



Family Resource Network Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 21, Issue 4, Fall 2013 Edition



Tuesday, October 22nd marks the date for the **19th Annual Early Start Symposium**. The event will take place in Stockton at San Joaquin County Office of Education from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our speaker will be Diana A. Henry, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA. Ms. Henry's topic is Tools for Tots: Sensory-Based Strategies for Toddlers and Preschoolers with Special Needs. This workshop will offer practical sensory strategies to help improve the abilities of toddlers and young children to play and function in their daily environment. Topics will include everyday issues such as getting dressed, potty time, picky eating, bed time issues and more. All attendees will receive a copy of Ms. Henry's Tools for Tots book.

There will also be a bonus session from 3 to 5 p.m. There is no additional fee to attend the bonus session.

Scholarships are available to parents living in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus or Tuolumne Counties whose children are receiving PRRS or Early Start services. There are a limited number of scholarships for parents of preschoolers receiving special education services. Registration fee for individuals from the 5 county service area is \$35; \$50 for out of area. Ms. Henry's workshops are always in demand and space is limited so be sure to register early.

For more information on the Early Start Symposium call Family Resource Network. Registration forms are available from your child's Service Coordinator and at www.frcn.org and click on calendar.

Making Sense of Social Security

is the name of a workshop that will be offered on Tuesday, September 17th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at San Joaquin County Office of Education, Wentworth Education Center, 2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton. This free workshop is sponsored by FRN, Disability Rights CA and San Joaquin SELPA.

Topics will include:

- What are the Social Security disability programs (SSI and SSDI)?
- How do I know if my child is eligible for a disability program?
- Will my child's eligibility ever change?
- How do things change when my child turns 18?

The presenter will be Michael Thomas, Advocate for Disability Rights California.

Registration is required. The flyer for the workshop is available on FRN's website, www.frcn.org and click on "Calendar" or by contacting FRN using the contact info at the bottom of this page.

For information on other FRN workshop, see page 6.

Seriously? We're already talking about the holidays?

Yes, it's really early, but FRN won't have another newsletter out until December so it's time to let you know about the annual Holiday Open House. It will be Saturday, December 7th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at FRN's office, Sherwood Executive Center, Stockton. We'll have lots of food and fun. Let us know how many will be in your party.



Family Resource Network Newsletter
Fall 2013 edition
Printing 5,900 copies

EDITOR: Ann Cirimele

Production costs for Family Resource Network Newsletter are underwritten by grants from California's Early Start Program – Department of Developmental Services, Parents Helping Parents and private donations. *FRN Newsletter* is distributed at no cost to families raising children with special needs in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. The newsletter is posted on FRN's website.

Scholarships identified in this publication are available only to families in FRN's service area. Scholarships may be limited to the specifications of the granting agency. Family Resource Network, Inc., is a parent directed 501 ©(3) non-profit corporation committed to providing information and support to families raising children with special needs in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties. Items printed in the *FRN Newsletter* are for information purposes only and may not necessarily reflect the opinion or endorsement by Family Resource Network or its underwriters.

Direct questions or comments to:

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5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148 Fax: 209-472-3673

Stockton, CA 95207

Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com

website: www.frcn.org



The recreational support group for
non-disabled siblings, ages 7 through 13.

Saturday, September 14, 2013

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Stockton Covenant Church,
1720 Oxford Way, Stockton, 95204**

Meet other siblings who have the same kinds of issues. There are games, crafts, discussion activities, food and lots of fun! There is no cost to attend.

Registration is required and must be submitted one week prior to event. Call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030 to request a registration packet.

We need to be the change we want to see happen. We are the leaders we have been waiting for.

Mahatma Gandhi

FRN Parent Scholarships Available

Family Resource Network has received an unrestricted grant of \$2,500 from the Stuart Foundation. Being guided by the Foundation's goal of promoting education, FRN has decided to use the funds to provide scholarships to assist parents of special needs children with registration fees to attend non-FRN conferences or workshops on topics related to children with special needs and their families.

This is a reimbursement scholarship which means that FRN reimburses the parent after the parent has attended the event. Here are the rules:

1. Scholarships are available to parents (or primary caregivers) raising a child from age birth to 22 years who has a special need.
2. The family must reside in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus or Tuolumne counties.
3. The amount of the scholarship may not exceed \$100.
4. The scholarship is solely for the cost of registration (i.e. not travel or lodging costs).
5. The event must take place in California.
6. Parent must agree to become a Parent Partner and be available to talk or email with other parents about information learned at the event.
7. Parent must agree to provide FRN with any handouts/materials from the event so that FRN can make copies for its files. FRN will return the originals to the parent.

Parents wishing to access these scholarship funds should contact FRN **prior** to attending the event. FRN reserves the right to limit the number of scholarships for any specific event. For more information contact FRN staff.



The Sound of Music!!

FRN offers two musical play groups for young children with special needs and their parents. **Tikes and Tunes** is for children ages birth to 36 months who are served through Early Start or Prevention Resource and Referrals Services (PRRS). **Preschool Posse** is for preschool age children who are receiving special education services through an IEP. Parents will learn how they can use music to enhance their child's development. Both groups are led by Karen Sanchez, MBA MT-BC, Music Therapist. We'd love to have you join us, but space is limited so be sure to register! Registration forms are on FRN's website or you can email or call FRN to register. Both groups meet at FRN's office, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton.



Tikes and Tunes

A Musical Play Group for Infants and Toddlers in Early Start or PRRS

When: The first Thursday of the month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Posse

A Musical Play Group for preschoolers receiving special education services



WHEN: Preschool Posse meets the third Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.



No Musical Talent Required.



Don't forget to register!



Want to try out an iPad?

Some families have expressed interest in purchasing an iPad if it would benefit their child, but they aren't familiar with the device. Family Resource Network has two iPads that are available for parents to try out. Parents may try the iPad in FRN's office during scheduled office hours (Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) to see if they think the device might be something of interest to them or their child. The iPads may not be taken out of the office. If you'd like to schedule a time to try out the iPad, just give FRN staff a call (472-3674 or 800 847-3030) or send us an email at FRNfamilies@aol.com. You are welcome to walk in to try out an iPad, but preference will be given to those who scheduled a time.

FRN also has info on tablet/smart phone apps that might be of interest to families of children with special needs. Feel free to call or email for more information.

Congrats to the WINNERS of FRN's latest drawing:

- ♥ Jorge Alcalá
- ♥ Lupe Buzo
- ♥ Anthony Davis



Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect.

Allen Cohen

Check FRN's website, www.frcn.org and click on "calendar" for updated information on trainings and events. Registration forms for FRN events are on the website.



Information for VMRC Families Regarding Residential Care

Valley Mountain Regional Center has established a Residential Task Force (RTF). The job of the RTF is to identify current and future needs and services regarding out of home placement (i.e. when a VMRC consumer does not live with family and the housing is funded through VMRC). Several parents are members of the RTF. If you have information or concerns related to VMRC funded residential placement, you are welcome to email or call FRN with your comments and FRN staff will relay your information to the RTF. Your information will be shared anonymously unless you request that FRN share your name with the RTF. You can call 472-3674 or email FRNfamilies@aol.com with your comments or concerns.



The Department of Developmental Services' publication called Safety Net has an article on Recognizing Bullying and How to Help. For more information go to:

<http://www.ddssafety.net/sites/default/files/attachments/13-05-02/Summer%202013%20Newsletter%20-%20Bullying.pdf>

FRN Toy Lending Library

FRN has 3 sites for its Toy Lending Library. We are grateful to Valley Mountain Regional Center and Tuolumne County Office of Education for partnering with us on this project. The toys are available to families whose children, ages birth to 36 months, are served either through the Early Start program or Prevention Resource and Referral Service (PRRS). There is no cost to use the library.

Stockton: Hours of Operation: Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location:

Family Resource Network, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton, CA 95207

Contact info:

800-847-3030; 209-472-3674 or
FRNfamilies@aol.com

Modesto: Hours of Operation: Monday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon

Location:

Valley Mountain Regional Center, 1820 Blue Gum Ave., Modesto, CA 95358

Contact info:

Estela Barba at 209-557-2144

Sonora: Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Location:

Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools
175 S. Fairview Lane, Sonora, CA
95370
Room 210

Contact info:

209-536-2040



To view FRN's entire library list or to check out a library resource, visit www.frcn.org and click on Library. For more information call FRN at 800-847-3030 or email FRN at FRNfamilies@aol.com.



FRN has received donations from:

- Sue Allyn
- Thea Etheridge
- Ginalyn Eusantos
- Preet Grewal
- Beverly Klunk
- Nancy Wallace
- Marlene Yu-Li
- And Anonymous Donors

FRN thanks the following for their donations to FRN in memory of Joe Cirimele:

- Susie Wong and Brian Connolly

**Thank You
Super Volunteer!**

Edward Klunk

SAVE the DATES

**The Birds, The Bees and
Your Special Needs Child**

This workshop is back by popular demand!! David Demetral, Ph.D., LCSW will share info you can use to help your child understand issues related to sexuality. Topics will include what to tell your child and when, and how to redirect behaviors. **Tuesday, January 14th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at San Joaquin County Office of Education.**

Financial and Estate Planning

Frank Quacinella, Senior Vice President and National Spokesperson for Families with Special Needs Planning Network for Merrill Lynch, and Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, will present info on understanding the importance of financial planning, protecting government benefits through proper estate planning, information on special needs trusts and conservatorships, and more.

Tuesday, February 25th, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton

Atención

Familias de habla hispana

Rita Gutiérrez miembro de nuestro personal en Family Resource Network, esta disponible para hablar con usted en español. Rita estará en FRN lunes a jueves de 8:30 am a 12:30 pm. Usted puede contactarla llamando a los teléfonos 209-472-3674 o 800 847-3030 o enviando un correo electrónico a FRNfamilies@aol.com. Rita proveerá apoyo así como información sobre temas de interés a las familias que están criando niños con necesidades especiales. Por favor no dude en llamar, será un placer atenderlo a usted.



Buscando Sonrisas

Un grupo de apoyo en español para las familias con hijos con necesidades especiales.
(This is a support group for Spanish speaking families raising children with special needs. It is conducted entirely in Spanish.)

Nos reunimos el último Viernes de cada mes de 6pm a 8pm y el segundo Miercoles de cada mes de 9:30am a 11:30am en: Family Resource Network, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton, CA 95207
Se requiere registrasion

Para más información o para registrarse, póngase en contacto con Rita en el 209-472-3674 o por correo electrónico FRNfamilies@aol.com

Consulte la página 7 para los nuevos recursos de la biblioteca en español.

FRN Library Resources

FRN has almost two thousand library resources for parents and professionals to borrow. There are books, videos, DVDs, CDs, and audio tapes. Below is a listing of just some of the latest additions to the library.

- 101 Games and Activities for Children with Autism, Aspergers' and Sensory Processing Disorders
- Coming Home from the NICU – A guide for supporting family in early infant care and development
- Let's Make Faces – Drawing different faces for different feelings
- Feeding Your Child with Autism
- How to Be a Friend – A guide to making friends and keeping them
- Moving Out
- OSEP Spanish Glossary Project – A glossary of common terms related to IDEA
- Smarter than the Scooper – Keeping your child safe from predators
- The Boys' Guide to Growing Up
- The Source for Children with Cochlear Implants
- Timmy Rides the Bus – for preschoolers
- When Down Syndrome and Autism Intersect

Visit www.frcn.org and click on Library to see a complete listing of all of FRN's library resources and to find out how to borrow resources from the library. If you don't have access to the internet you can contact FRN at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

You don't need to come in to FRN's office in order to use the library. We are happy to mail resources to you. We just ask that you be responsible for returning the items to FRN. You can mail them to FRN, swing by the office, or drop them off with the building receptionist. You may check out up to two resources for a period of 3 weeks.

Español Idioma Biblioteca de Recursos

- Mi Cuerpo Es Mio
- OSEP Spanish Glossary Project
- Servicios Para Niños de California (CCS)
- Step Into English – A resource for Spanish Speaking Parents

A message from Disability Rights California:

Disability Rights California, National Health Law Program, and Western Center on Law and Poverty are conducting an investigation of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Therapy. ABA is an evidence-based, clinically proven treatment for children with autism and autism spectrum disorders.

Some children have received ABA through regional centers, private health insurance, or their school districts. In California, some children received this benefit through the Healthy Families program, but lost it when their benefits transitioned to Medi-Cal. Other children had ABA through regional center but lost it when they turned three, because they did not continue to qualify for regional center services. Other children may have been recommended to receive ABA, but have never been able to receive it because Medi-Cal does not pay for it and they are not regional center consumers and/or their school district will not provide it.

Please contact the following people if you or anyone you know of may fit the profile below:

- **Southern California:** Abbi Coursolle at the National Health Law Program at coursolle@healthlaw.org
- **Northern California:** Will Leiner at Disability Rights California at William.leiner@disabilityrightsca.org

We are looking for children who:

1. Are age 7 or under (preferably under age 4) and diagnosed with an autistic spectrum disorder.
2. Have had an assessment by a qualified professional or doctor which supports the need for your child to get ABA.
3. Are not currently eligible for regional center services (including Early Start). This includes children who are found ineligible for Early Start and referred to Prevention Resource and Referral Programs (PRR) at Family Resource Centers.
4. Are Medi-Cal recipients.
5. Meet any of the following circumstances:
 - a. Received ABA through Healthy Families and ABA was terminated prior to or on August 1.
 - b. Medi-Cal recipient unable to access ABA through Medi-Cal.

This is not a research study, we are exploring ways to help children obtain benefits.