Families!

- 3.4 million contacts were made to parent centers, by parents, through telephone call, one-on-one consultations, letters, e-mail, workshops and the web site
- 26% of the individuals served by parent centers were from culturally and racially diverse families
- 133,000 parents attended training and presentations offered by parent centers
- 38,000 of the parents attending trainings were from culturally and racially diverse families
- 55,000 professionals serving children with disabilities attended training sponsored by parent centers
- circulations of parent center newsletters totaled 795,000

(Based on 1998-99 reports from 79.3% of the parent centers.)

- 86.5% of the parents said the individual assistance they received from parent centers helped them obtain some of the services they felt their child needed
- 88.1% said they felt more confident about working with school personnel after speaking to a parent center
- 86.5% said the information they received by contacting a parent center helped them obtain at least some of the services they felt their child needed
- 66.5% of the parents attending workshops believed their child received more appropriate services because the parent used information from the workshop
- 87.4% felt more confident in dealing with schools, due to the information they received at the workshops
- 75.8% of the parents said they are more involved and effective in their child's education after attending a parent center workshop

(Follow-up calls to parents found these outcomes.)



**From July 1999 to January 2000 alone, the PIC/DE heard from over 800 families.
The PIC/DE staff responded to over 3,000 inquiries from those families!
Do you have questions or concerns about your child's education?
Do you need information about your child's disability?
If so, call the PIC/DE today!**

More To Think About...

What goes up most during the summer?

a. The temperature b. The price of gas c. The school achievement gap

If you guessed “c”, you get an A! Research shows that in the early grades, large gaps in student achievement are due in part to gains made or not made when school is out of session.

Once the last bell rings, most youngsters are expected to goof

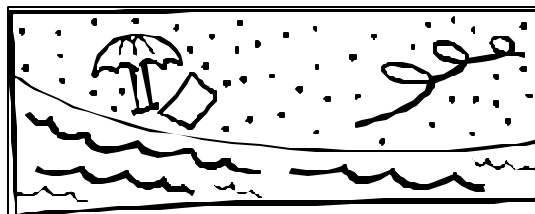
off. But exercising kids brains during the summer can bring big benefits in the fall. In particular, struggling readers can gain the most from a summer filled with learning activities.

You don't need a lot of extra time or cash to give your kids a smarter summer. The trick is to find the fun in reading every day. Remember that any daily reading including comic books is good for kid's brains. The key to success is for the child to choose the subject. Libraries are a great place to spend time in during the hot summer months; they are air-conditioned and have lots of resources for both children and adults. Many allow for public access to the Internet, have story hours, puppet shows or other fun and educational events for children.

The US Department of Education, as part of its America Reads Program, has a free activities poster for kids. Once activities are completed, kids earn a free pizza from Pizza Hut. (call ED PUBS toll free at 1-800433-7827), or go on line at: www.ed.gov/pubs to order the poster and other materials. Ask for Summer Home Learning Recipes to find activities that suit your child's age. For guidance on how to start a summer reading program, ask for the **Read*Write* Now! Tip Sheet** available in both English and Spanish. Another fun and free activity kit can be obtained from the US Postal Service. It's called **Stampin' The Future**. The kit contains original stamp designs created by eight to twelve year olds that have been chosen as winners of a national contest related to the project. The kit is full of ideas for fun craft ideas based on stamps. Write to: **FREE USPS Education Kits**, Stamp Fulfillment Services, 8300 N.E. Underground Drive, Pillar 210, Kansas City, MO 64144-0001.

Children can also work on their writing skills by writing postcards, and letters to pen pals, cousins, or friends away at camp or on vacation. Whatever you do, treat learning as an incidental yet fun activity. I remember keeping my daughter busy while riding in the car by having her look at billboards and advertisements. To my great surprise, one day, I realized that she was actually reading. Have a great summer and enjoy your children because they all are truly awesome!

(Sources: Partnership for Family Involvement in Education/EdPubs & USPS)



Making Summer Bright and

Who Made A Difference In Your Life?

Can you name the five wealthiest people in the world?

How about the last five Heisman trophy winners?

Who were the last five winners of the Miss America contest?

Can you list ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize?

Can you name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress?

Who won the World Series last year?

How did you do? *The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday.* These are no second-rate achievers either. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one. Easier?

List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.

Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.

Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.

Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. **They are the ones who care.**

IMPORTANT LINK SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Do you like what you are reading? We hope so, however... with skyrocketing printing and postage costs, we must charge for "The LINK" Newsletter to help defray our publishing expenses.

Please return the following information if you wish to receive the next quarterly issues of "The LINK".

Name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
(Please print or affix the removable mailing label found below)

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Please send me the quarterly newsletter for one year. (Check boxes)

- I have enclosed my check for \$12.00 payable to PIC/DE .
I am unable to pay for a subscription at this time.

I am a:

- Parent
Educator
Professional
Consumer
Organization

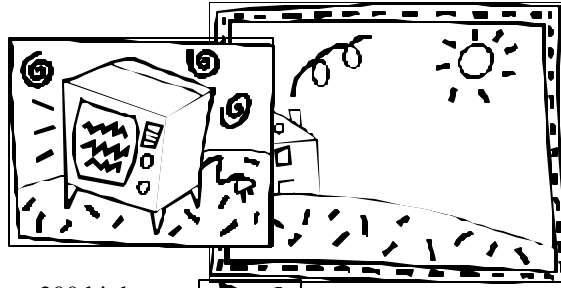
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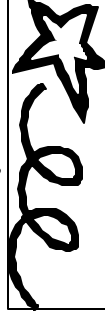
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PIC is excited to be launching into of presenting the disAbility Awareness Program (dAP) to Delaware school children and teachers. dAP is a unique learning experience for students and teachers as they interact with adults who have disabilities during small group discussions.



its 10th year anniversary Program and their experience for act with adults group discus-

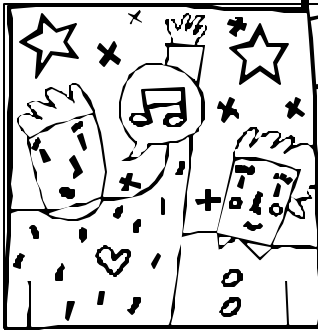
On May 9, 2000 over 200 high school students with disabilities traveled to Clayton Hall in Newark to share information and experiences about transitioning from high school to the adult world. LouAnne Johnson, author of the book *Dangerous Minds* opened the day by sharing her experiences of being a teacher. Representatives from Assoc. Builders & Contractors/DE Chapter, Great New Beginnings Childcare, also were on hand to answer questions and to motivate students to seek employment in their companies. Greenwald, Jane Bouza-Chitty (DE DVR) presented a humorous yet educational presentation of "Who Wants To Be A Transition Gazillionaire" which obviously was a spoof of the very popular tv



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Student Connections Project

disAbility Awareness



Web resources—MA

