



## MAKING THE IEP WORK FOR YOU, PART ONE: EVALUATION

### Parents Should Play an Active Role in the Team Effort

If you think your child might be eligible to receive special education services or if your child already qualifies for special education, evaluation (or reevaluation) is an essential step in the design of an IEP. Evaluation is the process by which a child's capabilities and needs are assessed and is the basis for his/her IEP. Here are some important things for you and your family to consider related to evaluation:

- Evaluation is required by the federal special education law, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to determine if a student qualifies for special education services.
- Evaluation is a systematic process of collecting and interpreting information about a child's abilities, strengths, and needs. The evaluation is always done by a team, and the makeup of the team varies based on the needs of the individual student.
- Too often people think of evaluation as "testing." Actually, evaluation is a collection and combination of data that should include observations by people who know and work with the child, present levels of academic or functional performance, formalized evaluations (tests), etc. It should focus on the child's strengths as well as his/her needs and provide information about how the child learns best.
- Evaluation can feel like a scary time for parents because they are afraid they will only hear negative things about their child.
- To help keep things positive families can get in the habit of recording the child's strengths and achievements – however seemingly small – in the form of a list or a diary. This record should describe the child's abilities in all areas (general skills, social, motor, access skills, self-help, etc.). This can form the basis of the parents' observation.
- Once evaluation has taken place by school personnel, parents are to be notified of the results in writing. Parents may request a meeting with school officials to discuss the results before the IEP meeting takes place.
- Parents should consider whether or not the evaluation results are consistent with their own picture of their child. If not, they can ask questions to see if the child's performance was affected by the conditions of the evaluation.
- If, for some reason, the results do not appear to be accurate and are not satisfactory to the family, they have the right to have the child assessed by an independent evaluator of their choosing. The school district may or may not pay for this. Parents should make sure that the outside evaluator is qualified and someone who shares, or is receptive to, the parents' vision for their child.
- The initial evaluation that determines eligibility to receive special education services under IDEA must be done 60 calendar days from the time the school district receives the parental signature giving permission for the initial evaluation. Reevaluation must occur at least once every three years but could happen more often if the team, including the family, agrees it is necessary.

*When designed individually and implemented effectively, the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is an important tool that helps assure a student's success in education. This three part series, Making the IEP Work for You, will explore key components of the IEP including: evaluation, how families can make the most of this valuable tool, and progress monitoring!*

Above all, remember that evaluation is a team effort and is a combination and collection of data. No one person, one observation, or one evaluation or test, should be the sole determining factor in the final outcome of the evaluation.

*This article was written and published by PEAK Parent Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado and reprinted with permission by the Utah Parent Center.*



## INFORMATION AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO EVALUATION AND REEVALUATION

- [Evaluating Children for Disability](#), from the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities
- [Building the Legacy: IDEA 2004](#), briefs, video clips, and training materials related to Evaluation
- [Parents As Partners in the IEP Process Parent Handbook](#), by the Utah Parent Center
- [Referral and Evaluation Information Sheet](#), from the Utah Parent Center
- [Parents As Partners in the IEP Process: Module 1 Video](#), Referral Evaluation and Eligibility by the UPC
- [Utah Special Education Rules](#), by the Utah State Office of Education, Special Education Services

## PARENT NIGHT WITH ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION AND THE UTAH PARENT CENTER

Please join us Thursday, November 15, 2012 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Legacy Elementary School Media Center, 28 East 1340 North, in American Fork for a free parent night featuring Dana Wilson, who will present on Academic Support. Dana will be presenting on accommodations and modifications that parents can use to **support their children's homework efforts. Her insights can empower parents with ideas to help their children find greater academic success.**

## DAYTIME FAMILY TO FAMILY NETWORK MEETING: NUTRITION

The next daytime Family to Family Network Meeting will be about NUTRITION. We will talk about:

- How to get our picky eaters to eat better
- How to limit what our children with disabilities eat
- New ideas on easy meals to make
- **What to do when your kids don't eat**
- How to introduce new food, and much more!

The USU Extension Office will be teaching this topic on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. – noon at the CTA offices, 4444 South 700 East, Suite 203, Salt Lake City.

## SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE HOURS ARE CHANGING

**Press Release: Salt Lake City Social Security Office to Close to the Public a Half Hour Early Each Day.**

Effective November 19, 2012, the Salt Lake City Social Security Office will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – a reduction of 30 minutes each week day. In addition, beginning January 2, 2013, the office will close to the public at noon every Wednesday.

While agency employees will continue to work their regular hours, this shorter public window will allow them to complete face-to-face interviews and process claims work without incurring the cost of overtime. The significantly reduced funding provided by Congress under the continuing resolution for the first six months of the fiscal year makes it impossible for the agency to provide the overtime needed to handle service to the public as it has done in the past.

Most Social Security services do not require a visit to a local office. Many services, including applying for retirement, disability or Medicare benefits, signing up for direct deposit, replacing a Medicare card, obtaining a proof of income letter or informing us of a change of address or telephone number are conveniently available at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or by dialing our toll-free number 1-800-772-1213. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778. Many of our online services are also available in Spanish at [www.segurosocial.gov](http://www.segurosocial.gov).

## COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS – A PARENT’S GUIDE TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Are you familiar with the Common Core State Standards or CCSS? The standards are an effort by states to define a common core of knowledge and skills that students should develop in K-12 education, regardless of what state they live in. At this point, 45 states (including Utah), 3 territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity have formally adopted the Common Core State Standards.

These standards include all students, including those with disabilities. In the document, [Application to Students with Disabilities](#), the standards indicate that instruction for students with disabilities must incorporate supports and accommodations, including **supports and related services designed to meet students’ unique needs and** enable their access to the general education curriculum; an IEP that includes annual goals aligned with and chosen to facilitate their attainment of grade-level academic standards; and teachers and specialized instructional support staff who are prepared and qualified to deliver high-quality, evidence-based, individualized instruction and support services.

## INFORMATION AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

- [Common Core State Standards Initiative: Preparing America’s Students for College and Career](#)
- [Common Core State Standards](#) by National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities
- [Parents’ Guide to Student Success](#) by National PTA
- [A Parent’s Guide to the Common Core Standards](#) by education.com
- [Utah’s Core Standards](#) by Utah State Office of Education

## UPDATED FACT SHEET ON BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

Hot off the press for November 2012, National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) has updated the Blindness and Visual Impairment Fact Sheet. This fact sheet has several new sections, including types of visual impairments in children, signs and symptoms, insights about how children with visual impairments learn, tips for educators and tips for parents.

### Visual Impairments in Children

*Vision is one of our five senses.* Being able to see give us tremendous access to learning about the world around us – **people’s faces and the subtleties of expression, what different things look like and how big they are,** and the physical environments where we live and move, including approaching hazards.

**When a child has a visual impairment, it is cause for immediate attendtion. That’s because so much learning** typically occurs visually. When vision loss goes undetected, children are delayed in developing a wide range of skills. While they can do virtually all the activities and tasks that sighted children take for granted, children who are visually impaired often need to learn to do them in a different way or using different tools or materials. Central to their learning will be touching, listening, smelling, tasting, moving and using whatever vision they have. The assistance of parents, family members, friends, caregivers, and educators can be indispensable in that process. Click here to view the full [NICHCY Visual Impairment Fact Sheet](#)

NICHCY’s online fact sheets includes a definition, causes, characteristics, incidence, educational considerations and helpful organizations for further information. Most also include available supports, tips for teachers and parents and a brief story of a child with that particular disability. The fact sheets are a great starting point for anyone who is living or working with a child who has a disability.



## PACER'S 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH A HUGE SUCCESS

PACER's National Bullying Prevention Month was bigger than ever in its 7<sup>th</sup> year as millions joined together in October to say, "The End of Bullying Begin with Me!" America wore orange on Unity Day- October 10<sup>th</sup>, as television personality Anderson Cooper held up the 'Official' United Against Bullying t-shirt and reminded millions of viewers to "Make It Orange, Make It End". Thousands of students across the country took action, and celebrities such as TV hosts Ellen DeGeneris and Katie Couric, shared the Unity Day message via social media. [Click here to read PACER's Bullying Prevention E-News in its entirety.](#)

### GREAT RESOURCE: HELP YOUR CHILD RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF BULLYING

Children may not always realize that they are being bullied. The handout, "[Help Your Child Recognize the Signs of Bullying](#)" is a helpful tool that will prepare parents to have a conversation with their kids about bullying. It's important for parents to consider how they will respond to their child's questions and emotions, and the handout address that issue. It will also help parents decide what information they would like to share with their child about bullying.

### REDESIGNED KIDS AGAINST BULLYING WEBSITE LAUNCHES

Check out the newly redesigned [PACER KIDS AGAINST BULLYING](#) website. This creative, innovative, and educational resource was designed by and for children to learn about bullying prevention, engage in activities, and be inspired to take action. It still features the popular Club Crew, a cast of 12 original animated characters but has a fresh new look with brighter colors, more videos, and plenty of new ways for kids to interact.

### TAKE ACTION

Want to take action to prevent bullying where you live? PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, with the support of Facebook, has developed a practical new toolkit that students can use to hold bullying prevention events in their schools and communities. "[Unite Against Bullying: A Student Event Planning Guide](#)" is a step-by-step guide that helps teens plan, promote, and execute a variety of events designed to raise awareness of bullying prevention and generate support for the cause.

### BULLYING, DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE: PODCAST

Bullying can affect everyone – those who are bullied, those who bully and those who witness bullying. Bullying is linked to many negative outcomes including impacts on mental health, substance abuse, and suicide. Although kids who are bullied are at risk of suicide, bullying along is not the cause. Many issues contribute to suicide risk, some of which include depression, substance abuse, problems at home, and trauma history. James Wright is at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the Suicide Prevention Branch. Mr. Wright is the project officer for the National Suicide prevention Lifeline and works with states receiving funding for youth suicide prevention funding through the Garrett Lee Smiths Memorial Act. [Click here to listen to the Podcast or to view the transcript.](#)

### INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE WORKS TO ADDRESS BULLYING IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

November is Native American Heritage Month. Across the country native communities are celebrating their heritage. I'd like to tell you have a project that I work with that is addressing the issue of bullying and is making a lasting impact on the community. As a health educator for this project, I see bullying, and other aggressive behaviors, in our schools, playgrounds, workplace and homes. It affects everyone in the community. Through education and raising awareness, we are engaging our communities to prevent bullying and other types of abuse. [Click here to read more about this project.](#)

### UTAH COUNCIL OF THE BLIND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

The UCB, Utah Council of the Blind, is holding its annual Christmas Boutique in the auditorium of the Blind Center located at 250 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City. The boutique will be held from Tuesday, November 13 through Thursday, November 15, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Friday, November 16, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. The boutique will feature items made by individuals who are blind, disabled and seniors. Shop early for the best selection.

### EATON ALLIANCE PRESENTS HOLIDAY THEMED FILMS FOR EACH MONTH THROUGH DECEMBER

This special invitation from Eaton Alliance for families with children with Autism or other Developmental disabilities to attend holiday films free of charge. Please join them on:

- November 14, 2012: Pocahontas at 4:30 p.m.
- December 19, 2012: Elf @ 4:30 p.m.

Films will be shown at Towne Cinemas, 120 W Main St, American Fork.  
Questions: Please Call Whitney Molen at 801-341-2229

### PARC'S THIRD ANNUAL DISABILITY AWARENESS SYMPOSIUM

Join PARC in celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month by attend their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Disability Awareness Symposium on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at PARC, 485 PARC Circle, Clearfield, Utah. There is NO cost to attend, please RSVP to 801-402-0950 or visit [www.parc-ut.org](http://www.parc-ut.org) and click Forums. Topics will include:

- Customized Employment: One Person at a Time
- Mythbusters: The Truths About Your Benefits, Work and You
- Addressing Work Challenges Associated with Executive Functioning Deficits
- Pathways to Careers: Blazing Career Paths for People with Significant Disabilities
- What Works: Employer Experiences in Hiring People with Disabilities.

### SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT BROWN BAG WORKSHOP: SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL BACKGROUNDS

The Utah Supported Employment Training Project will be hosting a Brown Bag Workshop on supporting people with criminal histories on the job. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the USU Salt Lake Education Center, 2500 S State St., Room M, Salt Lake City. The Utah Defendant Offender Workshop Development Task Force will conduct the workshop. The task force was established in 2009 and consists of members from state, federal, and local law enforcement and non-profit organizations. The mission of the task force is to assist ex-offenders in obtaining employment and learning how to become productive members of the community. Registration is required for this event. [Click here to register](#). Email questions to Tim Riesen at [tim.riesen@usu.edu](mailto:tim.riesen@usu.edu).

### CONNECTME CLINICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM, ASPERGER'S AND PDD-NOS

Has your child been diagnosed with **Autism, Asperger's or Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified**? If your child is between the ages of 6 and 12 years old, he or she may be eligible to partice in the ConnectMe clinical research program. The program includes three clinical research studies and will evaluate the safety, tolerability and effectiveness of an investigational drug on social interactions and communication skills. The ConnectMe-91 study is the program's first study. **Children who participate in the first study** may be eligible to join the follow-up studies. To learn more or to find out if your child may be eligible to participate visit, [www.ConnectMeProgram.com](http://www.ConnectMeProgram.com) or call 1-888-633-8909.



UTAH PARENT CENTER WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

Canyons:

From No Where to Know Where: Transition to Adult Life

Tuesday, November 13, 2012 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Register at: <http://conta.cc/SdoJdX>

Canyons Technical Education Center, 825 East 9085 South, East Building, Sandy [Click here for printable flyer.](#)

Washington County:

**Let's Get on Target with Transition in 2012!** Transition to Adult Life Mini-Conference

Tuesday, November 27, 2012 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM Day Session Register at: <http://conta.cc/SsuFn6>

5:45 PM – 8:15 PM Evening Session [Click here for printable flyer.](#)

This event will be held at Dixie High School, Lecture Hall, 350 East 700 South, St. George, Utah.

There is no fee to attend but pre-registration is required.

Davis County

Get Your Teen with Special Needs Ready for Transition in 2013!

January 28-28, 2013 Farmington, Utah

From No Where to Know Where: Transition to Adult Life -As families of children and young adults with disabilities, we have learned many things – but most of us admit that we have much more to learn. Topics will include: Getting and Keeping the First Job, The Journey to Adulthood, Skills for Teaching Effective Self-Advocacy, a Panel of Transition Experts, and much more. [Click here for a printable Flyer.](#)

TALLERES DE CENTRO DE PADRE DE UTAH EN ESPAÑOL

Los Padres como Parte en el Proceso Del IEP

Noviembre 14, 2012 6:30 – 8:30 PM

[clic aquí para imprimir](#)

Centro de Padres de Utah 230 West 200 South, Suite 1101, Salt Lake City

Transición de la Escuela Elemental para la JR. y la Vida Adulta Después de la High School

Noviembre 28, 2012 6:30 – 8:30 PM

[clic aquí para imprimir](#)

Sanderson Community Center 5709 South 1500 West, West Valley City

# FAMILY★LINKS

*SAVE THE DATE! 2013 FAMILY LINKS CONFERENCE: MARCH 8 AND 9, 2013*

*WHEN 'GO TO YOUR ROOM' ISN'T QUITE FAR ENOUGH...*

This two-day series featuring presenter Jo Mascorro provides strategies in teaching children ownership and management of their behavior. Participants will be engaged in a variety of activities that will develop skills. Jo Mascorro engages her audience with humor and practical wisdom.



Watch For More Information in the Utah Parent Center e-Connections or like the Utah Family Links Facebook Page by click the link to the left.





## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Family to Family Network Meeting Tuesday, November 13, 2012 7:00-9:00 PM  
Topic: Benefits Planning Location: South Valley School, 8400 S Redwood Road, West Jordan  
Questions? Call Kathy at 801.571-6238
- UCB Christmas Boutique Tues-Friday, November 12-16, 2012 9:00a.m.  
Located in the auditorium of the Blind Center located at 250 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City.  
Come early for the best selection.
- **PARC's Disability Awareness Symposium** Thurs, November, 15, 2012 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM  
Symposium held at PARC, 485 PARC Circle, Clearfield, Utah.  
There is NO cost to attend, please RSVP to 801-402-0950 or visit [www.parc-ut.org](http://www.parc-ut.org) and click Forums.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Dinner and Auction Friday, November 16, 2012 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
Benefiting Giant Steps Autism Preschool More information available at [www.friendsofgiantsteps.org](http://www.friendsofgiantsteps.org)  
Tickets are \$10 Advanced Purchase and \$15 at the door.
- Vocational Rehabilitation Workshop Monday, November 19, 2012 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
Join Kyle Walker, Director of Client Services for the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation for this class on  
**"The Role of Vocational Rehabilitation in Facilitating Self-Employment"** [Click here to register.](#)  
USU Salt Lake Education Center, Room M, 2500 S State St., Salt Lake City
- One Day Utah Autism and Aspergers Syndrome Conference Friday, November 30, 2012  
Keynote Speakers: Drs. Temple Grandin and Jed Baker Location: Provo Marriott  
Cost: \$70-\$160 per person [Click here for more information.](#)
- Salt Lake City FASD TOT December 4-5, 2012 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
\*Prerequisite Requirement - this training is a Training of Trainers. A minimum of two years of general  
training experience is required. For more information and/ or to register, [Click here.](#)
- Supported Employment Workshop December 11, 2012 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
Supported Employment for People with Criminal Backgrounds.
- Green Tree Yoga Afterschool Fun February 2, 2013 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM  
Spring 2013 on Tuesdays for 6 weeks for Children with autism spectrum disorders or other challenges.  
Children must be able to follow simple directions and participate independently. Parents must attend with  
their child. Cost \$50.00 per child for 6 weeks (discount for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> sibling) For more information or to  
register, please contact Yael Calhoun at 801-656-7885 or email: [yoga@greentreeyoga.org](mailto:yoga@greentreeyoga.org)



## *Utah Parent Center Information Disclaimer*

Utah Parent Center • Celebrating OVER 28 years of service!!!

Projects of the Utah Parent Center:

Utah Family Voices - Family to Family Health Information Center

Autism Information Resources at the Utah Parent Center

Family to Family Network – Serving families eligible for services from DSPD and more!

Phone: (801)272.1051 • Toll Free Utah: (800)468.1160 • Fax: (801)272.8907

Email: [info@utahparentcenter.org](mailto:info@utahparentcenter.org) • Website: [www.utahparentcenter.org](http://www.utahparentcenter.org)

*Our Mission: To help parents help their children with disabilities to live included, productive lives as members of the community. We accomplish this through the provision of information, training, and peer support.*

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