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BACK-TO-SCHOOL: TIPS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

A new school year means a new grade, new teachers, new goals and maybe even a new school! In order to help you and your child with special needs be as successful as you can be, we've put together a list of eight helpful back-to-school tips that we hope will make the transition into a new school year a little easier for you and your child.

[Click here to read these eight helpful back-to-school tips from Reading Rockets.](#)

PARENT KEYS TO SUCCESS IN THE PARENT-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

When individuals or groups join together to work toward a common goal, a partnership is formed. Successfully reaching the goal requires mutual cooperation and a sharing of responsibilities. While carried out in different ways, the principles used to satisfy personal and business partnerships are much the same. As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When your child enters school, you and the school become partners in what you both hope will be a profitable, long-term enterprise.

In this important venture, the common goal is the successful development and education of your child. Years of research show that the more families are actively involved in the education of their children, the more successful the child will be in school and in life. In the parent-school partnership, there is little opportunity for choice in the selection of partners. Partners can, however, choose to think and act in ways that will promote a positive partnership. A productive parent-school partnership will pay big dividends for its primary beneficiary—your child.

[Click here to read the complete article, including information on how to build good partnerships.](#)

ATTENTION PARENTS! UPCOMING IEP TRAINING

Does your child currently have an IEP?
Is your child being evaluated for Special Education services?
If so, then this IEP Training is for YOU!

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

Training will be held at:

Utah Parent Center
230 West 200 South, Suite 1101, Salt Lake City
(Free Parking Available in Northwest lot)

Pre-Registration is required for this event

Phone: 801.272.1051 or 1.800.468.1160

Email: info@utahparentcenter.org

Online: www.conta.cc/RtghLd



Topics that will be covered include:

- Parents as Partners in the IEP Process
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and the IEP
- Transition to Adult Life Overview
- Section 504 Services in Public Schools
- Tools for Constructive Communication

Surrogate Parent Certification class will be held from 3:00-3:30 p.m. following this training. If your public school or charter school has requested you to serve as a Surrogate Parent as required by IDEA 2004, please let us know at the time of registration. ****Individuals must attend the FULL day to receive Surrogate Parent Certification.**



ARE STUDENTS PREPARED FOR ADULT LIFE? IMPORTANT UTAH POST-SCHOOL SURVEY

The purpose of school is to help students become successful adults. To find out how well this is happening for students with disabilities, a yearly survey seeks answers to how well young adults with disabilities are doing. Utah's 2012 telephone survey for students age 14 or over who left school in the 2010-2011 school year is going on right now through September. Students who have been out of school about a year may receive a call and can provide vital information that will help students who are coming through school now. If the student is not available, for example if the student is living out of state, parents may respond to the survey by providing as much information as they know about the student's present circumstances. If you receive a voice mail message about the survey, please call back. The survey can be completed in either English or Spanish. To learn more about Utah's post-school survey visit www.utahposthighsurvey.org. The website has information on what questions are included in the survey and how the information collected will be used. If your student is available, please encourage the student to answer the survey. It may help to stress that your student's answers are confidential and will help to improve special education for younger students. Here are some resources to help young adults understand the importance of completing the survey. To see a fun well done video suited to young adults functioning on many levels can be found at http://psocenter.org/content_pages/16-be-a-superstar-take-the-survey

To make sure that your student who is still in school or who left school last year can be contacted for the survey at the appropriate time, you can help by making sure your high school has updated contact information for your son or daughter. The biggest challenge in completing this survey is knowing how to contact the young adults. If your son or daughter or you complete the survey, all answers will be confidential and will be anonymously compiled into a report that shows how former students are doing. The results will be included in the Annual Performance Report (APR) that is submitted to the U.S. Department of Education every year. To see Utah's past APR reports, visit the Utah State Office of Education website.

Transition to adult life is a process that works best when parents and students work with the school to prepare for the student's adult life. To learn more about how this process can work better, check out our transition handbook or one of our transition videos or webinars at www.utahparentcenter.org or attend one of our transition workshops or mini-conferences. More videos are in the production phase and will be available in the coming months, so be sure to watch this newsletter for announcements and check back on the website.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS WEBINAR NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Executive functioning skills allow a student to organize both their "outside world and inside world." Students who struggle with this have difficulty organizing and processing information, keeping track of papers, making deadlines, analyzing tasks, and maintaining sustained focus. This workshop will offer parents practical ideas in how to help your child with ADD/ADHD or learning disabilities to manage and develop the executive functioning skills necessary to succeed in school. Presented by Deanne Shields, Learning Disabilities Association of Utah and produced in partnership by the Utah Parent Center and Utah Family Links. View it at <http://youtu.be/eOwgZsvHbf8>

UPC VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH – JULY 2012

I would like to highlight Deanne Shields as our Volunteer of the Month. Deanne is the mother of four amazing children. Her children are very smart and talented but they have also struggled with various learning challenges like problems with working memory, ADHD, seizures and dyslexia. Deanne has a background in education which led her to teach science and special education at a private school in Provo for 19 years. When her youngest child was four, she retired to spend more time at home with her children. During this time she had been taking some classes sponsored by the Utah Parent Center on IEP's and Negotiation and Advocacy when she met some women involved in the Learning Disabilities Association of Utah. It wasn't long before Deanne's leadership potential was discovered. The Utah Parent Center recruited her to attend a National Leadership Training called "Parents as Collaborative Leaders" at the Pacer Center in Minneapolis. This became the starting point for Deanne's involvement with LDAU. Being involved in organizations like LDAU and the Utah Parent Center has helped her in many ways. She has learned more about how to help her own children and has benefited from the advice received from parents and professionals. Deanne states, "It is so helpful to be able to talk with someone who has 'been there before' and get their advice and support." As a volunteer with LDAU, Deanne has had the opportunity of organizing education groups in Utah County for parents and teachers. She loves talking with parents and teachers to help them find resources for their children. In addition, Deanne has served as the President of LDAU for many years, began a support group for parents in Utah County, and recently developed a training for both parents and professionals giving practical solutions for helping with executive functioning skills. Deanne's training titled, "My Child's Backpack Ate the Homework" is on the UPC website. Visit <http://youtu.be/eOwqZsvHbf8> to view this webinar. Thanks Deanne for your passion and dedication in serving both parents and professionals!



UPC VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH – AUGUST 2012

I would like to highlight Julie Ledford as our Volunteer of the Month. Julie and her husband Kevin have four boys. Kevin and three of the boys are blind. Her oldest, who is now 11 years old, was born with congenital cataracts which were removed when he was 2 months old. Julie's third son, who will turn 8 in September, was born with Anaridia. Anaridia means absence of iris and he literally has no iris. His eyes look like they are constantly dialated. Lastly, Julie's fourth son, who just turned 6, was born with both eye conditions. His cataracts were removed when he was 6 months old. All three boys are very light sensitive and have no peripheral vision or depth perception. Julie currently serves as President of the Utah Parents of Blind Children which is a Division of the National Federation of the Blind of Utah. Julie states, "I volunteer in the position and work with board members to empower our children and to ensure that blindness cannot stop you from reaching your goals." As an IEP Coach for the Utah Parent Center, Julie uses her training to help parents understand the IEP process. She has also participated in several parent panels at the University of Utah sharing the experiences of her family with future teachers. Julie's passion for her volunteer work comes from knowing many parents who are in the same situation she was in many years ago. Julie wants to make sure these parents know she understands their struggles and wants to help. Julie states, "No one should have to go through these challenges alone." Thanks Julie for being an inspiration to so many parents!



UPCOMING UTAH PARENT CENTER EVENTS

Logan:

Parents as Partners in the IEP Process / Parents Rights and Responsibilities in the IEP Process

Thursday, September 6, 2012 7:00-9:00 p.m. Register online at: <http://conta.cc/OYvPRg>
Options for Independence, 1095 North Main St., Logan, Utah

Salt Lake City:

In-Depth IEP Training and Surrogate Parent Certification

Tuesday, September 18, 2012 9:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m. Register online at: www.conta.cc/RtghLd
Utah Parent Center, 230 West 200 South, Suite 1101, Salt Lake City

Sandy:

Guardianship

Tuesday, September 25, 2012 6:30-8:30 p.m. Register online at: <http://conta.cc/MP2YCU>
Canyons Technical Education Center, East Building, 825 East 9085 South, Sandy

Farmington

Parents as Partners in the IEP Process / Parents Rights and Responsibilities in the IEP Process

Tuesday, September 25, 2012 6:30-8:30 p.m. Register by phone: Roz 801.402.5120
Davis Professional Development Center, East Side (2nd Floor Kendall Bldg), 70 East 100 North, Farmington

Price

Transition Mini-Conference

Tuesday and Wednesday, October 2-3, 2012 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Location: To Be Determined *Watch for more information or call 1.800.468.1160

Provo/Orem:

Transition Mini-Conference

Thursday and Friday, October 4-5, 2012 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
ScenicView Academy, 5455 North 250 West, Provo
*Watch for more information or call 1.800.468.1160

St. George

Transition Mini-Conference

Wednesday, October 10, 2012 5:45 – 9:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 11, 2012 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: To Be Determined *Watch for more information or call 1.800.468.1160

Cedar City

Transition Mini-Conference

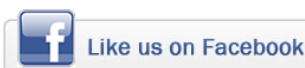
Thursday, October 11, 2012 5:45 – 9:00 p.m.
Friday, October 12, 2012 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: To Be Determined *Watch for more information or call 1.800.468.1160

Statewide Utah Family Links Conference

Featuring: Jo Mascorro

Friday and Saturday, March 8-9, 2013

Like the Utah Family Links Facebook page to get up to date info! ⇒



DISABILITY AWARENESS PROGRAM - FRIENDS WHO CARE®



FRIENDS WHO CARE® is a complete disability awareness program for elementary students, developed by Easter Seals and sponsored by Friendly's. FRIENDS WHO CARE® is designed to help children better understand what it means and how it feels to be a young person with a disability. This educational program gives students the opportunity to learn what is involved when someone has a disability and how they adapt to live life, go to school, or work as independently as possible. The goals of the program are simple: to encourage typically developing children to accept their peers with disabilities as people first and also to find ways to include everyone in school and after-school activities.

FRIENDS WHO CARE® is also fun! The curriculum explores a range of disabilities and includes specially crafted learning activities, hands-on exercises, guided discussions and guest speakers. It starts with an introduction to disability, and looks at vision, hearing, and physical disabilities and then at learning disabilities including AD-HD, autism and intellectual disabilities. We hope that your child will be an active participant in this new, exciting program and that FRIENDS WHO CARE® will help to bridge the gap between children with and without disabilities.

Easter Seals and Friendlies Ice Cream have partnered together to develop a disability awareness program called FRIENDS WHO CARE that parents and teachers can download at no cost. This fun, interactive program helps students learn how kids with disabilities go to school, make friends and play. It encourages kids to accept their peers with disabilities as people first, and to find ways to include everyone in school and after-school activities.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **2012 Utah Walk Now for Autism** **Saturday, September 8, 2012** **9:00 a.m.**
 South Towne Expo Center, Sandy, Utah
 For more info visit, <http://www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1013498>
- **Saraha Cares Autism Carnival** **Saturday, September 22, 2012** **11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**
 New Venue – Utah State Fair Park, 155 North 1000 West, Salt Lake City, Utah
 For questions or to register, call 801.298.7724 or visit us online at www.sarahacares.net
- **Real Salt Lake Autism Game Night** **Saturday, September 22, 2012** **Kick off at 7:00 p.m.**
 Tickets can be purchased for \$20 and \$5 goes to fund our event!
 Enter promo code SAHARA at: www.realsaltlake.com/content/ticket-promotions
- **Navigating the School System** **Saturday, September 22, 2012** **9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.**
 Salt Lake Youth Services, 177 W Price Ave. Presented by Allies with Families
 Call 801.433.2595 to reserve your spot.
- **UVU Symposium on ADHD** **Friday, September 28, 2012** **9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**
 Utah Valley University, Sorenson Student Center, Orem
 Register and more info at <http://uvuadhd.eventbrite.com/>
- **Utah CCBD Conference** **Friday, September 28, 2012** **9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.**
 Rice Eccles Football Stadium Tower, University of Utah, Salt Lake City
 Register at <http://utahccbd2012.eventbrite.com> More info at www.utahccbd.com
- **Mental Health Matters Fair** **Tuesday, October 2, 2012** **6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
 Taylorsville High School, 5425 Redwood Road, Taylorsville



We are very proud to inform you that 100% of the funds donated to the Utah Parent Center and our projects go directly to support the ongoing activities, programs and services of the Utah Parent Center as we serve parents and families of children, youth and young adults with disabilities throughout the state of Utah. The Utah Parent Center is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization and the full amount of your donation will be tax-deductible.

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 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 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 • Website: 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