

The L I N K

March 2009



Volume 3, Issue 1

Your connection to...

- > Early Intervention
- > CEDARR Family Centers
- > Community Partners that Serve Children with Special Healthcare Needs and their Families

Families First RI In-Home Program Designed to Support New Moms

Today, many moms in the postpartum year are home all day with their infant and sometimes other children, without a community of peers, family members, or mentors to provide support and comfort. They are often sleep deprived and isolated. Sometimes they misunderstand typical infant and child behavior and may question their parenting skills. This home environment can lead to depression, marital problems, child neglect, and abuse. If this mom is in the 15th percentile of women who experience postpartum depression, the family is at even greater risk. These issues cross all socio-economic boundaries.

Families First RI, which started in January of 2008, addresses the problem of isolation by matching moms of newborns with trained volunteers who are experienced mothers. They develop a supportive relationship while

visiting their mom in her home weekly. The volunteer may accompany mom and the child (ren) on community outings and social gatherings, while simultaneously providing emotional and social support as well as mentoring.

Families First RI is modeled after the Visiting Moms Program, a program developed by Newton Jewish Family Services over 20 years ago.

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Families First RI, Continued from page 1

Like *Visiting Moms*, *Families First* provides our moms with in-home psychiatric evaluations conducted by licensed clinicians, referrals for treatment when necessary, and weekly visits with trained volunteers. In addition, Families First holds frequent social gatherings that often include a relevant educational component such as infant massage or professional advice on baby sleep issues.

The *Families First RI* program is a volunteer-driven, non-profit (501c3) organization that serves all families in Rhode Island. The program embraces the concept of women coming together toward the common goal of mothering, leaving socio-economic, racial, or ethnic differences aside. The program is available to any mother, regardless of whether she has health insurance.

Families First RI volunteers undergo criminal background checks, reference checks, and an extensive evaluation process. The volunteers attend eight hours of intensive training, are given a training manual, and attend monthly supervision groups. All volunteers are supportive, caring individuals who realize how important it is for other women to feel confident in their mothering skills.

If you are a new mom, or know a new mom interested in learning more about Families First RI, or if you are someone seeking a rewarding volunteer position, please contact Sally Harrison at sally@familiesfirstri.org or 401.383.9933 for more information.

Providence Children's Museum **100 South Street** **Providence, RI**

Play Power

A major new exhibit celebrating the power of children's play

Experiment, explore, invent, imagine and PLAY!

Play Power, a vibrant new learning environment, engages kids and adults in imaginative activities investigating air, light, magnets, motion, and sound.

Construct contraptions to send balls down ramps and through mazes, create original musical compositions, propel objects through air tubes, and much more!



The Benefits of Play

Recent advances in brain research show that early experiences profoundly impact the development of the brain. Play is a vital part of these early experiences. Not only fun, play is the way children learn about their world and practice to take their place in it. Through play in a safe environment, children can experience success, try on different roles, practice being in charge of their own activities, and interact with others.

Did you know that play...

- ◇ Gives children a sense of power and control.
- ◇ Promotes imagination.
- ◇ Allows for investigation and repetition.
- ◇ Promotes longer attention spans.
- ◇ Decreases stress.
- ◇ Is a voluntary activity.
- ◇ Allows children to practice different roles.
- ◇ Encourages language building.
- ◇ Is fun!

Tips for Playing With Your Child

- ◇ Enjoy “together time” free of chores. Focus on your child.
- ◇ Be attentive. Maintain good eye contact and get down on the child's level.
- ◇ Listen first, reflect and then respond.
- ◇ Model communication skills.
- ◇ Communicate thoughts and feelings sincerely. Children can sense insincerity.
- ◇ Encourage your child to express opinions while you play.
Be sure to listen and value what he says.
- ◇ Let the child lead.
- ◇ Don't make comparisons with other siblings or friends. Compare only to what he did last time, if you are going to compare at all.
- ◇ Focus more on what you are doing and less on how well he is doing it.
Make memories. Record funny moments or big accomplishments.
- ◇ Be silly and fun.

Play Materials Should

- ◇ Be safe and age-appropriate.
- ◇ Be flexible enough to use for continually-developing minds and bodies.
- ◇ Provide opportunities to practice fine motor, gross motor, and language skills.
- ◇ Support activities to learn cooperation, helping, and sharing.
- ◇ Provide opportunities for problem solving.

Remember that work for a child is really his play.

Infant Mental Health

Babies and young children thrive when they are cared for by adults that are “crazy about them!” (Bronfenbrenner, 1976¹). Responsive relationships with consistent primary caregivers help build positive attachments that support healthy social-emotional development. These relationships form the foundation of mental health for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. “Infant mental health” is defined as the healthy social and emotional development of a child from birth to three years and a growing field of research and practice devoted to the:

- ◇ promotion of healthy social and emotional development;
- ◇ prevention of mental health problems; and
- ◇ treatment of the mental health problems of very young children in the context of their families.²

Taken from www.zerotothree.org, *Early Childhood Mental Health*

Supporting Infant Mental Health, and the parent / child relationship is critical to healthy child development. These pages highlight several upcoming professional training opportunities focused on infant mental health.

University of Minnesota Center for Early Education and Development On-Line Courses

Introduction to Infant Mental Health

Summer 2009 session:
June 8 to August 10, 2009
Register by: June 1

Fall 2009 session:
October 5 to December 7, 2009
Register by: September 28

This course is designed for professionals interested in an introduction to the field of infant mental health and intervention with infants, toddlers, and their parents. Readings, video, and observational tasks are included to familiarize students with the foundations of infant mental health and direct work with infants and parents. While not a clinical class, this course introduces the role and function of the infant mental health specialist and the use of relationship and reflection in work with families.

The curriculum for the Introduction to Infant Mental Health course was developed by Susan K. Schultz, Ph.D.

Modules include:

What is infant mental health?	Observing infants
Group care of infants and toddlers	Relationship and reflection on infant mental health work
On being an infant mental health specialist	Collaborations in infant mental health work
Infant mental health is an integrative, multi-disciplinary field of research and practice	
Listening toward understanding: a cornerstone of working with infants and parents	

<http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/profdev/onlinecourses/imh.htm#describe>
Earn 24 clock hours (CEU certificate)



**Preparing Practitioners To Use DC:0-3R
April 23 & 24, 2009**

Rhode Island College, Student Union Ballroom

600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Facilitated by



**National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families;
Diagnosing Infants and Young Children Using DC:0-3R**

About DC:0-3R

- A diagnostic classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of infancy & early childhood.
- Developed to address types of social, emotional, and behavioral challenges seen in children under 3.
- Recognizes the larger context of a young child's environment, relationships, and interactions with caregivers that are impacted by a child's challenges.

DC:03-R is designed for practicing clinicians involved in the assessment of young children's social and emotional development.

Registration Fee: \$100 for first person per agency, \$50 for each additional staff. Includes breakfast, lunch and manual. CEUs available.

For more information, contact Elaine Sollecito at esollecito@ric.edu, phone: 456-2764



**The Spirited Young Child: Creating Peace and Solving Problems
in the Midst of Emotional Intensity: Strategies That Work**

**Maine Association for Infant Mental Health (MeAIMH)
21st Annual Training Conference**

Friday, May 15, 2009

8:15am - 4:00pm

**Ramada Conference Center
Lewiston, Maine**

Featuring: Mary Sheedy Kurcinka, M.A.
Author, Speaker, Licensed Parent Educator
Director, parentchildhelp.com

Mary Sheedy Kurcinka is the author of the bestseller and winner of the Parents' Choice Award: *Raising Your Spirited Child, A Guide for Parents Whose Child is More: Intense, Sensitive, Perceptive, Persistent and Energetic*. She is also the author of: *Raising Your Spirited Child Workbook Kids, Parents and Power Struggles: Winning for a Lifetime Sleepless in America*.

This workshop is for professionals who work with parents and/or their young children who can be described as "spirited" and who are often challenged by transitions and change. Mary will offer participants information about how the temperament of both parent and child can affect their relationship. The focus will be on strategies that will address strengthening that relationship and minimizing power struggles.

For More Information and/or to be placed on the mailing list for a registration brochure, contact Debbie Nugent Johnston at (207) 375-8184 or DebraNJ@aol.com.



Spotlight On... The Sargent Center

The LINK sat down with Kathy Schlenz, Occupational Therapist at the Sargent Center, 800 Quaker Lane in Warwick, to talk a bit about Playful Partners, a new program developed for children ages 3-5.

Tell me a little bit about Playful Partners and who it is designed for?

Playful Partners is a program designed for children who have sensory, motor, attention, and/or behavioral challenges. It's focused on those children in need of the high intensity therapy that preschool is really not able to provide. Our program is intended to be helpful to the community and not duplicative of other programs.

Does Playful Partners involve the children's parents or caregivers?

It sure does. It is a parent/child program focused on training as well as treatment. We teach a concept within a context so the learning carries over. Our programs combine techniques from Floortime, TEACCH and Sensory Integration.

What role does the parent play in the program?

We recognized during the screening process that there was a need to define everyone's role during the therapy sessions. In response, we developed a binder that we share with parents at the beginning of the program. It describes the role of the parent, the child, and the therapist during each part of the session. It also lays out the topics/strategies planned

for each of the eight sessions. This way parents can decide whether they both want to attend, or swap back and forth based on interest in each area.

What do you find parents get out of Playful Partners?

Today, parents have limited time with their children. Layering this on to a child with a developmental delay can really rock a parent's confidence. We want to help restore their confidence. The more they understand sensory integration, alternate communication methods, and the importance of routine and structure, the more confident they will feel as parents. The more confident they feel as parents, the more they will participate in common community-based activities.

What did parents share at the end of the eight weeks?

Parents really liked the program. They felt supported and told us for the first time they were able to understand the source of their child's behavior. It really helped answer lots of the "why" type questions.

Tell me about the set-up, the environment created for Playful Partners?

We have a great room set up for the children and their partners. We introduce equipment one piece at a time. We have lots of big, soft blocks, swings, therapy balls, and lots more. The children get so excited. I always remind parents that the equipment is not magical. It is just a way of speeding up the process for professionals to

understand each child and make better recommendations for what families can do at home. We use lots of items that can be either found in the home, or purchased easily and inexpensively. We really work on ways for parents to bring what they have seen and learned back into the home and community.

What are the plans for Playful Partners?

We are working on expanding the number of sessions we offer, as well as the time and days of the week. We have had a great response, and Sargent Center has really invested in making this program a success. Families who are interested in learning about upcoming sessions can call us at 401.886.6640. We can add them to our mailing list for upcoming programs.

Parent Workshop
S E R I E S

link
to
learning

APRIL 2009

ADHD Grown Up: Thinking About the Future of Your Child

ADHD is often a life-long disorder. What are the problems your child may face as an adult? What can you do now to address these problems and help maximize your child's future potential? These and other issues will be discussed by Dr. Marwil during this workshop.

Presenter:

Daniel Marwil, MD, Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician, Governor Diagnostic & Treatment Center, Providence, RI

Thursday, April 2, 2009

7-8:30 pm

Diagnosis and Management of Childhood Bipolar Disorder

Parent participants will develop an understanding of modern diagnostic approaches to Bipolar Disorder in childhood. The workshop will also provide an overview of current treatment strategies for children diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder.

Presenter:

James Greer, MD, Psychiatrist, The Providence Center and Casey Family Services; Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Brown University Medical School, Providence RI

Thursday, April 23, 2009

7-8:30 pm

MAY 2009

Making Lemons into Lemonade: Maximizing Therapeutic Gains in the Face of Shrinking Therapy Time

This solutions-oriented workshop is intended to teach parents how to work with their children's teams to ensure therapeutic gains for their children. The presentation will address the realities of shrinking therapeutic services by presenting easy-to-implement modifications to standard speech-language therapy that maximize collaboration and functional skill-building for children with autism spectrum disorders. While not a replacement for direct therapeutic services, these modifications can help maximize limited therapy time and the positive outcomes that result from it.

Presenter:

Jennifer Twachtman-Reilly, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist, Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Associate Editor, Autism Spectrum Quarterly

Thursday, May 7, 2009

7-8:30 pm

JUNE 2009

Sensory Processing, Arousal Regulation & "Readiness-to-Learn"

This workshop will offer a review of neuro-developmental concepts that contribute to a children's "readiness-to-learn." The 7 sensory systems will be presented in detail through lecture, group discussion and interactive learning experiences. Participants will be able to recognize the primary sensory components to typical developmental games and activities and identify a wide variety of sensory-based activities that promote sensory skill development and support learning.

Presenter:

Kathleen Schlenz, MS, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist, Sargent Rehabilitation Center

Thursday, June 4, 2009

7-8:30 pm

All workshops, which are free and open to parents, are held at Sargent Rehabilitation Center. Seating is limited.

Advanced registration is requested by calling our Link Line at 886-6612.

Sargent Center established its Link to Learning program as a forum for providing information and advice on topics of interest to parents. If there are particular topics you would like to recommend for future workshops, please let us know. Workshops are geared specifically to parents, but arrangements can be made for professional presentations.



800 Quaker Lane • Warwick, RI 02818 • (401) 886-6600

This program made possible with support of the Roy T. Morgan Foundation

Learning Opportunities

The 8th Annual Brain Injury Conference "Survive to Thrive: Dare to Hope"

Tuesday, March 24, 2009
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Warwick, RI

This year's conference will focus on Caregiving. Participants will learn ways to increase and enhance ways to maintain their own health and well-being while caring for their loved ones.

Brain Injury Conference
Registration and payment must be received by March 13, 2009.
Mail payment to:
BIARI
935 Park Avenue, Suite 8
Cranston, R.I. 02910

A limited number of scholarships are available for individuals with brain injury and family members on a first come first serve basis. Call BIARI at 461-6599 to apply.

Print registration brochure from
http://www.biausa.org/RI/docs/2009_conference_brochure.pdf

- DV 101- What is Domestic Violence?

Wednesday, March 25, 2009
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
RI Coalition Against
Domestic Violence
422 Post Road
Warwick, RI

This workshop is designed to explore the complex issue of domestic violence as it affects men, women and children in heterosexual and same sex relationships. Participants will learn about power and control in relationships, the cycle of violence, barriers to leaving and available resources.

Presenter: Cynthia 'Cindi' Coburn,
Director of Community Services
Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center
Cost: \$30

Go to <http://www.ricadv.org/Calendars/index.php> to register and contact Anayra Garcia 467.9940 with any questions.

Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Conference

Thursday, April 2, 2009
The Manor
42 West Boylston Street
West Boylston, MA 01583

Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Conference, a Wrightslaw training program featuring Peter Wright, Esq. is being sponsored by The Autism Resource Center of Central Massachusetts.

This one-day special education law and advocacy program focuses on four areas:

- ◇ Special education law, rights and responsibilities,
- ◇ Tests and measurements to measure progress and regression
- ◇ S.M.A.R.T. IEPs
- ◇ Introduction to tactics and strategies for effective advocacy

Wrightslaw programs are designed to meet the needs of parents, educators, health care providers, advocates and attorneys who represent children with disabilities regarding special education.

Wrightslaw Registration Fees:

Registered with MA
Autism Resource Center:
Individual \$75, Couple \$125
Non-MA Autism Resource Center:
Individual \$100
Couple \$150
Professional \$150

Registration includes breakfast, lunch and two Wrightslaw publications. Online registration will be posted when available. The Wrightslaw Conference brochure can be found at <http://www.wrightslaw.com/speak/reg/ma.09.04.brochure.pdf>

Save the Date

**9th Annual National Early Childhood Inclusion
Insitiute: Supporting Natural Environments and
Inclusion for Children Birth – Age Five**

**"Yes We Can: New Opportunities for Young Children
with Disabilities and their Families"**

July 14-16, 2009

Sponsored by FPG Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, National Early Childhood TA Center (NECTAC)

Learning Opportunities

Transition/Life Skills Teacher's Network Information and Sharing Series

These sessions are intended for special educators in life skills classrooms to share valuable resources and experiences.

"I am on Social Security, so I can't work!" - Understanding the Social Security Work Incentives so students can work

March 27, 12:30 pm -2:30 pm

**East Providence High School
Career & Technical Center
Auditorium**

Jeanne Fay, Benefits Specialist,
Office of Rehabilitation Services

**Transition Assessment and
Planning for students who do
not respond well to standardized
assessments.**

April 24, 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

**Northern RI Collaborative
New Building
640 George Washington Hwy
Lincoln, RI**

Katherine M. Wittig, Program
Specialist, Transition/Training and
Technical Assistance Center at
Virginia Commonwealth University

There is NO cost to attend,
however, pre-registration is required
through the RITAP website. [http://
www.ritap.org/ritap/joinlist/
tsl_registration.php](http://www.ritap.org/ritap/joinlist/tsl_registration.php)

This Teacher's Network series is
being sponsored by the RI
Department of Education, Office
for Diverse Learners and the RI
Regional Transition Centers in
conjunction with their partner
agencies.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs): Translating Research To Policies That Assure Essential Services

**The Catholic Univ. of America
Thursday, April 16, 2009
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Room 321-323 Pryzbyla Building**

This conference will focus on the
challenges of recognizing Fetal
Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs)
and finding appropriate and effective
Education and Psychological services
for Children with FASDs and their
families and will feature nationally
recognized experts in FASDs,
diagnosis, assessment, early
intervention, special education,
psychological services and empirically
tested interventions.

Registration: Please email your name,
affiliation and/or Address and phone
number to CUA-FASD@CUA.EDU

Supporting Children During Challenging Transitions

**Monday, May 11, 2009
6:00 - 9:00 pm
CHILDSPAN
500 Prospect Street
Pawtucket, RI**

Presenter: Kristen King, MS
Child Life Specialist
Newton-Wellesley Hospital

This workshop will review reaction
to stress at each stage of develop-
ment to allow caregivers the
opportunity to recognize a child in
stress. It will also provide some
supportive techniques that may help
children during challenging periods in
their lives. Individuals will leave
feeling equipped to incorporate
reactions to childhood stress into
their interactions with children.

This workshop is designed for head/
lead teachers, directors, and
administrators. For more information
contact Childspan at 401.721.6400
Cost: \$20.00

Save the Date 2009 OSEP Leadership Conference

August 17th – 19th
Washington, DC

For more information, contact
Tamara Infante at tinfante@aed.org

Learning Opportunities

How Early Interactions Promote Resilience: Emerging Research On The Physiology Of Mutual Regulation Between Parents And Infants

Boston Institute for the Development of Infants and Parents

Boston School Of Social Work Professional Education Programs

**April 17, 2009
9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

The Nurtured Heart Approach: Helping Children with Challenging Behaviors

Adults who work with challenging children--those with attention deficits, oppositional behaviors, or other psychosocial issues such as abuse and neglect need intervention tools that enhance a child's strengths and enable success in the family and in the classroom. The '*Nurtured Heart Approach*,' developed by Howard Glasser, author of the best selling *Transforming the Difficult Child*, is an empirically-supported training intervention designed to educate parents, teachers and clinicians in strategies that maximize positive outcomes in their work with youth.

Participants in this workshop learn the basic skills of the *Nurtured Heart Approach*; the instructor uses case examples from his practice to illustrate the techniques needed for effective intervention.

Presented by: Sam Healy, LICSW;
Director of Social Work Boys & Girls

Clubs of Boston; Nurtured Heart Specialist & Advanced Trainer

CECs available

Visit <http://www.bu.edu/ssw/training/pep/register/index.shtml> or call 617.353.3756 to register

**Saturday, May 3, 2008
8:45AM - 1:30PM**

**Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology
221 Rivermoor Street
West Roxbury, MA**

Participants will learn about:

- ◇ how resilience theory applies to infants, toddlers, and their families
- ◇ the links between the physiological states of mothers and infants
- ◇ how these dyadic links might inform psychotherapy process and research
- ◇ how everyday interactions and stressors provide infants and toddlers with opportunities to develop coping strategies that promote resilience, and
- ◇ how to promote the development of resilient functioning in the lives of young children they work with

This session is presented by:

Ed Tronick, Ph.D., a developmental and clinical psychologist, recognized internationally as a researcher on infants, children and parenting, is the Chief of the Child Development Unit at Children's Hospital, and

Gerald Stechler Ph.D., is a well respected and much-sought-after scholar in the field of infant and

parent development. He is a Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine

Visit <http://bidip.org/register.html> to register. Pre-registration is suggested.

Continuing Education Credits and Work/Study Scholarships are available.

Imaging The Possibilities 36th National Spina Bifida Association and the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Conference

**June 30 - July 3, 2009
Orlando, Florida**

Children and adults with Spina Bifida, their families, physicians, nurses, and other clinicians have the unique opportunity to gain information on the latest medical care and network on various issues which affect their lives and professions.

Learn up-to-the-minute information from practicing professionals. Attend practical workshops and special programming that address your own interest areas. Network with various interest groups. Find out how researchers are paving the way for more knowledge about Spina Bifida.

Register today by visiting www.spinabifidaassociation.org and click on Imaging The Possibilities Conference

Learning Opportunities

The 30th Annual TEACCH Conference Reflections On 30 Years Of Autism Research And Practice

**May 14-15, 2009
The William and Ida Friday
Continuing Education Center
The University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, North Carolina**

This conference will feature presenters who began their study of autism with TEACCH, and are now leaders in the field helping to enhance awareness, treatment and research for this disability.

Conference Faculty Includes:

Loisa Bennetto, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Psychology and of Brain & Cognitive Sciences, and Director of Clinical Psychology Training at the University of Rochester. Dr. Bennetto's research examines neurocognitive functioning in autism, with one particular focus on the integration of verbal and nonverbal communication.

Geraldine Dawson, Ph.D. Research Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Dr. Dawson specializes in research on the causes and treatment of autism and the effects of experience on early brain development. She became Autism Speaks' first Chief Science Officer in January of 2008.

Laura Klinger, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Alabama. Director at UA Autism Spectrum Disorders Research Clinic

Gary B. Mesibov, Ph.D. Director of Division TEACCH, and Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Sally Ozonoff, Ph.D. Endowed Professor and Vice Chair for Research. Her research focuses on very young children with autism, early identification, and autistic regression.

Wendy L. Stone, Ph.D. Professor of Pediatrics at Vanderbilt University. Her research and clinical work focuses on early identification, with a current emphasis on social-emotional development and outcomes in infant siblings of children with ASD.

For more information including full conference agenda and registration visit:

http://www.teacch.com/training/AR_30thAnnualConference09Prelim.htm

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

18th National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development

**Sun. June 14th – Wed. June 17th
Charlotte Convention Center
Charlotte, North Carolina**

**Play: Where Learning Begins
Designed for professionals who
prepare, mentor and train early
childhood professionals.**

The primary focus of the 2009 Institute will be the research on play in early childhood education environments and strategies for pre- and inservice preparation of the early childhood workforce in light of this research. Institute sessions will also address other topics in addition to those that are related to play. Participants will learn about current research on issues in higher education, inservice training programs, program administration, linguistics and cultural diversity, public policy advocacy and many aspects of developmentally appropriate practice, literacy, math, science, social and emotional development and more.

Registration information can be found at <http://www.naeyc.org/conferences/institute/register.asp>

Save The Date Fragile X Society of Connecticut 2009 Conference

Saturday, September 12, 2009
UConn Health Center, Farmington, CT

Learning Opportunities

Rhode Island Parent Information Network Workshop Series

Basic Rights in Special Education
April 2, 2009
10:00-12:00 pm

Basic Rights in Special Education
April 7, 2009
12:00-2:00 pm

Individualized Education Programs:
A Blueprint for Student Success (3 – 13)
May 4, 2009
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Individualized Education Programs:
A Blueprint for Student Success (14 - 21)
May 5, 2009
10:00-12:00 pm

Basic Rights in Special Education
May 7, 2009
10:00-12:00 pm

Individualized Education Programs:
A Blueprint for Student Success (14 - 21)
June 1, 2009
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Basic Rights in Special Education
June 9, 2009
10:00-12:00 pm

Web Casts

Busy lifestyles leave us little time for reading. However, we have found some free on-line pod casts which can be downloaded to CD or MP3 players and taken in the car, listened to in the gym or right from our computer.

Here are just a few that we found really interesting:

Dr. Stanley Greenspan's Web Based Radio Show

Dr Stanley Greenspan has been hosting weekly web based radio shows since early 2004, addressing different topics on early child development, parenting, infants and children with special needs, principles for healthy relationships, and how to overcome mental health challenges. As part of Interdisciplinary Council on Development and Learning Disorder's new distance learning initiative, they have organized more than 180 shows, with their audio files and transcripts. Some of the topics include:

- ◇ Autism and Special Needs
- ◇ DIR®/Floortime™ Model
- ◇ A Comprehensive Approach to ADHD
- ◇ Learning & Individual Differences
- ◇ Visual Spatial Processing and Thinking
- ◇ Great Kids Series: The Ten Traits That Parents Want Most for Their Children

- ◇ Meltdowns and Aggression
- ◇ Early Child Development Series Regulatory Sensory Processing

To see the entire series and download instructions visit <http://www.icdl.com/distance/webRadio>

Autism Podcast

Michael Boll, is the father of an eight-year old boy on the autism spectrum. In addition to being a twelve-year, certified classroom teacher, Michael interviews parents, therapists, and other experts about the latest trends and methodologies for working with kids on the autism spectrum.

In his Episode 60 (part one and part two), Michael talks with Dr. Barry Prizant a collaborator on the SCERTS model, an all encompassing program for working with individuals on the autism spectrum. He and Dr. Prizant discuss a number of methodologies including: RDI, Pivotal Response Training (PRT), ABA, TEACCH, and PECS.

Michael's conversations with Dr. Prizant can be found at: http://www.autismpodcast.org/show_notes/50-75/60_scerts.htm

More of Michael Bolls' archived recordings can be found at <http://www.autismpodcast.org/host.html>

Local Support Groups for Families

Brain Injury Assoc of RI

Providence:

Families & Survivors

1st Wednesday of the Month
4:30pm-6:00pm

St. Joseph Hospital

**Contact Person: Colleen
Fitzsimmons, R.P.T.
401.456.4537**

Warwick:

Families and Survivors

2nd Monday of the Month

6:15pm-7:45pm

Sargent Rehabilitation Center
401.886.6600

Cranston:

Families and Survivors

3rd Wednesday of the Month
6:00pm-7:30pm **Note Time**

Change

Brain Injury Resource Center
888.824.8911 or 401.461.6599

Northern Rhode Island:

Families and Survivors

4th Tuesday of the Month

6:30pm-8:00pm

Rehab Hospital of RI, North
Smithfield,

401.766.0800, x5311

**For more information call the
Brain Injury Assoc of RI at
461.6599 or 888.824.8911
Family to Family of Rhode
Island**

Family to Family of Rhode Island

Family to Family is a network created by families for families of children and adults with special needs. They offer opportunities for families to connect with one another to share experiences, information, and/or support. Family to Family of Rhode Island is sponsored by Family Voices of RI and Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities."

**For more information, contact
Claire 401.456.4732 or
Barbara 401.727.4144 or
800.464.3399, x161,
www.rifamilytofamily.net**

Rhode Island Parent Information Network

Parent Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Health Care Needs

First Monday of each Month

10:00am-11:30am

Providence

**For more information, contact
Diane Hernández 401.729.3700**

Evening Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Health Care Needs

First Tuesday of each Month

6:00pm -7:30pm

Pawtucket

**For more information, contact
Diane Hernández 401.729.3700**

Grupo de Apoyo para Familias Hispanas con Niños que tienen Necesidades Especiales

Support Group for Parents of
Children with Special Health Care
Needs in Spanish

10:30am-12:00pm

Last Thursday of every Month
Providence

**For more information, contact
Diane Hernández at
401.729.3700**

Parents Helping Parents

Support for parents and families of
children and adolescents with
emotional, behavioral, psychiatric or developmental health issues.

2nd Thursday of the month

6:30pm-8:00pm

Bradley Hospital, Pine Room

**For more information call
Chris Brown 401.432.1205**

Free babysitting available, must call
in advance 401.432.1205

Local Support Groups for Families

Early Intervention Online Support Group

Monday Evenings
8:30pm-9:30pm

This group is for parents who have a child enrolled in an Early Intervention Program. It is via the internet in a secure chat room.

For more information contact: Paula Reid at 401.727.4144 x122 or visit us at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EarlyIntervention>.

Asperger's Association of RI

Parent support for adults or older children with Asperger's

Meets 2nd Monday of each month during the school year
7:30 – 9 p.m.
Bradley Hospital, Pine Room

For more information contact Barbara Whalen at 401.333.1705

"You Are Not Alone"

Support for individuals living with cancer and their caregivers.

Meets first and third Wednesday of each month, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
The Cancer Center Conference Room, Memorial Hospital of RI

For more information contact Gilda Medeiros at 401.729.2789

Brain Tumor Support Group of Rhode Island

Tuesday, March 17, 2009
6:30 pm

The Brain Tumor Support Group of Rhode Island is a great source of knowledge, comfort and support for brain tumor patients, their families and their friends.

The group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at Brown University's Biomedical Center, Meeting Street, Room 212, Providence, RI. For more information, contact Betty Bentley at 401.647.2935.

Fathers First

Individual support and information for men caring for children with special needs.

For more information, contact: Mike Masse at 800.464.3399 x133 or mike@fathers1st.org.

CHADD of RI

CHADD provides education and support for adults and children with ADHD

Meets 1st Wednesday of the month
7:00 pm
Bradley Hospital, Pine Room

Upcoming schedule includes:

April 1st, How Martial Arts can plan an important part in improving symptoms of ADHD

May 6th, Teens and ADHD, Presented by Terri Harrison Goldman, Ph.D.

June 1st, Assessment of ADHD—Presented by Developmental Pediatrician from Memorial Hospital Neurodevelopment Center

For more information, contact CHADD of RI at 401.943.9399

If you have a family support or resource group you would like listed in **The LINK**, please contact us at lbobrowski@ric.edu

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities and RI Department of Human Services

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities
Rhode Island College
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908-1991

Phone: 401.456.8072 (v)
401.456.8773 (TDD)



We're on the Web:

www.sherlockcenter.org

If your agency or program has training opportunities for families and/or professionals or has a new initiative please email us, we'd like to include it in our next issue.

If you'd like to get on our list serve email us at labobrowski@ric.edu

Tell us what you think!
Click [here](#) to complete a quick survey of THE LINK.



The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities promotes membership of individuals with disabilities in school, work and community. Located at RI College, the Sherlock Center offers professional development and training opportunities for individuals, family members, educators, and professionals at all levels.

Informational resources include a lending resource library, topical newsletters and a variety of manuals and guides. Technical assistance is provided state-wide as resources permit. Visit the Sherlock Center website for information on initiatives, events, publications, and to access links to local and national disability resources.



This newsletter was developed in collaboration with the Department of Human Services.