



Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 19, Issue 3, Fall 2011 Edition

17th Annual Early Start Symposium Learning and Growing Together

Thursday, October 27th marks the date for the 17th Annual Early Start Symposium. Bob Brunson, LMFT, will be a keynote presenter on a topic "How to Raise An Emotionally Healthy Child." Mr. Brunson will discuss how parents and professionals can support the emotional development of young children. Mr. Brunson is also the parent of a child with special needs who received services through the Early Start Program, so he brings to the Symposium his experiences both as a parent and as a professional.

All registered attendees will receive a free copy of the book [How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children](#).

There will be breakout sessions on topics including strengthening parental advocacy skills, hearing issues, assistive technology, early literacy, vision issues, language development, behavior and autism. The registration form is available on FRN's website and click on "calendar". Scholarships are available to parents living in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus or Tuolumne Counties whose children are receiving Early Start services or served through FRN's At-Risk Program or VMRC's Prevention Program. 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. There are a limited number of registrations at \$25 available for full-time undergraduate college students. 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.

CA Legislation Creates New Prevention Resource and Referral Services Program (PRRS)

All infants and toddlers suspected of having a developmental concern including those "at risk" will receive intake and evaluation from their local regional center to determine eligibility for either Early Start or PRRS services. Regional centers will facilitate each family's access to local Family Resource Center's Prevention Resource & Referral Service Program.

Eligible children for Prevention Resource & Referral Services are ages birth through 35 months, who are at substantially greater risk for a developmental disability but who would otherwise be ineligible for services through the Early Start Program. Effective July 1, 2011 newly referred local families whose infants or toddlers are "at risk" for developmental delay or disability will receive the following services through Family Resource Network (FRN):

- Information
- Resources
- Referrals
- Targeted outreach

FRN will partner with parents and families to ensure parents remain an integral part of Prevention Resource & Referral Services for each child. Families will be encouraged to discuss questions or concerns with the child's medical provider.

Babies identified as being at-risk who are in the prevention program as of June 30, 2011, shall continue in the prevention program with the Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) until the child reaches 36 months of age, VMRC has determined the child is eligible for services under the California Early Intervention Program pursuant to Title 14 (commencing with Section 95000) of the Government Code or the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Division 4.5 (commencing with Section 4500)), or June 30, 2012, whichever date is earlier.

The above description was provided to Family Resource Network by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). FRN will be working closely with DDS to help families whose children are at a greater risk for a developmental disability, but who do not qualify for Early Start services. With parent permission, Regional Center staff will refer parents who wish to receive support and resources through the PRRS program to FRN. Parents will be contacted by FRN personnel to determine how we can assist them. PRRS families are invited to attend any and all FRN events that are of interest to them. There is no cost to be part of the PRRS program.

Family Resource Network Newsletter
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EDITOR: Ann Cirimele
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 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 239 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:

Friday, September 30th, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton.

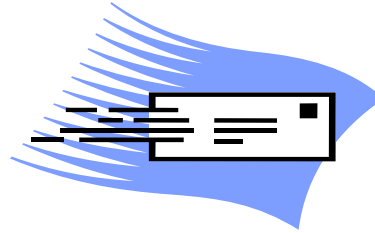
Meet other siblings who have the same kinds of issues. There are games, crafts, discussion activities, food and lots of fun! There is no cost to attend.

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



Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

- Confucius



Stay In the Know

Want up to the minute info on issues affecting children with special needs? You can have your email address added to FRN's email list. FRN's newsletter is published only a few times per year so email is a great way to keep up on important information. If you would like to be added to FRN's email list, email the following info to FRNfamilies@aol.com:

- Your name
- The county you reside in
- Please indicate if you are a parent of a child with special needs or a professional working with special needs children



**Congrats to the WINNERS of
 FRN's latest drawing:**

Aundrea Elliott
 Patricia Gomez
 Jennifer Rattaro



Tis The Season...

well...not quite yet, but it will be before we know it. FRN's Annual Holiday Open House will take place on Saturday, December 10th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at FRN's office, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Stockton. This FREE event will have food, fun and Santa will be stopping by. Call or email FRN to let us know how many people will be in your party.

CHECK OUT THESE WORKSHOPS!!

Based on input from parents FRN will be offering multiple new/improved workshops throughout the year to address issues specific to parenting a child with special needs. Parents are invited to attend any and all of the sessions that are of interest to them. These sessions are offered free of charge to parents or primary caregivers of special needs children within FRN's five county service area (Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties). Professionals are welcome too.

Parenting Your Special Needs Child

Ann Cirimele, FRN Executive Director, and Guest Speaker Barbara Patton will share information on the 5 critical needs children have. Barbara is a parent and grandparent of special needs children and foster parent to over 150 foster children. She will share tips that have proven successful. **Tuesday, September 20th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at San Joaquin County Office of Education.**

Financial and Estate Planning

Frank Quacinella, First 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.

This workshop is being offered in collaboration with San Joaquin County SELPA's Community Advisory Committee. **Monday, October 3rd, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., San Joaquin County Office of Education.**

The Road Less Traveled: Understanding the Journey of Emotions Experienced by Parents Raising Children with Special Needs

Using stories, videos and personal experiences, Ann Cirimele explores the journey of emotions families experience raising a child with special needs, and how these emotions affect the parents' relationships with family members and professionals. Writings from Dr. Ken Moses will be shared with participants. **Tuesday, October 18th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at San Joaquin County Office of Education.**

Stress and the Holidays

Holidays can be times of great joy, but also of increased stress for families. Ann Cirimele will identify the stressors and share ideas for less stressful holiday traditions. **Wednesday, November 16th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at San Joaquin County Office of Education.**

The Birds, The Bees and Your Special Needs Child

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, December 6th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at San Joaquin County Office of Education.**

More Training Opportunities

Sept. 22 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area VI Board • Tracy Civic Center Meeting Room, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

Oct. 13 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area VI Board • Mark Twain Hospital, San Andreas, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

Nov. 8- Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program • Presenter: FRN, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Stockton, 9:15 to 11:30 a.m., FREE, for info call 800-847-3030.

Nov. 10 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area VI Board • Howard Training Center, Modesto 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

SATURDAY WORKSHOP!!

January 21, 2012 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area VI Board • Area VI Board Office, Stockton, 9:30 a.m. to noon, FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.



Don't forget to register!

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.

FRN Library Resources

Books

- BizWorks – An Employment Guide for Micro Business Development
- The Horse Boy, *donated by Emily Bauch*
- How to Teach Life Skills to Kids with Autism or Aspergers
- Identity, Disability & Sexuality: Reflections from a Son and His Father
- Managing Anxiety in People with Autism
- Occupations of School-aged Children with Siblings with Cognitive & Behavioral Disabilities
- Red, White & Bruises (Spanking in the USA – What to do instead)

FRN thanks Teresa Duff for her donation of multiple library books including:

- Alphabet Kids – From ADD to Zellweger Syndrome
- The Fearless Caregiver
- Getting the Therapy, Benefits and Resources Your Child Needs - A Guide for Parents of Children with Cerebral Palsy and Brain Injury
- The Misunderstood Child
- Parenting Children with Health Issues

FRN thanks Jenni Silveira for her donation of:

- Asperger's Syndrome
- Asperger Syndrome & Your Child
- Asperger Syndrome in the Family
- A Parents Guide to Asperger Syndrome & High-Functioning Autism

DVD

- Through Your Child's Eyes (American Sign Language)
- A Traves de los Ojos de su Hijo: Con Language Estadounidenese de Senas
- Leadership Through Personal Change, *Department of Developmental Services*

What the heck is this???



It's a Quick Response Code (QR) which is a specific matrix barcode (or two-dimensional code) that is readable by dedicated QR barcode readers and smart phones. After downloading a QR app (there are multiple free QR apps at app stores) take a picture of the QR with your smart phone and it will link you with a specific website. In the case of FRN, our QR will link you with the calendar page from FRN's website so you will know what trainings and events are coming up. FRN will be putting the QR code on various flyers we publish.



Goodbye and Hello

FRN's Program Coordinator, Valerie Crump, has left FRN so that her family can pursue a business opportunity out of state. We wish Valerie and her family all the best.

FRN's new Program Coordinator is Christi Torres-Rogers. Christi is known to many FRN families because she is one of FRN's Parent Representatives at the Early Autism Diagnostic Clinics. Among other responsibilities, Christi will be representing FRN on the Autism Connection and the Autism Forum Planning Committee. Welcome Christi!!

Parent Resources

Disability Rights California has published materials on a variety of topics including special education law, the Lanterman Act (the law which created and governs the regional centers), assistive technology and government benefits. For more information go to <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/issues/index.htm>

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
 Emily Bauch
 Kathleen Bowman
 Michelle Castaneda
 Elizabeth & Gage Courtois
 Teresa Duff
 Thea Eldridge
 Friends of Walton Booster Club
 Julie Hernandez
 The Baby Zetas of Lambda Theta Phi
 Rhonda Martinez
 Sangita Patel
 PEDS *in memory of Edward O'Connor*
 Heather Pinasco
 Michelle Rodriguez
 Efrain Rosas
 Nancy Stockton
 Matthew Storment
 Michelle Willaims

***And the following in memory
 of Zachary Trujillo***

The Brooks Family
 The Cirimele Family
 Alvin and Bonnie Lee Jones
 Don and Colleen Okura
 Larry and Karen Prada

Thank You Volunteers!

**FRN thanks the following
 for their volunteer efforts:**

Katey Clark
 Teresa Duff
 Edward Klunk
 Art and Irene Valdez



Thank You

Asparagus Festival Volunteers –

You've got the Spear-I t!!!

Rebekka Berghorst
 Julie Bristow
 Brian Connolly
 Ingrid De Jong
 Jessica Duran
 Victoria Estrada
 John Forrest
 Sawndella Freeman
 Gloria McFadden
 Amber Parker
 Stacy Randle
 Gail Rieger
 Michael Sanchez
 Tatsumi Stearns
 Scott Symonds
 Roger Valdez
 Sidney Walker
 Connie Weiman
 Jeremy Werner
 Kathy Werner
 Susie Wong

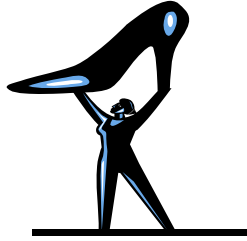
Family Resource Network's fantastic volunteers worked a total of 215.5 hours which netted FRN \$2,364. These funds will be used to provide services to families.

If you would like to volunteer for the 2012 Asparagus Festival which will take place in Stockton on April 27-29, please contact FRN and we'll get your name on the list.

Energy and persistence conquer all things.

- Benjamin Franklin

Save the Date!



Saturday, February 5th, 2012 marks the date for FRN's 11th Annual Mothers Retreat. Our theme is "***Walk A Mile In Our Shoes***". The event will take place at San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FRN will be having door prizes for the event and would love to receive donations of items that will help Moms feel pampered – maybe a spa day, a bottle of perfume, a CD of inspiring music. All items are gratefully accepted.



Autism Events

The **Autism Connection** meets on a regular basis to promote collaboration and communication among schools, VMRC parents and providers. The meetings for the 11-12 school year are scheduled for 9/13/11; 11/8/11; 1/10/12; 3/13/12; and 4/17/12. All meetings take place from 10 a.m. to noon at San Joaquin County Office of Education, Kingston Room, Wentworth Educational Center, 2707 Transworld Dr., Stockton, CA 95206

Additionally, the 11th Annual Autism Collaborative Forum will be held on Saturday, 3/17/2012 from 8:00 to 4:00, at the San Joaquin County Office of Education, Wentworth Educational Center, 2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton, CA 95206.

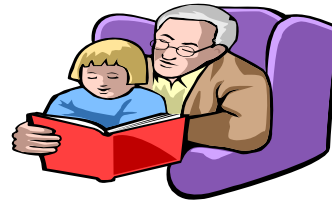
For more information about these events please contact Gail Brodigan-Dalton, at (209) 468-4907 or gbrodigandalton@sjcoe.net.

FRN is a cosponsor of the **Walk Now for Autism Speaks** walk on **Saturday, October 15th** in Modesto. For more information contact WalkNowForAutismSpeaks.org/CentralValley or call 707-778-3840.



Through Your Child's Eyes: American Sign Language DVD

California Department of Education has created the above titled DVD which celebrates the ability of children who are deaf or hard of hearing to acquire American Sign Language. Each DVD has the information in both English and Spanish. DVDs are distributed free to families with deaf or hard of hearing infants and toddlers throughout California by contacting California Department of Education, Nancy Grosz Sager, 916-327-3868. FRN has a copy of the DVD in its lending library.



Kinship Caregivers Resource

The Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP) is funded by the State of California in partnership with counties and non-profit agencies to provide support services to caregivers who are raising a child of a relative. **The California Kinship Navigator Program** is funded by a federal grant to provide kinship caregivers throughout California with FREE confidential and personalized telephone support to identify localized referrals and resources for a healthy and happy home. For information call 800-546-0047 or go to www.cakinship.org.



Put on Your Walking Shoes

FRN is happy to cosponsor The Brighterside of Down Syndrome's **Buddy Walk** in Lodi on **Saturday, October 8th**. Contact 598-3441 or thebrightersideofdownsyndrome@yahoo.com for info.

Community Advisory Committee for Special Education

CAC PURPOSE

The role of the CAC is to advise the School District's Board of Education about special education issues, to provide access to training and information and to work collaboratively with the school district to improve student outcomes.

The CAC participates in the development, amendment and review of the Local Plan for Special Education, and recommends annual priorities to be addressed by the plan. The Local Plan describes how services will be delivered to special education students in accordance with federal and state laws.

The California Department of Education (CDE) divides the state into areas for the purposes of planning and monitoring how the special education services are delivered to students with disabilities. These areas are called Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA). CDE mandates that all SELPAs maintain a Community Advisory Committee for Special Education.

CAC MEMBERSHIP

The Community Advisory Committee for Special Education CAC membership is composed of volunteers, including parents of individuals with exceptional needs enrolled in public and private schools, parents of other students enrolled in school, pupils and adults with disabilities, general and special education teachers, other school district personnel, representatives of other public and private agencies, and others concerned with the needs of individuals with exceptional needs. Members are appointed by the Board of Education.

CAC PARTICIPATION

Any parent of a student in the district (public or private), staff or community member may attend and participate in CAC meetings. Ask questions, share concerns and have your voice be heard. If you have any ideas about how the CAC can help students with exceptional needs and promote parent and community involvement, please contact your local CAC.

Many CACs offer presentations on topics of interest as part of their CAC agenda. You can contact your local CAC to get a schedule of meetings for the school year or to find out how you can be added to the CAC's mail or email list.



SELPAs

Special Education Local Plan Area

Amador County:

For info on meetings, please contact Theresa Hawk, Executive Director, SELPA/Special Education at 209-257-5330.

Calaveras County:

209-736-6020 or 209-736-6016

Lodi Unified/New Hope/Oak View:

CAC meetings are 8/31/11, 10/26/11, 2/15/12 & 4/18/12. Lodi Unified School District, 1305 E. Vine Street, Lodi, CA 95240 in conference rooms B/C from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Contact Debbie Burgdorf at 209-331-7061 for more info.

Modesto City Schools:

The CAC meets the first Wednesday of every month (with the exception of January). The time is from 6:00-7:30 at the Staff Development Center. The address is 425 Locust Street, Modesto, CA 95351. For more information contact Mark Herbst at 209-576-4155.

San Joaquin (except Lodi and Stockton Unified):

All meetings are held at San Joaquin County Office of Education, 2707 Transworld Drive in Stockton. Daytime business meetings are held once on month in Sept., Nov., Feb., and April. Evening meetings with guest speakers are held once a month in October, December, and March. Contact Kimberly Andraesen at 468-9283 or email her at kandreaesen@sjcoe.net for more details.

Stockton Unified:

CAC meetings will be held 9/22/2011, 11/17/2011, 1/26/2012, 3/22/2012, and 5/17/2012. For info contact Noreen Williams at (209) 933-7120 ext. 2567.

Stanislaus County (except Modesto City Schools):

209-541-2944

Tuolumne County:

CAC for Tuolumne County meets on the second Thursday of the month, 11:45 am, at the Tuolumne County Schools Office. Contact Jon Lenz: jlenz@tuolcoe.k12.ca.us or Dana Reel: dayner@att.net. 536-2040

Be the change you want to see in the world.

- Mahatma Gandhi