

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PRESS RELEASE ON RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

**MAY 15, 2012**

The U.S. Department of Education issued a publication that outlines principles for educators, parents and other stakeholders to consider when developing or refining policies and procedures to support positive behavioral interventions and avoid the use of restraint and seclusion.

The goal of this resource document is to help ensure that schools are safe and healthy environments where all students can learn, develop and participate in instructional programs that promote high levels of academic achievement.

"As education leaders, our first responsibility must be to make sure that schools foster learning in a safe environment for all of our children and teachers," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said. "I believe this document is an important step toward this goal. I also want to salute leaders in Congress for their vigilance on this issue."

The 15 principles that frame the document ultimately highlight how school wide behavioral interventions can significantly reduce or eliminate the use of restraint or seclusion. These guiding principles offer states, districts and other education leaders a framework for developing appropriate policies related to restraint and seclusion to ensure the safety of adults and children.

"Ultimately, the standard for educators should be the same standard that parents use for their own children," Duncan added. "There is a difference between a brief time out in the corner of a classroom to help a child calm down and locking a child in an isolated room for hours. This really comes down to common sense."

The document also provides a synopsis of ongoing efforts by federal agencies to address national concerns about using restraint and seclusion in schools, and includes links to state restraint and seclusion policies and procedures.

The full document is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/seclusion/index.html>

## UPC VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



I would like to highlight Jennifer Kuhn as our Volunteer of the Month. Jen has 4 kids with disabilities. Two of her children with Down Syndrome have passed away. Her other two children have autism. Jen has served as a Family to Family Support Group Leader for 9 years. She also serves on the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council and is a yearly volunteer at the Festival of Trees, organizing the gift shop.

Jen has dedicated her life to serving families who have children and adults with disabilities. She never hesitates to answer questions, provide resources and direct parents to the Utah Parent Center for help and education. Jennifer and her husband recently opened a BBQ restaurant in Orem called Smoke House BBQ and Burger. She describes it as more of a "social enterprise." The restaurant's mission is to offer employment to persons with disabilities, then secondly to make a profit. Jen explains the profit they make after expenses will go back into the business. Jen and her husband, who is a chef by trade, state more than 50% of their employees have a disability of some kind. They are hoping to expand and offer even more employment to people with disabilities. If you are interested in supporting the restaurant it is located at 214 E. University Parkway in Orem. Thanks Jen. You are truly amazing!

## SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE!

Summer is almost here and school will be out soon. The Utah Parent Center has compiled a list of summer activities and programs for children and youth with disabilities across the state for 2012.

[Click here for printable document \(pdf\).](#)

[Click here to view the information on the UPC website.](#)

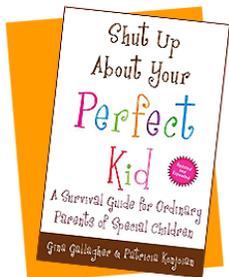


## LD IN THE CLASSROOM: 7 TIPS FOR TEACHERS (HELPFUL FOR PARENTS TOO!)

Learning disability is a general term that describes specific kinds of learning problems. A learning disability can cause a person to have trouble learning and using certain skills. The skills most often affected are: reading, writing, listening, speaking, reasoning, and doing math.

- Student has difficulty reading.
- Struggles to connect letters to sounds.
- May also have a hard time spelling or messy penmanship.
- Confuses math symbols.
- Mixes up details of a story, or the sequence of events.
- Cannot get organized.
- Has unexpected problems learning to read, speak, write, or do math.

Read the full article at <http://www.utahparentcenter.org/2012/03/09/nichcy7tips4teachers/>



## FEELING ALONE AS A PARENT OF A SPECIAL KID? NEED A LAUGH?

Visit Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid: Therapy and Sanity for Ordinary Parents of Special Kids at <http://www.shutupabout.com/index.php> This website offers blogs, information and a place to share your story as well as information about their updated book 'Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid: A Survival Guild for Ordinary Parents of Special Children' written by sisters, Gina and Patricia, who share a love of humor, writing and raising children with disabilities.

## HELP FOR STRUGGLING READERS FROM BOOKSHARE<sup>®</sup> AND THE US DEPT. OF EDUCATION

Parents, if your child has a disability that inhibits reading (visual impairment, severe learning disability, or physical disability) he or she may qualify to get **free, accessible eBooks** and reading software from Bookshare<sup>®</sup>. With these tools, struggling readers often gain confidence and learn to enjoy the world of books. Bookshare<sup>®</sup> is an online library of digital books for people with disabilities. Bookshare<sup>®</sup> has an extensive collection of books and periodicals including: K-12 textbooks from NIMAC, post-secondary books, teacher recommended reading, a large collection of children's books and literature, even for young readers, and a wide selection of newspapers and magazines. For more information view the brochures below or visit [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)

- View the Bookshare Parent Brochure: [English Version](#) or [Spanish Version](#)
- View the Bookshare Educator Brochure: [English Version](#) or [Spanish Version](#)

## UTAH AUTISM MEDICAID WAIVER AND AUTISM TREATMENT FUND

During the 2012 Legislative session, an autism services pilot program bill was passed (HB-272). The bill requires services to be provided to children with autism spectrum disorders through three different pilot programs:

1. A Public Employees Health Plan (PEHP) Pilot – this is a pilot program for a limited number of state employees’ children with autism spectrum disorders;
  - Learn more at <https://www1.pehp.org> (This is the insurance for State employees only.)
2. Autism Treatment Account – the bill amended this previously existing account and appropriated one-time funding for use in a two year pilot program; and
  - Learn more at <http://www.health.utah.gov/cshcn/autism.html>
  - For specific updates on this program, visit <http://www.health.utah.gov/cshcn/AutismTxAcct/index.html>
3. Medicaid Autism Waiver - requires the Utah Department of Health to apply for a new Medicaid waiver program to provide services to children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD.) This discussion will focus on the design Medicaid’s two year, pilot program (the Waiver.)
  - Learn more at <http://health.utah.gov/autismwaiver/>
  - Visit Autism Waiver FAQ for frequently asked questions including, eligibility and enrollment.

## UTAH AUTISM MEDICAID WAIVER PUBLIC MEETINGS: ST. GEORGE AND PROVO

**What will be discussed?** The development of the Medicaid Autism Services for Children Waiver. Medicaid staff will review frequently asked questions such as “Who is eligible?”, “How will open enrollment work?”, and “When will open enrollment happen?”

**Who should attend?** Parents, families and other interested stakeholders.

**Questions?** Call 801.538.6955 if you have questions about the meeting.

### St. George, Utah

Thursday, May 24, 2012

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Five County Association of Governments

1070 West 1600 South, Bldg. B.

St. George, Utah

### Provo

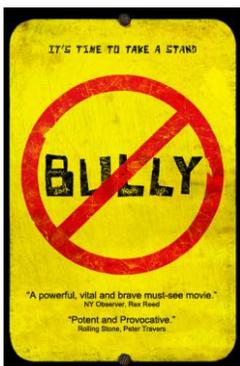
Wednesday, June 6, 2012

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Provo City Council Chambers

351 W Center St.

Provo, Utah



## BULLY: THE MOVIE NOW SHOWING

This year, over 13 million American kids will be bullied, making it the most common form of violence young people in the U.S. experience. Directed by Sundance- and Emmy-award winning filmmaker, Lee Hirsch, Bully is a beautifully cinematic, character- driven documentary—at its heart are those with the most at stake and whose stories each represent a different facet of this bullying crisis.

⇒ Bully opens on Friday, May 18, 2012 at Water Gardens Spanish 8 in Spanish Fork and Water Gardens Cinema 6 in Pleasant Grove. For more information visit:

<http://www.watergardentheatres.com/>

## SPECIAL NEEDS ANTI-BULLYING TOOLKIT

Children with special needs face unique challenges for dealing with bullying. They often stand out from their peers in ways that make them targets for bullying, and children who have difficulty with social interactions have an even higher risk of being bullied. Find out more at <http://specialneeds.thebullyproject.com/toolkit>

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### WESTMINSTER COLLEGE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FAMILY FUN DAY 2012

**SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2012**

Join Westminster College for their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Fun Day for children with autism and their families – yes, siblings too, being held Saturday, May 26, 2012 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.! Westminster students taking a class about autism will provide around 20 various activities stations, including a sensory station, finger painting, bubbles and more. Due to overwhelming interest on campus, there are two sections of the course running this year! Special guest activity includes adults with autism who will provide face painting. Healthy refreshments will be provided! RSVP is requested; please call Shamby Polychronis at 801.832.2489.

### WISH UPON A STAR ~ SUMMER FORMAL

**FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2012**

RISE Services is proud to sponsor this special event for individuals with disabilities on Friday, June 1 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at 6150 S Redwood Rd #200, Taylorsville, Utah. This event is open to all individuals with disabilities. Semi-formal dress welcome but not required. For questions or to RSVP, contact Kasey at 801.995.2357 or by email at [kaseyp@riserviceinc.org](mailto:kaseyp@riserviceinc.org)



### C.A.S.T. FOR KIDS

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2012**

CAST for Kids is an all-volunteer fishing and boating event for disadvantaged or disabled youth and their families. This year's event will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2012 at Soldier Creek Marina at Strawberry Reservoir. If you are interested in learning more please contact Valerie Heath-Harrison at 801.524.3664 or by email at [vheathharrison@usbr.gov](mailto:vheathharrison@usbr.gov) by **MAY 24, 2012**. *If your family has participated for 3 years or more, we invite you to be a part of the CAST Alumni Group. Please contact Valerie for details.*

### WALK WITH ANGELS

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2012**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Walk with Angels Event will be held on Saturday, August 25, 2012 at Wines Park in Lehi, Utah. This event supports the United Angels Foundation, a non-profit parent-to-parent support group for families of children with special needs throughout the community. For more information, visit [www.unitedanglesfoundation.org](http://www.unitedanglesfoundation.org)

## RESOURCES

- ⇒ Center for Persons with Disabilities: Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) is composed of individuals with disabilities, family members, representatives of government entities and local agencies who work with people with disabilities, and staff liaisons who advise the CPD director about the Center's impact on systems change, advocacy, and capacity building. The CAC is one of the primary advising and guiding bodies for the CPD. The CAC members work with CPD staff to develop and approve the CPD's annual goals and regularly reviews progress towards their accomplishment. Check out their blog at <http://www.cpdusu.org/blog/2012/03/cac-corner-the-future-of-the-disability-advocacy-movement/>
- ⇒ The Social Security and Disability Resource Center (SSDRC.com) is an informational website that provides answers to questions about how to apply for disability, how to appeal a claim in the event of a denial, how to navigate the federal system, and how to avoid certain mistakes that are commonly made by applicants. The site's author is a former disability examiner for the social security administration. [www.ssdrc.com](http://www.ssdrc.com)

## MORE RESOURCES

- ⇒ Join a research study on parenting a child with an intellectual disability. Study is being done by a nursing PhD student at the University of Utah. Study is being done to learn how to help parents of children with intellectual disabilities. Participants must be over the age of 55 and have a child with an intellectual disability. Participants will take part in 2-3 interviews about your life experiences. *You will receive a digital copy of your life story.* If you are interested contact Alison Eldredge at 801.652.3381 or by email at [alison.eldredge@utah.edu](mailto:alison.eldredge@utah.edu)
- ⇒ Free webinar featuring Eustacia Cutler, mother of Temple Grandin, speaking with parents about school. This webinar is provided by Families Together and can be viewed at <http://www.familiestogether.org/online-meetings/>

## MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SUPPORT GROUPS

- **Big MAKS** (Mothers of Autistic Kids) Support Groups and Activities for the whole family!  
Visit <http://utahmaks.blogspot.com> for upcoming and monthly events.
- **CHADD of Utah** (Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) Meetings and Classes  
Visit [www.chaddofutah.com](http://www.chaddofutah.com) for meetings and classes in your area.
- **Family to Family Network** Monthly Meetings and Classes  
Visit [www.facebook.com/utahfamilytofamilynetwork](http://www.facebook.com/utahfamilytofamilynetwork)
- **Learning Disabilities Association of Utah** Monthly Meetings  
Visit [www.ldau.org](http://www.ldau.org) for information and contacts.
- **Legislative Coalition for Disabilities** Monthly Meetings and Legislative Updates  
Visit [www.lcpdut.org](http://www.lcpdut.org) for updates and calendar of events.
- **Utah Down Syndrome Foundation** has chapters across the state.  
Visit [www.udsf.org](http://www.udsf.org) to find information about local events.

## REFLECTIONS ENTRY: DIVERSITY IS...

*Written and performed by Jacob Hansen of Eagle Valley Elementary School in Musical Composition Category*

*I have the same feelings you do  
I am not different from the others  
I am just in a wheelchair  
I like to play ball and be active  
I have the same feelings you do  
I have the same feelings you do  
I have the same feelings.*

**SEARCH THE INTERNET AND SHOP ONLINE AND YOU CAN HELP THE UTAH PARENT CENTER!**

What if the Utah Parent Center earned a penny every time you searched the Internet or earned a percentage of your online purchase at hundreds of different online vendors? Well, now we can!



GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half of its revenue – approximately a penny per search – to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any other search engine – and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results! Just visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) to start searching and download their toolbar. Be sure to enter "Utah Parent Center" as the charity you want to support! Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7,300 in a year without anyone spending a dime!

GoodSearch.com also has a feature called "GoodShop". If you visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter "Utah Parent Center" as your charity and then click the link to one of the GoodShop vendors, they will donate up to 37% of your purchase to the Utah Parent Center. Some of the vendors include: Amazon.com, Dell, eBay, Target, Nike, Staples, PetSmart, HP, Wal-Mart, Apple, Expedia, and Overstock. There are hundreds of other stores that participate in this program – check it out today!

**UTAH PARENT CENTER INFORMATION DISCLAIMER**

Utah Parent Center • Celebrating OVER 26 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.**

The Utah Parent Center is a non-profit organization federally funded by the Office of Special Education Programs under grant #H328M020032. The Utah Parent Center (UPC) does not represent or endorse any particular point of view, unless expressly stated. Every effort is made to provide accurate and complete information. The content of this message is provided as an informational resource ONLY. For items from other individuals or organizations, we encourage readers to contact the original source with questions or concerns. Only approved items will be posted. The UPC is not responsible for content contained on, distributed through, or linked, downloaded, or accessed through this message. This newsletter is NOT a discussion group and you will only receive official email newsletters from the Utah Parent Center. We do not trade nor sell the email addresses of our subscribers. Permission to forward and reprint the information herein is granted with complete attribution. Please forward this information to your friends and colleagues that may be interested in subscribing to this newsletter. You have received this message because you are on the Utah Parent Center listserv. To be removed, please contact the Utah Parent Center at [info@utahparentcenter.org](mailto:info@utahparentcenter.org)