



Stepping Stones

SPRING 2014

Building strong foundations and a brighter future for Howard County children with special needs and their families

NEW PROJECT SEARCH TRANSITION PROGRAM

The Project SEARCH High School Transition Program is a unique, business-led, school-to-work program for high school students with disabilities. HCPSS will offer the program beginning with the 2014-15 school year at the Howard County government campus in Ellicott City.

Students in Project SEARCH will spend their day at the worksite, where they will participate in classroom instruction, career exploration and relevant job skills training. Each student will participate in three internships to explore a variety of career paths. Students will have real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youths with significant disabilities make successful transitions from school to productive and fulfilling adult life. The goal of the program is for students to be employed in nontraditional, complex and rewarding jobs. The presence of a Project SEARCH High School Transition Program can also bring about



long-term changes in business culture that have far-reaching positive effects on attitudes about hiring people with disabilities and the range of jobs in which they can be successful.

The program is for students seeking a Maryland Certificate of Completion who are in their last year of school, either those in 12th grade, or those who continue to receive services through the age of 21. The most important criterion for acceptance into Project SEARCH is a desire to achieve competitive employment upon completion of the program. Other requirements of the program include independent personal hygiene skills, independent daily living skills, appropriate behavior and social skills in the workplace or school setting, ability to take direction, ability to communicate effectively and a good attendance record. Students must also meet eligibility requirements for the Developmental Disabilities Administration and DORS (vocational rehabilitation).

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Early Intervention Facebook Page

Do you have a child receiving Early Intervention Services at home, in a RECC preschool, pre-k, or PALS program? Are you feeling like you'd like to connect with other families but don't know where to start? The Family Support and Resource Center is pleased to announce the creation of a Facebook page dedicated to families of children, birth to age 5, who are receiving Early Intervention Services in Howard County. On this page you will be able to connect and network with other families having the same experiences and stay up-to-date on the latest news and information from the Family Support and Resource Center. We will also feature tips from teachers and speech, occupational and physical therapists about supporting your child at home.

When the weather warms up, we'll host monthly playgroups at parks where you can connect with other families.

In order to become a member of this Facebook page, please log onto your Facebook account, go to the group titled "HCPSS Early Intervention Family Support" and click Join Group in the top-right corner. An administrator will verify your eligibility within two school days and you will begin to see our posts. This is a closed group and is restricted to families of children receiving Early Intervention Services. If you have any questions, please call the Family Support and Resource Center at 410-313-7161.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND RESOURCE CENTER

Howard County Public School System


8930 Stanford Blvd., Columbia, MD

Andrea_Holz@hcpss.org • Ann_Scholz@hcpss.org • 410.313.7161

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Happy New Year to all Howard County parents and staff members.

As we continue our work on behalf of students with disabilities let's remember to: Presume competence of students, staff and parents, remembering that this practice becomes evident in how we work together, collaborate with each other, ask questions, make suggestions and work together to provide exemplary programs and services for students in Howard County. I encourage you to consider what's possible, and what it would take to do improve programming for students. Let's examine the common core state standards with the lens of how students with disabilities can access these new, rigorous, exciting standards as we embark on college, career and community readiness for all. Let's remember to say thank you to those whose efforts to support students with disabilities don't go unnoticed. Core to our values, are the partnerships that are nurtured between parents, staff, and students. We strive to create, develop and implement excellent programs and services for each of our students. Let us know how we are doing and how your student is doing as they move through the Howard County Public School System. Go to <http://inclusivehappenings.wordpress.com> blog to offer your stories, experiences, challenges and celebrations so that we may continue to learn from each other. I look forward to seeing you at one of community meetings soon.


Patty Daley, Executive Director
Special Education and Student Services


Judy Pattik, Coordinator
Department of Special Education



Assistive Technology in ACTION Video Series

In the FCTD's newest Assistive Technology in Action video, you'll meet Nick, a young entrepreneur who owns his own lawn-care business. Nick uses assistive technologies, both low and high tech, that aid him in driving and accessing his laptop computer and tablet.

The AT in Action video series is brought to you by the Family Center on Technology and Disability (FCTD) and PACER Center. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), this fully-captioned video series is designed to strengthen awareness of AT devices that help individuals with disabilities participate fully in school, at home, and in the community. We invite you at www.youtube.com/user/FCTDvideo

To access all FCTD resources, please visit our website <http://www.fctd.info>.

New Project SEARCH Transition Program

Continued from front page

Project SEARCH has grown from one original program site at Cincinnati Children's Hospital to approximately 250 sites across 40 states and four countries. There are eight other Project SEARCH sites located in Maryland including Anne Arundel Medical Center, BWI Hilton and Aloft Hotels, Montgomery County Government, National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, University of Maryland, University of Maryland Medical Center, and Union Memorial Hospital.

The Arc of Howard County established the Project SEARCH partnership in Howard County, which includes the Howard County Government, The Arc of Howard County, Howard County Public School System, DORS, and the Howard County Autism Society.

If you have any questions about the program, please call the HCPSS Department of Special Education at 410 313-5351.

When is the Right Time to Tell Your Child About His Disability?

I've often been asked if I've told my son about his Asperger's diagnosis. My response has always been the same. "If Hunter had a medical condition I would give him all of the necessary information to help him manage his physical health. Why would I treat a neurological condition any differently?"

Why tell my child?

Knowledge and education are powerful tools. If Hunter had diabetes, I certainly wouldn't keep that fact from him. I would explain it to him and go over what that medically means, and teach him how to treat the condition. If he didn't have that information, he could potentially die from a diabetic reaction. Now, I don't believe he's at risk for death if I didn't explain his Asperger's to him, but he certainly can't learn to cope with the symptoms he experiences if he's never taught the tools. If no one ever talks about the "difference", then it's perceived to be bad. Plus, if you are always taking your child to doctors and therapists and not telling them why, they are left to develop their own conclusions which might include fears and thoughts of terminal illness. This discussion is not meant only for our children that can converse and ask questions. We sometimes forget that our children who are nonverbal may have just as many questions about their differences, but simply are not able to express their concerns. Just imagine how many questions may be locked inside our kids. Noted author William Stillman emphasizes that we must always presume intellect and remember that intelligence is not connected to verbal expression.

How do I tell my child?

It's all in how you frame it. Telling Hunter about his diagnosis doesn't imply that I've ever told him that what he has is bad, or debilitating, or something to keep hidden from others in shame. As a matter of fact, Hunter recently had to fill out a survey and it asked him to list if he had a disability. He checked the "no" box. At that moment I realized I've never used the term "disability" when talking about Autism with him. It's simply a difference. Point out the gifts that your child has, such as his intense passion or expertise. If you act nervous and upset then he'll think this is something awful.

What does my child need to know?

I first told Hunter about his Autism about five years ago (he's 11 now). But for this article I asked him to think about what he might want to know if I was just telling him for the first time now. He said there are three things he would want me to answer: What is Autism? Is it bad? How did you know I had Autism? I was surprised that he did not include "How did I get Autism?"

Keep in mind the child's age when you are formulating what you want to say, and how you answer their questions. Younger children are

better suited for the basic, minimal content as this is already a complex topic. Older children may want to supplement your discussions with their own online research.

When is the right time?

There's no perfect time. Don't wait for that "perfect" moment, or day or month. There will never be one. You will always be too busy, too overloaded, too tired, too nervous. Waiting doesn't lessen the impact and not telling your child won't make Autism go away. You have a diagnosis. This isn't a phase. If your child begins asking questions, that may be an ideal time to begin the conversation as it shows he is interested and open to knowing. And while there are no "perfect" times, there are however "bad" times. Refrain from blurting out the diagnosis during a challenging moment or right after a negative experience. Instead, tell your child about his diagnosis after a positive behavior or event and when things are calm (or relatively calm...). That helps you set the stage that it isn't "bad".

How do I present the information so my child will understand?

Provide the information in a manner that matches his learning style. When learning about something new, does your child prefer to read books? Talk with someone? Watch a video? Look at pictures?

Converse in emails or text messages?

Also keep in mind how much information your child is able to digest at one time. You may want to break the information up into small parts over several discussions, and tell your child that this is an open, and ongoing dialogue. Think about the discussions you have with your child's teachers about how your child learns best, and apply those same tactics.

Be mindful of your language. Remember, people with disabilities tend to have difficulty with euphemisms, metaphors, sarcasm, white lies or flowery language. You are not going to "soften the blow" by dancing around terms. Use straightforward literal matter-of-fact language to dissolve confusion.

Who should talk to my child about the diagnosis?

You might immediately say it should be the parents. Well, in many cases, the parents are the right people. However, if you are afraid that you might become too emotional and that your reaction may make your child upset, then you might want to ask a professional to help you or even explain the diagnosis to your child. A professional would be able to talk to your child in a matter-of-fact and objective way. You may also want to include additional people in your child's life to talk about your child's disability from their perspective relationship. Your child may benefit from talking with someone else who has that disability to learn about their perspective and experiences.

Should I include my other children in the discussion?

Don't leave the siblings out. There are days you will refuse to believe this statement, but your child's siblings are part of his natural support network. (Yes, even when they are fist fighting over the remote control.) You can encourage compassion, tolerance, patience and acceptance. Tell your child first before you tell his siblings because you don't want to create an environment where you child is "the last to know." For more resources for siblings, go to www.pathfindersforautism.org.

By Shelly McLaughlin, Pathfinders for Autism
www.pathfindersforautism.org.

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HEALTHY BODIES

A Guide for Puberty for Children with Disabilities

Puberty is a time of change for children, and often a time of challenge for parents looking for the “right” way to talk about the upcoming changes. It can be even more of a challenge for parents of children with developmental or physical disabilities.

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Disabilities has created two toolkits, one for boys and one for girls, that provide factual information about puberty. Topics include encouraging good hygiene, appropriate behavior, and how to deal with the body changes. The toolkits also suggest ways to approach these important conversations, especially with children with disabilities.

Each toolkit includes a separate appendix that features visual aids to help teach body parts, and social story images to help your child learn about appropriate behaviors. Parents can decide what information and guidelines they share with their children.

Both toolkits and the accompanying appendices can be downloaded for free at <http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/healthybodies>. The Family Support and Resource Center has copies of the guides in our library for checkout. Please call 410-313-7161 for more information.

Parents/Caregivers of Transition-Age Youth

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Howard County welcomes you to our support group for those facing the challenge of raising children and transition-age youth (ages 16-26) with mental health issues. We know that raising any child with a disability is hard. The support group facilitators also know firsthand that caring for a child or young adult whose symptoms are emotional and behavioral problems can be a nightmare. Our evening group meets the third Thursday of each month, 7:30-9 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 9325 Presbyterian Circle in Columbia. Check the board in the lobby for the room location. You do not need to be a member of NAMI to participate, all are welcome. For more information please call the NAMI office at 410-772-9300.

Mental Health Resources Unite

The Balanced Mind Foundation (TBMF) is joining forces with the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) to improve the mental health of, and facilitate wellness for, individuals living with mood disorders from childhood throughout adulthood.

TBMF Executive Director Susan Resko explains, “By joining forces, our members, volunteers, and supporters will not only benefit from renewed support for current TBMF programming, they will gain new educational and empowering tools and resources; will have new opportunities for in-person support for themselves and their children as they grow into adulthood; and will have a larger voice in shaping the future of mental health through DBSA’s research, peer specialist, and advocacy initiatives. Our ability to impact change will be exponentially greater together.”

Under a single organization, we can take advantage of administrative synergies such as shared administrative staff and office expenses, allowing us to better invest in our online support program. We will be able to provide consistent

support as our children transition into adulthood and throughout their lives. TBMF families will find the same programming they depend upon at www.thebalancedmind.org. Programs will also be accessible at www.dbsalliance.org.

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) is the leading peer-directed national organization focusing on the two most prevalent mental health conditions, depression and bipolar disorder. The group’s peer-based, wellness-oriented, and empowering services and resources are available when people need them, where they need them, and how they need to receive them, online 24/7, in local support groups, in audio and video casts, or in printed materials distributed by DBSA, their chapters, and mental health care facilities across the country. Through more than 750 support groups and nearly 300 chapters, DBSA reaches millions of people each year with in-person and online peer support; current, readily understandable information about depression and bipolar disorder; and empowering tools focused on an integrated approach to wellness.

Becoming an Adult:

Well before they reach the age of 21, families and caregivers must help young adults with special needs build skills in health literacy, self-management and self-advocacy—in short, the skills required to manage their own lives. All young people, regardless of diagnosis, need to be as involved as much as possible in their transition plans, which are often complicated by the need for multiple providers and changes in service systems.

Nemours has developed a series of videos now available on YouTube to help individuals, families and caregivers navigate these issues. The videos, made possible by a grant from NYMAC (New York/Mid-Atlantic Consortium for Genetics and Newborn Screening Services), cover four main areas: legal/financial, residential, vocational, and medical self-management. Find out more about these videos by visiting <http://www.nemours.org/about/mediaroom/press/dv/transition-videos.html>.



We Connect Now

We Connect Now is dedicated to uniting people interested in rights and issues affecting people with disabilities, with particular emphasis on college students and access to higher education and employment issues. One of the goals of the site is to help college students with disabilities to succeed in their studies by getting the information and support they need, both through resources, links, blogs, latest news, studying existing laws and regulations, and through personal contacts. Through this website people can also share and read other people’s stories as a source of support and comfort. We also want people using our webpage to take action by writing blogs, hosting an event, or

becoming involved in politics by knowing about upcoming legislation. Also, every month our webpage will focus on a particular disability or condition to bring our visitors more information and support related to our focus of the month. Through our jobs section, we also hope to help empower people with disabilities to find employment through job posting and job searching tips, and if people have any questions we encourage them to contact us. The goal of this site is that people leave it having gained knowledge, a support system and having taken action. For more information, please visit <http://weconnectnow.wordpress.com>.

SECAC Staff Recognition Evening

The Special Education Community Advisory Committee (SECAC) is seeking nominations for our annual Staff Recognition Evening. Each year, families are encouraged to nominate a person or group of people who have significantly enhanced their child's educational experience as they relate to four specific categories. The stories that families share of their student's success helps us highlight the innovative strategies and ideas that are working in each school, and allows us to share those ideas with families and staff.

Nominees may be teachers, bus drivers, guidance counselors, psychologists, administrators, nurses, paraprofessionals, occupational, physical and speech therapists or any other staff member. SECAC will accept nominations from parents, guardians or students. You may nominate an individual staff member, or a team of individuals that works with your child. The categories include:

Inclusive Practices:

Is meaningful inclusion a school-wide philosophy that enables all students to participate in the daily activities of the school community? Is your student a valued part of that community?

Promoting Independence:

Has the staff done something that enabled your student to make great strides in his or her independence? Did someone on your student's team presume your student could be competent in accomplishing a skill independently, and did the student face the challenge and prove them right?

Progress in Academic Areas:

Is your student making more academic progress than you have seen in the past? Why? What is the team doing that is working so well?

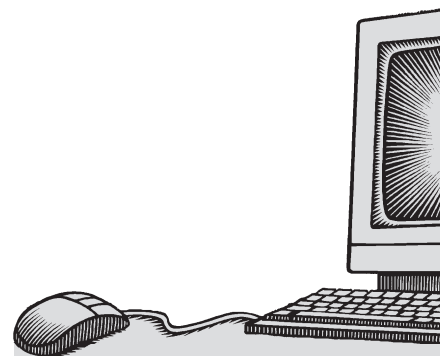
Promoting Parent/Staff Partnerships:

Is your school including you in the decision making process? Are you an active member of the IEP team? Is your input and opinion solicited and valued, and is there effective communication between the school and home?

If you are nominating an individual, please describe in 50-200 words some action, attitude or approach that you feel has made a difference related to one of the four listed categories. For team nominations, please describe in 50-400 words how the team has worked together to provide an exceptional educational experience for your student in one of the areas. If you are nominating a bus driver or bus aide, those nominees do not need to fit into one of the categories. Nominations must include correctly spelled names of each nominee and their title, the school and or bus company they work for, and your name, phone number and email address. If you have pictures of your child (with or without the nominee) and would like to contribute them to our SECAC Recognition Evening presentation, please forward them with your nomination letter.

Please e-mail your nomination to secacnomination@yahoo.com by Friday, April 11th. You will get a confirmation of receipt. All nominating families, the nominees and administrators will be invited to join us as we recognize these outstanding individuals. The date and location of the SECAC Recognition Evening will be announced later this month. There is no first, second or third place - we believe that all nominees should be recognized for their work!

For more information please call the Family Support and Resource Center at 410-313-7161.

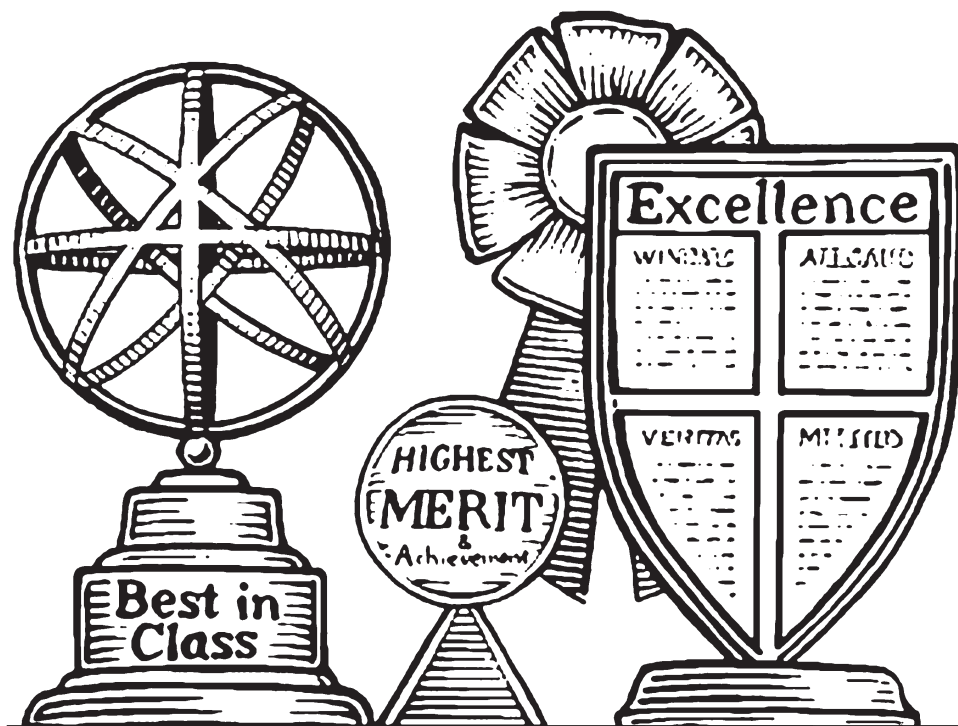


Sign Up to Get News You Can Use

Would you like to receive e-mails about upcoming workshops and news from the Family Support and Resource Center? Visit www.hcpsnews.com to sign up. If you are a new member, go to "subscribe" and check the box marked "HCPSS Office of Special Education" towards the bottom of the subscription page. You can also sign up to get information from your child's school. If you are already a member, please log onto the site and choose "account manager" then mark "click here if you want to receive news from the Howard County Office of Special Education." We promise not to bombard you with e-mail, just occasional communications about upcoming workshops and news you can use in supporting your child. Please call us at 410-313-7161 with questions.

Playgroup for Families of Children with Down Syndrome

The Family Support and Resource Center is pleased to announce a play group for parents of children with Down syndrome, ages birth through preschool. Come join us for an informal morning of play and actual adult conversation! We'll meet at 9:30 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month, including summer months. The location is Oakland Mansion, 5430 Vantage Point Road in Columbia. The room is located in the lower level, please park on the right side of the building and use the stairs leading to the lower level. Siblings are welcome. Call the Family Support and Resource Center at 410-313-7161 with questions.





Sensory Friendly Films

Going to the movies is a rite of passage for most children, but for some children with disabilities, it can be an overwhelming experience. That's where the Sensory Friendly Movie comes in. This movie showing has no

trailers. The volume will be kept down and the lights will be kept on (but dimmed). Audience members are free to get up, dance, walk, shout or sing during the showing. Bring the family and enjoy a fun morning at the movies in a safe and accepting environment. Sponsored by the Howard County Autism Society and AMC Theatres, Columbia 14.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m.; the movie starts promptly at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$6.50 a person at the door. The 2014 schedule at the AMC Theatres Columbia 14 at the Columbia Mall include:

March 29 - *Muppets Most Wanted*

April 19 - *Rio 2*

May 31 - *Maleficent*

June 21 - *How to Train Your Dragon 2*

July 26 - *Planes: Fire and Rescue*

September 27- *Dolphin Tale*

October 25 - *Book of Life*

November 29 - *Home 3-D*

December 13 - *Paddington*

Please call the theater at 410-423-0510 as the schedule is subject to change. The schedule is also available online at <https://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films>

Workshops and Seminars



Interpreters are available for all workshops sponsored by the Family Support and Resource Center. To request an interpreter, please call 410-313-1591 for Spanish, 410-313-1592 for Korean and 410-313-1589 for Chinese.

MARCH 2014

PARENT INFORMATION SERIES FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 6-8 p.m.

Math Skills and Strategies

Tuesday, April 1, 2014, 6-8 p.m.

Writing Strategies and Your Child

Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 6-8 p.m.

Summer Reading Strategies

Maryland Relay Office

301 W. Preston Street, Suite 1008 A • Baltimore, MD (you must have ID to enter building)

For more information or to register contact Cheri Dowling at cheri.dowling@msd.edu or 443-277-8899 (v/text). This workshop series is sponsored by The Maryland School for the Deaf, the Family Support and Resource Center and Maryland Parent Connections.

FEEDING ISSUES IN CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Tuesday, March 4, 2014 1-2:30 p.m.

The Howard County Autism Society

10280 Old Columbia Road, #215 • Columbia, MD

Presented by Diana Wolfe, MA, BCBA, Verbal Beginnings. Feeding Issues come in many different forms. For instance does your child eat less than 20 foods? 5 foods? Does he/she have trouble swallowing? Are they gagging or even vomiting? Many children with autism spectrum disorders develop food selectivity or what is also called "picky eating." Participants will learn what assessments should be completed before starting feeding therapy, and will identify strategies that have been demonstrated to be successful in helping children with autism learn to eat new foods. This workshop is sponsored by Pathfinders for Autism and the Howard County Autism Society, for more information or to register please visit <http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/> and click on "Register for Training and Events" on the right side, or call 443-330-5370.

AUTISM AND PROBLEM BEHAVIOR: ADDRESSING PROBLEM BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOL AND HOME SETTINGS

Friday, March 7, 2014 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 8, 2014 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Owen Brown Interfaith - Hall A

7246 Cradlerock Way • Columbia, MD

This workshop presented by Tom Caffrey, M.Ed., BCBA will provide teachers and parents with reinforcement-based approaches for addressing problem behavior. Tom Caffrey

will focus on the assessment and treatment of problem behavior maintained by the two most common functions: social negative reinforcement (to get out of demands), and social positive reinforcement (to get tangible items, activities, attention). Registration: \$50 per person; 100 seats available. Contact info@howard-autism.org for registration information. Hosted by Howard County Autism Society, Rise for Autism, and the Howard County Public School System.

ENCOURAGING COMMUNICATION DEVICE USE AT HOME

Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

County Diagnostic Center, Redwood Room
5451 Beaverkill Road • Columbia, MD

The SETT Process Exploration of Low, Mid and High Tech Devices. Please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W3983BJ> or call Mary Beth at 410-313-5366 to reserve your space for these free workshops. Sponsored by HCPSS Department of Special Education and Student Services and presented by members of the Instructional Access Team.

ADHD MEDICATIONS 101

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 7 p.m.

Ellicott City Senior Center

9401 Frederick Road • Ellicott City, MD

Speaker Dr. Brett Greenberger, M.D. (Psychiatrist) will discuss effective treatment of ADHD in families, different types of medications and typical side effects to expect. Sponsored by CHADD, for more information please visit www.chadd-mc.org.

SCHOOL 411

Thursday, March 20, 2014, 7-9 p.m.

The Howard County Autism Society

10280 Old Columbia Road, #215 • Columbia, MD

This program will help parents get to know the stable of supports available through the HPCSS Department of Special Education. The focus will be learning about the specific roles of school and central office staff including Instructional Team Leaders, principals and assistant principals, school psychologists, counselors, resource teachers, instructional facilitators, instructional access teams, and speech, occupational and physical therapists. This event is not autism specific and is open to all families regardless of their child's disability. For more information please call 410-290-3466 or visit www.howard-autism.org.

MARCH 2014 CONTINUED

SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW WORKSHOP: IEP DEVELOPMENT – MODIFICATIONS AND DATA COLLECTION

March 24, 2014, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Howard County Autism Society
10280 Old Columbia Road, #215 • Columbia, MD

Presented by Leslie Seid Margolis, Managing Attorney, Maryland Disability Law Center. This workshop will review the components of the IEP, with a focus on instructional and assessment accommodations and modifications, and will cover the use of data and research to make decisions such as ESY and in goal-setting. Ample time will be allowed for questions. Free. RSVP not required, but appreciated. This event is not autism specific and is open to all families regardless of their child's disability. For more information please call 410-290-3466 or visit www.howard-autism.org.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FAIR

March 26, 2014, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cedar Lane School
11630 Scaggsville Rd. • Fulton, MD

The Assistive Technology Fair is open to parents and professionals. Vendors will be available to share information about a variety of assistive technology. Local and state agencies will also be in attendance to answer questions. For more information please contact Elizabeth Augustin, 410-313-5355, or elizabeth_augustin@hcpss.org.

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY FAIR

March 29, 2014, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

East Columbia Branch Library
6600 Cradlerock Way • Columbia, MD

Stop by for a celebration for young children ages 3-5 years old and their families for free hand-on activities relating to school readiness including interactive games, songs, crafts and stories. The theme for 2014 is Preschool STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). For more information, contact the Office of Children's Services by calling 410-313-1940 or e-mailing children@howardcountymd.gov.

APRIL 2014

BECOMING AN EXPERT COMMUNICATION PARTNER

April 8, 2014, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

County Diagnostic Center, Redwood Room
5451 Beaverkill Road • Columbia, MD

Please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W3983BJ> or call Mary Beth at 410-313-5366 to reserve your space for these free workshops. Sponsored by HCPSS Department of Special Education and Student Services and presented by members of the Instructional Access Team.

BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

April 9, 2014, 7-8:30 p.m.

Kennedy Krieger Institute, Greenspring Campus
3825 Greenspring Avenue • Baltimore, MD
Bowles Building, 4th floor board room
(Kennedy Krieger High School)
Speaker Maureen van Stone, Esq., M.S.
Director, Project HEAL at KKI Associate
Director, MCDD. For more information
please email resourcefinder@kennedykrieger.org
or call 800-390-3372.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTION AND VIDEO GAMING

April 15, 2014, 7 p.m.

Ellicott City Senior Center
9401 Frederick Road • Ellicott City, MD
Dr. Vince Culotta, M.D. (NeuroPsychiatrist)
will discuss why so many of our kids become
hooked on electronic gaming. Evidence based
research on the risks of gaming and children
with ADHD will be discussed. Sponsored by
CHADD. For more information please visit
www.chadd-mc.org.

CIRCLE OF SECURITY: ROADMAP TO BUILDING SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS

April 22, 2014 and April 23, 2014, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

April 29, 2014 and April 30, 2014, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

BITP Office
3002 Druid Park Drive • Baltimore, MD
Feeling stressed, frustrated or overwhelmed
when your child's behavior is demanding,
aggressive or clingy? Want to learn how to
support your child's emotional needs? Come
learn more about ways to manage your child's
behavior and understand your child's needs.
Presented by University of Maryland Taghi
Modarressi, Center for Infant Study, and
Andrea Downing, LGSW. Please RSVP to
Davon Wilson, Family Support, 410-396-1666
or davon.wilson@baltimorecity.gov.

SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW WORKSHOP: DISCIPLINE, RESTRAINT, AND SECLUSION

April 28, 2014, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Howard County Autism Society
10280 Old Columbia Road, #215 • Columbia, MD

Presented by Leslie Seid Margolis, Managing Attorney, Maryland Disability Law Center. This workshop will explain the legal requirements of the discipline process for students with disabilities, and will address the importance of functional behavior assessments and behavior intervention plans. Additionally, Ms. Margolis will discuss Maryland's regulations governing restraint and seclusion of students in the education setting. Ample time will be allowed for questions. Free. RSVP not required, but appreciated. This event is not autism specific and is open to all families regardless of their child's disability. For more information please call 410-290-3466 or visit www.howard-autism.org.

MAY 2014

MARYLAND EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

May 15, 2014, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hearing and Speech Agency
5900 Metro Drive • Baltimore, MD

Presenters are Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, Ph.D. and Beth Benedict, Ph.D. Dr. Yoshinaga-Itano is both a teacher of individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing and an audiologist. She has conducted research in the areas of language, speech, and social-emotional development of infants and children who are deaf and hard of hearing for over thirty years. Dr. Benedict is a Professor in the Department of Communication Studies. Her work has focused on family involvement in schools with children who are deaf and hard of hearing, early childhood education, advocacy, early communication and partnerships between deaf and hearing professionals. This meeting has been funded through a grant by the State of Maryland, Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. For more information contact Cheri Dowling at 443-277-8899 or CAD800@aol.com

COGNITIVE BEHAVIOR THERAPY MEETS SOCIAL THINKING

May 20, 2014, 7 p.m.

Ellicott City Senior Center
9401 Frederick Road • Ellicott City, MD
Cognitive Behavior Therapy Meets Social Thinking. Presented by Judith M. Glasser, Ph.D. and Susan M. Abrams, M.A., CCC-SLP. Sponsored by CHADD, for more information please visit www.chadd-mc.org



WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

There is a wealth of information available for parents of children with special needs. Our responsibility is to provide a variety of resources so you can make informed decisions for your family. The Family Support and Resource Center and the HCPSS do not endorse any group or point of view. We do recommend, however, that you sample workshops and seminars that may be of interest to you and browse the following resources to further add to your knowledge of children with special needs. Please feel free to provide us with feedback on any of the events or resources listed in this publication. Thank you.

Resources * Resources * Resources * Resources * Resources

ABILITIES NETWORK: Abilities Network provides customized services to children, adults and families of differing abilities that focus on one-on-one supports to foster broadened, more inclusive communities through education, training and advocacy. Call 410-828-7700 or 1-800-492-2523 or visit www.abilitiesnetwork.org.

ABILITIES NETWORK SPEAKER SERIES AND DISCUSSION GROUP: Monthly discussions on disability related topics. This group is recommended for individuals with disabilities, as well as their families and caregivers. For more information, please call Cassandra Hitchcock at Abilities Network, 410-828-7700.

ARC OF HOWARD COUNTY: The Arc of Howard County works to improve the lives of children and adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities and their families. Visit www.archoward.org or call 410-730-0638.

ASPERGERS SUPPORT GROUP, HCAS: Second Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Howard County Autism Society Resource Center, 10280 Old Columbia Rd, Suite 215 in Columbia. Visit: www.howard-autism.org. For more information, call 410-290-3466 or email elainemcauliffe@yahoo.com.

BIOMEDICAL GROUP: Discussion of biomedical/integrative treatments for autism. Meets every other month on the second Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. Nourishing Journey, 10440 Shaker Drive Suite 105, Columbia. Contact Jennifer Palmer at jenn_palmer@comcast.net or Remy Nirschl at mrnirschl@gmail.com for more information.

CHADD PARENT SUPPORT GROUP: The Howard County CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder) Parent Support Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Ellicott City Senior Center. There will be no meeting in March. For more information please visit www.chadd-mc.org. The meeting is open to the public. Monthly topics and more details can be found at www.chadd-mc.org or by contacting krenzi@norbelschool.org. All families with children who have learning differences are encouraged to attend.

CHESAPEAKE DOWN SYNDROME PARENT GROUP: Serving families of and persons with Down syndrome by providing information and support. A bimonthly newsletter includes information about upcoming workshops and conferences, a calendar of local, state and national activities, articles submitted by members, listings of resources, advocacy information, book reviews, and more. Call 410-321-5434 or visit www.cdspg.org.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: The Community Connections is a project of the Department of Special Education at the University of Maryland, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The goals of this project are to increase opportunities for young children with special needs to participate in the community, promote awareness of persons with disabilities, and provide support to people and organizations. Visit www.communityconnections.umd.edu.

DEPRESSION AND BIPOLAR DISORDER: Depression and Related Affective Disorder Association meets every second and fourth Sunday, 3-5 p.m. in Ellicott City. Call 410-740-2618 or 410-750-0811

DEPRESSION AND BIPOLAR DISORDER: Howard County General Hospital Wellness Center offers hope to people with depression and bipolar disorder. Meets every second and fourth Friday, 6:45-8:45 p.m. for people to share their experiences and coping skills. The center is located at 11055 Little Patuxent Parkway. Call 301-536-8262 or 443-956-8494.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Accelerating the achievement of underachieving student groups through comprehensive programs of school, family and community partnerships. Jean Lewis, 410-313-6794; Jean_Lewis@hcpss.org

HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA: Support group meets every third Thursday, 7-9 p.m. at 10280 Old Columbia Road, Suite 215, Columbia, MD 21046. Call 410-290-3466 or visit www.howard-autism.org.

HUMANIM: Humanim has five core service areas: Mental Health, Vocational, Neuro-Rehabilitation, Developmental Disabilities and Deaf Services. Services are available to children, adolescents, adults and older adults. Humanim seeks to develop access to quality care for those in greatest need regardless of age, gender, geography, ethnicity or human service requirements. Call 410-381-7171 or visit <http://www.humanim.com>.

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN LEARNING ASSOC., INC.: Information and support for parents and teachers of highly able children with learning disabilities. Meets every second Monday, 7 p.m., Linden-Linthicum United Methodist Church, Clarksville. Visit www.gifteddifferentlearners.org or contact them at info@gifteddifferentlearners.org.

KIDS TOGETHER INC.: The mission of Kids Together Inclusion is to discuss and share information on inclusive education using technology, adaptations, modifications, and problem solving to make general education classrooms accessible to all children. Visit www.kidstogether.org or www.freelists.org/webpage/kidstogether to sign up for the listserv.

LEARNING DISABILITY ASSOCIATION: The Howard County chapter of the Learning Disability Association invites parents of children with learning disabilities to join their e-list. The list is used to send information on meetings, seminars and updated information on LD. To be added to the list, e-mail howard@ldamd.org or call 888-265-6459.

LOCATE: ENHANCED SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES: Locate helps parents find child care or summer camp for children with special needs. A trained special needs counselor can assist you in finding inclusive, regulated childcare programs. Call 410-625-1113 or 800-390-3372.

MARYLAND COALITION OF FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH: Dedicated to improving services and building a network of information and support across Maryland for children with mental health needs and their families. Call 410-730-8267 or visit www.mdcoalition.org.

MOMS NIGHT OUT: Moms Night Out meets for dinner the first Tuesday at a local restaurant. The group offers support and networking opportunities for parents of children with special needs in Howard County. To be added to their e-mail list send a note to HoCoMoms@yahoo.com.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS: NAMI is a national non-profit organization that endeavors to bring a better understanding of mental health issues to families and other members of society through advocacy, support and education. Visit www.nami.org or www.namihcmd.org. NAMI offers a new support group for parents of children and adolescents with mental health issues. Meets every second Monday 12 p.m., and every last Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, Columbia. Call 410-772-9300 or visit www.nami.org/sites/namihowardcounty.

OUTREACH TO SPANISH SPEAKING FAMILIES: Family support and resources are available at Parents Place of Maryland in Spanish. A staff member is available to help families understand their rights in special education and to assist organizations in supporting Spanish-speaking families. Call 410-768-9100.

GRANDPARENTS AS PARENTS (GAP): Are you raising a relative's child? Are you a grandparent raising a grandchild? Have you had a child placed with you by an agency? Are you filling a gap in a child's life? For Grandparents as Parents information, call the CARE Center at 410-313-CARE (2273).

PARENTS' PLACE OF MARYLAND: Parents' Place of Maryland is a parent organization that offers training and assistance to families on special education and health care issues. They provide one-on-one support to help families navigate the special education maze, and help them advocate for the health care needs of their children. All support and information is also offered in Spanish. Visit www.ppmmd.org or call 410-768-9100 for more information. To subscribe to their e-mail newsletter please email info@ppmd.org with "subscribe" in the subject line.

THE RESOURCE FINDER: The Resource Network provides information and resources on developmental disabilities for parents and professionals such as: specific developmental disabilities; local, state and national associations; educational, recreational and child care resources; service providers; and specialists. Call 1-800-390-3372 or visit www.resourcefinder.kennedykrieger.org.

SECAC: SECAC is an independent group of parents, community partners, service providers and educators that provide feedback to the Department of Special Education. Being involved in SECAC enables you to collaborate with the department on local issues and has the potential to facilitate positive changes in the delivery of services and the achievement of all students with disabilities. For more information, please e-mail chair@howardsecac.org, visit www.howardsecac.org, or call the Family Support and Resource Center at 410-313-7161.

