



Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 22, Issue 4, Fall 2014 Edition

20th Anniversary!



Wednesday, October 22, 2014
San Joaquin County Office of
Education, Stockton, CA

Registration at 8 a.m. Event concludes at 3 p.m.

20th Annual Early Start Symposium **Meeting the Needs of Our Children** **in the 21st Century**

Keynote Speaker – Nancy B. Robinson,
Ph.D. CCC-SLP, Professor, Special Education
and Communicative Disorders, San Francisco
State University

Topic: Using Assistive Technology to **Encourage Social Interaction:** **From High Tech to Everyday Items,** **and Everything In Between**

In addition to being a professor at San Francisco State University, Nancy Robinson has co-written a new book entitled *Assisted Technology for Young Children: Creating Inclusive Environments*. She has conducted workshops throughout the State identifying ways that parents and professionals can use assistive technology to enhance the lives of young children with special needs. She will identify high end technology options as well as how to use everyday items commonly found in households. In addition to the keynote, there will be breakout sessions on topics including language development, assistive technology, visual impairment, mobility/medically fragile and behavior/sensory integration.

Registration forms are available on the calendar page of FRN's website. Scholarships will be available to parents of children receiving Early Start or Prevention Resource and Referral Services (PRRS) services who live in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. Limited number of scholarships available for parents of preschool age children. Registration fee for local attendees is \$35; \$50 for out of area.

Exciting Early Start News!

A message from the Association
of Regional Center Agencies



Dear Early Start Supporters,

Early Start eligibility and federally-required services funding has been restored to pre-2009 levels! This will take effect starting January 1st, 2015. Now, much work needs to be done to educate our community about the restoration of Early Start. We need to spread the word in the community that starting January 1, 2015, infants at risk of a developmental disability, and toddlers between 2 and 3 years of age with delays of 33% in one developmental area, are once again eligible for Early Start's life-changing services.



Family Resource Network wishes to thank all those parents and professionals who wrote letters and signed petitions in favor of restoring Early Start. FRN staff is working with representatives from the Regional Center, School Districts/SELPA's and Prevention Resource and Referral Services to prepare for the changes in Early Start eligibility. Your advocacy effort on behalf of infants and toddlers with special needs is truly appreciated.

"The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better."

Robert F. Kennedy

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EDITOR: Ann Cirimele

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Family Resource Network Phone: 209-472-3674
5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148 Fax: 209-472-3673
Stockton, CA 95207
Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com website: www.frcn.org

Let's Get Walking!!!

The Brighter Side of Down Syndrome (TBODS) will be hosting its 9th Annual Buddy Walk on **October 4th** at Micke Grove in Lodi. This one-mile walk promotes understanding and acceptance of people with Down syndrome. For more information about TBODS or the Buddy Walk go to www.tbods.com or contact TBODS at 209-598-3441 or TBODSOFSJC@YAHOO.COM

Walk Now for Autism Speaks will take place Saturday, **October 18th** at Modesto Junior College. There will be a resource fair with child-friendly activities. Stop by FRN's table. For more information go to www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/centralvalley



Sibshop is coming to Manteca!!!

Family Resource Network is excited to collaborate with Manteca Unified School District in offering Sibshops in Manteca. Siblings can now attend Sibshops in Stockton, Manteca or both.

Sibshop is the recreational support group for **non-disabled siblings of children with special needs,** ages 7 through 13.

Stockton Sibshops:
Saturday, September 27, 2014
and
Saturday, November 1, 2014
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Stockton Covenant Church,
1720 Oxford Way, Stockton, 95204

Manteca Sibshop:
Friday, November 14, 2014
6 to 8 p.m.
Manteca Unified School District Office
2271 W. Louise Ave.
Manteca, 95337

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 at least one week prior to event. Call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030 to request a registration packet.

Now on TUESDAYS!!!

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 Referral 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

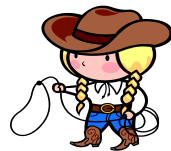
A Musical Play Group for Infants and Toddlers in Early Start or PRRS

When: The first Tuesday 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 Tuesday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.



No Musical Talent
Required.



Don't forget to register!

For Your Information

The University of Southern California is sponsoring free professional counseling through its USC Telehealth program. The counseling is available to individuals, couples, and families that care for a child or adult with special needs.

Participants receive 12 weeks of free 50-minute professional counseling sessions that are professional, secure and HIPAA compliant. Services are received in your home via computer, webcam and high-speed internet which you must provide. Other restrictions apply. For more information contact USC Telehealth at 866-740-6502.



FRN Workshop:

Making Sense of Social Security: An Introduction to Social Security Disability Programs For Your Child with Special Needs

**Presenter: Alexandra Queen,
CaPROMISE CSC**

When: Tuesday, November 4th

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: San Joaquin County Office of Education, Wentworth Education Center, Chartville 2 Room, 2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton

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?
- Resources

See info below for registration form.

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.

Save the Date

Info on upcoming events:

Family Resource Network is working on a variety of workshops in the coming months. Below is info on some that are scheduled and there are additional workshops in the planning phase. Please watch for info on these events in future newsletters and by clicking on the calendar page at www.frcn.org

- *January 27, 2015: The Birds, the Bees and Your Special Needs Child, presented by Dr. David Demetral (offered in collaboration with San Joaquin County Office of Education, SELPA)*
- *February 25, 2015: Conservatorship for Your Adult Child with Special Needs presented by Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law (offered in collaboration with Stanislaus County Office of Education's CAC)*
- *March 10, 2015: Financial and Estate Planning for Families of Children with Special Needs presented by Frank Quacinella, Merrill-Lynch and Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, offered in collaboration with San Joaquin County Office of Education, SELPA)*
- *March 19, 2015: Financial and Estate Planning for Families of Children with Special Needs presented by Frank Quacinella, Merrill-Lynch and Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law (offered in collaboration with Modesto City Schools' CAC)*
- *May 1, 2015: Annual CHOICES Institute*
- *June 25, 2015: Conservatorship for Your Adult Child with Special Needs presented by Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, offered in collaboration with San Joaquin County Office of Education, SELPA)*

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 3:30 p.m.

Location:

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

Contact info:

Linda Cardiel 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





FRN has received donations from:

- ♥ Sue Allen
- ♥ Thea Etheridge
- ♥ Intuit Foundation Employee Donation Matching Program
- ♥ PEDS
- ♥ Roneesh Raj
- ♥ Peggy Rios
- ♥ And Anonymous Donors

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

- ♥ **Graciela Cervantes**

Want to be In The Know?

Send your email address to FRNfamilies@aol.com to receive email updates on topics of interest to parents of children with special needs. There is no fee to be on the email list and FRN does not share your email address with anyone, ever.

**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 13th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at FRN's office, Sherwood Executive Center, Stockton. We'll have lots of food and fun. This is a free event. Just call or email and let us know how many will be in your party.



New Library Books

- Access to Health Care of People with Disabilities Under the ADA and other Civil Rights Laws (booklet)
- Autism Perspectives
- Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Special Needs Subject Response
- Early Intervention Every Day!
- Engagement of Every Child in the Preschool Classroom
- The Guide: Social Security Benefits and Work Incentives
- Instructional Technology in Early Childhood: Teaching in the Digital Age
- Making Preschool Inclusion Work
- Managing Your SSDI Benefits and Income Handbook
- Managing Your SSI Benefits and Income Handbook
- Medi-Cal Managed Health Care Plans: What Are They? (booklet)
- My Family Matters to Me
- Resigning Health Care for Children with Disabilities
- Teaching Young Children with Disabilities in Natural Environments
- Understanding Families – Supportive Approached to Diversity, Disability and Risk

En Espanol

- Mi Familia Me Importa

FRN Events!

Please note that these events take place at a variety of sites. Be sure to check the location of the workshop you are interested in. Flyers for these workshops are available at www.frcn.org and click on calendar. For more information call FRN at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

September 23 - Moving Forward: Helping Your Child Transition to Adult Services - This workshop will focus on IDEA transition requirements, agencies' responsibilities/timelines, the role of the family in the transition process and transition resources. Presenter: FRN, San Joaquin County Office of Education, 2707 Transworld Dr., **Stockton**, 6:30 – 8:30, FREE, registration required.

September 24 - 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, registration required.

Sept. 25 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area 6 Board and Family Resource Network • **Area 6 Board Office, Stockton**, 2529 March Lane, Suite 105, Stockton, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required.

October 29 – Understanding the Basics of an IEP • Presenters: Area Board 6 and Family Resource Network • Cosponsored by Amador SELPA, First 5 Amador and The Resource Connection • **First 5 Office, 975 Broadway, Jackson**, 6 – 8:00 p.m. FREE, reservations are required. FREE Childcare available, call 257-1092.

November 12 - 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, registration required.

November 20– Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area 6 Board and Family Resource Network • SCDD, Area 6 Board • **Community Continuum College, Turlock**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

SATURDAY IEP WORKSHOP!!

January 17, 2015 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: Area 6 Board and Family Resource Network • **Area 6 Board Office, Stockton**, 2529 March Lane, Suite 105, Stockton, 9:30 a.m. to noon, FREE, reservations are required.

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.

To find out about your local CAC contact your Special Education Local Plan Area:

Amador County Office of Education 209-257-5330

Calaveras County Office of Education 209-736-6020

Tuolumne County Office of Education 209-536-2040

Stanislaus County Office of Education 209-541-2944

Modesto City Schools 209-576-4155

San Joaquin County Office of Education 209-468-4925

Stockton Unified School District 209-933-7120 x 2560

Lodi Unified School District 209-331-7061

AUTISM THERAPY A MEDI-CAL BENEFIT

by **David Gorn**, Wednesday, August 6, 2014

State officials said yesterday autism therapy clearly is a covered Medicaid benefit, and they hope to submit a state plan amendment by Sept. 30 to start the process to make it a Medi-Cal benefit for those under age 21.

According to René Mollow, deputy director of benefits and eligibility at the Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal children are entitled to applied behavior analysis -- known as ABA therapy.

"Right now we're working on the development of a state plan amendment. We want to engage the stakeholders in developing that," Mollow said. "We're looking to have it submitted at the end of September, and having it retroactive to July 1."

Medi-Cal children now receiving ABA therapy likely will have that care retroactively paid for by Medi-Cal.

The new policy should start by the beginning of next year, Mollow said. Till then, there is a lot to do to develop the provider network and reimbursement rates, she said.

"And the question is what to do in the interim, when people are looking to get services now," Mollow said.

Autism advocates were understandably delighted.

"We're thrilled that the state is moving in this direction, and very encouraged by the steps they're taking," said Kristin Jacobson, president of Autism Deserves Equal Coverage, an advocacy group based in Burlingame. "We want to work with them to implement this as expeditiously as possible."

FRN Parent Scholarships Available

Family Resource Network has received an unrestricted grant of \$2,500 from the Stuart Foundation. FRN is using the funds to assist parents of special needs children within FRN's 5 county service area 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. 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. Restrictions apply. For more information contact FRN staff.



New Publication: Equal Access to Extracurricular Activities for Students with Disabilities

This comprehensive 8 page publication helps answer some common questions about students with disabilities and extracurricular activities like: Do students with disabilities have the right to equal opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities, Do students with disabilities currently have opportunities to participate in school athletic programs that are equal to that of children without disabilities, What guidance is available for educational agencies regarding providing opportunities for children with disabilities to participate in school athletics, Which agency enforces the right of students with disabilities to have equal access to extracurricular activities, Why is it important to increase opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities, Which extracurricular athletic activities are covered by anti-discrimination laws, Who is responsible for ensuring that students with disabilities have equal access to nonacademic and extracurricular activities, and plenty more!

DRC publication number CM45.01

<http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/CM4501.pdf>

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

Confucius