

Our Mission

The Arc of Spokane Advocacy & Family Support Team provides information, education, resources, support, and advocacy to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Our goal is to help people become more informed and to empower people to become better equipped to access the services and supports they need. We promote independence and choice and respect the values and perspectives of families. We strive to be responsive to the needs of families and provide the understanding and support that families need.

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Special Ed Advocacy: *Mistakes Parents Make...*

by Robert K. Crabtree

Because the stakes are so high, it is difficult for parents of children with special educational needs to advocate calmly and objectively for the educational and related services their children need.

Here are some common mistakes that undermine parents' ability to obtain appropriate services:

1. Viewing the special education process as the moral equivalent of war, fighting that war with a "scorched earth" approach, and letting personal animosity toward administrators and/or teachers distort one's judgment about what is best for the child and what is realistic to accept;
2. The opposite mistake: trusting administrators and teachers too uncritically; assuming that if they are "nice" they are also competent and interested in serving the child's best interest; not questioning slow, or nonexistent progress as long as the child, parent and teacher have a cordial relationship;
3. Taking an "all or nothing" approach: waiting too long before getting good independent advice, then insisting on instant delivery of needed services rather than steady progress toward the right program;
4. Failing to understand that the special education process sometimes requires that the parent educate the child's special education team about the child's disabilities and needs (the school system may not be willfully refusing to meet the child's needs; they may simply not understand those needs);
5. Not trying a program or added services, even on a temporary basis, when they are offered by the school system -- holding out for an alternative program only to have a hearing officer decide the untried program might have worked;
6. Attempting to "micro-manage" the details of a child's life in school; even if parents don't feel things are going well, their efforts to control the child's

Continued on page 2

Mistakes Parents Make...

day usually backfire when the hearing officer concludes that the parents were over-protective and didn't let the school professionals do their job;

7. Focusing on minor, nonprejudicial procedural missteps by the school (e.g., the parent who already knows her rights who says, "Aha! Gotcha! School district forgot to give me the rights brochure!") instead of focusing on the substantial issues in the case;

8. Not consenting to school evaluations;

9. Choosing the wrong independent evaluators: e.g., "hired guns" who only say what the parents want them to say, and have a reputation for doing so; those who will not follow through by observing programs, attending team meetings, etc.; those who do not have training or experience to evaluate a child like yours;

10. Not providing copies of independent evaluations to the school, or not providing them in a timely way;

11. Not responding in a timely way to proposed IEPs;

12. Not documenting issues with the school; not sending letters to confirm agreements with the school or to record important conversations with school personnel.

13. Seeing the school system as a monolith ("All those teachers are incompetent [or wonderful!]); failing to look carefully at alternatives within the system for this year and at next year's teacher possibilities.



Another IEP Meeting... (How Do We Know If Our Student's Needs Are Going to Be Met This Year?)

This **free** workshop is designed to give an overview on Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Parents, educators, guardians and anyone connected to a child with an IEP are welcome to attend.

Monday, October 8
6 pm - 8:30 pm
The Arc/TERR Community Bldg
116. Indiana, Spokane, WA 99202

Resource Materials &
Refreshments Provided.

RSVP to
Terry Villalovoz at (509) 328-6326
or p2p@arc-spokane.org

Presenter **Marion Moore** of Eastern Washington University will focus on evaluating IEPs to make sure there is a clear connection between the student's *current skills levels*, the IEP goals and objectives, and the services provided in the classroom.

Notes from Lance



Happy September. I wanted to take a little space and give you an update on our Advocacy and Family Support Team and let you know why we provide the services and supports that we do.

You will see in this newsletter that we have hired 2 new employees in the past month. Deanna Noland is the new Advocacy & Family Support Coordinator and will help provide support and resources to families as well as oversee the production of this newsletter, the SCPC website, and help us plan and coordinate the various workshops and events we provide. Theresa Fears joins our team after writing a successful grant to provide information, resources, support and direct services to people with developmental disabilities, families, and professionals having to do with sexual issues. Please see the little biography on each of these people in this newsletter.

Because of the change in staff, we did not have a summer family picnic this year. I apologize for this but we will go forward and have a picnic next year for sure.

We are planning to provide the Spokane County Leadership Development Program for the 3rd time and are very excited about this. We have set a date for an IEP workshop on October 8th. We are also planning a series of "Into The Future" transition workshops in November, a Legislative Advocacy Workshop in December, and our 3rd Annual Family Support Conference on March 29, 2008!

Our Advocacy and Family Support Services are funded by a variety of sources and grants. On the front of this newsletter you will find our Mission Statement and I just want to reinforce that the whole reason we exist is to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families in Spokane County and beyond! We are serious about this mission and need your input to make sure the services and supports we are providing are driven by the needs of families. Please let us know how we are doing and if you feel there is a need that is not being addressed to help us plan for the future.

Address Change Notification

Please let us know, either by phone, FAX, or e-mail if your mailing address has changed. We want to keep you informed.

Call – 326-6326

FAX – 326-6342

e-mail – dnoland@spokane-arc.org

OUR READERS

Advocacy & Family Support is produced monthly and provides information to parents, grandparents, guardians, other family members, professionals and other adults who have a person with special needs in their life. We encourage you to copy and share this information. Please credit *The Arc of Spokane Advocacy & Family Support* and, where possible, the author.

SUBMISSIONS

Please send submissions for our next issue by September 20 to:
Deanna Noland
The Arc of Spokane
127 W. Boone Ave.
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 328-6326
dnoland@arc-spokane.org

MAILING LIST

If you would like to be added to or removed from our mailing list, please call Deanna Noland at (509) 328- 6326.

E-MAILING LIST

To receive this newsletter in PDF format via email, visit www.arc-spokane.org/maillinglists.htm and click on the link for *Advocacy & Family Support*. At that location you may also subscribe to lists for Local Events, Statewide Events, Legislative Advocacy and The ArcLite newsletter.

DISCLAIMER

The inclusion of any article or resource in this newsletter does not imply endorsement. Contents are intended for informational purposes only.



***The Mission of
Parent To Parent***

Parent to Parent programs offer emotional support and information about disabilities and community resources to parents who are just learning about or seeking new information on their child's disability, illness or special health care needs.

Through implementation of the Parent to Parent model:

We utilize trained veteran parents of children with disabilities and/or special health care needs called "Helping Parents" who provide one-on-one emotional and/or informational support to new or referred parents who have a child with similar needs.



WELCOME our Arc staff - new and continuing:
back row, left to right; John Lemus, Lance Morehouse, Terry Villalovoz
front row, left to right; Theresa Fears, Cathie Griffith, Deanna Noland

**The Washington State
Family /
Educator Guide**

**is available
to download
in English, Spanish,
Russian, Cambodian,
and Vietnamese**

at

<http://www.k12.wa.us>

**PARENT
EMPOWERMENT**

(formerly Special Parenting)

RESOURCES & SUPPORT
for parents of children
with special needs
by parents of children
with special needs

**Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, &
Nov. 5, 2007**

Brought to you by:

The Arc of Spokane
Spokane County Parent Coalition
Children with Special
Health Care Needs
Spokane Guild's School &
Neuromuscular Center
TJ O'Dell
New Generation Ministries



WELCOME...

Deanna Noland!

My name is Deanna Noland and I am the newest member of the Advocacy and Family Support staff at the Arc of Spokane. I am a native of the Spokane area and have numerous relatives and friends scattered throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

I have a background as a Special Ed. Teacher for Dist. #81 and East Valley School Dist. Within the school systems I have worked with students with significant disabilities at the high school level, to pull-out students at the middle school level.

But first and foremost is my personal experience with my two sons with disabilities. I have a 29 year old son, named Caleb with epilepsy, who lives on his own with a live in care provider, and I have a 25 year old son, also named Caleb (and yes this can be really confusing, but come ask me about the story behind it, it's really fun), with Cerebral Palsy who lives at home with dad and I.

I have gotten the opportunity to educate, advocate, and learn from a variety of people, agencies and especially from my sons. I've sat on both sides of the table at IEP

meetings, as a parent first then as a teacher, learned first hand how many schools define "inclusion", and found that most of the best ideas for solving problems come from the parents, families and people with disabilities themselves.

As with all parents of children with disabilities, I have learned that patience is not easy to come by, laughter is an essential ingredient for sanity, and to always remember, "just breathe".

I hope we can meet in person soon.

Deanna Noland

WELCOME...

Theresa Fears!

The Arc of Spokane welcomes a new Advocacy and Family Support member, Theresa Fears, who will be coordinating a new program: The Partnership.

Before coming to The Arc, Theresa worked for six years at SNAP as a Long Term Care Ombudsman representing people in nursing homes, adult family homes, assisted living facilities and boarding homes. As an Ombudsman, she provided advocacy and information to residents, their families' facilities and staff about resident's rights in long term care facilities.

Prior to SNAP, Theresa was employed for four years at Spokane Mental Health in the Elder Services division

as a COPES case manager, providing care management for aged and disabled individuals in their own homes. She has a BA in Clinical Psychology and is just starting in the EWU Masters of Social Work program. Personally, she is married and has two sons, two cats and a really big dog. Her hobbies include, spinning yarn, and sewing costumes for a local youth theatre.

The Partnership began as a community coalition project sponsored by Lutheran Community Services. The Mission of The Partnership is to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of individuals with developmental disabilities through education, increased community awareness and personal empowerment; the Motto is "we all

deserve to be safe". For the last six years, The Partnership has organized a spring, Safety Rally at the bus plaza. In addition, the program provides community presentations and publishes a Developmental Disabilities Family Resource Guide.

New this year, the Partnership is planning an Educational Support Group for young adult with developmental disabilities. The eight week group is designed to prepare participants for the exciting and sometimes confusing world of intrapersonal relationships. Topics covered include; creating rules about personal space, how rules apply in various settings and identifying types of relationships.

Theresa Fears

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

ACTION ALERTS



Volume 12, Issue 30
July 30, 2007

ACTION ALERTS are URGENT messages for you to send to elected officials and need your IMMEDIATE RESPONSE. Use the link(s) below to visit The Arc's online Action Center today and take action.

ONGOING ALERTS:

URGE YOUR SENATORS TO ENACT THE HATE CRIMES BILL

URGE YOUR SENATORS TO BRING THE GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT (GINA) TO A VOTE!

Major Events Last Week

FY 2008 Appropriations

By a vote of 258-153, the full House passed *H.R. 3074, the FY 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies appropriations bill* on July 24. The bill contains funding that is \$4.1 billion more than President requested and \$4.4 billion above the current year. For HUD Section 8 Tenant Based Vouchers, the bill contains \$16.3 billion (\$410 million above 2007 and \$330 million above the President's request) to renew approximately 1.9 million vouchers currently in use and provide 4,000 new, targeted vouchers for non-elderly people with disabilities and homeless veterans. The President's request would have forced between 40,000 and 80,000 families and individuals to lose their housing vouchers. The bill also provides \$6.5 billion (\$503 million above 2007 and \$667 million above the President's request) for Section 8 Project Based Vouchers to provide affordable housing to 1.3 million low and very low-income families and individuals, two-thirds of whom are elderly or have disabilities. HUD's Housing for the Disabled program is funded at \$236.6 million

(the same as in 2007, and \$111.6 million above the President's request) for grants to finance the acquisition, rehabilitation or construction of housing for people with disabilities. The bill also provides full authorization levels of funding for transportation programs for people with disabilities under the New Freedom Initiative and "Section 5310" programs for the elderly and people who have disabilities.

ADA Restoration Act

On July 26, the 17th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Representative James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) introduced *H.R. 3195, the ADA Restoration Act of 2007*. At the same time, Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) introduced a practically identical bill, S. 1881, in the Senate. The ADA Restoration Act of 2007 will restore the original intent of Congress regarding individuals covered by the employment provisions of the ADA.

Children's Health/Medicare

Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, introduced the *Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act H.R. 3162*.

The bill includes:

- A reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), providing an additional \$50 billion over 5 years. This increase will cover an additional 5 million children.
- An option allowing states to cover children under SCHIP or Medicaid through age 24;
- A one year moratorium on any regulation or policy to limit services under Medicaid's Rehabilitation Option or school-based administration, transportation, or medical services;

- A SCHIP dental benefit covering prevention and treatment;
- A delay in the scheduled Medicare physician reimbursement cuts totaling 10% in 2008 and 5% in 2009 and replace them with 0.5% increases in each of the next two years;
- Several provisions improving the Part D Medicare prescription drug benefit. Many of these changes, which will be summarized in the next edition of Washington Watch, will benefit low-income and dually eligible Medicare beneficiaries with disabilities.

The CHAMP Act will be financed by a 45 cent increase in the federal excise tax on tobacco products and by equalizing payments between Medicare Advantage (MA) plans (private Health Maintenance Organizations) and Medicare's traditional fee-for-service program by 2011. It is estimated that the reimbursement rate for MA plans is 12% more than traditional Medicare.

Research

By voice vote, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee passed the *Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act (S.1183)*. This bill will enhance research into paralysis and improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities.

Employment

On July 24, the federal minimum wage rose from \$5.15 to 5.85 per hour. This is the first increase in the federal minimum wage in over 10 years and its passage was a high priority for the 110th Congress. Over the next two years, it will rise to \$7.25 per hour.

Major Events Ahead

U.S. Congress

This week may or may not be the final week the Congress is in session prior to the month long summer recess. There is still the possibility that the Democratic Majority, angry with the delaying tactics of the minority party, may delay the recess to pass pending legislation that has been "on hold" by delays.

Reports

Also on July 26, at their meeting in Chicago, the National Council on Disability (NCD) released two

reports on the progress of people with disabilities since the 1990 enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The first report, *The Impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act: Assessing the Progress toward Achieving the Goals of the ADA*, reviews the impact the ADA has had on the lives of Americans with disabilities during the first sixteen years since its passage. The report focuses on the four major goals of the ADA—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. A key finding is that progress toward the goal of economic self-sufficiency appears to be the goal having the least success. The second report, *Implementation of the ADA: Challenges, Best Practices, and New Opportunities for Success*, highlights many strategies for ADA implementation that have been successful, as well as obstacles that are preventing ADA implementation. This report reflects the experiences and ideas of ADA stakeholders from around the country, including small and large businesses, employers, judges and legal professionals, governmental entities, and individuals with disabilities. The reports can be found at: http://www.ncd.gov/newsroompublications/2007/implementation_07-26-07.htm and http://www.ncd.gov/newsroompublications/2007/ada_impact_07-26-07.htm.

For additional information, please contact Mark S. Quigley or Julie Carroll at 202-272-2004 (V) or 202-272-2074 (TTY).



We Have a New Website!

Spokane County Parent Coalition

www.spkaneparentcoalition.org

Take a look at our new Event Calendar, Links, and Resource pages.



Ask the Expert

Question: I only have seizures when I am asleep. Why?

Answer by
John W. Miller, M.D., Ph.D:

Although many people with epilepsy find that their seizures are affected by sleep, different individuals have very different patterns. Some only have seizures during sleep; some only have them when they are awake. It's also not unusual for seizures to be stronger if they happen during sleep. People with some types of epilepsy often have seizures right after they wake up in the morning. With most types of epilepsy, lack of sleep or poor sleep can trigger seizures.

There are great differences in the electrical and chemical activity of different brain regions during wakefulness, quiet sleep, and dreaming sleep, and these differences

must explain why a person's state of arousal or sleep can trigger seizures. However, the relationship between sleep and seizures is so variable in different people, that researchers do not have answers that apply to everyone with epilepsy.

The most important thing is to understand how sleep affects your epilepsy. It is important to get enough sleep. If you have a sleep problem, such as insomnia (trouble falling or staying asleep) or sleep apnea, treating the sleep problem may help to control your seizures. If you have to get up early in the morning, be sure to go to bed early enough to get a good night's sleep. If you find that your seizures typically happen at certain times of night or day, you should be extra careful at those times. Talk to your doctor so that you can understand how sleep affects your seizures, and what you can do about it.

Please note that advice in Ask the Expert is for educational purposes only. Always seek the advice of your healthcare provider regarding your personal health issues.

New Spokane Staff Person

EFNW is proud to welcome its newest staff person, **Ryan Oelrich**, who will serve as Program Manager for the Spokane office.

Ryan has worked in the non profit sector for over 10 years. Most recently he was the director of a youth mental health program. Ryan is excited to join EFNW and we are pleased to have him on our team.

**The Spokane office will be open
M-F 9am-1pm.**

Needed: Child Care / Respite Providers

To provide care for children and/or adults with developmental disabilities while their parents are attending workshops & trainings.

Must be over 18 and able to pass a Washington State background check.

\$11.00 per hour stipend.

For more information: contact, Deanna at 328-6326

Spokane County Parent Coalition, Spokane Parent To Parent & The Department of Developmental Disabilities



Present

A DDD Assessment Tool Free Evening Workshop



Come and learn about the new assessment tool now being used by the DDD. There will be a brief overview by Karen Malisani; JRC, from DDD, followed by a question and answer period. This workshop is free to all parents, clients, and family and friends of the developmentally disabled.

September 17, 2007

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**W. 116 Indiana
Large Conference Room**

There will be coffee, tea, and assorted snacks served.

SCPC Family Scholarship Fund

The SCPC Family Scholarship Fund was established in 1999. The purpose of this fund is to assist parents, foster parents, guardians, siblings, or other family members of children with developmental disabilities in Spokane County to attend workshops, conferences, seminars, or other trainings specific to the disability of their family member. Funding can be used for registration fees, respite care, travel expenses, fuel expenses, and/or lodging involved with attending an approved event.

How do you apply for a scholarship?

Individuals applying for a scholarship will submit a short letter stating why they want to attend the event, what they hope to learn, their relationship to the person with a disability, the age of the person with a disability,

and the amount of funding they are requesting. Requests should also include information about the event and how it is specific to the disability of their family member. Requests can be sent to the SCPC at the address listed below or by e-mail at

lance@spokaneparentcoalition.org
A family is only eligible for one scholarship per year.

How is a scholarship approved?

Requests for funding are evaluated by the SCPC Steering Committee and a final decision made. Requests may be fully or partially funded and no requests will be approved beyond the financial resources of the fund.

What are the expectations of receiving a scholarship?

When a request is approved, the recipient will sign an agreement stating

that they agree to be a resource for other families in our community. After the person attends the event, they will also share their experience by either writing a short summary or attending a meeting of the Spokane County DD Board or ICC. Copies of receipts are required on scholarships over \$500. Most importantly, the person is expected to attend the event, gain valuable knowledge, and enjoy this opportunity to learn!

For more information contact

Lance Morehouse at
(509) 328-6326.

Or, mail your applications to:
Arc of Spokane
127 W. Boone
Spokane, WA 99201

2007 Beyond Disabilities CONFERENCE

September 13 – 14, 2007

Who Should attend? - Providers of Vocational Rehabilitation services, children services, individuals with disabilities, parents with children with disabilities, employment service providers, businesses and community members should attend the:

2007 "Beyond Disabilities" CONFERENCE

Our Keynote speakers, Alex Valdez and John Evans, will share with us their life-long experiences with a motivating message of awareness related to disabilities and an educational training on ADA. The Conference will provide critical information on topics that impact the growing community of farm workers with disabilities across the region.

Provisional workshops include:

- Best Migrant VR Practices.
- Michael Walling, with Benefits Training and Consulting, on Social Security Work Incentives.
- Cultural Competency for Workforce Professionals. Culture: The Third Dimension.
- Transition Models (School to Work)
- Fatherhood Training Opportunities
- The Value of a Good "Mental Health"

The **2007 "Beyond Disability" Conference** is hosted by the Washington State Migrant Council, in partnership with:

RSA, Washington Division of Developmental Disabilities, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Western Washington University (CCER), ESD, CORE, PAVE, Children Village, Employment Security, Social Security Administration, Washington Labor and Industry as well as local businesses and NAMSFVR.

Conference and Lodging Location

Red Lion Hotel, 2525 N. 20th Ave.
Pasco, WA 99301

Phone: 509.544.3911 - Fax: 509.544.3908

Lodging Registration & Rates

(per person)

Hotel **room rate** is at \$60.00/night for single and \$80.00 for double occupancy (government rate for Kennewick). Cut-off date for reservations, August 22, 2007.

Group name: **"Washington State Migrant Council"**. Mention our group name when you call the Registration Desk at The Red Lion Hotel in Pasco.

Conference Registration fees \$195.00

before August 31, 2007. Registrations received post cutoff date will be subject to additional fees at \$225.00 per person use page two for processing.

Meals

Lunch will be provided during both days of activities. Continental breakfast will be available during mornings of the 13 and 14th.

For more information

Washington State Migrant Council
Ask for Sara

(800) 478.2219

Fax: (509) 837.7745

E-mail: noemi.ortega@wsmconline.org



TASH 2007 Conference Equity, Opportunity and Inclusion

- Re-ignite your passion for our shared mission
- Learn practical information for immediate use
- Become a source of change in your community
- Access the newest research findings and innovations
- Get involved in current national issues and policy debates

TASH Tech Workshops, Dec. 5, 2007 **Conference**, Dec. 6 - 8, 2007 **Exhibits**, Dec. 6-7, 2007
 Washington State Convention and Trade Center
 Sheraton Seattle Hotel & Tower Seattle, Washington

Registration Fees

Registration Type	Early Bird on or before Sept. 1	Regular on or before Nov. 12	On-Site after Nov. 12
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Member

Individual Registration	\$219.00	\$239.00	\$259.00
Students, Family Member and Persons w/disabilities	\$64.00	\$84.00	\$94.00

Non-Members

Individual Registration	\$349.00	\$369.00	\$389.00
Students, Family Member and Persons w/disabilities	\$156.00	\$165.00	\$175.00

One day only (check one)	___ Thursday 12/6	___ Friday 12/7
	\$154.00	\$154.00

For further information visit: <http://www.tash.org/2007tash/index.htm>

State Testing for Students in Special Education



How Students in Special Education Participate in State Testing

*** UPDATED 6.4.07 ***

This information sheet provides answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about students in special education and their participation in the **Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)** and/or the **Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS)**. For complete information, please see the "Guidelines for Participation and Testing Accommodations for Special Populations in State Assessment Programs": www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/Assessment.aspx. For help with additional WASL/WAAS questions, contact waas@k12.wa.us or 360.725.6089.

Frequently Asked Questions: All Grades

How do students in special education participate in state testing?

The following options are available:

1. Take the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) with or without accommodations.
2. Take the WASL-Modified (WASL-MO) – Students take the WASL at grade level – with or without accommodations – but IEP teams adjust passing criteria from Proficient (Level 3) to Basic (Level 2).
3. Use the Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS) Portfolio – Students unable to participate in paper and pencil tests show their skills and knowledge through a collection of their work.
4. Take the Developmentally Appropriate WASL (DAW) – Students in grades 11 and 12 only take the WASL – with or without accommodations – at a grade level that best matches their abilities. Students pass the DAW by earning Proficient (Level 3) on the grade level of each test taken.

What kinds of accommodations are available to students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)?

Please refer to the revised "Guidelines for Participation and Testing Accommodations for Special Populations in State Assessment Programs": www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/Assessment.aspx. Accommodations include changes in setting, in the ways tests and test questions are presented, and in the ways that students respond. Some examples include a reader for math or science, physical supports (e.g., special pencil, large-type test), time extensions, etc. *All testing accommodations need to be consistent with the accommodations a student receives on a regular basis at school and must be included in a student's IEP.*

Who determines how a student participates in state testing?

The IEP team, including a student's parents or guardians, decides which testing tool to use, based on the student's needs in each content area. The testing tool used may vary by content area. For example, an 11th-grader might use the 8th-grade Developmentally Appropriate WASL for writing and the High School WASL with accommodations in reading. These decisions, as well as any decisions about accommodations for the student, are made during the annual IEP team meeting or, if the IEP team agrees, during a meeting closer to the testing period. All decisions must be documented in the student's IEP.

What information about the WASL/WAAS must be documented in a student's IEP?

1. A statement of any accommodations to be provided for state assessments. Statement must address:
 - o When these services will begin.
 - o The anticipated frequency, location and duration of those services.
2. If the IEP team determines the student will participate in an alternative assessment, a statement that names the assessment chosen and why that assessment is appropriate for the student.

What happens when a family and a school district disagree about how to assess a student?

A family may use dispute resolution options available to them to resolve any disagreement they have with a school district regarding student participation in state or district assessments. Information on these options: www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/mediation.aspx.

Frequently Asked Questions: High School Graduation Requirement



How do students in special education meet the WASL graduation requirement?

Starting with the graduating class of 2008, all students need to pass the reading and writing High School WASL, a state-approved alternative to the WASL or an assessment for students in special education. The “class of 2008” is defined as students who entered ninth grade in the 2004-05 school year.

All students also need to meet a state math requirement. For the graduating classes of 2008-2012, the way a student meets the math requirement determines if s/he gets a high school diploma or a high school diploma with a Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) or Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA). In 2013, all students will be required to earn a high school diploma with one of the certificates by passing the reading, writing, math and science High School WASL, a Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (a state-approved alternative to the WASL) or an assessment for students in special education. The certificates tell colleges and businesses that a graduate has a solid foundation of skills in reading, writing and math.

How does a student earn a high school diploma with a Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA)?

Students earn a CAA by passing the High School WASL (with or without testing accommodations) and/or the state-approved CAA Options in reading, writing and math. CAA Options are available after a student takes the High School WASL at least once.

- Submitting a “collection of evidence” consisting of student work showing they meet grade-level academic standards.
- Earning scores at or above a state-designated level on the PSAT, SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement exams.
- Comparing a student’s grades in core classes with the grades for students who passed the test.

How does a student earn a high school diploma with a Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA)?

As 10th-graders, students in special education programs only earn a CIA by passing the WASL-Modified or WAAS-Portfolio in reading, writing and math. In grades 11 and 12, students who have not yet earned a CIA may also access the Developmentally Appropriate WASL (DAW). Students with 504 Plans are not eligible to earn a CIA.

How does a student earn a high school diploma without either one of the certificates?

This option is only available to students in the graduating classes of 2008-2012. Students who do not pass in math are required to keep earning math credits until graduation AND take the WASL or an approved math assessment annually.

- Class of 2008: Students need to earn one math credit after 11th grade and take the WASL or an approved math assessment.
- Classes of 2009-2012: Students need to earn two math credits after 10th grade and take the WASL or an approved math assessment annually.

Do students get different diplomas if they earn a CAA or CIA or no certificate at all?

No, all students get a “regular” diploma. The transcript, however, will note which path an individual student took.

Can a student earn a CAA in one content area and the CIA in another?

No. Students earn a CAA by passing the High School WASL and/or the state-approved CAA Options in reading, writing and math. Students who use the WASL-Modified, DAW or WAAS-Portfolio to pass any of the required subjects earn a CIA, not a CAA.

Can a student earn a CIA and then take the “regular” WASL to earn a CAA?

Yes. If a student earns a CIA and wants to pursue a CAA, s/he may do so by following the requirements and the options provided to any other student. If the student is unsuccessful at earning the CAA, his or her CIA would still meet the graduation requirement.

Why do results come back later for students who use an assessment other than the High School WASL?

The High School WASL is scored on an earlier schedule than all other WASL tests, allowing these test results to be returned to families by June. The DAW and portfolios are scored during the summer. Results are returned to families in September.

Do students who participate in the DAW or the WAAS-Portfolio get retakes if they don’t pass?

All students working toward a CIA have five state-funded opportunities to pass each subject (reading, writing and math). Students may retest with the DAW or resubmit their WAAS-Portfolio during a special testing window in early November and during the following spring testing administration. Students who use the WASL-Modified retake the test in August.

If a parent chooses to exclude their child from the WASL and/or any of the CAA or WAAS options, can the student still earn a high school diploma?

No. All students must complete all state and local school district graduation requirements to graduate.

2007 FALL TRANSITION and RESOURCE FAIR

October 4, 2007, Thursday 9 am – 11:00 am

Mukagawa; Fort Wright Institute Common, 4000 W.Randolph Road

People with Developmental Disabilities, Parents, Teachers, Friends, and Case Managers, are all invited.

WIN GREAT PRIZES!

Please come and meet

THE ARC OF SPOKANE, NOVA SERVICES, SL START, PACE SERVICES, ARC RESIDENTIAL, DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, SKILS'KIN, ARTISAN, PARTNERS FOR COMMUNITY LIVING, CAREER CONNECTIONS, CAREER PATH SERVICES, PEACEFUL VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER, SOCIAL SECURITY, PEOPLE FIRST OF WASHINGTON, CORD, PLAN TO WORK, ENSO, SL START RESIDENTIAL, EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY CENTER, GOODWILL INDUSTRIES, SPOKANE PARENT COALITION, INCLUSION DAILY EXPRESS, SPOKANE PARKS/REC, LOGAN MAGAZINE, THE PARTNERSHIP, INLAND EMPIRE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY, JOB RESOURCE CENTER, WASHINGTON PAVE, WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY CENTER

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

Spokane County Community Services 312 W. 8thAve. Spokane, WA 99204

Phone: (509) 477-4511 Fax: (509) 477-6827 www.spokanecounty.org

Good News For Adults And Children Who Receive Medicaid Personal Care In Their Own Homes

If either you or your family member receives Medicaid Personal Care and has high needs for assistance with activities of daily living or has behavior issues that impact ability to receive assistance with personal care tasks, there is good news. The method of determining that need in the DDD Assessment has changed and you may be eligible for more hours starting September 1, 2007. If your hours are going to increase, your case manager will contact you in the next two weeks.

The 2007-2009 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the State of Washington and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 775, changed the algorithm and level of care determinations that will take effect September 1, 2007. These changes are based upon input from stakeholders, ADSA staff, and providers.

The changes include:

Two new CARE classification groups in Level C and D for clients who need more hours.

The C low base will be increase by 12 hours.

Clients will no longer need a specific diagnosis in the E level if they meet all other criteria.

Total assistance in toileting will be added as an option to meet the Bladder/Bowel criteria for the E level.

In the B level a scoring mechanism for behaviors has been created based upon the frequency and severity of the behaviors.

This is a GREAT piece of Good News for those who need the additional supports and will be welcomed by all. No one will lose hours based upon this change; and it appears from the data that has been run that **4,486** persons will have additional hours. This will mean a total increase of **33,031** hours per month for clients of the Division of Developmental Disabilities alone.

If you have any questions, please call your case resource manager at DDD for additional details.

Parent Empowerment Class Registration



Facilitators Include:

Scott Peterson Brittlyn Bourassa Terry Villalovoz Darci Osborne

TOPICS

CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES
BEHAVIOR CHALLENGES
IEP'S AND 504 PLANS
PLANNING for the FUTURE
RELATIONSHIPS
STRESS
FATHERS' ISSUES
SIBLINGS' ISSUES
TRANSITIONS
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
... and more

WHEN

Oct. 1 – Nov. 5, 2007
Six consecutive Monday evenings
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
(Lunch is included.)

HOW MUCH

Registration: \$10.00
Includes childcare, refreshments and class materials.
Space is limited so register early.
(Limited Scholarships may be available)

WHERE

Redeemer Lutheran church
3606 S. Schafer Rd.
Spokane, WA 99206

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Name of child with special needs _____ Child's age: _____

Child's special needs: _____

Where did you learn about these classes? _____

Those needing childcare MUST register in advance. Please complete the childcare request form.

Please return this completed form to **Terry Villalovoz at The Arc of Spokane** by Sept. 21, 2007.

If you have any questions please call Terry at 328-6326.

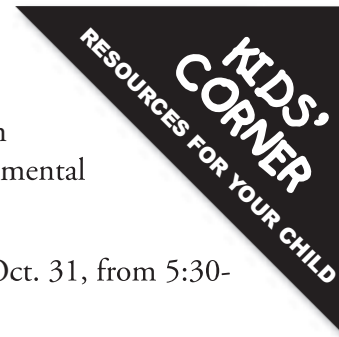
CHILDCARE REQUEST FORM

Childcare will be provided only for children younger than 13. There is limited availability and is on a "first-come, first-served" basis. If we can meet your needs for childcare, you will be contacted by phone to confirm that childcare has been arranged.

How many children need childcare? _____ What are their ages? _____

Do any need accommodations for special needs? If so, what? _____

TOPSoccer Begins in September



TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community based soccer program that is designed to meet the needs of children beginning at age 4 years with physical and/or mental disabilities. The program is geared toward player development rather than to competition.

The Fall session begins Sept. 26 and continues every Wednesday for 6 weeks through Oct. 31, from 5:30-6:30 at the Spokane Indoor Center at 7320 E. Nora in Spokane Valley.

Registration: For new (never played with us or played with us before Spring 06), the fee is \$30.00. Returning players - \$25.00. The fee includes a shirt, socks, and 6 weeks of soccer with a coach and soccer buddy, if needed. A buddy is a volunteer who helps the participant throughout the session. There is an awards party after the last session.

Registration begins Aug. 1 and will continue through the end of Aug. Go to www.spvjsa.org or www.sysa.com. We encourage early registration. Send a copy of the signed registration form and the fee - made out to TOPSoccer - to Gus Schmauch, 2230 S Steen Rd, Veradale WA 99037. **Registration is not complete without the fee.**

Questions or concerns, contact Gus Schmauch at gschmauch@comcast.net or 892-5325.

Thanks,
Gus
Spokane TOPSoccer Coordinator

REGISTER TO PLAY NOW!

Web Sites for Children

These sites were chosen because they are easy to navigate, are age appropriate, contain information for parents and teachers, and have a variety of activities or games from which to choose.

Educational Sites:

- PBS Kids www.pbskids.org
- Fun Brain www.funbrain.com/kidscenter.html
- Enchanted Learning www.enchantedlearning.com
- Fun School www.funschool.com (www.kaboose.com)

Fun Sites:

- Sesame Street www.sesameworkshop.com/sesamestreet
- Disney www.disney.go.com/playhouse
- Crayola www.crayola.com/kids
- Thomas the Tank Engine www.thomasthetankengine.com

Other Interesting Sites

- www.whitehouse.gov/kids
- www.kidsites.com
- www.nationalgeographic.com/kids
- www.4kids.org

SAVE THE DATE!



**Fetal Alcohol
Spectrum Disorders Conference**
Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment

OCTOBER 10-11, 2007
Spokane, Washington

Speakers from:
University of Washington Fetal Alcohol and Drug Unit
&
FAS Diagnostic and Prevention Network

**Presented by SCAN, Arc, P-CAP &
Sacred Heart Children's Hospital**

For more information call (509) 458-7445

MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUPS & MEETINGS



Autism Society Of Washington

MOCHO MEETINGS SEPT 8
2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 10 - NOON
BARNES & NOBLE AT SPOKANE VALLEY MALL
THIS IS AN INFORMAL GROUP OF PARENTS & OTHERS
WHO WISH TO DISCUSS HEALTH ISSUES AND AUTISM

Family Support Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 19 6:0-8pm
St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute
711 S. Cowley Ave. Conference Room 200
**For More Information Call
Kathleen Stimfle at 624-3323**

Down Syndrome Family Network SUPPORT GROUP

This is a terrific opportunity for support and networking.
Children are always welcome.

Meets every Tuesday 1 - 3pm

Garland Alliance Church,
2011 W. Garland Ave., Spokane

Contact: Brittlyn Bourassa, (509) 482-7630

BREAKFAST RENDEZVOUS

This no-host breakfast is a great way to start your weekend.
Bring the whole family! **Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**
Jenny's Restaurant, 9425 E. Sprague Spokane Valley
Contact: Carolyn Wright, (509) 455-7439
for more information or to be added to the
Down Syndrome Family Network email list..

Epilepsy Foundation Northwest CONTACT(509) 325-1128

September 26, 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Lindamen Center, 315 W. Mission Ave.,
Spokane, WA

Senior Parent Support Group

*A support group for parents who have an adult
son or daughter with a developmental disability.*

Wednesday, September 19 * 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The Arc/IERR Building, 116 W. Indiana Ave.
Contact: Deanna Noland, (509) 328-6326



Parent to Parent MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP

Open to any parent/guardian who
has a child with special needs.

Refreshments provided.

Tuesday, September 25 * 6:30-8:00pm
Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook
Contact: Terry Villalovoz, 328-6326

Evergreen Spina Bifida Support Group

Come discuss issues that affect persons with
spina bifida and their family and friends.

Call for meeting time and location.

Contact: Ed Kennedy,
(509) 326-6355 ext. 107

Spokane Fathers Network

For fathers of children with special health care needs.
Meets the first Wednesday of each month.

Saturday, September 15 10 am

Denny's

6 N. Pines, Spokane Valley

Contact: Lance Morehouse, (509) 328-6326

Address Change Notification

Please let us know, either by phone, FAX, or e-mail if
your mailing address has changed. We want to keep
you informed.

Call – 326-6326
FAX – 326-6342
e-mail – dnoland@spokane-arc.org

Cathie's Notes

July and August have been very busy months for families receiving modifications under the DOJ program. We have built several wheelchair ramps and modified a few bathrooms. We currently are working with 11 families who need modifications which will provide for greater accessibility needed to live independently or safely in their homes. Your continued patience is appreciated as we try to identify contractors and get on their schedules to work with our families under this program.

In the coming months, please look for announcements about "DO IT YOURSELF" and Living Green workshops that we expect to offer in cooperation with SNAP personnel. The DO IT YOURSELF workshop show you some simple home maintenance techniques and will include ways to conserve energy which will help your household budget. The Living Green workshop will teach you how to improve your household and personal habits by recycling, reducing waste, and by making safe and non-toxic household cleaners. These practices help save money at home giving your budget a boost. I am taking pre-registration for these classes so if you are interested give me a call right away. This will help me plan for the size of the classes.

Our first-time homebuyer class held on July 24th and 25th was a success with 14 families from the community participating. I have to thank Cristi Zacherle for offering this class and helping families participate without me. For those of you who didn't hear...I was out sick with pneumonia for several weeks and just now getting back to my old self. Cristi always does a great job running homebuyer classes since she makes them fun as well as educational.

As we move into September we will be identifying families whose incomes fall under 80% of area median income who might be eligible to receive services from our new down payment assistance program. This program is in its' infancy but you will be hearing more about it as we create the rules and regulations. We expect to be able to layer this assistance with the HomeChoice /HouseKey program that we currently use from the Washington Housing Finance Commission. When it is in place, it will increase the buying power of some of our families.

Americans overall have a homeownership rate of nearly 70%. While only 10% of households headed by a person with a disability are homeowners. Buying a home is an important decision, and can be a complex and challenging process. Patience, realistic expectations, and a willingness to work hard to achieve your homeownership goal are required. HomeOwnership Opportunities is available to families as a guide, coach, and problem solver as they move through the process of obtaining homeownership. If you feel homeownership is a goal you wish to accomplish give us a call and start making your own plan.

HomeOwnership Opportunities

Household Tips—



This month I am sharing out of the ordinary tips for around the house. All ingredients can be bought at your local supermarket. I hope some of them make you smile just a little!

Dishwashers:

To clean your dishwasher use one package of Kool-Aide Lemonade, run it through a wash cycle and it will come out clean and smelling great. For cleaning iron deposits from dishwashers, Tang drink powder works well. Just fill the detergent section with Tang and run it through its regular cycle. It comes out clean as a whistle.

Garbage Disposal:

To clean a garbage disposal, run ice cubes and oranges or lemons through it. Another tip is to run hot water and baking soda in the disposal, then add a few drops of vanilla down your drain for a pleasant smell.

Melted Plastic:

If a plastic bread wrapper is left too close to your toaster and the plastic melts onto the appliance, you can remove it by rubbing it off with WD-40.

The Toilet:

With a spoon, pour 2 teaspoons of Tang into the toilet bowl and let it sit from 20 minutes to overnight. Use a toilet brush to clean the surface well, and be sure to get up under the rim well. Then flush.

Computer:

To easily clean your computer and keyboard use baby wipes. You will be amazed at how much dirt they actually pick up.

Animal Care:

If you are having problems with your puppy or dog chewing, I suggest using "Vicks Vapor Rub". Rub some of this onto the surface that you want your pet to avoid...the smell of it usually keeps their sensitive noses far enough away that chewing isn't an option!

Ants:

Instead of buying ant killer purchase a box of saltine crackers. Crumble the cracker and sprinkle over the ant pile. The salt in the cracker will make the ant explode.

Please come!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

Family Enrichment Weekends – by Families Together –

www.familiestogether.org

Sept. 7-9

“Children Who Challenge: Autism Focus”

Speakers - Eustacia Cutler & Laraine Adams
at Ross Point Camp, Post Falls, ID

Nov. 2-4

“Young Children.”

Speaker/Sharon Pieters
at Cleveland Hall, Pullman, WA



SIBSHOPS are being offered by Spokane Parent to Parent
and The Arc of Spokane

WHEN: October 20, 2007

TIME: 10:00 am-2:00 pm

WHERE: 116 W. Indiana

COST: \$5.00 (includes lunch)*

Please RSVP Terry Villalovoz at 328-6326 .



Please Join Us!

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit #223

