



# The Link

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

## *No Child Left Behind... What Every Parent Needs To Know*

In our last issue of the LINK, we gave our readers a broad overview of the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) legislation that was enacted this past August 2002. In this issue, we would like to focus on the law both as it pertains to general and special education.

The education portion of the NCLB Act is based on the following four major reform principles: 1) *Stronger accountability for results*; 2) *Increased flexibility and local control*; 3) *Expanded options for parents*; and 4) *Emphasis on teaching methods the have proven to work*.

The NCLB Act, in particular, targets Title 1 schools as they have the highest number of students at risk of failing, along with the highest ratio of minority and /or low-income students. ***In Delaware, all public or publicly funded schools will be held accountable!***

1) *How is stronger accountability for results going to be enforced?* To ensure Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), schools must adhere to a single accountability system that applies the same standards to all students in a state and is based on academic standards, assessments and academic indicators developed by each state. This process includes annual measurable objectives and should result in substantial progress for all students.

• *Adequate Yearly Progress, applies annual measurable objectives to specific (disaggregate) groups of students, i.e. economically disadvantaged, English language learners, major racial and ethnic groups, migrant, and children with disabilities. For these groups, progress must be established through standards, or performance goals for reading, language arts and math. Schools are to develop a system of rewards and sanctions for improving student achievement and must show a first percentage increase in student performance after two years and then every three years after that. The ultimate goal per NCLB is for schools to move toward 100% student proficiency in 12 years in both reading and math. Schools must also account for participation rates by these groups, and must report on other academic indicators such as grade-to-grade retention rates, attendance for middle and elementary schools and graduation rates for high schools. A school or local education agency is considered to make AYP if each group for which data are reported meets or exceeds the annual measurable objectives in both reading, language arts and math and shows at least 95% participation for each group.*

• *How will schools measure annual objectives?*

Schools will start with scores from the 01-02 school year. ***(Delaware will use the results of the 2001-02 DSTP).*** They will establish the baseline by finding the higher of either:  
a) the State's lowest performing group of students or b) the school that ranks at the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile. The first performance goal will be set for the 03-04 school year when schools must show an in-

*Continued on page 6*

### *In this Issue...*

NCLB	1
Thinking Out LOUD	2
Reading First Program	3
IEP Facilitation Project	3
Visions for Tomorrow	4
Family Page	5
New Resources	7
Disability Related Groups	8-10
Legislative News	11
Mark Your Calendar	12-13
Did You Know?	14
Bulletin Board	15
PIC Membership	19
Subscription Form	

# Thinking Out LOUD! LOUD! LOUD!

*A tale from a land nearby in a time not so long ago...*

Not too long ago, children with disabilities didn't go to school with their brothers and sisters. They stayed at home, or spent their days in church basements, or lived in institutions. Their parents and other concerned people tried to care for them the best they could. Yet their parents truly believed their children could learn to walk and talk and read and write, and even one day hold down a job or go to college. Because their parents believed in this so strongly, they formulated an *idea* and fought very hard to have everyone in the land adopt their *idea*, which was then called the **IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)**. The parents were very protective of their **IDEA**, and they made sure people treated it with respect. So much so, that their children reaped great benefits from it and learned to walk and talk and read and write, and some grew up to have jobs while others went to college. The parents were happy for many years, but they always kept a watchful eye on their **IDEA** and made sure that no one changed it. Whenever people tried to change their **IDEA**, they would become very vocal and tell everyone what a great **IDEA** it was and how much their children benefited from it.

Of course, as with every great idea, some people resented it, or didn't like it, but most parents and teachers and all those who believed in children with disabilities, believed in the **IDEA**. As time went by, the parents got older and their children didn't need the **IDEA** any more. Their children now were grown ups, some with jobs, some in college. A new generation of children with disabilities began to use the **IDEA** and their

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(302) 366-0152 Voice - (302) 366-0276 Fax

**3707 N. Market Street \* Wilmington, DE 19802**

(302) 764-3252 Voice - 764-3371 Fax

**1046 S. DuPont Highway \* Dover, DE 19901**

(302) 674-0184 Voice - (302) 674-0187 Fax

**109 N. Bedford Street \* Georgetown, DE 19947**

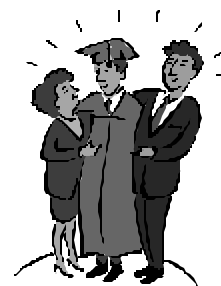
(302) 856-9880 Voice - (302) 856-9882 Fax

*Staff contributing to this issue of the LINK:*

Marie-Anne Aghazadian, Susan Chong, Kathryn Herel,  
Frances Horzempa, Maria Mendoza and Kimberly Rodriguez

(Federal funds were not used to compile the editorial and legislative pages.)

parents thought his was just great, but they never bothered to get to know the **IDEA** nor did they watch over it, so pretty soon people started to chip away at the **IDEA** and before long there was little left of the original **IDEA**. The parents looked at each other and said what happened? Without a great **IDEA** how are our children going to learn to walk and talk and read and write, and one day have jobs or go to college?



See **page 11** (Legislative News) for more information about the reauthorization of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*.

## DELAWARE to receive \$2.1 million to help children read by 3rd grade



Delaware will receive a \$2.1 million grant award, authorized under the **Reading First Program** to help Delaware schools improve student achievement in reading. Over a six year period, it is expected that Delaware will receive a total of \$14.1 million through this program.

Known nationally as **Reading First**, this program is part of the overall K-12 *No Child Left Behind* Education Reform Law which Congressman Mike Castle helped draft as Chairman of the House Education Reform Subcommittee.

Delaware will use the funding to make subgrants to eligible school districts to allow schools to implement research based reading programs for students in grades K-3. The grants will also provide professional development for teachers to ensure they have the skills they need to teach reading effectively. The grant will also support the use of instructional assessments so teachers can effectively screen and identify the barriers to reading and monitor the progress of students.

Key points to **Reading First** in Delaware 2002:

- Delaware will receive \$2,000,000 a year for 6 years
- \$1.7 million a year will go to various school districts through a competitive subgrant process
- To improve reading instruction and consequently student achievement in k-3 classes
- \$280,000 annually will fund statewide reading professional development for all k-3 teachers

**Reading First** eligible schools are: 1) Located in an eligible district 2) Have the highest percentages of K-3 students reading below grade level and 3) Are identified as having the highest numbers of children counted under Title I. Districts include: *Christina, Colonial, Red Clay (New Castle County); Capital and Lake Forest (Kent County); and Seaford and Woodbridge (Sussex County).*

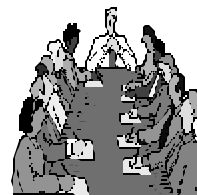
## IEP Facilitation Project for Parents AND Professionals

The *DE Department of Education*, in collaboration with the *University of Delaware's Conflict Resolution Program*, is offering school districts the opportunity to build IEP facilitation capacity at the building level through an *IEP Facilitation Project*.

Special education IEP meeting facilitators, from the University, are training school personnel in facilitation skills and co-facilitating with the newly trained personnel to improve the overall IEP meeting process. To date, 21 people from districts throughout the State have received this training. Districts participating are: Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Caesar Rodney, Cape Henlopen, Capital, Colonial, Indian River, Laurel, New Castle County Vo-Tech, Christina (Newark Charter) and Red Clay Consolidated School District

The facilitator in an IEP meeting acts as a traffic coordinator during the meeting. He or she sets the tone for the meetings by establishing group norms and processes and then models the appropriate behavior. The facilitator is neutral and non-evaluative toward ideas. He or she keeps the meeting on track, encourages participation, helps the group seek solutions, clarifies decision-making processes and acknowledges agreements reached.

Parents or school personnel may request a meeting facilitator when there is a need for someone to assist in keeping difficult meetings focused and productive. *For more information*, please contact Kathy Wian at the U of D at (302) 831-2927.



*A mind stretched by a new idea never retracts to the same place!*

*Anonymous*

## Parents Wanted: *Visions for Tomorrow*

NAMI/DE (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) is currently looking for 12 parents (6 teams) to be trained as team teachers for the *Visions for Tomorrow* program. The teacher training classes are provided by NAMI-Texas and implemented by local affiliates. Following the lead of other successful educational curriculums, *Visions for Tomorrow* is a family member-to-family member course. This program has already been implemented successfully in 29 states.

There is no charge for the teacher training or to attend the course. Teacher training will take place over a weekend, most likely in Fall 2003, or earlier.

*Visions for Tomorrow* education workshops are designed for the caregivers of children and adolescents who have been diagnosed with a brain disorder as well as those who exhibit behavior that strongly suggests such a diagnosis.

These classes represent a new concept and curriculum. In this model, the course co-teachers are caregivers themselves. The course has been designed and written by experienced caregivers, family members and professionals. The course balances basic psycho-education and skill training with self-care, emotional support and empowerment.

Workshops included in *Visions for Tomorrow* are:

- **Introduction/Brain Biology** – How the brain works
- **Attention Deficit Disorder**, Pervasive Developmental Disorder/Autism, Tourette's Disorder, Conduct Disorder
- **Bipolar Disorder**, Depressive Disorder, Eating Disorders
- **Anxiety Disorders**: Obsessive-Compulsive, Post-Traumatic Stress, Separation Anxiety, Panic, Phobia, Generalized Anxiety
- **Childhood Schizophrenia**, Schizoaffective
- **Empathy/Sharing Our Unique Life Experiences** – We learn what it is like to walk a mile in the moccasins of a child with a brain disorder, share our stories about our world of brain disorders

- **Parents As Case Managers** - Introduction to the importance of documentation for the child with a brain disorder in all aspects of his/her world
- **Communication Skills** – with the child, schools, medical field, legal system, mental health system, friends
- **Coping/Self-Care** – How do we cope when a brain disorder enters our family's life; it affects not only the child, but also the parents, siblings, extended family, friends. How do we take care of ourselves so we can take care of our child? What are the secrets? When do we charge forward? When do we seek respite?
- **Problem Management** – Learn the techniques for problem management; identify the problem; options; attitudes
- **Rehabilitation/Recovery/Transition** – Rehabilitation and recovery are an on-going challenge in the world of brain disorders, involving the entire family. Transition from the hospital back to school/home; from special education classes to regular education classes; from high school to whatever the plans may be; from a life without brain disorders to a life surrounded by brain disorders and challenges
- **Advocacy/Judicial/Stigma** – After caregivers work through the denial, anger, resentment, confusion, guilt and grief, we must proceed as advocates for our children. At times, the Judicial System becomes involved when children self-medicate. Often, the revolving door between the Judicial and the Mental Health Systems are ever present. Stigma – All of the comments and cruel jokes, the denial of medical services, the stares, not just to the child with the brain disorders, but to the entire family, is a heart-breaking challenge.
- **Celebration/Party!**

*Visions for Tomorrow* will be followed by the implementation of a *Visions for Tomorrow* support group. After the education classes, NAMI hopes caregivers have hope and encouragement for today with *Visions for Tomorrow*.



Interested parents please contact Donna Anthony, Director Program Development, NAMI-DE at (302) 427-0787, ext. 18.

## FAMILY PAGE

### And A Child Shall Lead Them...Submitted by a mother in Sussex County

Spencer brought us to Delaware. Where we were living specialized medical care was not easily accessed. Major medical facilities were miles from where we lived in West Virginia. Spencer needed and we wanted all the medical care we could get. So, my husband, Roger, closed his dental practice in West Virginia back in May of 2002 and came to the Eastern shore to work in a medical clinic. The kids and I joined Roger in July of 2002.

Spencer is a twin. Olivia is the baby sister. Spencer and Olivia were conceived through in vitro fertilization (IVF). Roger and I tried to conceive for almost 5 years with no success. Our last attempt before adoption was IVF - these are VERY MUCH WANTED CHILDREN! At 35 years old I delivered what I thought were two healthy children. After learning that my son had many developmental delays along with the obvious, CP (Cerebral Palsy), Roger and I decided it was in BOTH children's best interest (especially Spencer) to locate to an area where there would be more specialized medical care for Spencer and more opportunities for Olivia.



Spencer and Olivia were born December 15, 1999 in West Virginia. At 32 weeks Spencer was diagnosed with IUGR so at 36 weeks my OB doctor decided to perform a c-section to give both children the best possible chance of survival. To make a very long story short, Spencer had breathing difficulties shortly after birth. Olivia's only problem at birth was getting her to "latch on" to her mother to get more nourishment!

Spencer was then life-flighted to the nearest major hospital and was later diagnosed with a grade 4 bilateral IVH (Intra-ventricular hemorrhage). He then developed hydrocephalus - which would not resolve - so at 7 weeks a VP Shunt was placed in his brain. At 5 months old Spencer developed infantile spasms (a serious form of seizures) and was eventually placed on an anti-epileptic medication. At 8 months old he was diagnosed as having spastic quadriplegia Cerebral Palsy. At 12 months old Spencer was diagnosed with CVI (cortical visual impairment) and has field losses in both eyes.

Spencer has fought with an eating disorder since he was about 4 months old. It was at that time he was diagnosed with reflux. He is on a special diet of mostly pureed foods and pediaisure. He can finger feed himself but not to the point of maintaining a good weight. His medication also acts as an appetite suppressant so that keeps him from putting on much weight.

Spencer does not walk, crawl or sit independently. He does not talk, per se but has said words like "Mama" and "Dada" and "cookie, cracker, donut and no." Spencer is a sweet, loving, happy little boy who loves BARNEY! Spencer is most fascinating and has all the doctors and some therapists stumped! For the amount of brain damage he sustained he should not be as far along as he is in his developing. He has fought all the way. He has NEVER given up on himself. And because of that I have never given up on him either. We were told he would never walk or talk and that he would probably go home from the hospital on a feeding tube. He did not come home on a g-tube and is now to the point that he drinks from a cup and is trying to spoon feed himself. I feel very strongly that Spencer will someday sit independently. Someday he may learn to walk - and if he doesn't, I'm learning to be ok with that. What matters to me is that Spencer can somehow convey his wants and needs to others.

When we came to Delaware we knew no one. We were fortunate to get hooked up with Jeannette at Child Development Watch and she became the first person we met from Delaware. She has been wonderful through everything. She hooked us up with Easter Seals and through them we became familiar and "attached" to several of their therapists and teachers.

Continued on page 10

## No Child Left Behind *(cont. from page 1)*

crease in the percentage of student proficiency by the end of year one and, through a set of intermediate goals, must continue to show student improvement in years 5, 8 and 11 of the NCLB timeline.

*2) What if a school does not meet the criteria for AYP?*

In that case, the school will be identified as a school slated for improvement.

School Improvement Year #1 (Improvement Year):

The local school district, no later than the first day of school, must offer all students attending an identified school the option to transfer to another public school in their district (including a public charter school) that has not been identified as needing improvement. The school district must also provide technical assistance (TA) to the school and ensure that the school begins to develop a school improvement plan.

School Improvement Year #2 (Improvement Year):

If the school fails to meet criteria for AYP for a second full year after initial identification, the school district must continue to offer students options to transfer, make supplemental education services available (to children from low-income families), continue to provide TA, and revise the school's improvement plan.

School Improvement Year #3 (Corrective Action Year):

If a school, after a second full year of identification, fails again to meet the AYP criteria, the school district must continue to abide by all of year 1 and 2 directives, and in addition must take active steps toward at least one corrective action to include: Replacing school staff relevant to the failure to make AYP; Instituting a new curriculum; Decreasing management authority at the school level; Extending the school year or school day; Appointing an outside expert to advise the school on how to achieve AYP; or Restructuring the internal structure of the school.

School Improvement Year #4 (Restructuring Planning):

For schools that have failed to meet the criteria for AYP for three years, the school district in addition to all options and services made available as per

years 1-3, must now develop a plan to implement an alternate governance arrangement.

This could mean to: Reopen the school as a public charter school; Replace all or most of the staff responsible for lack of AYP; Enter into contract with a private entity to operate the school; Have the State assume control of the school; Make any other arrangement that "has the promise" of enabling the school to make AYP.

School Improvement Year #5 (Actual Restructuring):

Fully implement restructuring plan per year #4.

*3) What if a school, at any point from improvement to restructuring, shows AYP?*

If a school meets the criteria for AYP for 2 consecutive years at any stage of the accountability process, that school will then no longer be considered a school in need of improvement.

*4) What happens if AYP is achieved with all but one group of students?*

NCLB contains a Safe Harbor provision which allows schools that have technically not made the required improvement in every category, but are still showing progress to avoid being labeled a failing school. For example, if the number of students in a disaggregated group increases by 10% and there is improvement in at least one other academic indicator such as a reduction in drop out rate, then the school would not be labeled a failing school and will be considered under Safe Harbor.

*5) In the case of a school in need of improvement which students are eligible for public school choice?*

All students enrolled in schools identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring are eligible for public school choice. If it is impossible to accommodate all children who request a transfer, priority must be given to the lowest achieving, low-income students.

*6) How will parents be told about the option for transfer?*

The school district must notify the parents that their child is eligible to transfer to another school in the district. It must also give parents informa-

## NEW RESOURCES

### The following resources are new to the PIC Lending Library!

**All About My Brother** Peralta, Sarah 2002. This is a beautifully illustrated children's book about an eight-year-old sister's introduction to her brother who has autism.



**Asperger Parent, The** Cohen, Jeffrey 2002. A father describes the experience of raising his eleven-year-old son, Josh, who has Asperger Syndrome, while still trying to maintain a sense of humor.

**Choosing Assistive Devices—A Guide for Users and Professionals** Pain, Helen/McLellan, Lindsay/Gore, Sally 2003. This accessible guide shows how to bring information together about the needs of people with disabilities and match appropriate assistive devices to meet individual needs.

**Embarrassed Often Ashamed Never** Elliott, Lisa B. 2002. This is the intimate story of a family's experiences with their son Clark, who has Asperger Syndrome.

**Pyramid Approach to Education in Autism, The** Bondy, Andy S. and Sulzer-Azaroff, Beth. This book presents an integrative approach to teaching people across the autism spectrum, and within any learning environment.

**When You Have a Visually Impaired Student in Your Classroom—A Guide for Teachers** Spungin, Susan J. 2002. Updated and revised, this classic resource provides regular classroom teachers with essential information on how to work effectively with students who are blind or visually impaired.

### Other Resources...

**The National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC)**, in partnership with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education, has launched its new Online Library to provide "one-stop shopping" for publications related to childcare.

Topics available include literary and school readiness, center- and family-based childcare, child development, child care funding, health and safety in child care settings, the child care workforce, child care for children with special needs, Head Start, pre-kindergarten, and welfare reform.

Visit <http://nccic.org>

*(Adapted from ERIC/EECE Newsletter, Fall 2002, Vol. 14, No. 2)*

### Brain Injury Book

**Students with Traumatic Brain Injury: Identification, Assessment and Classroom Accommodations**

is a book that tells how to assess and meet the education needs of children with traumatic brain injury.

Contact Mount Sinai School of Medicine at 212-659-9374 or visit [www.tbicac.org](http://www.tbicac.org).

### Summer Camps and Camp Directories

Visit <http://www.ncpad.org/factshtml/summercamps.htm> for a new fact sheet that includes information about a variety of summer camps for children with disabilities.



**"Kids Just Want to Have Fun"**, is a seven-minute video about kids with disabilities and is designed to promote acceptance and inclusion. The video was produced by the Shriner's Hospital for Children in Portland, Oregon. The children featured in the video range from eight years to early teens.

The video shows children with disabilities participating in all kinds of sports, including skiing, karate, gymnastics, and kayaking. These talented and active kids also share their philosophy. Another eight-minute video entitled, **"What's the Difference"** is geared towards middle and high school students. For ordering information: Mercury Products <http://www.mercuryproductions.com> *(Source: Reference Points)*

# Disability Related Groups for SUPPORT, INFORMATION & ADVOCACY

**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.

**Statewide**—Mary Jo Wolfe (302) 239-6232 AFIS@delanet.com

**NAMI/DE (formerly 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.

**Statewide**—Rita Morrocco, Exec. Dir., (302) 427-0787, Oya Alatur (888) 427-2643

**Arc of Delaware (Association for the Rights of Citizens with Mental Retardation in DE)**

**New Castle County**—Self-Advocacy Group - DE People First. One meeting each month-date/time varies, please call for information. Employment, Housing, Friend-to-Friend. Bill Love, Exec. Dir. (302) 996-9400

**Kent County**—Mary Horn, Ofc. Mgr. (302) 736-6140

**Sussex County**—Need not be a member to receive services. Carol Reid Hall, Outreach Coordinator (302) 856-6019

**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.

**Statewide**—(302) 739-5644

**Autism Society of Delaware** Support and information for parents of children with Autism/PDD. Meetings held the 12th of every month, 7:00 p.m. usually at Special Olympics Office (meet 4 times per year in Dover). Speakers, conference, public awareness efforts.

**Statewide**—Theda Ellis, Exec. Dir. (302) 777-7335 delautism@aol.com

**Brain Injury Association of Delaware**

[www.biausa.org/Delaware/bia.htm](http://www.biausa.org/Delaware/bia.htm)

**New Castle County**—Meets 3rd Thursday of the month (Jan-Nov) 7:00 p.m. at Christiana Care Health System Room 110. Margie/John Goodier (302) 378-3035, (800) 411-0505,

**Kent County**—Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month (Jan - Nov) 7:00 p.m. at Kent General Hospital Outpatient Therapy Facility. 560 S. Governors Ave., Dover. Rusty/Marilyn Sheridan (302) 653-9433

**Sussex County**—Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month (Jan-Nov) at Wesley United Methodist Church, 102 E. Laurel and Race Street, Georgetown, 7:00 p.m. Eve Tolley, Facilitator (800) 411-0505, (302) 537-5770

**CHILD, Inc.** Statewide parent education, home visiting, and counseling. Promotes parental involvement in education. Specialized services for families experiencing divorce/separation or domestic violence.

**Statewide**—**WARMLINE (800) 874-2070**—confidential telephone support service for parents of children birth-18. Provides referrals to community services.

**New Castle County**—(302) 762-8989

**Kent County**—(302) 697-2292

**Children & Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (CHADD) Greater Newark Chapter**

Adult and parent Support Group meets 3rd Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. United Church of Christ (UCC), Main Street, Newark, DE (old police station). Meetings feature a speaker presentation and/or group discussion. Presentation on ADHD to interested groups.

**New Castle County**—Ruth Wolfe (302) 737-5063 newarkchad@aol.com, [www.chadd.org](http://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 Hosp. for Children, Rockland Rd., Wilmington. Newcomers at 6:45 with both the parent & adult support groups mtg. at 7:30 p.m.

**New Castle County**—(302) 376-0900 brandyvw\_chadd@yahoo.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)** Assists persons who are seeking or receiving rehabilitation services with questions and/or problems.

**Statewide**—Melissa Shahan, Dir. (302) 698-9336, (800) 640-9336

**Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI)** Statewide, information, referral, training & technical assistance, loan program. DATI fosters increased access to assistive technology devices and service for all Delawareans with disabilities. Provides information about products and services, advocates for more consumer-responsive laws and policies, and helps individuals locate sources of funding for assistive technology. DATI maintains 3 Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ARTC).

**Statewide**—Beth Mineo Mollica, (302) 651-6790, (302) 651-6794 TDD, (800) 870-DATI, [www.asel.udel.edu](http://www.asel.udel.edu), [dati@asel.udel.edu](mailto:dati@asel.udel.edu)

**Delaware Assistive Technology Resource Center** Provides hands on access to the latest assistive technology and information resources. Equipment is available for short-term loan.

**New Castle County**—Maureen Schweitzer (302) 328-2872, (302) 328-2905 TDD

**Kent County**—Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Alma Cordero (302) 739-6885, (302) 739-6886 TDD

**Sussex County**—Hours -Monday to Friday 8:30 -4:30 Sandy Walls (302) 856-7946, (302) 856-6714 TDD, [swalls@gt.esdel.org](mailto:swalls@gt.esdel.org)

**Delaware Association for the Blind** Provides services that improve the life for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

**Statewide**—(302) 655-2111

**Delaware Chapter of the American Society for Deaf Children**

Affiliate of national organization. Goal is to distribute information, provide educational & emotional support.

**New Castle County**—Joanne Koston (302) 731-4879 Voice & TTY

**Delaware Learning Resource System**

Educational materials for borrowing. Materials include all subjects and levels birth through adult—includes books, games, toys, videos, manipulatives, cassettes, software, etc.

**New Castle County**—Call for hours (302) 831-8148

**Kent County**—Hours Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m.—

7:00 p.m., Fri. 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Summer hours

differ -please call first. (302) 672-1958, (302) 672-1959

**Sussex County**—(302) 855-1649

**Delaware Parents Association, Inc.** A network for the education, support and empowerment of families. Offers a workshop series which focuses on racial and ethnic relations.

**Statewide**—(302) 678-9288

*Continued on page 9*

**Delaware Special Olympics** Sports training for eligible participants in athletic pursuits; organized competitions.

**Statewide**—Ann Grunert, Exec. Dir. (302) 831-4653

**Delaware State Parent Advisory Council (DSPAC)** Works with families to enhance educational opportunities of educationally disadvantaged students and their parents. Also has local radio and t.v. show for parents.

**Statewide**—Bill Weiss (302) 325-1756

**Delawareans with Special Needs, Medicaid Managed Care**

**Panel** A parent run group which meets monthly to address health issues and services for our children.

**Statewide**—Gail Launay (302) 226-5232

**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.

**Statewide**—Pat Maichle, Exec. Dir. (302) 739-3333 TDD

**Disabilities Law Program** Provides free legal assistance to individuals with disabilities in civil areas of law.

**New Castle County**—Brian Hartman (302) 575-0660, (800) 292-7980

**Kent County**—Christopher White (302) 674-8503, (800) 464-4357

**Sussex County**—Patricia Shipe (302) 856-0038

**Down Syndrome Association of Delaware, Inc.** Support & information for families of a person with Down Syndrome. Call for information on meeting locations, dates and times.

**Statewide**—Steven Cleary (302) 995-1004 [www.DSADelaware.com](http://www.DSADelaware.com)

**Early Intervention Program (DMR)** Offers developmental testing and care management. Is a member of the Child Development Watch Team.

**Statewide**—Nancy Colley, Director (302) 995-8576, [ncolley@state.de.us](mailto:ncolley@state.de.us)

**Easter Seal Society of Del-Mar** Medical rehabilitation, independent living services, camping & recreation opportunities, vocational and educational services, other.

**New Castle County**—Sandra Tuttle, President (302) 324-4444

**Kent County**—Gary Cassidy, Director (302) 678-3353, (302) 734-2888

**Sussex County**—Cathy Anderson, Director (302) 856-7364

**Educational Surrogate Parent Program** Recruits, trains, and supports volunteers who represent children in state custody who receive special education services.

**Statewide**—Faith Moore (302) 577-3545, [fmoore@state.de.us](mailto:fmoore@state.de.us)

**Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware** Educates and supports individuals with epilepsy and their families. Support groups are available. EFD increases awareness of epilepsy in the general community and facilitates prevention and management of epilepsy. Also provide educational programs for schools, workplaces and community groups to increase awareness of epilepsy.

**New Castle County**—Barbara Blair, RN (302) 324-4455, (800) 324-4514

**Kent County**—Support group meetings 2nd Monday of every month. Donna Goldsborough, RN, MSN (302) 674-7135

[dgoldsborough@kgh.bayhealth.org](mailto:dgoldsborough@kgh.bayhealth.org)

**Exceptional Family Member Program, Family Support Center**

Assists military members who have family members requiring exceptional medical or special educational services. A mandatory enrollment/identification program for active duty personnel who have family members with exceptional medical, psychological, developmental, or educational needs. The program assists in assigning an active duty member to an area where his/her exceptional family member's special needs can be met. Office location Bldg. 263 Chad Street, 2nd Flr.

**Statewide**—Family Advocacy Office (302) 677-2711

**Families United for Positive Change** For families of children with mental health challenges

**Statewide**—Doreen Roberson (302) 368-6903, ext. 30008

**Family Forum** For families of children with developmental delays and disabilities—birth to five years.

**New Castle County**—Kelly McKeefery (302) 577-4556

**Kent & Sussex County**—Sandy Ward (302) 422-1335 [sward@state.de.us](mailto:sward@state.de.us)

**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 to know; attitude of a champion; your best discovery yet; keys to unlocking your child's potential.

**New Castle County**—(302) 498-5191 [www.famquest.com](http://www.famquest.com)

**Food Allergy Support Team of Delaware (FAST)** Support group meets 1st Wednesday of each month at A. I. duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington.

**New Castle County**—Katie Hamilton (302) 995-7123, Carol Youngdale (302) 235-1119

**Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens** Provides advocacy for people with disabilities.

**Statewide**—Wendy Strauss, Admin. (302) 739-4553

**Governors Council on Deaf Equality** Provides advocacy & information to members of the deaf community & their families.

**Statewide**—Kyle Hodges—739-3673

**Independent Resources, Inc.** Resource center for individuals with disabilities and the communities in which they reside.

**New Castle County**—Larry Henderson, Exec. Dir. (302) 765-0191, (302) 765-0194 TDD, [Lhenderson@IndependentResources.org](mailto:Lhenderson@IndependentResources.org)

**Kent County**—(302) 735-4599

**Sussex County**—(888) 561-2120

**Leukemia & Lymphoma Society** Offers free educational materials - Leukemia, Hodgkin's Disease, Multiple Myeloma, Lymphoma. Patient Aid Financial Program.

**Statewide**—Sharon Schuh (302) 661-7300, (800) 220-1617, [www.de.leukemia-lymphoma.org](http://www.de.leukemia-lymphoma.org), [schuh@de.leukemia-lymphoma.org](mailto:schuh@de.leukemia-lymphoma.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.

**Statewide**—Cathy Kanefsky, Exec. Dir. (302) 225-1020, [www.modimes.org](http://www.modimes.org)

**Mental Health Association of Delaware** Offers support, advocacy, and information. Call for information about support group meeting dates/times.

**Statewide**—Diane Treacy, Exec. Dir. (302) 765-9740, (800) 287-6423

**National Multiple Sclerosis Society** Offers information and lending library, assists in service referrals. Statewide organization, call main office for details.

**Statewide**—Sharon Saunders (302) 655-5610, [sharon.saunders@nmss.ded.org](mailto:sharon.saunders@nmss.ded.org), [www.skycon.com/mssdel](http://www.skycon.com/mssdel)

**New Directions Delaware, Inc.** Support group for people with depression or manic depression and their families and friends. Call for meeting dates and times.

**Statewide**—(302) 286-1161 [www.newdirectionsdelaware.org](http://www.newdirectionsdelaware.org)

**Nurses 'N' Kids at Home** Provides "Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care" to medically/technologically dependent children; prescription from primary physician required. Statewide services available.

**New Castle County**—(302) 323-1436

*Continued on page 10*

**Kent & Sussex County**—(302) 424-4467

**Parents as Teachers** Statewide parenting program for families raising their first child. Parents receive visit from parent educator. Serves families from pregnancy through third birthday.

**New Castle County**—(302) 454-5355

**Kent County**—(302) 697-4545

**Sussex County**—(302) 856-5909

**Prader-Willi Syndrome Delaware Association** Provides information and support to families, teachers, caregivers, and physicians. Meetings held monthly at varied locations and times. Call for details.  
**Statewide**—Karen Swanson, RNC (302) 378-7385

**Reading Assist Institute** Support for parents of children with reading difficulties; lending library - Suite 910 in Community Services Building. Volunteer tutoring teams in local schools. Limited referrals for private tutoring. Teacher training center for research-based multi-sensory structured language instruction.  
**Statewide**—(302) 425-4080 readinfo@projectassist.org

**Special Education Partnership for Amicable Resolution of Conflict (SPARC)** Neutral mediators and facilitators from the University of Delaware are available, free of charge, to facilitate difficult IEP meetings or mediate special education disputes between family and school.  
**Statewide**—Kathy Wian/Fran Haug (302) 831-2927 or www.ipa.udel.edu

**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. Call for support group meeting dates/times.  
**Statewide**—Karen Basara, www.angelfire.com/de/sbaofde, sbaofde@juno.com

**State Council for Persons with Disabilities** Provides advocacy for and reviews issues related to disability.  
**Statewide**—Rita Landgraf, Chairperson (302) 739-3613, Kyle Hodges, Admin.

**Supported Employment Program, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation** Provides services related to supported employment such as job coaching, training and follow-up services.  
**Statewide**—Mike McGarrity (302) 761-8275

**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.  
**New Castle County**—Jean Deerlove (610) 274-2321, 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.  
**New Castle County**—Bill McCool, Exec. Dir. (302) 764-2400,  
**Kent & Sussex Counties**—Carma Carpenter (302) 335-5626

**University of DE Center for Disabilities Studies** University affiliated whose mission is to enable people with disabilities to achieve their personal goals.  
**Statewide**—Michael Gamel-McCormick, Director (302) 831-6974

**YMCA Resource Center** Provides training and information to parents and teachers to promote parental involvement in education.  
**New Castle County**—(302) 571-6975  
**Kent County**—(302) 739-3698



## And A Child Shall Lead Them

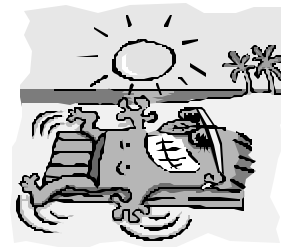
*(continued from page 5)*

Spencer was only with Easter Seals for just a short time as he turned 3 years old in December and then we had to go through his very first IEP meeting. This was a very scary time for me. I had been warned how difficult these meetings can be, especially if the parent has certain ideas and the school system has other ideas on what is best for the child.

I was concerned because not only did I not know many people in the area but I also knew nothing about the "IEP lingo." Jeannette introduced me to Kim at the **Parent Information Center** in Georgetown. And with much help from her and the other parent consultants and lots of help from Spencer's therapists we survived our first IEP meeting and everyone came out happy with the results. I learned later that not all IEP meetings go this smoothly. I think we were very fortunate to have a good "team" working for and with us.

It says in the bible, in the book of Isaiah ".....and a child shall lead them." This bible verse came to me in a dream shortly after Spencer was born. The day after my dream a patient of my husband's sent us some encouraging words through the mail - in his note was this same bible verse. At the time I felt it meant that Spencer would grow up to be President of the United States and lead his country into great and wonderful things. What mother wouldn't think that? A few days after we arrived in Delaware I realized what those words REALLY meant - and Spencer led us here!

Don't miss  
new and  
exciting  
workshops



being offered this summer!

Turn to page 15  
and register today!

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS from the HILL and YONDER...



The following information was compiled and edited by  
Marie-Anne Aghazadian.  
Please contact her at PIC should you have questions.  
No federal funds were used to produce this information.

As chairman of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act /IDEA reauthorization, Castle's priorities include: improving special education, strengthening early childhood programs and improving results in vocational and higher education. "We have made great strides in education through the "No Child Left Behind Act" to ensure all children are learning, but the fact of the matter is that children are still coming to school unprepared. There is still a teacher shortage; our disabled children have needs and the cost of higher education is skyrocketing. My vision for this year is to enact bi-partisan positive reforms that improve the education of our children at every stage of their lives".

Every five years, Congress is charged with "reauthorizing" federal programs in order to review and improve these programs for the American people. Castle will lead the reauthorization of a number of programs this year: Head Start Reauthorization; Improving our Colleges and Universities (Higher Education) Reauthorization; Recruiting Teachers; and America's Libraries and Museums



### IDEA Reauthorization Bill Passes the House...

On April 29, HR 1350 passed the U.S. House of Representatives: 251 *Yeas*, 171 *Nays*, 12 not voting – 34 democrats supported the Bill, 7 Republicans opposed it. Although strongly endorsed by school boards, administrators and educators, this law gravely concerns parents and advocates on the following points:

#### 1) Manifestation Determination Reviews:

Conflict: Under the IDEA, the IEP team (including the parent) must conduct a manifestation determination review to determine whether a student's infraction of the school code of conduct is or is not a manifestation of the student's disability. Under the H.R. 1350, schools can use their discretion to establish a connection between discipline infraction and disability.

2) Schools may, with parental consent, opt for triennial IEP's versus the current annual IEP.

3) Students who are not in alternate assessment programs will no longer have to have short-term objectives in their IEP's beginning 2005.

4) The bill sets a seven-year plan to fully fund special ed at the 40% per pupil cost. However the appropriation process would remain discretionary.

Also frowned upon by both education and disability advocates is a provision in the bill that would cap the number of special education students at 13.5 %.

5) Several groups representing students with disabilities and parents are upset the House Bill doesn't describe how states should maintain the highest standards for teachers. Although the "No Child Left Behind Act" contains language about teacher qualifications, the lack of specific language in the House Bill worries groups who fear that classrooms will be filled with unqualified and inexperienced teachers and related service providers.

### Focus is now on the Senate—CONTACT SENATORS CARPER and BIDEN!

A Senate version of the IDEA reauthorization bill is being drafted in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. Members of the Committee need to hear parents say in a loud and unified voice that the House version (HR 1350) of IDEA will not benefit all children with disabilities.

**Please call or fax your Senators and tell them why the House (HR 1350) version of IDEA is of grave concern to you. Show how it would adversely affect your child.**

If you listened to the IDEA debate in the House on April 30, you heard Representatives say they'd heard

Continued on page 17

Spring 2003 **11**

## Mark Your CALENDAR For These Events

For weekly updates, please visit our website at [www.picofdel.org](http://www.picofdel.org)

### Delaware Events

6/08/2003, 9:00 am to 1:30 pm, Fisherman's Wharf, Lewes **Easter Seals 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cruise for Kids** Complimentary event to give children with disabilities a chance to experience the joys of boating. For more information and registration forms, contact: Laura McKeown, Event Coordinator, 302-856-7364.

10/10/2003, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., **Delaware Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children (DE-CEC) Annual State Convention "The Keys to Unlocking Success"** Dover High School. Convention is being held on the state-wide inservice day. Workshop strands include: Early Childhood, Curriculum Issues, Special Topics, Secondary Transition, Positive Behavior Supports. Contact: Dawn Roland, Convention Chair at 302-378-5238, ext. 214 or [dawn.roland@state.de.us](mailto:dawn.roland@state.de.us).

**University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies The Community Education Project presents "Training for Change"** On-site fee for service training available at client sites on topics that are tailored to meet client-organization's specific needs. Topics include: Team Building, Communication, FISH Training, Effective Listening, Meeting Facilitation, Creating a Vision & Mission, Personal Work Style Assessments, Coaching, Supervisor & Leadership Skills, Disability Issues, Decision-Making and Creativity, Conflict Management, Time Management, Organizing & Prioritizing, Creating a Service Culture/Customer Service, Systems Change & Quality

Improvement, Family Dynamics & Diversity, Board Trainings & Long Range Planning, Human Resource Management, Appreciating Diversity, Stress Management. Contact Bev Stapleford 302-831-2305.

### Elsewhere around the Country

7/10-7/13/2003, Adam Marks Hotel, St. Louis, MO **2003 NDSS National Conference Making a Difference Together** Includes programs for parents and family members as well as programs for teens and adults with Down Syndrome and siblings. Deadline: 6/23/2003. Contact: 1-888-354-4694 or [www.ndss.org](http://www.ndss.org)

6/16-6/20/2003 or 7/28-8/1/2003 **Bright Solutions for Dyslexia "Dyslexia in Depth"** Sheraton Inn, Sunnyvale, CA (near San Jose). In-depth course designed for resource or learning specialists, tutors, parents, teachers or other professionals who want to professionally screen children for dyslexia. Instructor Susan Barton, founder of Bright Solutions for Dyslexia. Contact: 408-559-3652 or [Info@BrightSolutions.US](mailto:Info@BrightSolutions.US)

6/19-6/21/2003, **IDEA Partnerships Second National Summit on the Shared Implementation of IDEA '97**. The Summit, at the



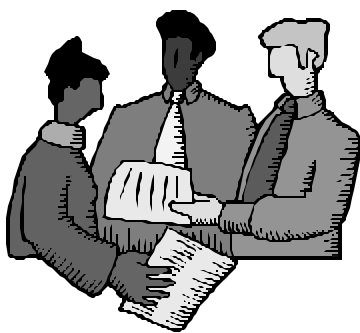
Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA, is designed to bring a full range of stakeholders into the discussion about students with disabilities and ways in which to work together to develop a better understanding of the law and evidence-based practices for implementing the law; strengthen relationships and address key issues related to supporting achievement for students with disabilities. Summit strands: linking school climate with improved outcomes for students with disabilities, family/school partnerships and relationships, disproportionality, students with disabilities in standards-based reform, personnel issues. Registration deadline: 6/17/2003. For more information: <http://www.ideapractices.org/summit/index.php>

7/16/2003. 5 days, **Bridges to the Future National Conference on Autism**, Westin Convention Center Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact the Autism Society of America Conference Hotline at 1-888-233-2864 or visit [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org) for more details.

7/20/2003, 4 days, **APSE 14th Annual Conference "Employment, Economic Opportunity, Competence, Community"**. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Persons in Supported Employment will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, CA. For more information: <http://www.apse.org/caconference/camain.html> or call: 804-278-9187 or email: [apse@apse.org](mailto:apse@apse.org)

9/19-9/20/2003 Hilton Tarrytown, NY **The Affect-Based Language**

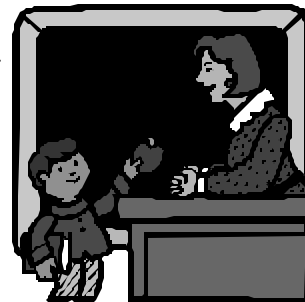
**Curriculum (ABLC) An Intensive Program for Families, Therapists and Teachers.** Sponsored by Communication Enrichment Services and Georgetown Washington University Speech and Hearing Clinic. For parents, therapists and teachers of children on the autistic spectrum and/or other relating and communication disorders. Fee: \$450. Application deadline: 8/20/2003. For more information, contact Diane Lewis 301-652-2220 x2 or [abl2003@hotmail.com](mailto:abl2003@hotmail.com)



## No Child Left Behind *(cont. from page 16)*

11) *Given the higher standards for paraprofessionals, does that mean they can perform the same duties as the classroom teacher?*

Duties that can be performed by a Paraprofessional include: One-on-one tutoring other than for teacher instruction time; Classroom management, Assistance in the computer, lab etc. No instruction to students unless supervised by a teacher.



12) *Is there funding attached to this legislation?*

The law primarily allows states to be more flexible with existing state dollars. Additionally, NCLB will target education dollars to research based programs that use scientifically proven methods. \$900 million will be distributed to states for the President's Reading First Plan. Schools and teachers will get a boost from the more than \$4 billion in 2002 that allows schools to promote teacher quality through training and recruitment. For more information about the NCLB Act please go on line at: <http://www.nclb.gov/next/index.html> and [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org) for a NCLB resource pack. (Information for this article came from a presentation by C. Laster, USDE, Office of Sec/Elem Educ-compiled by M.A. Aghazadian.)

## FUN at Camp Fairlee Manor!

Do you want to have a vacation experience you can talk about all year long? Do you enjoy swimming, hiking, canoeing, outpost camping, horseback riding, fishing, nature activities, hayrides, dances and campfires?

Then check out the Easter Seals Camp Fairlee Manor! Camp Fairlee is located at the Fairlee Manor Recreation and Education Center, a beautiful 250-acre site on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Camp facilities include a health center, around-the-clock nursing care, well-trained counselors, wheelchair accessible trails and fully accessible, air-conditioned cabins.





Eligibility: Camp Fairlee Manor provides weeklong summer camp opportunities for individuals with disabilities from age 6 through adult. Camp applicants must meet eligibility requirements that include: listening and following directions; sleeping in a group setting without disrupting others, etc. *Easter Seals makes every effort to accommodate all applicants*, but it reserves the right to accept or deny any application prior to attendance or on-site.


Fees: 5-Day Session: \$50 Application Fee + \$750 = \$800 Total Cost and 10-Day Session: \$50 Application Fee + \$1550 = \$1600 Total Cost


For more information and/or an application, please contact: Easter Seals Camp Fairlee Manor at (410) 778-0566, Email: [fairlee@dmv.com](mailto:fairlee@dmv.com), Web: [www.fairleemanor.org](http://www.fairleemanor.org)

## DID YOU KNOW....?


 **teenwire.com** is an online resource with colorful screens, clever headlines and the latest animation and Flash Player for teens that provides up-to-the minute information on sexual health, relationship issues, drugs, misuse of medication and coping skills. *The Planned Parenthood of America* site is also a resource for teachers, counselors, doctors and other professionals who use it interactive features (games, quizzes, etc.) to engage the teen populations they serve. Teenwire.com is one of the few resources online for sexual/health information in Spanish. Source: Children & Youth Funding Report 11/02


 The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth), technical assistance center funded by the U.S. Dept of Labor, has **launched their new website, [www.ncwd-youth.info](http://www.ncwd-youth.info)**. The site contains useful information/resources about *issues affecting the employment of people with disabilities*. Source: ASA 12/02

 **Basic skills tutoring** (Reading, Writing, Math and Study Skills) is available from *The Learning Center at Claymont Community Center*. Students practice skills that raise their performance in the classroom and in life. Call 792-2757 for more information.


 **Families United for Positive Change** is a new, grass-roots family member organization that has formed in Delaware.

Members help to advocate for and support *families of children with mental health challenges*. The group plans to be a chapter of the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. Contact Doreen Roberson for more information at 368-6903, ext. 3008. Source: FACT Project Newsletter Winter 2002


 **The Math King Company** provides one-on-one *tutoring to students of all ages in all branches of math*. Services are provided in the home or school. Contact Matthew J. Labrador at 798-5417 for more information.

 **The Center for Therapeutic and Educational Riding, Inc.** is a new equine therapy program that provides *therapeutic riding for people with disabilities*. The non-profit program is operating out of C-Line Stables on Harris Road near Odessa. Contact Center Director Pam Liverman at 376-9594.

 **HalfthePlanet Foundation** is a non-profit organization that supports the application of technology to *promote the values of independent living, social inclusion, equality of opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, and empowerment*. Visit [www.halftheplanet.org](http://www.halftheplanet.org).

 The web site of PACER Center's **Families and Advocates Partnership for Education (FAPE)** Project is a winner of the International Association of Webmasters and Designers (IAWD) Golden Web Award. IAWD makes the awards to web sites

whose design, originality and content achieve levels of excellence, according to the organization. The *site includes information about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and special education and disability-related issues*. Much information is available in Hmong, Somali and Spanish. Visit [www.fape.org](http://www.fape.org).

 U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced the formation of two new offices within the Education Department—the **Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and the Office of Innovation and Improvement**. Activities related to safe schools, crisis response, alcohol/drug prevention, and the health and well being of students will be located in the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Office. The new Innovation and Improvement office will allow for *greater parental options and information in education* and will make strategic investments in promising practices and disseminate results.

 **Center for Creative Arts** in Yorklyn, Delaware is offering a *music therapy program* for children on Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm—7:30 pm. No musical talent is required and everyone is welcome to join the fun. Contact Hindi Burkett, MT-BC at 239-2324 or [theburketts@comcast.net](mailto:theburketts@comcast.net).



## BULLETIN BOARD

### ADVOCATING for Your Child and Others Through Legislative Action AND Systems Change

JULY 28, 2003

6:00—8:00 pm

*Location to be determined*

*YOU will learn about:  
The Legislative Process;  
When and How to Testify;  
And How to Form Lasting  
Relationships with Policymakers*

**Call PIC to register for this  
informative workshop!**

### Planning for Your Child's Future

A workshop for families of children with  
disabilities who want to know the  
facts about *Guardianship* and  
*Financial Planning*

Mary Culley, Esq.  
Morris, James, Hitchen & Williams LLP

July 15, 2003

6:00-8:00 pm  
Claymont  
Community Center  
3301 Green Street



Call PIC today at 366-0152 to register!

### "Coping With Stress" Presented by Yvonne Nass, Child, Inc.

JULY 23, 2003

6:00—8:00 pm



**Bear Library  
101 Governors Place  
Bear, Delaware**

**Call PIC at 366-0152  
to register  
for this "relaxing" workshop!**

### Summer Transition Institute

August 4, 2003

8:30 am—3:30 pm

DTCC, Terry Campus—Dover

Dr. *Ed O'Leary*, national transition expert  
(Western Regional Resource Center) will  
present on interagency collaboration  
for successful transitions.

*Leslie Coull*, (Eaton-Coull Learning Group,  
Vancouver, BC) will also present on the  
importance of student self-advocacy  
for successful outcomes.

Contact Mark Chamberlin at the DE Dept.  
of Education to register—739-4667

***PARENTS are encouraged to attend!***

tion about the overall quality and performance of schools from which the parents can select.

*7) Who qualifies for Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and what exactly are they?*

A student from a low-income family attending a school in its second year of improvement or longer is eligible for SES. Supplemental educational services are extra academic assistance for low-income students attending schools that have failed to meet AYP.

The academic assistance as SES can be obtained through tutoring in reading, language arts and math either after school or on weekends. The school district is obligated to provide parents with a list of programs and approved service providers including giving information about the quality and effectiveness of the programs. The school district, if asked, will also help parents select a provider.

*8) How can parents choose a good program?*

The law requires that SES providers adhere to high quality research based instruction.

*9) Who pays for the SES?*

In most cases, the school district will pay the SES provider directly. Once parents have selected a provider, they will be asked to meet with the provider and the school district staff to set academic goals for the student. They will also form a plan on how and when goals will be implemented and measured. Parents have the right to be informed of student progress and the SES provider has to devise a strategy for doing so.

*10) How can states demonstrate their strong academic standards?*

Most, if not all states, have already developed strong academic standards for what every child should know and learn in reading, math and science in elementary, middle and high school. Under the NCLB Act, schools must develop a rigorous plan for testing students according to this schedule:

- Beginning in the 2002-03 school year, schools must administer tests in each of the three grade spans 5-9, and 10-12.
- Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, tests must be administered every year grades 3-8.
- Beginning school year 2007-08, in addition to math and reading, science achievement must also be tested.

Results of these tests will show up in annual state and district report cards so parents can measure their school's performance. The report cards will document results for each student group.

The Act further focuses on teacher and paraprofessional quality:

Teachers new to the profession:

- Must hold a B.A. degree and pass a rigorous test (for elementary school teachers). They and the district determine subject knowledge and teaching skills in core academic subjects.
- Secondary school teachers will be tested in each of the subject areas they choose to teach. Teachers who are not new to the profession still need to hold a B.A. and based on a high objective State standard of evaluation, will have to demonstrate competency in each academic subject in which they teach.

Paraprofessionals: Beginning January 8, 2002 each school district must ensure that all paraprofessionals hired after this date and working in a program supported with NCLB funds must have:

- Met rigorous standards as demonstrated through a formal State or local assessment, and can demonstrate knowledge of and ability to assist in instruction of math, reading and writing readiness.
- By 2006, paraprofessionals hired on or before January 2002, must meet the same criteria as new paraprofessionals.
- Paraprofessionals working with students with considerable disabilities, who are following a life skills curriculum, are exempt from the standards requirements.

Continued on page 13

from school boards and school administrators but **NOT FROM PARENTS**. It is **IMPERATIVE**



**that parents speak out NOW!**  
**\*\*It is critical that Senators hear our voices.\*\***

Important talking points about

HR1350:

- Elimination of short-term objectives and benchmarks from the IEP
- Change from annual to *three-year IEP's*
- Changes in *discipline provisions* where schools can remove a student unilaterally for infractions of any school rule, even if the behavior is caused by the child's disability. The House bill eliminates all attempts to identify and remedy the behavior such as requirements for manifestation determinations, functional behavior assessments, and behavior intervention plans, all of which are contained in the current law.
- 15% of *IDEA funding can be diverted* to programs for *non-IDEA-eligible children*.
- 10 states will be given "*paperwork reduction incentives*" that allow them to change documentation requirements without public review.

**WHAT TO DO TODAY!**

Send a fax or call the members of the HELP Committee (listed below).

Note: Calls and faxes are more powerful than emails. Surface mail to Congress is very slow following the anthrax scare, and there may not be time for mailed letters.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:  
THE HELP COMMITTEE**

*Judd Gregg, Chairman (R-NH)*

202-224-3324 Voice

202-224-4952 Fax

*Edward M. Kennedy, Ranking Member (D-MA)*

(202) 224-4543 Voice, (202) 224-2417 Fax

*Tom Harkin (D-IA):*

(202) 224-3254 Voice, (202) 224-9369 Fax

Also send a copy or separate letter to:

*Senator Joseph R. Biden*

(202) 224-5042 Voice, (202) 224-0139 Fax

*Senator Thomas Carper*

(202) 224-2441 Voice, (202) 228-2190 Fax

Keeping a great IDEA for all students...

**Massive grassroots effort seeks to preserve discipline provisions of special education law**

Signatures of more than 14,000 individuals and the names of approximately 800 disability and advocacy organizations representing millions of Americans concerned about proposed changes to discipline provisions in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) were delivered to the White House on Tuesday, Feb. 25. The signers support the position of the National Committee of Parents Organized to Protect IDEA, which issued a paper on IDEA's discipline provision. **(Delaware contributed close to 400 signatures!)**

*Larry Searcy*, representing the committee, presented the signatures to David Dunn, Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy. "Mr. Dunn received the information and indicated he was impressed by the number of signatures. He said the administration would continue working to resolve issues concerning discipline" said Searcy.

With IDEA set for reauthorization, policy makers have made it known that they are considering changing school discipline procedures to make it easier for schools to remove students with disabilities and to deny them a free, appropriate public education. Under existing law, schools cannot use discipline to limit the education of students with disabilities who are entitled to a free, appropriate public education. Proposed changes to the discipline procedures may punish students for disability-related behaviors, said the parent committee. Behaviors that interfere with any child's ability to learn are education issues, the committee

added. *More than 6.5 million students with disabilities receive special education services.* In the last 25 years, the services have resulted in millions of students with disabilities learning the skills to work, live and participate in their communities and to become contributing members of society. The National Coalition of Parent Centers and the National Down Syndrome Society spearheaded the parent committee effort. Editor Note: The position paper names 54 nationwide organizations supporting the position, and is available on the following web sites: [www.nationalparentcenters.org](http://www.nationalparentcenters.org), [www.ndss.org](http://www.ndss.org), <http://www.pacer.org/legislation/position.htm>



The **NCLB law** will include about \$756 million to expand options for parents. The President's 2004 Budget includes:

- \$75 million* for a new Choice Incentive Fund to provide awards to states, school districts, and community based non profit organizations to help low-income parents with expanded opportunities for transferring their children to high performing public, private or charter schools.
- \$226 million* in refundable tax credits for parents transferring a child from a public school marked for improvement to an other private or public school
- \$25 million* for Voluntary Public Choice Program to support the capacity of schools to accept students transferring from schools marked for improvement
- \$220 million* for Charter School Grants and \$100 million for the Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Program. These funds will assist charter schools to obtain suitable academic facilities.
- A *\$17,500* per person Loan Forgiveness Programs for teachers willing to work in high-poverty schools.
- \$12.3 billion* for Title 1 programs which marks the higher funding level ever for the program.
- \$1.1 billion* for federal reading programs

### **Only the good die young ...**

Many of us didn't know *Senator Paul Wellstone* (D-MN). Yet he knew families of children with disabilities very well as he spent his life fighting for

the rights of children and adults with disabilities. He, his wife Sheila, daughter Marcia and long time staffer Mary McEvoy perished in an airplane accident this past October 2002. "Senator Wellstone was a special human being. His love and passion for children, people and justice were unmatched. He was a friend. He will be terribly missed."  
*Paula Goldberg, Exec. Director of the Minnesota PACER Center.*

### **Back Home...Community Based Alternatives for Persons with Disabilities**

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities has endorsed a number of issues that will affect the lives of individuals with disabilities in Delaware. To encourage the Governor to issue an Executive Order that will create an entity with broad stakeholder representation to monitor and implement the findings of the Commission on Community Based Alternatives (established through HR 90), the Commission, chaired by Representative Robert Valihura, and Rita Landgraf came forth with the following recommendations:

- 1) Examine practices regarding community-based options for individuals with disabilities that may prevent unnecessary institutionalization
- 2) Provide recommendations to assist the State with the development of its Olmstead plan.
- 3) The Commission has been charged with submitting a preliminary report to the Joint Finance Committee by February 15, 2003 and a final report to the General Assembly 45 days thereafter; which includes the plan, options and costs ; legislative and regulatory action needed to support plan implementation and prospects for obtaining federal and private funds and recommendations.

### **When money is tight, anything goes!**

Representative Wayne Smith introduced legislation that would impose a \$10.00 fee per day upon any parent or guardian of a student who has received a detention, suspension or who has been placed in alternative education program (HB #124). The money collected from these fines would be deposited in the State's general fund and there is no indication that it would be used for the purposes of education.

# JOIN Parent Information Center of Delaware TODAY!

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your membership with the Parent Information Center of Delaware shows that you believe our unique services are of great value and truly benefit families of children with disabilities and professionals throughout Delaware.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### **Annual Membership Dues—Subscription to “The LINK” included**

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\$50.00	Contributing	Educator	_____
\$75.00	Agency/Organization	Professional	_____
\$100.00	Sustaining	Consumer	_____
\$300.00	Corporate	Organization	_____
\$500.00	Fairy God Parent	Other (specify)	_____
\$500.00+	Guardian Angel		

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