

The Coalition

December 2007

Family Resource Center for Disabilities & Special Needs
Parent Training & Resource Center
Advocacy Coalition for People with Disabilities

Resolve to Learn New Things



Here's How

“Pulling Together - It Works Wonders”

2008 Of Hopes & Dreams Conference

Sponsored by Family Connections

Friday & Saturday, Feb. 22 & 23. The conference will be held at the Brookland Banquet & Conference Center in West Columbia. A special Family Night Social will be held in conjunction with the conference at EdVenture Children's Museum in Columbia. Conference rates vary by classification of attendee and begin as low as \$25 per day. Please contact Family Connections at 800-578-8750 for more detailed conference information including exact conference schedule and address/directions.

Special Education Law and Resource Expo

Presented by Mitch Yell Ph.D.

Sponsored by the South Carolina Autism Society
Saturday, January 26, from 9AM-4PM at St. Andrew's Parrish Community Life Center, 503 37th Ave., N. Myrtle Beach. Cost is \$25 per person. Contact the SCAS at 1-800-438-4790 or register online at www.scautism.org

Dr. Yell, a Professor at the University of South Carolina, authored The Law and Special Education. Dr. Yell is also the Special Education consultant for the Parent Training and Resource Center Peer Parent Mentor Program. Dr. Yell is an engaging speaker who provides ample time for questions.

Functional Communication: Enhancing Communication to Enhance Quality of Life

Presented by Darlene Magito McLaughlin Ph.D.

Sponsored by the South Carolina Autism Society
Thursday, January 31, from 8:30 AM (Registration) until 4 PM at the Columbia Conference Center, 169 Laurelhurst Ave., Columbia. Cost is \$50 per person and includes lunch. Contact the SCAS at 1-800-438-4790 or

register online at www.scautism.org

Dr. Magito McLaughlin is founder and President of Positive Behavior Support Consulting and Psychological Resources, P.C. During her professional career she has worked in a variety of capacities to support children, adolescents, and adults with severe problem behavior.

Wright's Law “Special Education Law and Advocacy” Conference

Presented by Peter Wright, Esq.

Sponsored by PRO-Parents of SC
Saturday, February 27 from 8 AM (Registration) until 4:30 PM at the SC State Museum, 301 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 292201\803) 898-4921. This is a **free** workshop AND attendees will receive a copy of Wrightslaw: Special Education Law, 2nd Edition and Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy, 2nd Edition (a retail value \$50.00)

Please contact Pro Parents at 800-759-4776 to register or visit their website:

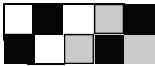
http://www.proparents.org/news_events.html#Wrightslaw_Special_Education_Law_and_Advocacy for registration instruction. This promises to be a well attended workshop; register now to guarantee a spot.

PRO-Parents is sponsoring the following two free workshops in our area

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Let the PTRC Provide Training for Your Group

Let the experienced training staff at the Parent Training and Resource Center provide training workshops for your parent support group or staff in-service days. A wide variety of topics are available and there is no charge. If you work with parents or professionals in the tri-county and would like us to bring our training workshops to you, please contact Susan Clark at 266-1318. Consider the following list of topics:

The Family Resource Center for Disabilities & Special Needs and the Parent Training and Resource Center: An overview of what we are, how we are funded, what we do and how to access our services. Approximately 30-45 minutes.

IDEA 2004*: PowerPoint presentation of the revised IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act) An overview of the law itself, subsections on the evaluation process, how a child is referred and at what age, what the evaluation consists of, how often a child should be reevaluated. A subsection on IEPs, transitional IEP's for preschool, what an IEP contains, who should be present, rights of parents if they disagree, special considerations, and a subsections on Least Restrictive Environment, procedural safeguards for parents, private school placement and alternative educational settings. Full workshop is approximately 2 hrs but it can be shortened as requested by removing or shortening specific sections.

Is Your Child a Target of Bullying?* This PowerPoint presentation helps parents & educators determine if a child is being bullied, what to do about it, and why children with special needs are often targets. Approximately 1 ½ hrs.

Parent and Professional Collaboration-A Cultural Perspective*: This PowerPoint discusses how cultural differences can make it difficult to understand behaviors and attitudes and why it is important to understand the culture of others before discussing a child's behavior or learning difficulties with family members. How our own culture affects the way in which we view behavior in children who are of different cultural backgrounds. Approximately 1-1/2 hrs long.

Preparing for School Success: Before starting a new school year, what parents need to know and do to be sure the year is a good one for their child and for the entire family are covered in this PowerPoint presentation. Approximately 1-1 ½ hrs

Crash Course in Special Education: A brief PowerPoint overview of special education services, content of the IEP, who is eligible and how the process of receiving services takes place. Approximately 45 minutes to one hour.

Positive Behavioral Interventions*: Discusses why behaviors occur and how use of positive behavioral interventions as opposed to punishment can teach new behaviors and includes examples of positive behavioral intervention techniques. Especially helpful for teachers & group child care providers. Approximately 2 hours.

Mentoring Positive Parent and School Partnerships: A PowerPoint presentation that covers the role of Peer Parent Mentors in the IEP process. Approximately 1hour.

Responsiveness to Intervention (Rtl)*: Schools are using new ways to Identify students with Specific Learning Disabilities. This PowerPoint presentation defines Rtl and compares it to Early Intervening Services. This helpful workshop also covers the use of Rtl to prevent mislabeling students with learning disabilities. (Helpful to teachers in the elementary grades especially.) Also helpful for parents trying to understand the RTI process. Approximately one hour.

Families Are Important – An Early Childhood workshop for Families of Infants and Toddlers with Developmental Delay: This workshop covers services available for infants and toddlers with

developmental delays, who provides the services and how and where they are delivered. Approximately 2 hrs. This PowerPoint is especially helpful for families and providers of child care for infants and toddlers.

Solving the Employment Puzzle for Youth with Disabilities*: Transition from school to work, services available for adults with disabilities, and how and when to begin to access the services are explained in this Powerpoint presentation. Approximately 1 ½ hrs.

Understanding ADHD*: This workshop is a comprehensive PowerPoint discussion about the symptoms, causes, treatments and educational recommendations for students with ADHD. Approximately 2 hours.

Assistive Technology*: This workshop defines and explains assistive technology, where it can be used and how and where to obtain it for use in the classroom and at home. Approximately 1.5 hours

Youths with Disabilities and the Juvenile Justice System*: An informative PowerPoint presentation that discusses the difficulties faced by children with disabilities & their parents when dealing with the Juvenile Justice System. Approximately 1.5 hrs

Transition – Leaving the School House Behind (Where do we go from here?): This PowerPoint covers the key points that need to be considered during transition planning for students with disabilities. Emphasis is put on early planning and bringing the student into the discussion concerning post secondary options. Approximately 1 hr.

Creating Family Friendly Schools: Nurturing parent involvement is important for school success. This PowerPoint presentation provides ideas and suggestions to involve families with local schools and the importance of making families feel welcome. Describes programs implemented by schools across the country to accomplish this goal. Approximately 1.5 hrs.

Project REST (Restraint: Efficacy, Safety & Training): This PowerPoint led workshop touches on key aspects to consider when a student with disabilities is experiencing behavior problems that may result in the use of restraint. Topics covered include training, legal issues and appropriate guidelines for managing difficult behavior. Workshop attendees will receive a copy of “Manual of Recommended Practice” on cd. Approximately 1 hour.

No Child Left Behind*: This comprehensive PowerPoint presentation provides a good overview on this complex legislation and what it really means. The correlation between IDEA and NCLB, and the affect on obtaining services for children with disabilities is covered in this 2 hour presentation.

Accessing Community Resources: Learn what resources are available in Berkeley, Dorchester, and Charleston Counties to support individuals with disabilities & their families. This PowerPoint presentation provides important information and invites audience members to share their knowledge about community resources. Approximately 1 hour.

The Time is Now – Diversity Inclusion for Parent Centers & Advocates*: This PowerPoint workshop provides a look at the need for increasing the involvement of diverse families in Parent Center (our PTRC) services. Approximately 1.5 hours

ADA Title I: Employment & Reasonable Accommodations in the Workplace*: Attendees at this PowerPoint presentation will learn how to determine reasonable accommodations and whether the accommodations are being applied in the workplace. Approximately 1 hour.

*Indicates curricula vetted by the US Department of Education

To schedule a workshop for your group please contact Susan Clark at the Family Resource Center at 843-266-1318. Workshops (including all materials) are free & open to the public.

Resolve To Learn Opportunities continued

(For more info on call 866-863-1512):

ADD/ADHD Workshop

Presented by Gayle Munn

Thursday, January 24, at 7:00 PM at the Cross Community Church of the Nazarene, 5391 Dorchester Road, North Charleston

Positive Behavior Interventions (PBI)

Presented by Melinda Hawk

Saturday, February 9, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the Western Sizzler, Highway 52, Moncks Corner

The Charleston County School District, Office of Exceptional Children provides free workshops to parents of children with disabilities in Charleston County. Please contact Kay Ciganovic (843-937-6483) to register for:

Preschool Talk Series-Social Interactions

Presented by Keri Bowers and Laura Peacock Smith.

Thursday, January 31, 9-10:30 AM, at the CCSD Main Office, 75 Calhoun St., Charleston. This session will be devoted to presenting strategies that work with preschool children with exceptional needs as they develop social skills.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

Presented by Kathy Lewis, Behavior Coach.

Tuesday, February 12, 7-8:30 PM at the Charleston County Library, Calhoun St (across from CCSD Main Office). The target audience for this workshop is parents and teachers concerned about children with behavior issues at school. Participants will learn how positive behavioral interventions are helpful in changing behaviors. Strategies will be shared that can be used in the schools and at home.

Asperger's Syndrome

Presented by Patricia Daughtry, CCSD Psychologist.

Tuesday, February 26, 10-11:30 AM at the Charleston County Library, Calhoun St. The target audience for this workshop is parents and others interested in Asperger's Syndrome. Participants will learn how to help children with Asperger's Syndrome be successful in school.

Writing Your Child's IEP Goals

Presenter to be announced

Tuesday, March 4, 10-11:30 AM, Charleston County Library. Parents of children with IEPs will learn how to use data to help develop appropriate, measurable goals for their child.

Subtle Bullying: How to Protect your Child

Presenter to be announced

Tuesday, March 18, 10-11:30 AM, at the Charleston County Library, Calhoun Street. 2008: Participants will learn how to identify bullying and to develop strategies to help their children.

Share learning with your child. Take advantage of FREE admission to the Children's Museum of the Lowcountry - See Page 9 to learn how.

CHILD PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT FOR AUTISM STUDY

MUSC Pediatrics is conducting a research pilot study involving children with Autism. All participants need to be identified by the end of January. There are currently spots available for 6 girls and 3 boys between the ages of 3 and 10. Children must have a diagnosis of Autism (children with other spectrum disorders will not be considered).

The study is entitled Neurodevelopmental Biology and Gender Differences in Autism. Dr. Eve Spratt, MD (pediatrician and child psychiatrist) is leading the research that is intended to bring further understanding of Autism. The total study time is approximately 3 hours on a given morning appointment. Parents remain with their child throughout the whole 3 hours and will be required to provide developmental data in the form of questionnaires and surveys. Additionally, a release of information is necessary to obtain diagnostic data from the person who provided the Autism diagnosis. The professionals conducting the study will require saliva, urine, and blood samples. Numbing agents are available for the blood stick. Study staff will work patiently with the children to collect samples so parents are encouraged to think about participation even if they fear their child may be hypersensitive to collecting samples. Parents will be notified if any of the lab results fall outside the normal limits.

The study appointment will be conducted at the General Clinical Research Center at MUSC located at 96 Jonathan Lucas Street, downtown; parking validation will be provided. Families will receive a \$50 gift card to WalMart once they have completed their participation in the study. If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact LoriAnn Ueberroth, Research Program Coordinator, at 876-1507.

SAVE THE DATE

**South Carolina Annual Conference for
Caregivers of Young Children
April 5th 2008**

Register by January 31 and receive a 10% discount on the \$55 registration fee
Call: 763-3067 to learn more

TOURETTE SYNDROME ASSOCIATION (TSA) PROGRAMS FOR PROFESSIONALS

The TSA, in partnership with the US Centers for Disease Control, has begun their 4th year of providing programs to increase understanding and awareness of Tourette Syndrome. There is a series directed to Medical and Allied Professionals and a series for Education/ School Based Teachers and Clinicians. The Programs use technologically advanced resources such as live web-based programs, teleconferencing and dissemination of learning materials as well as face-to-face grand rounds, seminars and workshops.

If your Medical facility, School District, or other professional organization is interested in having TSA present this program in your area, contact: Gary Frank, ACSW, LCSW, Executive Vice President, Tourette Syndrome Association:

gary.frank@tsa-usa.org or call: 718-224-2999 ext. 235

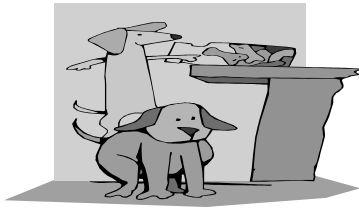
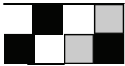
(Parents: Share this info with your child's teachers & physicians)

Parents Morning Out for Conversation & Support

March 13, 2008 - 9-10:30 AM

Park Circle Coffee and Cream
1078 Montague Ave.
North Charleston

Join Kay Ciganovic, CCSD Parent Advocate, Office of Exceptional Children, and other parents of children with disabilities for a morning of sharing thoughts, concerns, good ideas, bad ideas, joy, & laughter.



A GOOD SUPPORT SYSTEM CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE - LOOK FOR SUPPORT FROM AMONG THESE AREA GROUPS:

Advocacy Coalition For People with Disabilities (ACPD) For information contact Paula Byers 795-5316

Trident Head Injury Support Group: meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30, at the HASCI Center, St. Andrews Shopping Center, Savannah Hwy, Charleston. Contact Robert Durland at 270-5001 or Lee Anne Bellamy at 852-5550 ext. 11

HIPS (Head Injury Support Group for Survivors): meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 1:00-2:30 PM at the HASCI Center, St. Andrews Shopping Center, Savannah Hwy, Charleston. Contact Lee Anne Bellamy at 852-5550 ext.11

Low Country Polio Survivors Network : no longer meets

Down Syndrome Association of the Low Country: sponsors four Information Programs and four Social Events each year - in addition to Mothers Night Out. For more information call 553-3725 or check their website at www.dsalowcountry.org for a complete calendar of events.

Parent & Guardian Association of the Coastal Center: holds general meetings four times a year. The meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday in January, April, July, & October, for more info call Barbara West at 821-5809.

Rett's Syndrome Support: for families needing a contact person to access support services for girls with Rett's Syndrome contact Nancy Banov at 556-4632

Tourette's Syndrome Support Group: no longer meets

Autism Support Groups: 1st Monday of each month at Vickery's in Mt. Pleasant at 6:30 PM. Contact Laurie Priester at 884-3062 for information. A group also meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in North Charleston at 6:30 PM. at Carolina Children's Charities office at 6296 Rivers Ave. Suite 300. Contact Kelly Herrick at 863-1445 for information regarding meeting changes or email at specialneedssupportsc@yahoo.com. In the Summerville area a group meets from 6:30-8 PM at the Summerville YMCA (900 Cross Creek Drive off Trolley Rd.) Childcare is provided For more information please contact Kima at 821-9337. **The Coastal Autism Division** support group for parents of children newly diagnosed with autism no longer meets.

The Palmetto Autism Spectrum Support Group meets at Palmetto Behavioral Health at 2750 Speissegger Drive suite 106 in North Charleston. The group is geared to the needs of children with high functioning autism or Aspergers although no one is turned away. The meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 6-8PM. For additional information contact Elizabeth Thames (pronounced Tims) at 571-6301 or email her at elthames@comcast.net.

Heart to Heart: a group for patients, family members & parents of individuals with congenital heart disease no longer meets. Parents of children with heart disease who are interested in managing the group and holding regular meetings should contact Robin Ellinger at 792-3179

Epilepsy Support Group - For individuals with epilepsy, caregivers/spouses, and volunteers. MUSC Harper Student Center. (843) 953-5720, www.epilepsyfoundation.org/local/socarolina.

The disAbility Resource Center support group meets the fourth Monday of each month from 5-7PM. Call 225-5080 for more information.

Support Groups Continued

The Tri County support Group for Tweens and Teens with Diabetes (ages 10-17 and parents) meets the second Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00 PM. Contact Melanie Robinson at 792-3561 or 1-800-305-4173 for more information.

Turner Syndrome Society Support Group: The Palmetto Chapter of the Turner Syndrome Society of the United States is back! To learn more, please contact Robin Butler at (843) 252-9622 or e-mail auntrobin74@yahoo.com. You may also contact Cheryl Dashnaw at (843) 327-6769 or e-mail at minibotl@sc.rr.com for more information.

The Parent/Family Support Group, will be offered in five consecutive sessions on Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. The group will be lead by Dr. Jennifer Gans and an MUSC resident co-leader and will run in a five week session format. The cost of each meeting will be \$10. The meetings will be held off the MUSC campus at the private practice office of Dr. Gans located at 235 Calhoun St. Call (843) 532-1010 for more information or to register.

Grief Support Group for Children - Heartland Hospice bereavement group for children on coping through the holidays. For ages 6-8 and 8-10. 3 South Park Circle, Ste. 280. Free, (843) 766-7696.

Sickle Cell Sisters (for teenage girls with sickle cell disease)

Sickle Cell Sisters is a therapeutic support group for teenage girls between the ages of 13 and 18. The group focuses on psychosocial aspects of living with sickle cell disease. This support group meets every other month. For more information about this group contact Christine Campbell Marcoux (843) 792-4152 or Jennifer Redfern (843) 792-2466

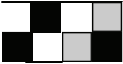
Can-Teen (for teenagers with cancer) Can-Teen is a support group for adolescents with cancer. Can-teen provides opportunities for teens to meet their peers, have fun, offer resources and promote well-being and leadership. Can-Teen was created to bring teenagers with cancer together so they can share experiences, help those that are newly diagnosed and to build friendships. This group meets on a monthly basis. For more information, call Michelle Vandermaas at (843)792-1380 or Christine Campbell at (843) 792-4152 or visit the Can-Teen Web site at www.can-teen.net.

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of the Charleston area offers support group meetings for individuals who suffer from a brain disorder and for family members and caregivers of those who have severe and persistent mental illness. The meetings are 6-7:15 p.m. the second Monday of every month at First Christian Church, 1293 Orange Grove Road, West Ashley and at Sunrise Christian Church 102 Myers Road, Summerville. Another location meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the Institute of Psychiatry, 67 President Street, 5th floor, North Tower classroom 526. Free parking is available for this group in Visitor Lot G and doughty street Garage. The support group sessions often are followed by an educational program. For more information Call NAMI at 727-6405 or visit www.namicharlestonarea.org.

Faith and Light Community

Faith and Light is a spiritual organization for persons with mental disabilities, their families and caregivers. Faith and Light is centered in the Catholic tradition but is open to people of all faiths. Its purpose is to recognize the unique gifts of the mentally disabled and to provide them a place of prayer, sharing, support and celebration. We will meet at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, 11001 Dorchester Road., Summerville, SC 29485. For more information, please contact Msgr. Edward Lofton at 875-5002

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY at Crowfield Baptist Church 100 Hunters Lane, Goose Creek offers: **Parents' Night Out** for children with special needs and their siblings. This ministry offers a structured program with a choice of activities including music, crafts, games, and movies. Third Friday of

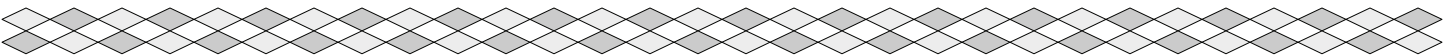


MORE FUN and GAMES

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS BRING YOUR CHILD FOR A FREE MUSEUM ADVENTURE

On February 11th from 4:30 to 6:00 PM you and your child with special needs can enjoy Free Admission to the Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry - Just Mention the Family Resource Center. Children MUST be accompanied by an adult. The Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry (CML) invites children with special needs to participate in a new program being offered on one Monday each month by reservation only. The Museum is closed to the general public during this time. This program is called the “Medically Fragile Monday” program but extends to all children with special needs. The program is available thanks to the generous support of the Charles Webb/Ed Croft Endowment. During the two hour program, children can experience the museum barrier free and can explore the interactive exhibits with support from the education staff of the museum. The Museum is located next to the Visitor’s Center on Ann St and across the street from the Charleston Museum. If you need more info email Chris Pulliam at the museum at chris@explorecml.org or Call the Family Resource Center at 266-1318.

Another way to take advantage of this fantastic offer is to notify your child’s teacher. The Museum is encouraging teachers to use this as a Field Trip opportunity. Because the museum is closed on these Mondays, the exhibits can be modified to accommodate students with special needs. Free passes can be distributed at the end of the tour so that children can return during regular hours with friends or relatives. If teachers want to check out the museum as a potential learning experience for their students, they can get free admission by showing their CCSD ID. For further information, contact Chris as noted above or Kay Ciganovic, the Parent Advocate for the CCSD/OEC at kay_ciganovic@charleston.k12.sc.us or call her at 937-6483



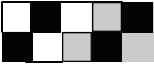
Family Connections Sponsors FEST (Fun, Education and Support Together)

Kick-off on Saturday, January 26!

FEST is a monthly arts, recreation and education program for families with children with special needs. Each month families will participate in fun, interactive activities like Yoga, Martial Arts, Dance, Music, Arts, & Crafts. After enjoying the activity together, parents attend a workshop while children continue the activity with trained professionals. Lastly, the family comes together again for a snack and to mingle with other families.

On Saturday, January 26th at 10 AM join us at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, 7396 Rivers Ave., North Charleston for a workshop on **changes to Medicaid** while your children enjoy yoga and movement with trained instructors. FEST is free, but space is limited. **Call 843-556-5010 to register.**

 The Charleston Miracle League is looking for volunteers to buddy, coach, assistant coach, and cheer from the stands. If interested contact Melissa at (843) 763-2513.



**Our sincerest thanks to those who contributed to the success of
the Family Resource Center's "Halloween Happening"**

Special thanks to John Cusatis & Friends for the great music

Special thanks to Jim Ritter & Transworld Electric for the venue

Special thanks to the Variety Store for providing our tasty fare

Special thanks to all who contributed items for prizes & auction:

Papa John's Pizza

Beads on Cannon

Charleston River Dogs

Costco

Publix

Charleston Symphony

Fort Sumter Tours

Vo Don Custom Framing

Mt. Pleasant Aerobics & Fitness

West Ashley Aerobics & Fitness

Joyce Nielsen

Marlis Beck

Spoletto Festival

Celadon

Dillard's

Sam's

Stella Nova

T-Bonz

Hollipops

Middleton Place

Bed, Bath & Beyond

Betsy Roebuck Filippone

Tammy Ritter

Sissi Langford

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