



The Link

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

Learning Social Skills: A Training Ground for Life

by Jane Miller—Guest Author

Remember when what you learned in school could be summarized in the three Rs? To reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic, add social skills to the mix. Experts agree that an increasing number of children need social skills training. Finding the right program can be the biggest challenge parents, children and professionals face.

Filling a Vacuum

Nancy Kaufman knows this firsthand. As an occupational therapist and special educator in Pennsylvania schools, "I could see a piece of what these children needed was missing. These were the kids who were loners on the playground. They didn't get invited to birthday parties. They had no one to go with them to the mall. "I felt occupational therapy, which works through activities to accomplish its goals, would be a good way for them to work with other children on social skills."

To pick up where schools left off, she co-founded the *COLLAGE* Occupational Therapy Program in Newtown, Square, Pa. in 1987. A second location was added in Springhouse, Pa. two years ago, and just last September, *COLLAGE* expanded into Delaware by offering its social skills programs at the offices of Dr. Nor-

man Broudy in Wilmington.

Lisa Yackel, a school counselor, and Stephanie Nigro, occupational therapist, coordinates the Wilmington program for two groups of children, ages 8-9 and 11-12. "Our primary clients are kids who have trouble getting the social piece together, and who may have attention deficits, learning disabilities or giftedness. From time to time, we also have children with Asperger's Syndrome, who have trouble developing interpersonal relationships, or children with other conditions," she said.

But, Kaufman insists, labels don't drive program placements. Children do. "We want to bring in children who are not necessarily the same in the picture they present of social problems, but who could work well together in a group. Chemistry is always a factor here." Class activities like sharing news together promote conversation skills. Gross motor activities and games help them "have fun taking part in a physical activity that de-emphasizes competition," Kaufman said. Children learn the value of collaboration by playing board games in teams and working together to complete a major project such as planning a pizza party or perform-

ing a play for parents.

Classes meet once a week for 1-1/2 hours over eight weeks. During that time, each child's progress is charted so that parents can review progress made on specific individual goals in treatment.

Increased Client Needs

If *COLLAGE* was unique when it began, it is no longer alone. In January, *Wanna Play* started to offer interactive play groups in Upper Darby, Pa. They meet for 1-1/2 hours twice a week during

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Thinking Out LOUD! LOUD! LOUD!

Thirty Something and Beyond...

Our son Stefan, the once child, then teen and now adult with autism just recently celebrated his 30th birthday. This milestone, unlike me, did not faze him. After all, he had to blow out 30 candles (a major feat for someone who never truly mastered the art of blowing bubbles, candles or his nose) and eat unlimited amounts of chocolate cake. For me, this event was far more emotional. I couldn't help but reflect on the years leading up to this rainy day in February.

Stefan, the colicky baby, who wailed lots, and slept little, Stefan the silent, finger flicking toddler. Stefan, the two year old with a devastating diagnosis, yet no treatment or cure and, we, his parents looking for a miracle. Then came many years of convincing educators, doctors, and politicians that our child had potential, could learn, and with [much] help, be productive. That day is here, he is an adult. He is productive, but still needs to learn and still needs [much] help.

We his parents, now have to convince human service agencies, employers and politicians that Stefan, the adult, has potential and can be productive. Erroneously, I believed that once a battle won, it would never have to be fought again.

Looking at this handsome and endearingly peculiar thirty year old child of ours, I know I have "Promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep". (Robert Frost)

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Have you heard that PIC just opened an office in Dover!

The Kent County office for the Parent Information Center of Delaware is housed at the Delaware Parents Association on S. DuPont Highway. Call or stop by for a visit!

Learning Social Skills *(Continued from page 1)*

two 12-week school sessions and two five-week summer sessions.

Ruth Herron Ross and Beth Roberts co-direct this social skills group. “We started the program,” said Ross, “for the need for social skills programs that were tailored for children with special challenges...with a diagnosis of autism, anyone on the autism spectrum, Down’s Syndrome or ADHD.”

The business reflects both a personal and professional commitment they have to child development. Ross has worked in education for 10 years, half of them in early intervention, where she helped children generalize social skills taught in one-on-one settings. Ross holds a graduate degree in special education and certification as a reading specialist from St. Joseph’s University. Her partner, Beth Roberts also has experience in teaching social skills. She ran an in-home program for three years to support the needs of her daughter, who is on the autism spectrum, when the elementary school her child attended did not have a program to meet her needs.

Wanna Play breaks down social skills into 11 areas. They range from basic interactive skills, such as making eye contact, to learning how to greet and respond to greetings, recognizing emotional and social cues, learning imaginative play and reading body language to negotiating social events like holidays and parties.

“Interactive skills such as eye contact would be the first foundation that kids need before they do more complex tasks. We look at where kids fall on the continuum and start from there,” Ross said.

Wanna Play also looks at what children know and how they use that knowledge in play. “We distinguish between acquisition and expression of

skills,” said Ross. “For those children who just need (a skill) explained, we go from the visual to give them a physical experience with it. Each skill is modeled for the child, then illustrated through visual, verbal and tactile learning modes. For those children where acquisition is not the only issue,” and who also need to learn the language of social interaction, Ross added, “we make sure we give them a lot of opportunity to practice each skill so they can generalize it into their daily world.”

Play It Forward

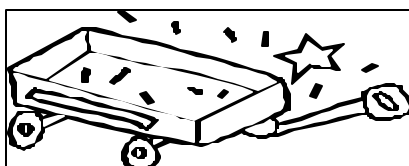
Floor Time also puts play under the microscope. Created by Dr. Stanley Greenspan and Child Psychologist, Serena Weider, *Floor Time* fosters the social-emotional growth of children with special needs through play. Based on the precept that emotional development is the foundation for higher level functioning, *Floor Time* practitioners start by observing a child at play to identify his or her rank within six developmental milestones.

“Those benchmarks are important because they help us measure progress, but they don’t direct what or how a child plays. That is up to the child,” said Virginia Roberts, who practices *Floor Time* in the North Wilmington office of Alternative Connections.

Instead of teaching skills, *Floor Time* takes a child’s preferred activity and builds on that interest over time to encourage the intimacy, two-way communication, expression of emotions and ideas as well as logical thinking that are the basis for child development. “My clients have challenges ranging from autism to ADHD, said Roberts. “But with *Floor Time*, they can be assured an individualized program because all therapy starts at the level and interests of the child.”

Why Programs Fail or Succeed

A recent study, “Interpreting Outcomes of Social Skills Training for Students with High-Incidence Disabilities,” shows the importance of customizing social skills training. Written in an issue of *Exceptional Children*, researchers looked at why many



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Social Skills (continued from page 3)

social skills programs do not succeed. Their conclusion: “Most SST (social skills training) studies deliver a treatment to students with an almost complete disregard for the types of social skills deficits students may have.”

Children who do not understand the concept of social skills need different training than other children who understand, but have poor social skills. A third group, which knows how and what to do, may just need practice in refining their social skills. According to this report, programs that succeed start by learning from children just how much they know and then building on those levels of understanding.

Dr. Kathe Morse, a psychologist in private practice in North Wilmington, echoes that assessment. Together with Psychologist Dr. Diane Kirk, they provide social skills training to children with attention deficits and learning disabilities at the Centreville School near Greenville, Delaware. At the hour-long weekly meeting after school, groups this year learned how to make friends, understand feelings and resolve conflicts effectively. “Part of our work at Centreville is to help them be able to conceptualize the skill, not just mimic it, but be able to understand when and how to use it. That’s the goal and it’s hard to do,” she said.

What Comes First

If you are a child with Asperger’s Syndrome, understanding social cues is not just hard, it’s a foreign language with no recognizable alphabet. Speech and Language Pathologist Michelle Garcia Winner has made a career of working with these and other children with social cognitive deficits. To help teachers understand how such deficits impact academics, she has written a book, “[Inside Out: What Makes the Person with Social Cognitive Deficits Tick? The I Laugh Approach.](#)”

“We educators teach social skills, thinking that (students) think the way we do,” said Winner. “But the reason they don’t do it in the first place is

because they don’t have the knowledge that would allow them to think this way. I call that social cognition.

“Professionals tend to evaluate a student based on what they see him do visually,” said Winner. For example, if a child does not take turns in a conversation, a teacher may write that as an IEP goal, when the child’s primary need is to understand first *why* people take turns. “Students can’t produce social skills until they have the social knowledge that supports the performance of these skills,” she said.

That learning takes time and services. “Our kids are missing these very abstract skills, and they don’t attain abstract skills until late in elementary school,” she said. Once they learn the basics, Winner argues, they still need social skills training throughout middle and high school to catch up to their peers. “They’re about one-third behind their peers,” she said, “so they gain maturity and awareness in their early 20s that for other kids occurs between 17 and 18.”

Winner wrote her book to help others “understand the cognitive framework that (such students) present...so we can become more sensitive evaluators as well as educators” to directly address their needs through curriculum and in IEPs, she said.

Client-Centered Coaching

Dr. Steven Richfield, creator of the *Parent Coaching Cards*, knows the value of learning from his clients. A psychologist with a private practice in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., Dr. Richfield has long specialized in helping children with behavior problems, particularly those with ADHD and autism spectrum disorders.

The concept for his Parent Coaching Cards came from a client. He recalled, “The child was bright and articulate and in your face and said to me after a couple of sessions that my ideas are good ones, but after she leaves my office, she can’t remember what to do. That was the singular inspiration for the idea of the coaching cards.”

Continued on page 19

Internet Resources about Social Skills:

1. **Teach Me Language: A Language Manual for Children with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and Related Developmental Disorders**, Freeman, S. & Dake, L (1996), www.skfbooks.com/tml or (604) 534-6956
2. **Teaching Your Child the Language of Social Success**, Duke, M.P., Nowicki, S., & Martin, E., (1996), Peachtree Publishers
3. **Super Duper School Co.**, <http://www.superduperinc.com> - publishers of:
 - Social Skills Lessons & Activities (Grades PreK-K)
 - Social Skills Stories: Functional Picture Stories for Readers and Nonreaders
 - Special Activities for Special Children
1. **Autism & PDD: Adolescent Social Skills Lessons**, Reese, P.B., & Challenner, N.C., (2000), <http://www.linguisystems.com>
2. **Social Skills Game**, Alimed, info@alimed.com
3. **Childsworld Childsplay**, <http://www.childsworld.com> - publishers of:
 - Social Skills Lessons and Activities, (four books for grades: PreK-K, 1-3, 4-6, 7-12)
 - Classic Social Skills Training Program - Skillstreaming Series
 - The Helping, Sharing & Caring Game
 - The Step-by-Step Guide to Making Friends
 - Kids on Stage board game
1. **Building Bridges Consulting**, publishers of:
 - Connecting Kids, Hill, Linda, 1-888-746-1529 or <http://www.island.net/~bridges>
1. **Gaining Face**, a computer software program by Team Asperger that teaches facial expressions, (920) 993-1937 or <http://www.ccoder.com/GainingFace>
2. **Tony Atwood**, well-known expert on Asperger's Syndrome and author of book and articles on the subject, has a good web site with links to social skills materials - <http://www.tonyatwood.com>
3. **O.A.S.I.S.** (On line Asperger Syndrome Information & Support) provides comprehensive information and links to social skills materials, both written and in video format - udel.edu/bkirby/asperger/

Carol Gray, creator of Social Stories for children on the autism spectrum, has a web site of information and services - <http://www.thegrayenter.org/>

Other Social Skills Resources:

COLLAGE Occupational Therapy Program:

For Wilmington office, leave a message at 655-7110 x 60 or call Nancy Kaufman at (610) 356-7355

Wanna Play: Ruth Herron Ross and Beth Roberts, (610) 853-2898 or wannaplayecn@aol.com

Floor Time: Virginia Roberts, 656-1991 or 475-1141 (Alternative Connections)

Parent Coaching Cards: Dr. Steven Richfield, www.parentcoachcards.com or dir@parentcoachcards.com

Dr. Kathe Morse, Wilmington, DE psychologist: 656-2204

Inside Out: What Makes the Person with Social Cognitive Deficits Tick? The I Laugh Approach, by Michelle Winner, www.socialthinking.com

Speed O. Snail Tales: Candice Gillis, Red Clay Consolidated School District, 454-5340

Exceptional Children, "Interpreting Outcomes of Social Skills Training for Students with High-Incidence Disabilities," Gresham, F., Sugai, G., and Horner, R., vol. 67, no. 3, p. 331-334.



Take a break...
and read a
book or watch
a video!

The following are available from PIC:

- **Floortime**, Stanley Greenspan (video and book)
- **Writing Social Stories**, Carol Gray (video and workbook)
- **Teaching Social Stories To Young Children**, Sherri Searcy (A parents guide)

PARENT PAGE

The “Ups” And “Downs” of Life

As I hurried into the gas station and pumped gas into my ever “thirsty” car, the man who works there wanted to know, “Why the hurry today”?

As I explained I had to be home for my daughter when she arrived home from school, the usual conversation followed... “How old is your daughter”? “Well, she is 13, but.....she has.....and.....I don’t really want her to be home alone when she comes in from school.

“Oh, Down Syndrome, I’m sorry to hear that!”...

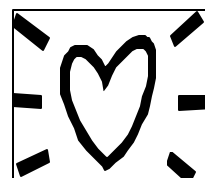
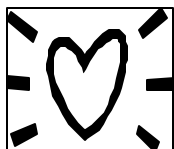
(I felt like I had just told him my mother had died!!) “Don’t be sorry”, I told him, “She has learned to walk and talk, she attends regular school and she drives us crazy at times...like any 13 year old.”

“I’m sorry for any kid who is born with problems. They can’t appreciate life.” He replied.

At this point, I almost lost it. ‘Can’t appreciate life’ I nearly shouted! She probably enjoys life more than a lot of people. She always tells me that she loves me (at the most convenient and not so convenient times). She never complains that the kids are teasing her when I know that at times they are. And just the other day, I asked her why she was still praying for Uncle Bob who had passed away almost six months ago, and she told me in no uncertain terms that she still had to pray for him *in heaven!*

I was still in a hurry, and continued to fill my car, pay and leave while the attendant was still scratching his head and looking at me like I was strange.

It had been a couple of “up” days and I was ready to tell him all the positive reasons why we love Leanne. A week later, if he had said something to me, I probably would have sat on the curb and cried—but then that is part of the crazy world of accepting the words “your baby has Down Syndrome”. We’ve all been there and know it is an “up” and “down” feeling. That particular day at the gas station...I was “up”!
(Submitted by Mary Ann Evans, Parent living in Kent County)



“It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see!”

David Thoreau

RESOURCES

The following resources just arrived and are waiting for you at the PIC library!

VAPAS - Vocational Assessment for Persons with Autism and Severe Disabilities Wells, Theresa 2001 This will assist in collecting information about an individual's strength, abilities, preferences.

AWR - Assessment of Work Readiness Wells, Theresa 2001 This booklet is for professionals assessing student skills in different domains.

SMART - Teaching Critical Skills in the Kitchen Wells, Theresa 2001 This manual will provide information to parents and professionals involved with 10-14 year olds with multiple disabilities.

(Books from the Autism Society of Delaware)
Sensory Motor Issues in Autism Anderson, Johanna 1998 This manual includes checklists for teaching functional tasks such as eating, dressing, self-feeding as well as activities geared toward classroom work.

Autistic Adults at Bittersweet Farms Giddan, Norman and Jane 1991 This book provides valuable information on all aspects of working with individuals with autism.

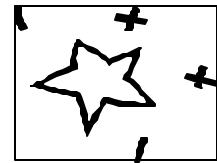
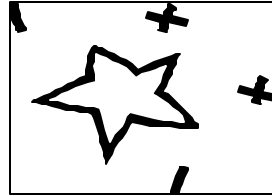
Breakthroughs: How to Reach Students with Autism Sewell, Karen 1996 This manual is filled with useful, practical suggestions and how-to's for teaching individuals with autism and other developmental disorders.

Making Sense of Art Davalos, Sandra 1999 Sensory based art activities for children with autism, asperger syndrome and other pervasive developmental disorders.

Slant of Sun, A: One Child's Courage Kephart, Beth 1998 This memoir is about the "art of mothering" and the difference that one individual can make.

Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations, Unique Methods to Improve Social Understanding Gray, Carol 1998

You Will Dream New Dreams, Inspiring Personal Stories by Parents of Children with Disabilities Klein, Stanley & Schive, Kim 2001 A collection of writings from families who share real life experiences.



Dynamite KidSites To Help Your Children Use The Computer Wisely!

<http://www.yahooligans.com> - This is a kid-friendly version of the more grown-up Yahoo. It has a search engine as well as many categories under which you can find information about almost anything. All the Yahoooligans links are reviewed by Yahoooligans' editors and only safe, kid-friendly sites are chosen to be listed.

<http://www.bjpinchbeck.com> - This is a great site to help with homework. B.J. Pinchbeck is a 13 year old kid and, like all kids, knows homework can really be a drag. B.J. has found sites that help with homework in just about every subject.

<http://nyelabs.kcts.org> - This site is like taking a trip to the labs of the Science Guy, Bill Nye, himself. It includes information and kid-friendly experiments to try.

<http://www.childrensmuseum.org> - Maintained by the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, this is a fun site to explore with links to many other subjects.

<http://www.pbs.org/kids/> - This is a site that has information about the shows on PBS from Arthur to Zoom.

<http://www.disabilitycentral.com/activeteen/> - With the support of a federal grant, a Los Angeles-area disability outreach coordinator has started the first internet-based magazine for teenagers with disabilities. The "E-Zine" is run and managed by teen writers with disabilities who tackle issues such as peer acceptance, advocacy, discrimination, job choices and everyday life experiences.

Source: PEATC Press

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. There is also a parent group which meets concurrently. Meetings held once a month. Call for time and location. Rick/MaryEllen Foulds (302) 234-0208.

Appoquinimink Special Education Support Group Parent mutual support group. Call for meeting times and 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. 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 Support Group meets 3rd Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m.-United Church of Christ (UCC), Main Street, Newark. Group does not meet in the months of June, July, August or December. Educational sessions, guest speakers and support for parents dealing with children who have attention deficit disorder and co-existing conditions such as: obsessive behavior, tics, learning differences, oppositional defiant disorder and more. Call for meeting topics. Presentation on ADHD to interested groups. 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 Meets 2nd Thursday of each month except August & December at DuPont Hospital for Children, Rockland Road, Wilm. 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. 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. 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. 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. Barbara Blair, RN (302) 324-4455.

FamQuest Personal development, training and coaching firm offering various programs for families and youth. Includes parenting programs. (302) 498-5191 or www.famquest.com.

Family Forum For families of children with developmental delays and disabilities, ages birth to five years. (302) 577-4556.

Family Support Network For families of children/youth with mental/behavioral health needs. Meet at Bear Library monthly. Call Vivian Nichols at PIC 366-0152.

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

National Multiple Sclerosis Society Offers information and lending library, assists in service referrals. 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. Arthur/Carol-Lee Patch (302) 478-3624.

Parents of Children/Adolescents with Mental Illness Meetings held 3rd Thursday monthly, Cedar's Church of Christ. 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. 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. 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 7:00 p.m. Rusty Sheridan, Facilitator (302) 653-9433 www.biausa.org/Delaware/bia.htm.

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

Easter Seal Society of Del-Mar Independent living and outpatient rehab

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services. 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. Donna Goldsborough, RN (302) 674-7135.

Exceptional Family Member Program, Family Support Center, DAFB Assists families with a member with special needs through referrals, facilities, and housing. 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. Call for times. 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. 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. 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. Eve Tolley, Facilitator (800) 411-0505 or (302) 537-5770 www.biausa.org/Delaware/bia.htm.

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. 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. Patti Payne (302) 855-1649 or ppayne@outland.dccc.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. 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. Laura Morris (302) 645-1844.

Parent Advisory Council For families of children/youth with mental/behavioral health needs. Meet at PIC office monthly. Call Kim Beauchamp at PIC 856-9880

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. 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. Allan Williams, Program Director (302) 427-0787 or Oya ALatur, Support Services & Outreach (888) 427-2643 x21 or NA-MIDE@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. 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. (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. Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 7:00 pm usually at the Delaware Autistic Program (4 times a year in Dover). Artie Kempner (302) 777-7273 or delautism@aol.com www.wserv.com/delautism/ Call Marie-Anne Aghazadian for information and referral about educational issues only (302) 366-0152.

CHILD, Inc. Statewide organization offering a variety of services and programs for families including: Family Support and Education Services, Parent Education Classes and workshops, Foster Care, Youth and Family Services, Domestic Violence services. Corrine Lawrence, Director (302) 762-8989 New Castle County, Kent (302) 697-2292 or 697-0411, Sussex County (302) 629-7220 or (800) 874-2070 toll free in Kent/Sussex Counties or childinc.com.

Children & Families First Statewide private social service agency dedicated to improving the quality of individual, family, and community life through prevention, treatment, education and training services such as: Parenting Plus, Community Education, Special Needs Adoption, Parent & Child ADHD Group, Grandparenting Support Groups. New Castle County (302) 658-5177, Kent County (302) 674-8384, Sussex County (302) 856-2388.

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

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

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

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.

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/competitions. Ann Grunert (302) 831-4653.

The Delawareans With Special Needs, Medicaid Managed Care Panel is

Continued on page 10

a parent run group which meets monthly to address health issues and services for our children. 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. (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. Faith Moore (302) 577-3545.

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

Governors Council on Deaf Equality Provides advocacy and information to members of the deaf community and their families. 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 Larry Henderson (302) 765-0191 or (302) 765-0194 TTD.

Leukemia Society of America Offers free educational materials - Leukemia, Hodgkins Disease, Multiple Myotoma, Lymphoma. Patient Aid Financial Program. 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. Cathy Kanefsky (302) 737-1310.

Mental Health Association of Delaware Offers support, advocacy and information. 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. (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. (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.

LOOK WHAT'S HOT THIS SUMMER!

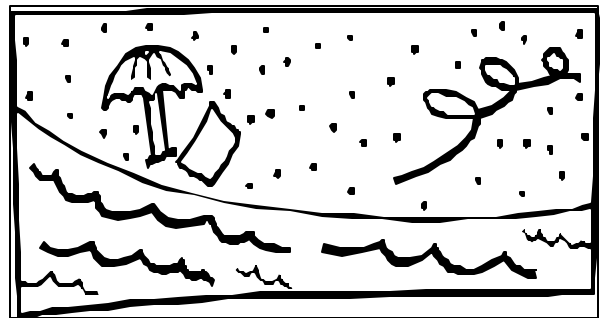
Looking for speakers and topics for your support group meeting or in-service training!

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 informational sessions that we offer to families and professionals.

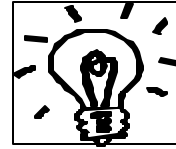
Topics include:

Empowering Families
Stress and Coping
Supporting Siblings
Legal Guardianship
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
Individualized Education Programs
Developing Effective Advocacy Skills



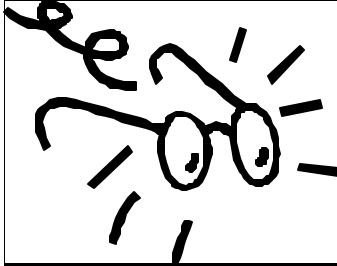
Enjoy the summer while learning at the same time...call PIC today to schedule a presentation!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



President Bush's "Leave No Child" Behind Education Proposals If Passed In Congress Could Leave Many Children Behind! (Adapted from SPAN www.spannj.org)

The Bush administration education agenda creates a "Straight A's" program which would let States and districts exempt themselves from virtually all federal education requirements.



- "Straight A's" Would allow schools to use Title 1 dollars without having to consider parental input when providing curriculum, effective instructions, highly qualified staff and individual help for students to master standards under "Straight A's" could let States use Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration money without using it for the development or implementation of a comprehensive school reform plan. Similarly, States could use federal vocational education dollars without adhering to the strict guidelines on how those can be used.
- "Straight A's" pretends that requirements for parent involvement and a quality education stand in the way of educational improvement.
- (*Hard to believe knowing that parent involvement aids and supports education systems.*) Furthermore, waivers, consolidation plans, and EdFlex offer plenty of flexibility to the current Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- Mandates annual standardized assessment for every child in grades 3-8;
- Gives parents a minimal 1,500 voucher to transfer their child to a private (even religious) school without requiring the private or religious schools to comply with federal education rights and protections;
- Allows districts to use Class Size Reduction funds for any "teacher quality" purpose;
- Shields teachers, principals and school board members from federal liability arising out of their efforts to maintain discipline in the classroom, unless their conduct can be proven to be "reckless" or "criminal";
- Gives individual teachers the right to remove "disruptive students" from their classroom and require "zero tolerance" policies for "disruptive students";
- Makes it easier for public school districts and local law enforcement authorities to share information regarding disciplinary actions and misconduct by students;
- Eliminates bilingual education program protections currently in federal law, and limits bilingual instruction to three years regardless of student needs;
- Greatly increases funding for charter schools without increased oversight or accountability to ensure that such schools protect the rights of and provide quality education to students with disabilities, English language learners and other students;
- Creates a "charter option" for states and districts the would give them freedom from current federal accountability, quality, and parent involvement requirements in return for submitting a five year performance agreement (five years is a longtime in the life of a child!)

Continued on page 17

Mark Your CALENDAR For These Events

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

Delaware Events

July 16 - 27 (Session 2) - **Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc. - PECS Two Week Intensive Summer Program** This is ideal for families seeking intensive summer communication programming. All programming will utilize the principles of applied behavior analysis and will include: PECS - The Picture Exchange Communication System, distributed discreet instruction, sequential task instruction, incidental language training, functional routines training. For information call 888-732-7462

June 22, 2001 A. I. DuPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington **Every Child Deserves A Medical Home – DE American Academy of Pediatrics** Program is for medical and community professionals and parents of children with special needs. Provides information about the medical home concept. For information contact 302-778-3908

July 9 – 13, 2001 Delaware Technical & Community College, Dover **Language Development, Delays & Disorders: Assessment and Intervention Strategies** For families and professionals working with children ages birth to five. Focus is on language development and strategies for enhancing development. For information call 302-831-3633

Elsewhere around the Country

June 18 - October 19, 2001 **Supported Employment, web-based certificate series** Call 804-828-5956

June 20-23, 2001 Grand Hyatt, Washington, DC **Partners Make a Great IDEA: A National Summit on the Shared Implementation of The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** For information call 703-519-3800

June 25-28, 2001 Manchester, NH **Institute on Supporting Students with Autism/PDD in General Education Classes** For educators and families: how they can work together to plan the most effective ways to educate students with autism/PDD in general education classes. For information contact 603-228-2084

July 2 - 13, 2001 Lion Square Lodge and Conference Center, Vail, CO **25th Annual Special Education Symposia, University of Northern Colorado - 2 sessions** For information contact 800-525-5788

July 6-8, 2001 Westin Hotel, San Diego, CA **2001 National Down Syndrome Society Convention – One Vision, One Voice** Focus is on working together to improve the lives of individuals with Down Syndrome. For information contact NDSS 800-221-4602

July 9-13, 2001 Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA **The Summer Institute on Autism** The institute will offer practical approaches in the area of autism that can be directly utilized by parents and professionals. For information contact 610-758-3227

July 18-22, 2001 Town & Country Resort & Convention Center, San Diego, CA **Autism Society of America - Millenium of HOPE, National Conference on Autism** For information contact 888-233-2864

July 25-27, 2001 Lancaster Host Resort, Lancaster, PA **Learning from Our Past...Visions for Our Future, Regional Conference on Mental Illness and Mental Retardation** For information contact 215-842-4380

July 30-August 3, 2001 Sheraton Park South, Richmond, VA **Summer Institute for Supported Employment Personnel Training** will cover the nuts & bolts of supported employment as

well as many advanced training topics. For information call 804-827-0735

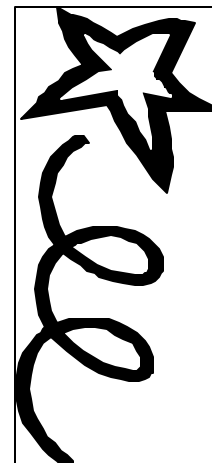
September 21-23, 2001 Hyatt Regency Tech Center, Denver, CO **National Down Syndrome Congress 29th Annual Convention "Set Your Sights a Mile High"** For information contact 800-232-NDSC

October 11-13, 2001 Marriot City Center, Denver, CO **11th Annual Division on Career Development and Training Conference – Transition: Exploring New Frontiers** For information contact 800-525-5788

October 23-26, 2001 Doral Palm Springs Resort, CA **CCFP Roundtable - 10th Annual CCFP Sponsors' Conference, Fuel for Early Learning** For information contact 925-686-0522

November 8-10, 2001 Hilton Anchorage Hotel, Anchorage, AK **2001 Pathways: Steps to Unity**, Parents, Inc. presents the 8th biennial conference for families and professionals of Alaska who care about people with disabilities. For information contact 800-478-7678

November 30-December 2, 2001 Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC **Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health 13th Annual Conference** More information to come.



**The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.
Foundation Parent Public
Policy Fellowship Program**

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation is seeking parents of persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities for an intensive one-year Public Policy Fellowship in Washington, DC. During this one year Fellowship, the successful applicant will learn how legislation is initiated, developed and passed by the Congress.

Each year the Foundation brings a parent or family member of a child with a disability to Washington for a full year, where they actively participate in public policy development through work on the staff of a congressional committee, or a federal department. Former Parent Fellows describe the Fellowship as a major life-enhancing event in their lives. This next year offers exciting opportunities to be involved in policy and legislative development in key areas such as special education, health and mental health care, child care, housing, justice, child welfare and other areas related to improving the quality of life for individuals with mental retardation and other disabilities. We seek parents or other family members with experience in: 1) State-level advocacy for persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities and their families; 2) Vocational rehabilitation, education, child care, child welfare, law, community organizing or development of community supports and services; 3) Health or mental health care; or 4) Development of fam-

ily training or family support services.

The successful applicant's background will include distinguished involvement in efforts to improve the lives of persons with mental retardation and other disabilities at the local, state or national level. Salaried experience in the field is not a requirement. The expectation is that fellows will become future leaders in the field of disabilities, and will return home after their year in Washington to make significant contributions to policy and program development in their home state. The program provides a one-year full-time exposure to the federal public policy decision making process, and includes a stipend, and relocation expenses. Program applicants must be from the United States. Selected fellows are expected to live in the Washington, DC area during their fellowship year.

Applicants should submit a 2-4 page letter stating their interest and accomplishments to date, and what they hope to do with the knowledge and experience gained from the fellowship. They should also attach either a resume or a summary of their involvement in the field, and at least three letters of support by 7/31/01. The Fellowship starting date will be 1/02. Send letters of application to: Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Exec. Vice-Pres., The J. P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, 1325 G. Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005-4709. Att: Parent Public Policy Fellow

Ship Program. (www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/jpkf/fellow.html)

Social Skills continued from page 19

there aren't enough opportunities for kids to feel connected. We need to provide as many opportunities as possible for them to feel a part of their school, family and community. When children are connected, they are more invested and motivated to behave well and be happy."

Schools alone, even those armed with Speed O. Snail, can't be the only social role models.

"Parents need to teach, model and help their children practice social skills," she said.

"Schools not only are taking the responsibility of all these pressures to achieve, to measure up to the benchmarks, but we're also socializing children. That's always been a part of what's been done, but I think there are more children who are at risk for deficits in this area."

The outlook for those children is not good. "Children with chronic social difficulties are at a high risk for social and psychological difficulties into adulthood," Gillis noted. "The capacity for pro-social skills depends on how skilled a child is at imitating and maintaining social relationships. Lacking those skills are strongly related to children's social and emotional problems. Promoting social development should be an important part of parenting and educating."

DID YOU KNOW....?

✿ The **Greenwood Institute** offers a professional support program for parents and adult tutors who are teaching children with learning disabilities. They analyze the most recent evaluation of the student's language skills, and then construct individualized lesson plans. One-on-one assistance, materials and videos on how to implement lesson plans are included with the service. Visit their website at <http://www.greenwoodinstitute.org> (Source: Family Network on Disabilities of FL, Inc.)

✿ KidNeeds.com has established a business partnership with James Leckey Design, Inc. and will offer a wide variety of quality seating and positioning products within its online Marketplace. James Leckey Design, Inc. is a leader in the field of seating and positioning for children with disabilities. The **Kid-Needs.com Marketplace** currently features hundreds of products for children with special needs, families, caregivers and professionals. The easy-to-shop Marketplace offers numerous items ranging from rehabilitation and therapeutic equipment to books and computer software. With its new partnership, KidNeeds.com Marketplace will feature a full range of products including the "Woosh" Chair, Adjustable Bath Chair, Totstander and much more!

✿ If you are looking for a way to provide **math lessons** and practice worksheets for grades 1-8, then you'll want to log onto <http://www.mychildstutor.com>. A parent and their child can review/practice math based on new education standards (ranked in the top 5 from all states). Lessons cover math concepts succinctly using color, graphics, and animation. Worksheets are designed for a child to demonstrate an understanding of the steps to solving math problems. It's convenient and interactive.

✿ The **Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.** has a new address on the Web (www.declasi.org). The web site contains information concerning CLASI

programs, staff and news. The site also contains an extensive page of web site links to state and federal courts, government sites, legal research and services related organizations.

✿ Best Inns & Suites now offers a fresh, new alternative to enhance the travel experience for the 52 million Americans who suffer from allergies or asthma. The **EverGreen Room** features EverGreen air cleaners, filtered drinking and shower systems. EverGreen's air purification system is designed to remove odors, airborne allergens, dust and other irritants, while the water and shower filters eliminate chlorine, sulfur, iron and other contaminants. Guests who want to enjoy the benefits of freshly filtered air and bottle-quality water for drinking and bathing, can contact Best Inn for reservations at www.bestinn.com or call 800-237-8466.

✿ **Parent Soup** at www.parentsoup.com is a general parenting resource. You will find a number of chat rooms on a variety of topics, including issues related to special education and parenting a child with a disability.

✿ 2.8 million students are currently receiving special education services for **learning disabilities** in the U.S. (Source: US Department of Education) 44% of parents who noticed their child exhibiting signs of problems with learning waited a year or more before acknowledging their child might have a serious problem. (Source: Roger Starch Poll: Measuring Progress in Public and Parental Understanding of Learning Disabilities) 35% of children with learning disabilities drop out of high school. This is twice the rate of students without learning disabilities. Of those who do graduate, less than 2% attend a four-year college, despite the fact that many are above average in intelligence. (Source: National Longitudinal Transition Study)

✿ The PostSecondary LD Report website, www.ldreport.com now offers a tremendously useful **college links** page connecting you to the disability service

office or best available contact website for over 200 postsecondary institutions throughout the United States. The colleges and universities are arranged by state in alphabetical order to facilitate a user-friendly information search experience.

✿ Delaware's largest hospital system, Christiana Care, recently announced intentions to open a 10-bed unit specializing in **rehabilitation of severely brain-injured patients** in about a year. Statistics show that Wilmington Hospital and Christiana together treat about 2,000 trauma cases per year and 100 of them are brain injuries. Brain-injured Delawareans are typically sent to Philadelphia area facilities for rehab.

✿ **Thinking 'drains the brain'...** Glucose provides fuel for the brain. Scientists have come up with proof that too much thinking can be exhausting. The impact of straining the grey matter is likely to be more pronounced in older people. A team from the University of Illinois in the US carried out research on rats. They found that concentration drains glucose from a key part of the brain in the animals. However, the effect was more dramatic in older rats, whose brains also took longer to recover. Researcher Professor Paul Gold said the findings may have important implications for the way schools schedule classes and meals.

✿ Recent studies reveal that as many as 60 percent of **youth in the juvenile justice system** have mental health disorders, and as many as 20 percent have a severe disorder. The rate of mental health disorders among youth in the juvenile justice system is consistently higher than among youth in the general adolescent population. Many youth are not screened for mental health issues and, therefore, go undiagnosed and untreated. Few services exist to address the mental health needs of youth in the juvenile justice system. (Source: National Coalition for the Mentally Ill/National Mental Health Association)

BULLETIN BOARD

Family Support Network *July 10—Bear Library (6:30-9 pm)*

Take this opportunity to join other parents whose children have special education and mental health needs to...

Become a part of a support network with other families...

Become involved in issues that concern your child and family...

Develop skills to change "the system"...

Share your concerns or satisfaction about the Families And Communities

Together (FACT) Grant with federal representatives...

If you are interested in participating in this fun and very popular networking group, please contact Vivian at PIC.
(A light supper will be served!)

Zip Code Child Care Referral Service

The Family and Workplace Connection (FWC) provides a free service (for Delaware residents) to help locate child care providers. Callers to the FWC are asked to provide basic information regarding their child care needs. Within a day of the call, FWC will mail out a packet of information, including lists of providers based on the parent's child care needs, together with educational materials to help the parent make an informed decision. Lists are updated monthly and contain names and phone numbers of child care providers with hours of operation.

479-1660 New Castle County
1-800-660-6602 Outside of NCC

Children Come Without Instructions

In partnership with Child, Inc., the Western Family YMCA is offering classes for parents to develop skills that can help them to be a better parent. This parent series provides parents opportunities to learn techniques that promote positive self-esteem in children and strengthen their own abilities to deal with anger, frustration and helplessness while trying to answer common parenting questions.

This series is free and will run from July 10—August 14.
Call Kathy Wessel at 453-1432, ext. 30 at the YMCA to register!

Attention Emerging Leaders!

Paul Hearne/AAPD Leadership Awards: US Citizens with any type of disability are encouraged to apply for a \$10,000 award that will be awarded to leaders in their respective fields.

Nomination deadline is July 26, 2001.

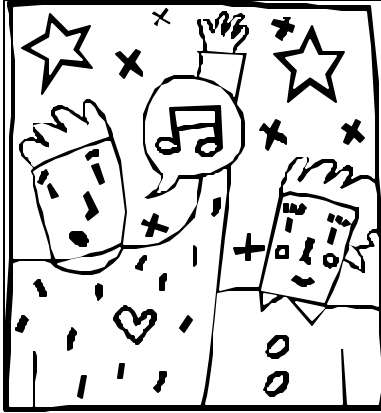
For more information, call Jessa Steinbeck at 1-800-840-8844 or visit their website at www.aapd-ds.org

Summer Fun!

Camp Lenape (302) 335-5626 Swimming in specially equipped pool, social needs met. (*Physical Disabilities*)

Barbizon Modeling Summer Camp (302) 658-6666 1 day a week 9 - 5. M-F, ages 8 and up. Poise, posture, self-confidence, make up, commercials runway, haircare, fashion. (*Modeling*)

Brandywine 2000 Camp/Mini Day (302) 571-7850 Ages 4 - 8th grade. Learn about animals, zoos and wildlife conservation. Live animal presentations, crafts, animal related games, songs.



Camp at Delaware Tech (302) 571-5334 Soccer, science, computer, soft ball, basketball, counselor-in-training, camp-on-campus and young writer

Camp JCC (302) 478-5660 www.jccdelaware.org A special needs counselor will be provided to support the child. Traditional day camps and specialty camps. Provides Jewish enrichment. (*All Disabilities*)

Camp Manito (302) 764-2400 For children with disabilities ages 3 - 21, and children without disabilities ages 6 - 13. (*All Disabilities*)

Camp Montessori (302) 475-0555 cass_winner@hotmail.com Ages 3 -12, 5 day or 3 day. Montessori environment. Hands on experiential play and learning, collaborative inclusiveness, self-reliance.

Camp Sunnybrook (302) 655-2111 Ages 5-16 who are legally blind or severely visually impaired. (*Visually Impaired*)

Camp Win-some (302) 239-2121 Tried but didn't have enough support. Christian values that build character, promote fun, fair play and respect for one another. K thru 9th grade.

Centerville School (302) 571-0230 Speech available. Morning session has academics, afternoon is organized play.

Challenge 2001 (302) 892-4347 www.tatnall.org/pages/summer.html, 11 - 15 year olds. Workshops in morning or afternoon. Subjects include performing, studio art, science, nature and media.

Computer Explorers (302) 234-1257 Classes on Thursday. Basic skills in computer operation. Ages 6-11.

DE Museum of Natural History (302) 658-9111 Pre-K thru 6th grade. Conduct scientific experiments, investigate the museum's nature trails, study scientific collections.

Delaware Aerospace Academy (302) 764-0706 www.dasef.org Grades 3 - 10. Hands on training and experience in aerospace related activities. Challenged to think, design, solve, build, and work cooperatively.

Delaware Nature Society (302) 239-2334 webpage@dnsashland.org www.delawarenaturesociety.org Ages 3 - 15, many different nature programs. Also have programs at Abbott's Mill Nature Center,

Delaware Theatre Company's Summer on Stage (302) 594-1104 www.delwaretheatre.com DE Theatre Co. has a different program for children with developmental disabilities. Arts enrichment program for ages 8 - 15. Instruction and performance experience. (*Developmental*)

Educational Service Learning Camps (302) 655-6253 July to August. 1 week in morning, several days a week. Activity themes change weekly. All levels K - High School. Readiness playshops, math reading.

Future Star Lacrosse Camp (610) 444-1267 Futurestar@sanfordscho 2 sessions, lacrosse instruction. (*Sports*)

Girl Scouts of Chesapeake Bay (302) 456-7176 www.cbgs.org Camp Grove Point Patch, ages 5 - 17. Traditional camp, different activity levels based on age.

Girls Inc., Discovery Camp (302) 798-9243 Medication given once per day at 12:30. Designed to build skills, creativity, understand cultural and racial diversity, develop self-esteem.

Hands on Heritage Camp 2001 (302) 577-5044 Visit different historical

sites around Delaware.

Jr. Chef Cooking Camp (302) 738-3300 Ages 7 - 12, 9:00 - 12:00. Teaches kitchen basics-kitchen safety, cleanliness, handling foods, balancing meals.

Kamp for Kids: Diabetes and You (302) 831-8380 Nursing students buddy up with campers. For children with diabetes and their siblings, ages 8 -12. (*Diabetes*)

Kixx Kamps (888) 888-5477 www.kixxonline.com Soccer instruction, ages 6 - 16.

Mary Campbell Center (302) 762-6025 Meets unique needs of each camper, ideal camper/staff ratio, community integration, social and recreational opportunities for ages 6-21 with special needs and siblings. Registration deadline (*Mental Retardation*)

Middle States Soccer Camp www.middlestatesoccercamp.com Soccer instruction.

New Castle County Vo-Tech Summer Career Camps (302) 573-5400 6th & 7th graders. Will give medications - not set up for special needs. Explore different careers such as construction, auto technology, computers, cosmology, health, culinary arts - provide lunch and transportation.

Newark Arts Alliance (302) 266-7266 14 and younger. Photo summer camp for kids. Learn to shoot, develop and print black and white

Reading Studies Program Summer Session (302) 831-2307 pmoel@udel.edu K - 8th grade. For students experiencing difficulties with reading, spelling, comprehension.

Sanford Day Camp (302) 239-5263 www.sanfordschool.org Large groups, very active. Provide advancement, enrichment and reinforcement.

Sanford Summer Tennis (302) 239-5263 Boys and girls, grades 1 - 9, tennis instruction.

Sewing Camps (302) 478-1445 For ages 8-15. Beginning and more advanced sewing classes. 6-7 children per class. Do various projects.

Spacer Camp (302) 655-7258 Dispensing of medication. Ages 8 - 12 with asthma. (*Asthma*)

St. Mark's Science Camp (302) 738-3300 Grades 5 - 7, 9:00 - 3:00. Internet searches, nature walks, rocketry, microscope activities, chemical and biological experiments.

Stay Real Football Camp, Gameshape, Inc. (302) 655-7880 www.gameshapeonline.com Located at P. S. DuPont, jr. and high school boys football instruction.

Summer Arts to Grow On (302) 239-2434 www.ccart.org Ages 4 - 14. 9:00 - 11:30, 12:30 - 3:30. Drawing, acrylics, dance, acting, story-telling,

Summer Day Camp at Friends K thru 5th grade. Variety of programs, athletic activities, arts and crafts, computers, swimming.

Summer Enrichment Camp (302) 652-6311 A warm environment celebrating individuality. Math, English, Reading, Science exercises.

Tech Connections (302) 478-6040 www.techconnections.net Designed to meet the individual needs of students to enhance comp. skills, problem solving and creative skills.

Tennis Farm (800) 783-6647 info@tennisfarm.com 3 levels 3 - 16, competitive play tennis instruction.

Val Whiting Hoop Academy (302) 655-7880 www.gameshapeonline.com Ages 6 - 17. Basketball Program, call for summer camp schedule.

Wilmington Music School (302) 762-1132 Ages 3 1/2 and up. Music lessons, classes and workshops.

Wilmington Tennis Academy (302) 778-5480 WTFtennis@aol.com Ages 6 - 16, tennis instruction and academic instruction (computer, lang. arts, math, life lessons).

Camp Arrowhead (302) 645-5348 Rehoboth Bay, boys and girls from 3rd to 12th grade. Traditional camp with christian education. (*residential*)



For a more comprehensive listing of camps (day and residential), please contact PIC.

MORE LEGISLATIVE NEWS...

This year, Congress is also reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). **In the re-authorization, several grave concerns have arisen.**

One is around the ongoing issue of discipline measures for students with disabilities. The House has already passed the Norwood Amendment which would allow schools to discontinue education and related services to students with disabilities who are disciplined for drug or weapons offenses, including children who “assault or threaten to assault” any school district employee, peer, contractor or volunteer. In the Senate, a similar amendment is being introduced by senators Jeff Sessions (R) AL and Christopher Bond (R) MO. Children and youth with disabilities who have significant retardation, emotional, mental health behavioral and self-control issues are most vulnerable. Unless we stop the Bond-Sessions amendments, we stand to lose the “no cessation of services” provision that is grounded in the zero reject principle of the Free and Appropriate Public Education Act. The 1975 amendments of IDEA took care to ensure that for children with behavioral/issues/manifestations, the IEP must be properly developed and used as a tool to address behavior as an educational issue.

We at PIC have done everything possible to inform our congregational delegates and to urge them to oppose these dangerous amendments. Hope we succeed!

High Court Cuts Into Americans With Disabilities Act...

In February 2001, the Supreme Court ruled that state workers cannot use the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) to win money damages for on-the-job discrimination. The decision, giving state governments more rights, narrows the reach of the Americans With Disabilities Act and was the latest of a series of 5-4 rulings that have featured the same split among justices. Justices voting to limit the ADA were: William H. Rehnquist, Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas. Dissenting were Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer. The ADA was enacted in 1990 and is best known for requiring wheelchair ramps and other modifications to buildings across the country. It also bans job discrimination against persons with disabilities, requiring employers to offer reasonable accommodations to disabled people who are otherwise qualified to perform a job. *Note: disAbility.gov is a government web site designed to offer a vast array of resources for individuals with disabilities, including information about health, housing, education, transportation, recreation and employment. The “Employers’ Resource” section recently added, provides businesses access to information that facilitates recruiting, hiring and making easy, low-cost accommodations for employees with disabilities.*

New Effort To Integrate People With Disabilities Into The Workplace With Latest Technology...

President Bush recently announced a major new effort to integrate more people with disabilities into the workplace and society by using the latest tools that technology has to offer. Using a combination of tax incentives, low-interest loans and grants, the \$1 billion “*New Freedom*” initiative would expand access to an array of assistive technologies such as text telephones, infrared computer pointers and lighter artificial limbs and wheelchairs. During a White House ceremony, Bush said, “*we must speed up the day when the last barrier has been removed to full and independent lives for every American with or without disability.*” The president also intends to seek additional funds from Congress to escalate research and development of assistive technologies. (There are an estimated 54 million Americans with disabilities and their unemployment rate is about 70 percent.) The president’s proposal also ties into the major theme of his early days in office which is to encourage faith-based organizations to expand their social services, in part, by making the groups eligible to compete for federal funds. This proposal would make federal funds available to help churches, synagogues and mosques meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act which exempted such entities.

PIC PAGE - All about Delaware's Parent Training and Information Center

New faces at PIC!

Earlene Jackson, Kent County Parent Consultant/Partner—Earlene joined the PIC staff in May. She will be working with families and professionals in Kent County. Earlene is anxious to work with families in the county on educational advocacy training, technical assistance, information on special education laws and disabilities, and providing various workshops. She will also be the Kent County PIC Partner on the Child Mental Health “FACT Grant”. Earlene has been married for 25 years to Gaston, retired Air Force and has two children, Tiffany 22 and Matthew 14 years of age. Earlene has extensive experience working with community and research grants and was a member of the State PAC for three years with involvement in Title I and school improvement issues.

Vivian Nichols, NCC Parent Consultant/Partner—Vivian, a Parent Partner, will be working with families under the Families and Communities Together (FACT) grant. A fairly new resident to Delaware, Vivian is wife to Victor and mother of 3— Nichelle, Josh, and Lynzee. Vivian loves children and is a supporter of public education. She enjoys working with families to make sure they get the best education possible for their children.

Cathy Cowin, NCC Parent Consultant—Little did I know when I first spoke to Judi MacBride, a parent consultant at the New Castle County office of PIC/DE, about 2 years ago, that I would someday be a parent consultant myself and be trained by Judi!!! My family and I were being transferred to Delaware from West Virginia and I needed information about the schools and special education services. Judi provided such information and helped me feel more comfortable about uprooting my family. My family includes my husband, Barry (a computer ‘expert’), my 14 year old son, Jason (a history fanatic), my 9 year old daughter, Alyssa, (who is writing her own book on child development), our elderly Sheltie, Trinket (she is “mobiley” challenged with three legs) and the newest addition, Daisy, our basset hound/German shepherd mix (rather unique!). I am a former elementary school teacher and a former computer programmer for EDS and Frito-Lay. My heart has always been with children and with the arrival of my own; I have become a “driven” mother, actively pursuing ways to improve our children’s education. Since Alyssa was born, our family has joined the exclusive club of families with Special Needs Children. Alyssa has a communication disorder, sensory integration dysfunction, learning differences and Type I insulin-dependent diabetes. As I have diligently advocated for her, I have learned much about special education and the laws pertaining to it. When living in West Virginia I worked with the Parent Education Resource Center to implement the disability awareness program, “Everybody Counts!” into all of the elementary schools in the district. I also facilitated a support group for families with special needs. So, through my life experiences, I feel being a parent consultant is just an extension of what I have already been doing! I feel very fortunate that I have been given the opportunity to be a part of PIC/DE.

And the rest of the crew trying to keep the PIC on course include...

Marie-Anne Aghazadian, Executive Director; **Kathryn Herel**, Assistant Director/Coordinator for the dAP and Student Connections programs; **Judi MacBride**, Parent Consultant in NCC; **Kim Beauchamp**, Parent Consultant/Parent Partner for the FACT grant in Sussex County; **Maria Mendoza**, Parent Consultant for Hispanic families in Sussex County; and **Ruth Anne Benson**, the sweet voice you hear when you call PIC in NCC.

Social Skills (continued from page 5)

Dr. Richfield created the cards to teach children self-talk strategies that are a critical ingredient in social skills and self control. "The cards teach them how to utilize their own internal self language. I call it constructive internal language or the thinking-side voice. It teaches them how to turn on their thinking side voice" to avoid the triggers that lead to problem behaviors, he said.

Each card features a trigger situation on one side and a positive thinking-side response to that challenge. "The intention is for children to have their own set of coaching cards at home so that parents can teach in the same language as teachers and counselors," he said.

The cards, in production since 1996, have really taken off since 1997. "I've formalized the program into a psycho-educational format that is being used in area schools and many across the country...in most cases, as a pull-out program," he said. "The school program comes with a 45-page manual to help teachers and counselors structure group sessions, as well as fun games, such as a coaching card game show to engage children in the program."

While the cards originally were targeted to children with ADHD, noted Richfield, "kids with Asperger's Syndrome also can benefit from these cards. They are very visual and concrete, so if they can over learn the cards, they can be in a position to refer to those visual templates in order to know how to respond - whether it is to laugh it off, passively ignore it or back off."

Given the positive response to his cards, Richfield believes his program has even wider appeal. "The cards are for all kids period. They are a portable emotional intelligence tool" equally effective for kids predisposed to bullying and violence. "Schools," he said, "need to take more of a role in teaching social skills and self control." Dr. Richfield might say the answer is in the cards.

A Social-lite Snail

One Delaware school district takes a different approach. At Heritage Elementary School in the Red

Clay Consolidated School District, children in grades K-3 learn social skills at a special snail's pace.

They learn social skills through *Speed O. Snail Tales*. Developed in 1997 by Candice A. Gillis, an educational consultant for special populations in the school district, the program uses stories, activities and games to tell the adventures of Speed O. Snail and his friends in a mythical Snaildom.

"Speed O. Snail is an adorable little gastropod who can't go slow. He has crack ups and messes up slime trails. He is fast, but lacks control," said Gillis. "In the storybook, signs say, "Just say no to Speed O.", and a chorus throughout the book warns, 'Oh, No, Stop, Stay, Whoa!'"

In the book, Speed O. goes off on adventures where other characters from Helping Hand Land teach him how to go slow using deep breathing, positive self-talk and visualization among other skills. At the end, Speed O. returns to Snail Land with his newly acquired skills. The program includes a Speed O. puppet, a cast of stick figure characters, classroom workbooks and a Speed O. board game.

"It teaches the coping, calming and control strategies," said Gillis, that benefit all kids and adults. The program balances both stimulating and calming activities to help keep the kids focused and attentive.

Its benefits extend beyond the classroom. Gillis has seen children use a "turtle time out" at recess to gain self control. "They fold themselves up as if in a shell until they are ready to come back and play."

Gillis also makes it fun with snail joke contests that have produced such zingers as: "What did Jack and Jill take up the hill? (A snail pail). What did the three little pigs use to build their house of wood? (A hammer and snails). What do we call Speed O.'s albino cousin? (A whiter shade of snail).

Such a light-hearted approach masks serious intent. "In our society, one of our biggest problems is that

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