Welcome to the weekly PLUK eNews!

We are proud to present news of interest for Montana families of children with disabilities and special health care needs, and for the professionals and educators who serve them; however, it does not constitute an endorsement.

"More money is put into prisons than into schools. That, in itself, is the description of a nation bent on suicide. I mean, what is more precious to us than our own children? We are going to build a lot more prisons if we do not deal with the schools and their inequalities." -Jonathan Kozol (author/educator)

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- National Resource Center on ADHD
- Call for Submissions from College Students with Disabilities
- Transitioning Successfully: Native American Students with Disabilities (Newsletter)
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- Enhancing Young Children’s Learning Through Objects and the Arts
- Family Connections Children’s Activity Fair, April 17, Great Falls
- Sleek New Devices Help Low-Vision Patients See
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**Fun Events:**
- Art Workshops April 21 & May 5 in Billings

**How you can help!**
- Birthday Time?
- Get your Albertson Community Partners card!

**Selected Sources:**
2. Rocky Mountain DBTAC, [http://www.adainformation.org](http://www.adainformation.org)
3. Transition Newsflash, Montana Center on Disabilities, [http://www.msubillings.edu/transition](http://www.msubillings.edu/transition)
5. Reference Points: Transition updates from the TATRA Project, [http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm](http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm)
6. The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar [http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm](http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm)

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**PLUK eNews is published by:**
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ADHD in the teenager: Services & Interventions, PLUK ITV Training, April 13

http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm

Topic: ADHD in the teenager: Services & Interventions

Speakers: panel from Kalispell, MT
- Dr. Marlene Snyder
- Diana & Tom Auerhammer, LCPC
- Elsie Johnson, Registered Educational Therapist

When: Tuesday, April 13, 2004, 6:00-8:00pm MST
There will be an open house from 4:30 to 6:00pm at Byte Savvy in Kalispell.

Session Description: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD, is a neurological disorder that affects up to 5% of school-aged children and adolescents. Children with ADHD may exhibit developmentally inappropriate attention skills, impulsivity, hyperactivity, and poor school performance. If undiagnosed and untreated, ADHD can negatively impact a child's ability to effectively learn at home and school, as well as to develop healthy relationships with family, peers, and adults. This panel will cover issues related to driving, sexuality, testing, counseling, interventions, organization, study skills, and differing learning styles.

Current Sites:
- Billings: Granite Tower, 222 N 32nd St Ste 300, 690-2518
- Great Falls: VisionNet Classroom, 1211 NW Bypass, 727-5994
- Helena: Hustad Center, 1084 Helena Ave, 727-5994
- Kalispell: (instructor site) Byte Savvy, 309 S Main, 257-5050
- Missoula: Blackfoot Telephone Co-op, 1221 N Russell, 721-2121
- Poplar: Fort Peck Community College, Hwy 2 E, located in the Robert L. Sullivan behind the Culture/museum building, 768-6363

Streaming Sites:
- Miles City: Holy Rosary Health Center Community Room #1, 951-1357

How to participate:
- Register by calling 800-222-7585 or visit http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm
- Attend one of the sites listed above.
- View the session “live” over the Internet from any computer (see links on the web site).

All sessions are videotaped and available through the TRIC/PLUK Library and on a web archive. For information on current active sites, registrations, and all sessions, visit the web site: http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm or call the PLUK office at 800-222-7585.

Future Session topics:
- May 11, 2004: “Fragile-X”

##

National Resource Center on ADHD

The National Resource Center on AD/HD: A Program of CHADD has been established with funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be a national clearinghouse of information and resources concerning this important public health concern. Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD) is a neurobehavioral disorder that impairs the functioning of millions of American children and adults each and every day.

This Website answers many of your questions about AD/HD, and directs you to other reliable sources online. New material is regularly being added.

http://www.help4adhd.org
NRC Library

The National Resource Center on AD/HD Library is a collection of resources on attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and related topics. The collection includes books and articles for professionals, educators, parents, and individuals with AD/HD. Some of the resources are available in summary form only, while others are available in full text.

http://www.help4adhd.org/library.cfm

##

Call for Submissions from College Students with Disabilities

The Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) is soliciting articles for an anthology about first-year college students with disabilities. The purpose of the book is to educate prospective college students with disabilities, parents of students with disabilities, university personnel, and transition specialists in K-12 education, through the voices of current and former college students. The book will focus on two major issues: the experience of graduating from high school and going to college; and life during the first year of college as a student with a disability. Fictional short stories, essays, poetry, photographs and art about college experiences are welcome. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2004. http://www.ahead.org/publications/anthology.html

##

Transitioning Successfully: Native American Students with Disabilities (Newsletter)

This edition of the Montana Transition Newsflash, dedicated to transitioning for Native American Youth, identifies some of the major issues facing educators, students, and families. Available in PDF format (4 pages).

http://www.msubillings.edu/transition/March%2004%20Newsflash.pdf

##

High School Diplomas for Youth with Disabilities: Options and Alternate Routes (Teleconference Call) April 27

1:00 - 2:00 PM Central Time (Teleconference Call) April 27, 2004

Public criticism during the past two decades about the lack of knowledge and skills among students leaving schools with high school diplomas has led states to implement graduation policies and requirements that call for raised academic standards for all students, state and local district testing, development of exit exams linked to a student¹s eligibility for a diploma, and a focus on increasing student graduation rates. Within this context, there has been a new emphasis on the inclusion of all students in an educational system with high expectations and the same standards for all students. Thus, one of the major challenges in implementing more rigorous high school graduation policies has been to determine how best to include students with disabilities. This teleconference will highlight findings from a national study on Graduation Requirements and Diploma Options for Youth with Disabilities. A recent study of alternate routes for obtaining standard diplomas in states with graduation exams will also be presented. To join this call, dial 703-925-2403 a few minutes before the call begins, and refer to the "NCSET Teleconference Call" if asked by the operator. http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/
2004 Child Abuse Prevention Community Resource Packet

Source: National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect - March 30, 2004 Each April, Child Abuse and Prevention Month activities raise awareness about what each of us can do to prevent the abuse and neglect of our Nation's children. The 2004 Child Abuse Prevention Community Resource Packet is one of the key components of the Child Abuse Prevention Initiative, which is sponsored by the Office of Child Abuse and Neglect; Children's Bureau; Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Administration for Children and Families; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Children's Bureau works with State and local agencies to develop programs that focus on preventing the abuse of children in troubled families, protecting children from abuse, and finding permanent placements for those who cannot safely return to their homes. The Children's Bureau promotes the safety, permanency, and well-being of children through leadership, funding support for necessary services, and partnerships with States, Tribes and communities. The packet is available online at http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention/order/index.cfm

Recent Changes in Benefit Programs Assist Individuals with Disabilities in Building Assets

http://www.wid.org/publications/?page=equity&sub=200403&topic=fa

Eileen Sweeney, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, provides a timely article focusing on recent developments in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) that affect assets and provides an update on rules in other federal programs.

A-to-Z of Blindness and Vision Loss Now Online; American Foundation for the Blind Expands Web Site

NEW YORK, April 5 /U.S. Newswire/ -- Whether you're hoping to find the latest information on accessible cellphones for people who are blind or have low vision, looking for resources to help teach a visually impaired student in your classroom, working for a corporation researching ADA compliance, or are experiencing vision loss and want to learn how to maintain your independence, http://www.AFB.org has the answer.

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) relaunched its web site today adding new information and resources for the 10 million Americans who are blind or have low vision. All the site's content is either new or updated to reflect the growing demand for current and reliable information for a population that is expected to grow dramatically as the baby boomers age.

"AFB has been delivering information through our Web site for over a decade," said AFB President and CEO Carl R. Augusto. "By expanding our web presence, we've made AFB's vast expertise and resources available at the touch of a button, anytime of day."

New features on the site include a glossary of eye conditions, "etiquette tips" for interacting with a person who is blind, and a home page function called "Where can I find?," allowing visitors to locate organizations in their state that provide services-from dog guide training to newspaper reading services to education services-for people who are blind or visually impaired and their families.

AFB has also added an extensive searchable database of assistive technology products used by people who are blind or visually impaired. Visitors can browse by product, category,
Keep up the Pressure on CMS re Power Wheelchairs!

During CMS's March 31, 2004 "Open Door Forum on the Medicare Power Mobility Benefit," an astonishing 657 people attempted to participate via conference call. However, as the forum abruptly wrapped up that afternoon, not one of those 657 callers had been given the opportunity to speak, practically eliminating the consumer's voice from this "open" discussion. Furthermore, CMS has continued to hold these forums in Baltimore, an inconvenient location for any Washington-based advocate, but especially for those advocates with disabilities. We need to let CMS know that the Medicare power mobility benefit effects more than the manufacturers and that everyone deserves a voice in this debate about independence! As we continue to fight for better access to wheelchairs through the Medicare program we need you to take action. Please see the message below.

HELP US GET WASHINGTON TO FIX MEDICARE REGULATIONS ON WHEELCHAIRS, SCOOTERS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES!

In December, 2003, as part of a new initiative to fight fraud in the Medicare wheelchair benefit, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a "Policy Clarification" that severely limited access to wheelchairs and other mobility devices. After months of fighting by individuals like you and organizations like the ITEM Coalition, the Policy Clarification was retracted in March, 2004.

HOWEVER, THE FIGHT IS NOT FINISHED. Current Medicare regulations provide access to a mobility device only if needed for use in the four walls of a beneficiary's home and not if he or she needs it to fully participate in work, school, and the community outside of the home. The regulations also only cover mobility devices for those beneficiaries who are "bed or chair confined," and not for those who can get out of bed but have limited mobility without a wheelchair, scooter or similar device.

We, with your help, are working to maintain momentum on this issue to ensure that Medicare's overly restrictive regulations are fixed. PLEASE VISIT THE ITEM COALITION WEBSITE AT http://ga3.org/campaign/takeaction TO TAKE ACTION ON THIS ISSUE. On this website, you can tell key policymakers to fix the Medicare regulations so that Americans with Medicare can have access to mobility devices they need to be healthy, independent and functional.

Thank you.
Henry Claypool

##

Captioned Telephone Relay Service Available in Montana

CapTel (Captioned Telephone) essentially provides live captioning of phone conversations, allowing users to ensure they receive and understand the full context of any call. Thanks to CapTel, MTAP consumer Robert Ellesch is discovering the many pleasures of interrupting during his telephone conversations. "CapTel has given me the freedom to interrupt the person I am speaking with at anytime. For example, if someone starts repeating information I already
know, I can interject immediately. With Two-Line VCO (the CapTel of the past), I had to wait until the other person was finished speaking, "he explains.

For Robert and so many others, CapTel has revolutionized the relay calling experiences. A specialized technology developed by Ultratec®, the world’s largest manufacturer of TTYs, CapTel permits individuals who are hard of hearing to read a captioned version of their conversations on the text screen of their phones and listen to the voice of the person they are calling at the same time. Thanks to the very latest in voice-recognition technology, captions appear nearly simultaneously with the spoken words. This is very similar in concept to the closed captioning feature on televisions.

To place a Call, CapTel phone users directly dial the number of the person or business they wish to reach (there is no need to dial a special number for relay services). As they dial, the CapTel phone automatically connects to a captioning service. During the conversation, a specially trained operator transcribes everything the hearing party says into written text. This text then appears nearly instantaneously on the CapTel phone’s bright, easy-to-read display window.

March 1, 2004 Montana Telecommunications Access Program began distribution of CapTel phones to qualified individuals, free of charge. Completing and returning the MTAP application in the mail or online at http://www.montanarelay.org will begin the process of acquiring a new CapTel phone. For more information, call 866-735-2968 v/tty.

For information on this service provided by Sprint, visit: http://www.sprintbiz.com/government/relay/index.html

For information on the captioned telephone, visit, http://www.captionedtelephone.com/

##

Scam artists abusing relay system for deaf

Kevin rancher Roxy Gillespie got a call several months ago from a Montana Telecommunications Relay Services operator who said she had a man on the line who wanted to buy Gillespie's product.

Telecommunications Relay Services operators act as go-betweens for hard of hearing or deaf people using Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf. The deaf person types text into the device, which is plugged into a telephone. The operator reads the text to the person on the other line.

Gillespie was suspicious. The product she had for sale on the Internet was $10,000 worth of bull semen.

"'Product' isn't terminology used by someone with a ranch background when talking about semen," Gillespie said. 

Turns out the call originated in Nigeria. The caller was most likely a scam artist who avoids paying long-distance charges by abusing the Telecommunications Relay Services program.

It's one of the latest underhanded ways thieves are using new technology, including computers.

Read the complete article at: http://www.greatfallstribune.com/news/stories/20040318/localnews/100257.html
Resources for Child Abuse Prevention Month

Child abuse prevention continues to be a key priority for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) and its National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information. Building on the success of the Prevention Initiative launched in April 2003, OCAN and its National Clearinghouse have continued to partner with key national child abuse prevention organizations to identify strategies to promote greater visibility of child abuse prevention activities for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, and throughout the year.

As part of this initiative, the National Clearinghouse website (http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov) recently launched an updated section on child abuse prevention featuring public awareness information, emerging practices, and links to resources and organizations for more information. New for 2004, the site also includes a special section on "Developing and Sustaining Child Abuse Prevention Programs in Tough Times." This online toolkit offers resources on collaboration, marketing, Federal and private funding sources, evaluation, and conducting cost analysis of child abuse prevention programs. Links to national, State, and local examples of successful efforts in these areas are featured throughout the toolkit.

Finally, copies of the "2004 Child Abuse Prevention Community Resource Packet" (2nd Edition) in Spanish and English are being disseminated nationally for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Limited print copies may be ordered online from the Prevention Initiative website (http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention) or by calling the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information at (800) 394-3366. English and Spanish versions also can be downloaded from the website.

##

Life is Not a Dress Rehearsal

Download this complete article at:

For many people with disabilities, life is not unlike the lives of actors preparing for a play, but with one significant difference. For actors, opening night signals the end of the readiness phase. But for people with disabilities, "getting ready" for the real thing--life--continues indefinitely. Learn what's wrong with the "readiness" paradigm and what we can do to change it!

This is the latest in a series of articles on "Revolutionary Common Sense" by Kathy Snow at http://www.disabilityisnatural.com/.

##

Three Pediatric Studies Emphasize Important Factors in Better Understanding AD/HD

Three studies published in the April issue of Pediatrics, the research publication of the American Academy of Pediatrics, address important factors in better understanding AD/HD.

Two of the reports discuss changes and developments in children who are part of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Multimodal Treatment Study (MTA) which was first published in December 1999. Multimodal treatment for children and adolescents with AD/HD consists of parent and child education about diagnosis and treatment, specific behavioral management techniques, stimulant medication, and appropriate school programming and supports. Treatment should be tailored to the unique needs of each child and family.
The third report discusses how early television exposure may contribute to subsequent attention problems in children.


##

**An Interview with Dr. Paula Tallal - Neuroscience, Phonology and Reading: The Oral to Written Language Continuum**

Some of the world’s finest scientists, scholars and teachers are participating in one of the most important television programs in history. With a team including a PBS Emmy winner and with some of Hollywood’s brightest stars, Children of the Code tells the story of the invention of the alphabet (the code) and its effects upon our civilizations, our brains, our consciousness and how our children learn to read (decode the code). Much more than a series on literacy, Children of the Code blends exciting historical dramatizations with leading edge science to provide an exciting, entertaining and educational journey into the greatest story never told.

Paula Tallal, Ph.D. is Board of Governor’s Chair of Neuroscience and Co-Director of the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience at Rutgers University and Co-Founder and a Director of Scientific Learning Corp (SCIL). A world-recognized authority on language-learning disabilities, she is active on many scientific advisory boards and government committees for both developmental language disorders and learning problems.

Read the interview online at: http://www.childrenofthecode.org/interviews/tallal.htm.

##

**Judge says mental illness has been made a crime**

By ALLISON FARRELL, Lee State Bureau

HELENA – When sheriff’s deputies in Lincoln County pick up a suspect who is mentally ill, the arrest usually turns into a three-day commitment, said Lincoln County Sheriff Daryl Anderson.

If deputies take the person to St. John’s Lutheran Hospital in Libby, they have to post a deputy there to guard the patient. If they take the person to Pathways Treatment Center in Kalispell, they spend more time on the road.

“If we had a mental health facility in our town, it would take a big weight off our shoulders,” Anderson said Tuesday.

Counties don’t have adequate resources to treat the mentally ill and they end up inappropriately sent to jail, said Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner.

Read the complete article at: http://www.montanaforum.com/rednews/2004/03/24/build/health/mentalcrime.php?nnn=3

##

**Disabled Alaska Students Can Waive Exams**

Thu Apr 8, 8:17 AM ET Add U.S. National - AP to My Yahoo!, By DAN JOLING, Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - Alaska high school seniors with disabilities will not need to pass the state’s new high school exit exam to graduate this spring.
More than 500 students will be affected immediately by an agreement reached Wednesday in a class-action lawsuit that charged that the exam puts disabled students at a disadvantage. Education Commissioner Roger Sampson said the agreement signed Wednesday allows disabled students in the class of 2004 to graduate if they have met other requirements for a diploma. Meanwhile, negotiations will continue on how to accommodate disabled students in future classes.

Read the complete article at:
http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=519&ncid=519&e=3&u=/ap/20040408/ap_on_re_us/qualifying_exam_lawsuit_1

##

**Enhancing Young Children’s Learning Through Objects and the Arts**

Contact: Deborah Krichbaum
deborah.krichbaum@gallaudet.edu

**July 18 – 21, 2004**

Learn a new twist on tried-and-true methods to enhance learning for hearing impaired, special needs or typical preschoolers. This active-learning workshop uses everyday objects to create a bridge between what children already know and new experiences, using visual arts, creative movement, and children’s literature. This hands-on, multi-sensory technique is appropriate for a variety of settings. The four-day workshop includes daily sessions in Washington’s famous Smithsonian museums and is offered through a partnership with the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center. The Learning Through Objects and the Arts workshop runs from Sunday afternoon, July 18 through Wednesday, July 21

http://clast.gallaudet.edu/summer/special/enhancing.html

##

**Family Connections Children’s Activity Fair, April 17, Great Falls**

10am-3pm at the Trades & Industry Bldg, Montana Expo Park, Great Falls

Family Connections’ Childcare Resource and Referral Program promotes the availability of childcare for all families based on accessibility, affordability and quality in Cascade, Glacier, Pondera, Teton, Choteau and Toole counties. Family Connections is one of 12 regional Childcare Resource and Referral agencies in the State of Montana. These non-profit offices offer comprehensive childcare solutions to workers and employers in the following four areas:

- **CHILDcare SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **REFERRAL PROGRAMS**
- **PROVIDER EDUCATION**
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Telephone 800-696-4503 or visit http://www.famcon.org/ for information.
For a directory of all Montana Childcare resource and referral providers, visit: http://www.montanachildcare.com/map.htm.
To find providers nationally, visit: http://www.childcareaware.org/.

##

**Sleek New Devices Help Low-Vision Patients See**

By KENNETH CHANG, Published: April 6, 2004

With a stylish exterior of metallic blue and gray, the device looks like a personal digital assistant but slightly larger.

Julius Mendalis, 84, a lawyer for the company that makes Arizona Iced Tea, paid $795 for this gadget, and he loves it, though he is not a man of technology, rarely uses computers and does not surf the Web.

It is helping him read again.

The Quicklook, an amalgamation of a tiny digital video camera and a four-inch liquid-crystal display screen, acts as an electronic magnifying glass, enlarging the text of a newspaper or a legal brief to an inch high. At that size, Mr. Mendalis, whose vision has deteriorated from macular degeneration, can see the letters clearly.

Read the complete article at: http://www.nytimes.com/2004/04/06/health/06EYE.html?ex=1396584000&en=32bf591b5e6e379f&ei=5007&partner=USERLAND

Find more information on the Quicklook at http://www.quicklook.com/.

View information on other portable magnifiers at: http://www.aroga.com/low_vision/portable_cctv.asp

##

**Statement of Senator Max Baucus at the Hearing on Improving Access to Medicaid Home and Community Based Services**

April 7, 2004 – Washington DC - Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this very important hearing to consider strategies to improve access to home-and community-based services under Medicaid. Let me pause for a moment to reflect on that term that we will undoubtedly hear over and over today. “Home and Community Based Services.” The term sounds clinical. Bureaucratic. The kind of term that can become a buzzword in Washington, DC. But when you step back and consider that without these “home and community based services”, a person may be forced to leave her home, her family, and her community simply to receive care to keep her alive. Then you realize just how important these services are. And that they affect real people with real needs and real families.

I hope that this hearing will remind all of us – members of Congress, of the Administration, state policymakers, and citizens all around our country – that we simply must work harder to make home, family and community available to people with severe disabilities.


View material from the April 7 hearing at: http://finance.senate.gov/sitepages/hearing040704.htm.
YOU can still submit written testimony to the Finance Committee for 2 weeks, please do so. The Senators and their staff were clearly affected by the strong presence and interest in the topic. Send it to

1. Senate Committee on Finance  
   Att: Editorial and Document Section  
   Rm. SD-203, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
   Washington, D.C. 20510-6200
2. Include the  
   - Hearing Date: April 7, 2004  
   - Topic: "Money Follows the Person"
3. At the top of each page put Page #, Senate Finance Committee, Testimony of (Your Name), "Money Follows the Person."
4. Limited it to 10-pages or less.
5. Put who it's from

##

1998 Rascal Power Chair for Sale
Has been in storage for 4 years and needs batteries. Will sell for $300. Telephone Jeannie Davis at 406/665-1184.

##

Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana:

ADHD in the teenager: Services & Interventions, PLUK ITV Training, April 13
http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm

**Topic:** ADHD in the teenager: Services & Interventions  
**Speakers:** panel from Kalispell, MT  
   Dr. Marlene Snyder  
   Diana & Tom Auerhammer, LCPC  
   Elsie Johnson, Registered Educational Therapist

**When:** Tuesday, April 13, 2004, 6:00-8:00pm MST  
There will be an open house from 4:30 to 6:00 pm at Byte Savvy in Kalispell.

**Session Description:** Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD, is a neurological disorder that affects up to 5% of school-aged children and adolescents. Children with ADHD may exhibit developmentally inappropriate attention skills, impulsivity, hyperactivity, and poor school performance. If undiagnosed and untreated, ADHD can negatively impact a child’s ability to effectively learn at home and school, as well as to develop healthy relationships with family, peers, and adults. This panel will cover issues related to driving, sexuality, testing, counseling, interventions, organization, study skills, and differing learning styles.

**Current Sites:**
- **Billings:** Granite Tower, 222 N 32nd St Ste 300, 690-2518  
- **Great Falls:** VisionNet Classroom, 1211 NW Bypass, 727-5994  
- **Helena:** Hustad Center, 1084 Helena Ave, 727-5994  
- **Kalispell:** (instructor site) Byte Savvy, 309 S Main, 257-5050  
- **Missoula:** Blackfoot Telephone Co-op, 1221 N Russell, 721-2121  
- **Poplar:** Fort Peck Community College, Hwy 2 E, located in the Robert L. Sullivan behind the Culture/museum building, 768-6363

**Streaming Sites:**
- **Miles City:** Holy Rosary Health Center Community Room #1, 951-1357
How to participate:
• Register by calling 800-222-7585 or visit http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm
• Attend one of the sites listed above.
• View the session “live” over the Internet from any computer (see links on the web site).

All sessions are videotaped and available through the TRIC/PLUK Library and on a web archive. For information on current active sites, registrations, and all sessions, visit the web site: http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm or call the PLUK office at 800-222-7585.

Future Session topics:
• May 11, 2004: “Fragile-X”

###

Differentiated Instruction, April 14, Missoula
This workshop, presented by Rick Wormeli, will address the diverse learning needs of students in our schools. Participants will explore the concepts and principles of differentiated learning. They will investigate instructional and management strategies that can be used in academically diverse classrooms.

Administrators, general educators, special educators, paraeducators, parents, agency personnel, and others interested in meeting the needs of all kids are invited to participate.

Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

###

Thinking in Pictures: A look inside AUTISM, Dr Temple Grandin, April 14, Billings
Dr. Temple Grandin is a gifted animal scientist who is also autistic. Dr. Grandin is perhaps one of the most noted high-functioning individuals with autism in the world. Grandin is an active speaker around the world on autism and the author of two books, Emergence: Labeled Autistic and Thinking in Pictures. Grandin thinks, feels, and experiences the world in ways incomprehensible to most people. She has helped thousands of parents and professionals understand how to help individuals with autism/PDD/Asperger’s.

This seminar will serve as a valuable source of inspiration and understanding for parents, professional counselors, teachers and others working with children diagnosed with autism/Asperger’s.

Seminar Fee: $39-individual or $50-couple/family

http://www.msubillings.edu/cot/SpringFever2004/scheduleApril14.htm

###

Families & Learning Conference, April 14-16, Helena
The 2004 Families and Learning Conference is geared for learning opportunities and professional development experiences for all parents and professionals involved in school/family/community partnerships and family literacy programs across Montana.

For more information, visit:
http://www.montanapirc.org/linksfromhome/familiesandlearning.htm
More Strategies from Rick Wormeli, April 15, Missoula
In these two half-day sessions, Rick Wormeli will focus on some specific strategies to enhance learning in the classroom for ALL students. Administrators, general educators, special educators, paraeducators, parents, agency personnel, and others interested in meeting the needs of all kids are invited to participate.
Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

Preschool Forum, April 16, Missoula
Come learn and share information about services that affect children ages 3 to 5 in the Missoula area. Administrators, general educators, special educators, paraeducators, parents, agency personnel, and others interested in meeting the needs of all kids are invited to participate.
Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.
Lunch will be provided so please RSVP by registering for this workshop!

Reactive Attachment Disorder, April 16–17, Malta
by Nancy Thomas
Contact: Brenda Rummel at 406-654-5236

Instructional Alignment, April 16–17, Glendive
by Lisa Carter
Glendive DCC
Contact: Bruce Clausen at 406-377-5265

Click of Reading Comprehension, April 19, 2004, Missoula
Part 3 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series. Administrators, general educators, special educators, paraeducators, parents, agency personnel, and others interested in meeting the needs of all kids are invited to participate.
Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.
**Click of Reading Comprehension, April 20, 2004, Kalispell**

Part 3 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series.

Administrators, general educators, special educators, paraeducators, parents, agency personnel, and others interested in meeting the needs of all kids are invited to participate.

Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: [http://www.cspd.net](http://www.cspd.net) or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

**Gentle Teaching by Dan Hobbs, April 20, Missoula**

Dan Hobbs, an internationally renowned behavioral consultant, will present on developing individualized behavioral strategies in a gentle compassionate way. This approach focuses on strengths, interests and building trusting relationships.

Contact, Program Coordinator, CDC Suzanne Sterrett at 549-6413 ext 123 or ssterrett@childdevcenter.org

Register at: [http://www.cspd.net](http://www.cspd.net).

##

**PLUK Empowerment Series, April 20, Billings**

April 20, 2004, 6-8:00pm: Vance Thurston will speak regarding his experience growing up with dyslexia, the instructional strategies he learned to work around the challenges he faced as an individual with dyslexia, his mom's perspective as a parent, and some of the resources available to assist dyslexic individuals.

All sessions are two hours long and go from 6 to 8pm. If there is a subject that is of high interest to anyone, we can offer teleconferencing in different areas of the state upon request. Anyone is welcome to attend. However, registration for each session is required—to register please email bthurston@pluk.org, or call the PLUK office at 255-0540.

##

**Community Lifespan Respite Training, April 20, Billings**

Community Lifespan Respite is a collaborative inter-agency program administered through STEP to provide respite (short, temporary care) to children and adults with disabilities, healthcare concerns, special needs and to those at risk of abuse and neglect.

The primary purpose of respite is to provide relief from demands of ongoing care, thereby reducing stress, preventing abuse and neglect and enhancing family preservation and support.

The goal of CLR is to ensure all families have access to some form of respite service. CLR does not provide the respite itself or employ providers, but is a point of contact and resource for families in need.

CLR has three major components:

- Information, referral and education for families
- Provider recruitment, screening and monthly trainings
- Financial assistance information and other resources available
CLR provides trainings that are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from Noon — 1pm, at the STEP office at 1501 14h St. West, Suite 210. For those attending the trainings we provide a light lunch. We try to offer a wide variety of topics for the trainings. The trainings are free and all we ask is that you RSVP so we are prepared with the correct number of materials and right amount of food. The upcoming trainings that are scheduled are:

- April 20, 2004 — PT in Motion on Lifting and Transfers
- May 18, 2004 — Sue Bailey from YCCOA on Aging Sensitivity
- June 15, 2004 — Nancy Meyers from STEP on Safety and Universal Precautions

For further information please contact, Tami Haan, Lifespan Respite Coordinator at 248-2055.

Montana Association of Gifted and Talented Education - 24th Annual Spring Conference “Guiding Today’s Explorers” April 22-24, Helena

Differentiated instruction supports the needs of diverse learners including those highly capable students. The Montana AGATE conference focuses on differentiated instruction strategies that can be utilized in every classroom.

Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

Stabilizing with Foam in Children with Neurological problems, April 22-23, Missoula

Nancy Hylton, PT, CO will present in Missoula on April 22-23 on "Stabilizing with foam in Children with Neurological problems" - this is a dynamic hands-on workshop by an excellent presenter. Interested persons should contact Julie Tompkins, MonTECH at 1-800-732-0323 or 406-243-2426.

Positive Discipline, April 23-24, Glasgow

Contact: Jody at 1-800-659-3673

Sign Language Training in Bozeman April 23-25

Skillshops in Signing Exact English and Educational Interpreting sponsored by the S.E.E. Center for the Advancement of Deaf Children. April 23, 24 & 25 Friday, Saturday and Sunday Begins Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon.

Visit http://www.seecenter.org for more information and to register. Click on ‘skillshops’ and scroll down to weekend skill shops for details. Cost is $150.00.

These Skillshops are designed for individuals interested in learning S.E.E. and to help those already using S.E.E. to improve their expressive and receptive signing skills. Intensive work is done in groups from beginner to advanced levels. Each group is limited to approximately 15 participants. Sessions are geared for adult level, not appropriate for children under 16 years of age. Participants at full
week summer sessions, for an additional fee, can take a skill evaluation and receive a certificate indicating proficiency level. Those evaluated also receive detailed follow-up covering sign production, fluency, fingerspelling, expressiveness, and speech readability. The Signing Exact English Skillshops are for teachers, aides, parents and others who want to learn as well as those who use Signing Exact English and wish to improve their vocabulary, fluency, and expressiveness. Participants review S.E.E. vocabulary and do extensive work on additional signs, visual features of sign language, song and story telling techniques. Recent research findings are covered.

###

**A Focus on Self Advocacy, April 27, Missoula**

Panel of middle school and high school students, parents, educators, and agency folks will share strategies for promoting self-advocacy skills. Location: TBA

Hosted by IDEA PTA, as a part of their Positive Parent-Professional Partnerships. All programs are free. Business meeting held from 6:45-7:15pm, program follows 7:15-9:15pm. Contact Nancy Marks MCPS Special Ed Coordinator, 728-2400 ext 5036, nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us. Childcare vouchers are available. OPI renewals are also available.

To receive information about IDEA PTA events, programs and other items of interest, contact Mary Hall at hoythomes@montana.com.

###

**Support Group meeting for families in Kalispell, April 28**

Flathead Valley PLUK is proud to sponsor these Parent Support Meetings open to all parents who have children with disabilities and special health care needs.

- **Purpose:** support & education
- **Next Meeting:** April 28
- **Location:** The Summit - Kalispell
- **Time:** 7:00-8:30pm
- **More info??:** 756-6159

###

**ADHD Seminars in Montana by Dr John F Taylor, May 1-8**

*For details visit: [http://www.add-plus.com](http://www.add-plus.com)*

- May 1 Great Falls MT ADHD for 2004: The Forward Edge 800-847-1233 O'Haire Motor Inn - 17 7th St. S. (406-454-2141)
- May 5 Butte MT *FREE 7-9:00 pm - AD/HD Parent Survival Guide 406-723-4061 ext 214 Business Development Ctr - 305 W Mercury St, Call or e-mail Todd Hoar sbdpc@bigskyhsd.com
- May 7 Helena MT ADHD for 2004: The Forward Edge 800-847-1233 Elkhorn Mountain Inn - I-15 exit 187, 1 Jackson Creek
May 8 Missoula  MT ADHD for 2004: The Forward Edge 800-847-1233 Thunderbird Motel
- I-90 exit 105 (Van Buren St), 1009 E Broadway (406-543-7251)

##

How to Recognize if Your Child is at Risk, May 5, Billings
Dr Foster Cline, co-founder of “Becoming a Love and Logic Parent” will present on “How to Recognize if Your Child is at Risk” on May 5th from 6-9:30pm at the Billings Holiday Inn, Missouri Room. Cost is $50 with dinner. To register, contact Tumbleweed at 406/259-2558.

##

Assistive Technology Seminar, May 12, Billings
This full-day seminar offers a unique opportunity to gain valuable information on the topic of assistive technology. The two morning sessions will cover the basic information of technology and the law and how to make technology decisions. The afternoon sessions will cover specific strategies, devices, resources and what may be expected in the future.

##

PLUK Empowerment Series, May 18, Billings
May 18, 2004, 6-8:00pm: CP panel. A wide variety of Adults with Cerebral Palsy will speak regarding their experiences and what resources have assisted them as they transitioned into adulthood.
All sessions are two hours long and go from 6 to 8pm. If there is a subject that is of high interest to anyone, we can offer teleconferencing in different areas of the state upon request. Anyone is welcome to attend. However, registration for each session is required—to register please email bthurston@pluk.org, or call the PLUK office.

##

Assistive Technology Seminar, May 19, Kalispell
This full-day seminar offers a unique opportunity to gain valuable information on the topic of assistive technology. The two morning sessions will cover the basic information of technology and the law and how to make technology decisions. The afternoon sessions will cover specific strategies, devices, resources and what may be expected in the future.

Facing Autism, June 7, Miles City
Facing Autism, June 8, Glendive
Facing Autism, June 9, Wolf Point
by Lynne Hamilton
Contact : Helen Murphy at 406/485-2321 or email: dmurphy@midrivers.com

##

Section 504 in the Schools – Perry Zirkel, May 21, Polson
Perry Zirkel will present step by step strategies and guidelines for schools in the implementation of 504 procedures including developing legally sound forms and standards for eligibility, evaluation, parental rights and actual “504” plans.

PLUK eNews April 12-16, 2004 19
For more information or to register go to the Region V CSPD Online Registration website at http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at admin@cspd.net or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##


http://www.pluk.org/masp04.pdf

The Montana Association of School Psychologists’ Summer Institute 2004 will be held at the Mansfield Health Education Center in Billings on June 13-15, 2004. Download the brochure at the link above for information on the presenters, agenda, credit, and registration.

##

**Transition Institute, June 14-15, Polson**

This two day conference is designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for providing information about services and partnerships in the areas of housing, employment, and education to assist at-risk students who are transitioning from high school.

For more information or to register go to the Region V CSPD Online Registration website at http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at admin@cspd.net or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

**Power Mobility Camp 2004, June 14-18, Great Falls**

Power Mobility Camp 2004 - Will take place in Great Falls, MT from June 14-18, 2004. This camp provides an opportunity for individuals of any age to try power mobility. Interested persons can contact Mary O’Connell, PT at 1-800-732-0323 or 406-243-5688. Sponsored by the Montana Adaptive Equipment Program.

##

**Montana Behavior Institute, June 14-18, Bozeman**

Contact: http://www.montana.edu/cs/mbi

##

**Montana Youth Leadership Forum, July 19-23, Billings**

http://www.msubillings.edu/mtcd/mylf/

The Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) for Students with Disabilities is a unique career leadership-training program for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors with disabilities. By serving as delegates from their communities at a four-day event on the campus of Montana State University - Billings (July 19-23, 2004), young people with disabilities will cultivate leadership, citizenship and social skills.

##

**Davis Learning Strategies Introduction and Lab workshop, June 21-22, Kalispell**

Elsie Johnson, associate member of Kalispell PLUK board announces a Davis Learning Strategies Introduction and Lab workshop here in Montana saving attendees the cost of traveling to Reading Research Council in California.

Day Two provides supervised experiential practice on each Strategy. Attendees will work in pairs or small groups to practice each skill, followed by a Q&A session on each Strategy. NOTE: Students may delay attending this second day to a future date when this workshop or the lab is offered alone. Included in the workshop [1] detailed manual with suggested yearlong guides, black-line masters, and numerous tips for each Strategy and various curriculum activities. [2] video tape demonstrating each classroom Strategy [3] Teacher Kit briefcase which includes all the materials needed to start and proceed with confidence working with 1-2 students: alphabet strip, letter recognition, cars, clay, clay cutter, 2 Koosh balls, dictionary (Additional materials recommended for working with 3 or more students). [4] Verification of attendance letters [5] post workshop email consultation with a DLS Mentor [5] deli lunch on each day [6] continental breakfast. The cost for both days is $570. Day One Only: $385. Day Two Only (prior attendance of Day One required): $285. Group Discounts: 5% for 2-5 persons, 10% for 6-10 persons, 15% for 11 or more.

This approach serves learners who are predominantly visual/spatial/kinesthetic learners and has the added benefit of pointing out the positives of this learning style. I integrate it into my practice, so now its time to provide this opportunity for classroom teachers to have these tools available in the classroom.

Davis Learning Strategies goal is to give K-3 classroom teachers a way to develop accomplished readers with life-long skills in "how to learn". Core Strategies include Davis Focusing Skills, Symbol Mastery, and Reading Exercises. Would you like to reach all the children regardless of their learning style, manage your classroom more effectively, have methods easy to implement and flexible, meet early intervention reading needs the prevent special ed referrals?

Contact Elsie Johnson of Learning Options at elsie@thelearningoptions.com or 1.800.276.3138 for more information or visit the web site at http://www.thelearningoptions.com

##

S'Cool Moves, August 9-11, Miles City
by Debi Helberger-Wilson, Miles City at MCC
Contact: Helen Murphy 406/485-2321 or email: dmurphy@midrivers.com

##

7th Annual Region 5 CSPD August Institute: August 11-13, Missoula
For more information or to register go to the Region V CSPD Online Registration website at http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at admin@cspd.net or 728-2400ext 5036 for more information.

##
Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

APRIL 13, 2004  "SCHOOL-BASED STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS' DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-DETERMINATION SKILLS IN THE CONTEXT OF LEADERSHIP AND STANDARDS-BASED REFORM", New Orleans LA

This Capacity Building Institute is sponsored by NCSET and will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, LA. For more information go to http://www.ncset.org/events/default.asp

The institute is being held in conjunction with the Council for Exceptional Children 2004 Convention and Expo. The purpose of this institute is to share practical strategies and plans for increasing student self-determination. Special education teachers, state and district transition coordinators, researchers, general educators, family members, and other interested stakeholders are invited to attend this event. Online registration is available.

# #

2004 CEC Convention and Expo, April 14-17, New Orleans LA

Choose from more than 600 workshops, lectures, demonstrations, mini-workshops, panels and poster sessions:
- Find out how NCLB and the new IDEA will affect you
- Learn strategies for success with autism, discipline, and other challenges
- Hear the latest information on transition, technology, and more
- Get guidance on meeting the needs of diverse learners
- Browse innovative educational tools at the Expo
- Visit the Career Center and find a job
- Attend the Teacher of the Year and Yes I Can! Award ceremonies

http://www.cec.sped.org

# #

Northwest Council for Computer Education 2004 Conference, April 14-17, Spokane WA

We have tried to provide a variety of activities that will give you a look at what's new in educational technology...and have some fun in the process! You will find carefully structured sessions for different interests and different knowledge levels, and I hope that you will find new techniques and strategies that you can take back to your classroom to implement and share.

This year you will find over 130 sessions, 50 workshops, and a variety of student sessions and presentations that show the practical integration of technology in the classroom. You will also have the opportunity to view a variety of DigiTalkie presentations submitted by students from around our region and to talk to students about their classroom projects.

http://www.ncce.org

# #
"EMPLOYMENT IN A RURAL COMMUNITY" WEB CAST, APRIL 19
Sponsored by ODEP, the webcast will begin at 2:00 p.m. E.T. For more information go to http://www.vcu.edu/rrtweb/cyberu/

High School Diplomas for Youth with Disabilities: Options and Alternate Routes (Teleconference Call) April 27
1:00 - 2:00 PM Central Time (Teleconference Call) April 27, 2004
Public criticism during the past two decades about the lack of knowledge and skills among students leaving schools with high school diplomas has led states to implement graduation policies and requirements that call for raised academic standards for all students, state and local district testing, development of exit exams linked to a student¹s eligibility for a diploma, and a focus on increasing student graduation rates. Within this context, there has been a new emphasis on the inclusion of all students in an educational system with high expectations and the same standards for all students. Thus, one of the major challenges in implementing more rigorous high school graduation policies has been to determine how best to include students with disabilities. This teleconference will highlight findings from a national study on Graduation Requirements and Diploma Options for Youth with Disabilities. A recent study of alternate routes for obtaining standard diplomas in states with graduation exams will also be presented. To join this call, dial 703-925-2403 a few minutes before the call begins, and refer to the "NCSET Teleconference Call" if asked by the operator. http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/

Effective Strategies to Access the General Ed Curriculum and Achieve Inclusive Outcomes for Children with Significant Disabilities, April 27 – May 24
Thursday,
• The Effects of "Pull Out" on Community and Learning -Tuesday, April 27th
• If Everyone Agrees This is SO Important, Why Do So Few Kids Have Friends? - Thursday, April 29th
• Alternatives to Over-Reliance on Paraprofessionals - Wednesday, May 5th
• Six and ½ Lessons for Inclusive Educational Outcomes - Wednesday, May 12th
• Beyond Access: Students with Autism Learning General Ed Curriculum -Tuesday, May 18th
• The Least Dangerous Assumption in Practice - Friday, May 21st
• Communication Supports within General Education Classrooms, Monday, May 24th

APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 2004 "USING BRAIN RESEARCH TO IMPROVE CHILD LEARNING, ADHD, MOOD, MEMORY AND HEALTH" CONFERENCE, Cambridge MA
This "Learning and the Brain" conference will be held at the Harvard University Faculty Club and Hyatt Regency Cambridge, MA. For more information go to http://www.edupr.com

PLUK eNews April 12-16, 2004
YAI International Conference on Developmental and Learning Disabilities, May 3-7, New York
For information, call 212/273-6193 or email awittenberg@yai.org. Beginning in March, information will be online at http://www.yai.org/pid.cfm.

##

National ADA Symposium, May 11-13, 2004, Kansas City, Missouri
Featuring Dateline NBC correspondent, John Hockenberry as Keynote speaker.
The National ADA Symposium, hosted by the 10 Regional ADA & IT Technical Assistance Centers, has earned the reputation as the premier training event available on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related disability issues. Hockenberry received an Emmy for his Dateline reporting and is the author of Moving Violations: War Zones, Wheelchairs and Declarations of Independence, that describes his experiences as a wheelchair user and foreign news correspondent in the Middle East.
Visit http://www.adaproject.org/ for more information.

##

AccessAbilities Conference 2004, May 20, New Jersey
William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ
The Departments of Special Education and Counseling, Communication Disorders, and Continuing Education are proud to host the AccessAbilities Conference 2004 at William Paterson University.
The focus of this conference is how to effectively implement augmentative communication and assistive technology in an educational setting. This conference is geared toward educating teachers, therapists, child study teams, vocational rehab counselors, school administrators, parents, and consumers about successful strategies and devices that can be used to improve the academic and social well-being of students with disabilities.
http://www.accessabilitiesconference2004.com

##

PECS Training, May 20-21, Boise ID
2-Day Workshop, Presented by Donna Banzhof, M.Ed. & Christine Cavarretta, BCBA
$375 professional tuition
$235 parent tuition
Includes 2nd Edition PECS Manual and handout packet for note taking
Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc., the developer of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), is sponsoring a dynamic talk that focuses on enhancing the education and communication skills for individuals with autism and other related disabilities. Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc. is proud to announce the arrival of:
• The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) 2-Day Workshop
We are confident that special educators, administrators, speech language pathologists, parents and anyone who works with individuals with autism and other disabilities will leave our workshop with fresh ideas and practical new strategies to enhance their students’ communication and learning environments.

As a special offer, mention Sarah Moore on your registration form and receive a $30.00 discount off the two-day workshop.

For registration information, visit us online at http://www.pecs.com or call 888-732-7462. For general information, contact Sarah Moore at smoore@pecs.com or call 302-368-2515.

###

**The Power of Art: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities, May 21, Washington DC**

*May 21, The Lab School in Washington DC*

This one-day workshop is for art teachers. The program will present ways art can be used to teach academic skills to students with learning disabilities.


###

**BETTER HEARING 2004, May 22, Denver CO**

BETTER HEARING COLORADO 2004...Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc., (SHHH) is hosting the Better Hearing Colorado 2004 Conference on May 22, 2004 at the Doubletree Hotel, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This conference will include equipment exhibits and speakers on a wide range of topics of interest to people with hearing loss, their families, and professionals in the hearing healthcare field. The organizing committee, Sharon Campbell, Robert Knox and Debbie Mohney, invites interested volunteers to help with the many tasks to be done to make this conference a success, and to attend the conference. Any companies, organizations or individuals who might be interested in contributing financially or items for a silent auction are very welcome! Please contact Sharon Campbell at 42 Tulane Street, Pueblo, CO 81005, 719-561-0648, SLCCOM@hotmail.com for more information, to volunteer, or with suggestions for the conference. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at this first annual conference. Check out the SHHH website at http://www.betterhearingco.org.

###

**Autism One Conference, May27-30, Chicago IL**

Autism One 2004, the most comprehensive conference on autism ever assembled, will be held May 27 - 30, 2004, in Chicago. It is a conference for parents and professionals discussing the care, treatment, and recovery of children with autism. For more information please visit our web site at http://AutismOne.org.

###

**Intermountain Special Study Institute, June 7-10, Idaho**

Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, will hold its Intermountain Special Study Institute on Deafness, June 7-10, in Pocatello, Idaho. This institute is an excellent opportunity for teaching and related services personnel to share knowledge, as well as to learn effective teaching strategies from recognized professionals in the field of deafness. The
Office of Public Instruction will again be providing a limited number of stipends to pay for the registration fees of teachers of the deaf, regular education teachers and speech-language pathologists who are providing services to students who are deaf or hearing impaired in the public schools in Montana. Renewal units, as well as ASHA CEUs will be available to participants. Personnel who wish to apply for a stipend should contact Marilyn Pearson at mpearson@state.mt.us.

Go to http://www.isu.edu/issi for more information on the institute.

##

COLLABORATIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, June 10-12, Colorado

COLLABORATIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE... of the Rockies will be held June 10 –12, 2004 in Westminster, Colorado. Assistive Technology Partners, at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the Colorado Department of Education SWAAAC teams are proud to announce the upcoming merger of their conferences. The new venue, the Collaborative Assistive Technology Conference of the Rockies, will be the largest assistive technology conference in the Rocky Mountain Region. With over 50 sessions geared toward every age and disability, there is something for everybody! For more information, contact Maureen or Sherri at ATP/SWAAAC, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 200, Denver, CO 80218, 303-315-1280, TTY 303-837-8964.

##

Access For All: Building, Funding and Improving Community Transportation, June 14-15, Seattle WA


The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) and the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability are sponsoring Access For All. This two-day conference, which will focus on building, funding and improving community transportation, will provide information on what you can do to further expand transportation services in your community. Special emphasis will be placed on expanding transportation options for persons with disabilities.

This conference is being held in conjunction with the annual Community Transportation Association EXPO, June 13-18. For more information on the EXPO, access: http://www.ctaa.org/expo/. During the Access For All conference:

- Share ways to develop federal, state and local investment to increase accessible transportation services.
- Hear from colleagues who have developed models for community-based transportation planning.
- Learn ways to elevate the issue of transportation on a broad range of community agendas.
- Further hone your leadership skills for building effective transportation partnerships.
- Take home resources that will support you in expanding transportation in your community.

For registration, agenda and available scholarships, visit: http://www.ctaa.org/expo/2004/accessforall.asp.

##

PLUK eNews April 12-16, 2004 26
This anti-bullying conference will be held at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts in Anchorage AK. For more information and to get on the conference mailing list please call or e-mail John Hoover (320-308-4091) (jhoover@stcloudstate.edu). Please include surface and electronic mailing addresses.

##

RESNA 27th Annual Conference, June 18-22, Florida
Join us at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando, Florida to attend RESNA’s 27th International Conference on Technology & Disability: Research, Design, Practice & Policy, the premier conference for people interested in technology and disability.


##

JUNE 23 - 27, 2004 "DEVELOPING LOCAL SYSTEMS OF CARE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCES AND THEIR FAMILIES: EARLY INTERVENTION" TRAINING INSTITUTE, San Francisco
Sponsored by the National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health and held at the Hilton San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. For more information go to [http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/institutes.html](http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/institutes.html)

##

JUNE 27 - JULY 2, 2004 "MY FUTURE, MY LIFE" TRANSITION SUMMER CAMP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, Wisconsin
Sponsored by the U of WI - Whitewater Center for Students with Disabilities. For more information go to [http://www.uww.edu/StdRsces/csd/my_future_my_life.php](http://www.uww.edu/StdRsces/csd/my_future_my_life.php)

##

Technology in Education, June 28 – July 1, Colorado
TIE IS COMING...The 18th Annual Colorado Technology In Education (TIE) Conference is scheduled for June 28th - July 1st. Join 1200+ Elementary and Secondary Teachers, Librarians, Information Literacy Specialists, Administrators, and Technologists for 4 days of HANDS-ON training with Windows, Macintosh, Palms, GPS, Digital Cameras and other education technologies. Join 80+ Exhibitors with displays and presentations on the latest hardware and software available for K-12 classrooms. University credit is available through the UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO. Keynote speaker is David Warlick, speaking on “Redefining Literacy for the 21st Century.” Registration Forms and Information are available at: [http://www.tie-online.org/2004/](http://www.tie-online.org/2004/)

##
Enhancing Young Children’s Learning Through Objects and the Arts, July 18 – 21, Gallaudet University

Contact: Deborah Krichbaum
deborah.krichbaum@gallaudet.edu

Learn a new twist on tried-and-true methods to enhance learning for hearing impaired, special needs or typical preschoolers. This active-learning workshop uses everyday objects to create a bridge between what children already know and new experiences, using visual arts, creative movement, and children’s literature. This hands-on, multi-sensory technique is appropriate for a variety of settings. The four-day workshop includes daily sessions in Washington’s famous Smithsonian museums and is offered through a partnership with the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center.

The Learning Through Objects and the Arts workshop runs from Sunday afternoon, July 18 through Wednesday, July 21.

http://clast.gallaudet.edu/summer/special/enhancing.html

###

JULY 24 - 27, 2004 "LEARNING, LIVING, LEADING: YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES CONTINUING THE LEGACY" 2004 NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, Washington DC

This conference will be held in Washington, D.C.


###

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) in Anaheim, CA, June 25-29, 2004

This biennial event offers attendees five days of unique learning experiences featuring the latest information on hearing loss, education and early intervention models, and hearing technology.

- Discover new ideas and gain skills at more than 100 short courses, concurrent educational sessions, and poster presentations on deafness and spoken language.
- Meet new and old friends at the world’s largest gathering of parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing, adults with hearing loss, and education and medical professionals.
- Explore the AG Bell Exhibit Hall and attend product demonstrations with a wide range of industry representatives.
- Join the fun at Special Events such as the Association Banquet, Association Luncheon, Family Dance, and AG Bell Night at Disney.

Attendees who register by March 25 will receive the early registration rate of $225.00 for members, $325.00 for nonmembers.

http://www.agbell.org/
**Closing the Gap, October 21-23, Minneapolis MN**

Pre-conference sessions October 19-20

Closing The Gap's Annual Conference has an international reputation as a leading source for information on innovative applications of computer technology for persons with disabilities. The 2004 Conference builds on a tradition of providing a comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them.

Topics will cover a broad spectrum of technology as it is being applied to all disabilities and age groups in education, rehabilitation, vocation, and independent living. People with disabilities, special educators, rehabilitation professionals, administrators, service/care providers, personnel managers, government officials, and hardware/software developers will share their experiences and insights at what has become known as the most significant networking experience of the year -- the annual Closing The Gap Conference.


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**TASH Conference 2004, November 18-20, Reno NV**

The TASH conference is one of the largest and most progressive international conferences to focus on model, innovative, and effective strategies for achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities. This invigorating conference brings together some of the best hearts and minds in the disability movement with several hundred presenters and features over 450 breakout sessions, exhibits, roundtable discussions, poster sessions and much more, jam-packed with info. It provides a forum for individuals with disabilities, families, researchers, administrators, educators, scholars, and others to create dialogue and action for social and systems reform. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a conference with over 2500 other people from around the world (15 nations last time) which showcases national and local achievement and brings a global perspective to the community on issues of importance in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. For renewing the spirit, lifting the heart, and challenging the mind:

For more information and call for papers: [http://www.tash.org/](http://www.tash.org/)

Some of the more than 40 topics at the TASH Conference will focus on the following themes:

- Building Partnerships & Relationships, Communication
- Inclusive Education Across the Lifespan
- Transition, Community Living & Employment
- Diversity, Values, Equality, Advocacy & Ethics
- Quality of Life
Fun Events:

Art Workshops April 21 & May 5 in Billings

Parents, Let’s Unite for Kids (PLUK) is sponsoring two special Art Workshops on April 21\textsuperscript{st} and May 5th for young people at the Yellowstone Art Museum. The workshop is being co-sponsored by PLUK and the Yellowstone Art Museum in an effort to introduce the world of art to children and teens. It’s not necessary that participants have any previous experience, but those with experience are invited to attend too. It is necessary that parents call PLUK’s Office and pre-register their child to attend, as space is limited and there are a fixed number of slots for participants. The workshop is open for children from age 6 through the teen years. It should be great fun and an interesting and artistic experience! The workshop begins at 3:30pm and lasts until 5. Participants should wear casual clothing. To register or for more information, call PLUK’s Office at 255-0540. It is necessary to be registered to attend the session.

##

How you can help:

Birthday Time?

Does your child have a birthday coming up? Are you dreading the decorating, food preparation and cleanup? If so, Contact Bill at Montana Candy Bar & Deli at 294-2327. Montana Candy Bar & Deli offers birthday parties at their store located at 111 South 24th Street West in the Rimrock Mini Mall.

They will do the decorating, provide lunch, ice cream and activities for the kids giving you an opportunity to sit back, relax and enjoy the party for a change. Be sure to take your camera for great photo of all the activities.

AND PLUK will receive a portion of the proceeds!

##

Get your Albertson Community Partners card!

PLUK has joined Albertsons’ Community Partners Card Program. This program is designed to help non-profit organizations raise funds needed for their programs. A percentage of your grocery total will be donated to PLUK. All that is needed is to show your Community Partners card each time you make a purchase at Albertsons. It does not cost you anything.

If you are interested in assisting PLUK in raising funds this way, please contact Bernice at 255-0540 to get a Community Partners card.

##
Selected Sources:

4. PEN Weekly NewsBlast http://www.publiceducation.org
6. The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar, http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm
8. Technology for Nonprofits: http://www.techsoup.org

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- View an archive of all Weekly eNews at http://www.pluk.org/eNews.htm

Mission Statement: Parent’s Let’s Unite for Kids unites parents, professionals, families and friends of children with special needs to support one another, and share information for the benefit of their children.

Vision Statement: Given information and support, individuals with disabilities and their families will feel empowered to advocate for themselves and participate fully in educational and community opportunities.

Statement on accessibility: Today, we endeavor to be conscious of the need for making all electronic information accessible, as we are aware of physical accessibility issues in our community. For design guidelines visit http://ncam.wgbh.org/cdrom/guideline/

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