

## Get Ready for Back to School!

*Click through and find answers on our website*

If you have a child with special needs who is starting back to school, now is a great time to revisit the Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan and to check in with the school about how your child's services are going. Whether this is your child's first year on an IEP or you are a veteran parent, we have some helpful tips to offer you. We have a wealth of resources about the IEP process and Section 504 plans on our website. This newsletter highlights some of our own resources and provides links to some resources provided by our partners. Also be sure to check out our free workshops, and be aware we will be scheduling more of them around the state. Remember that we provide free individual consultations if you would like to speak with someone about your questions. Be an informed parent, and take advantage of these great resources!

You may wish to use this checklist prior to starting your IEP meeting. You may choose to send a copy to your team prior to the meeting so they can use it to prepare. [Click here to get the IEP Checklist.](#)

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### Get Social with the UPC:



### Find answers to these questions on our website:



[www.utahparentcenter.org](http://www.utahparentcenter.org)



### READ Information Online:

- [IEP 101](#)
- [Does my child qualify for a 504?](#)
- [Accommodations for Students under Section 504](#)



### WATCH Informative Webinars and Videos:

- [Parents as Partners in the IEP Process](#)
- [Section 504 Services for Students in Public Schools](#)
- [Assessment Accommodations](#)



### DOWNLOAD Information Sheets:

- [Basic Special Education Information for Parents](#)
- [IEP Tips for Parents](#)
- [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act](#)

## Consider Assistive Technology as Part of Your Child's IEP

To help you determine if your child would benefit from using an Assistive Technology (AT) device even if he or she is not eligible for early intervention services under IDEA, consider the following questions:



- **Compared to other children of the same age, can my child play with toys independently?**
- **Can my child communicate effectively?**
- **How does my child move from place to place?**
- **Can my child sit, stand or walk independently?**

If you answer "no" to any of these questions, then assistive technology may help. For example, some children with behavior problems actually have a communication impairment. They are frustrated that they cannot tell someone how they feel, and act out instead. Various types of AT (low or high tech) may be helpful!

For additional resources on assistive technology, review the Utah Parent Center's Assistive Technology Topical Journal or the Assistive Technology Information Sheets both available at:

<http://www.utahparentcenter.org/resources/assistive-technology/>

## When it Just Doesn't Work- IEP Teams



Who hasn't heard of disagreements in IEP teams? Perhaps agreement has not been reached about the needs of the student, services for which the student qualifies, the way services are delivered, and even where the services are provided. In addition to these possible areas of conflict, it isn't unheard of to experience relationship difficulties due to loss of trust or breakdowns in communication.

The good news is that there are methods to find resolutions for these conflicts. There is an entire continuum of conflict resolution options, and great emphasis should be placed on the earlier stages. Some of these include, but are certainly not limited to, trainings, parent-to-parent assistance or a telephone intermediary. Resolving the conflict early gives parents and school team members much more flexibility in how it is resolved than do the formal, inflexible, conflict resolution options. Another benefit of resolving conflicts early is that the relationship between team members is preserved, and it allows for greater ease in resolving future conflicts.

For more information on dispute resolution in Utah, call the Utah Parent Center or visit the Special Education Section on the Utah State Office of Education's website: <http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/Laws,-State-Rules-and-Policies/Dispute.aspx>

## **SAGE (Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence)**

*Utah's System of Assessments for all Students based on the Utah Common Core Standards*



The new school year is upon us and maybe you are not thinking about SAGE testing just yet, however the Utah Parent Center wants to equip you with information to ready you for this 2014-2015 academic year. This fall (2014), families will be able to view their student's test scores and proficiency levels from each subject tested directly from the SAGE portal site. Look for more information from the UPC in early spring as well.

[Click here to download brochure!](#)

SAGE portal: <http://sageportal.org/>

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/Adaptive-Assessment-System/SAGEFebruaryWebinar.aspx>

## **Self Determination- How the Utah Parent Center Helped Michelle**

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As a parent, it is sometimes a challenge to know how to help your child be their own self advocate. One blessing I have had in my life is to be able to interact with the Utah Parent Center. One of the greatest things I have learned through trainings and from staff is how to help my child learn to be his own self-advocate. Christopher is only 14, but I know that by teaching him skills now, I am preparing him for his future. It is scary to let your child deal with an issue more independently, but I believe it is worth it. With the tips I learned at the Center, my son has been able to successfully advocate for himself.

[Watch Christopher's video on self-advocacy by clicking here!](#)

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Can Help Students in High School**

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Does your youth with disabilities know what job he or she wants after high school? How about how to get that job? Or does your youth know what job skills are needed before applying for a job? The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, otherwise known as Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), provides a wide variety of individualized services to people with disabilities who need assistance getting a job or going back to work.

[Click here to read more!](#)





*The following free workshops will be presented by the staff of the Utah Parent Center.*

## **Gifts and Challenges:**

**Having a Child with Special Needs in Your Family**



**Thursday, September 30, 2014**

**6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.**

Kauri Sue Hamilton School  
2827 W. 13400 S. Riverton

Register online at: <http://conta.cc/1s6cjau> or call 801-272-1051

*Participants in this workshop will explore some of the unique "gifts and challenges" that are ours.*

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## **Plan for the Future: Employment and Higher Education**

*Prepare for the future!*



**Thursday, October 9, 2014**

**7:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.**

Wasatch Institute of Technology  
120 W. Vine Street, Murray, UT 84107

Register online at: <http://conta.cc/1pJ3G8q> or call 801-272-1051

*Better understand services for students with disabilities in employment and higher education.*

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## **The IEP Process and Dispute Resolution Questions and Answers**

*Have questions? Find Answers.*



**Wednesday, October 22, 2014**

**6:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m.**

Utah Parent Center  
230 West 200 South, Suite 1101, SLC, 84101

Register online at: <http://conta.cc/1tWzeGc> or call 801-272-1051

*Topics include: IEP Process, Roles, Relationships, Clarification of Rights and so much more!*

## **Upcoming Community Events!**

### ***Don't Miss Out!***

- Free Special Needs Storytime in Magna Library. [Click here to check out Fall Schedule!](#)  
*Check your local library to see what they offer!*
- TV Series to Examine Life During Transition. [Click here to read more!](#)
- Miss Radiant Pageant on October 11, 2014. [Check out the details here!](#)
- Free Mindfulness Classes for Teenagers This Fall. [Click here to see flyer!](#)
- Annual Open House for The Utah Center for Assistive Technology. [Click here to see flyer!](#)
- Please join The Annual LDAU and DCU Conference on October 10, 2014. [Click here for flyer!](#)

## **The Utah Department of Health wants to know what you think**

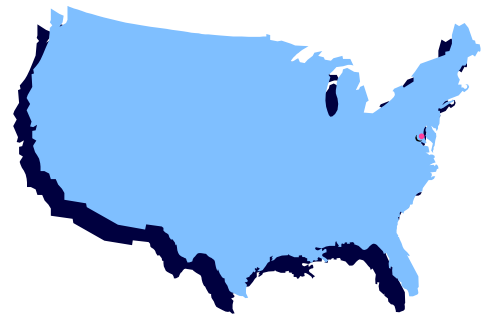
### ***Short Survey***

The Utah Department of Health is interested in your thoughts about the needs that your child has with a health or developmental issue. [Click here to take a short survey!](#)

## **Know someone who is looking for a Parent Center in a different state?**

### ***Help them find help.***

Families with a child who has a disability often need information about the disability of their child, about early intervention (for babies and toddlers), school services (for school-aged children), therapy, local policies, transportation, and much more. Every State has at least one **Parent Training and Information Center** (PTI) or Community Parent Resource Center (CPRC) to offer families just this kind of information. The Utah Parent Center is Utah's PTI.



[Click here to find a Parent Center near you or out of state](#)

## Utah Parent Center Information Disclaimer



**Serving Utah families since 1983**

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)

The Utah Parent Center (UPC or Center) is a private, non-profit organization that receives federal funding to be Utah's Parent Training and Information Center by the Office of Special Education Programs under grant #H328M120018. The Center also receives funding from other federal, state, and private agencies, organizations, and individual donors.

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