



Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 13, Issue 3, Fall 2005

Revised Special Education Law Gives Parents Options

In December of 2004 President George W. Bush signed the bill that reauthorized the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which is the legislation that covers special education services including the Individualized Education Program (IEP). This reauthorization is entitled the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act and is known as IDEA 2004. IDEA 2004 became effective July 1, 2005.

FRN's Spring newsletter outlined several of the changes that come with IDEA 2004. To review that newsletter, go to FRN's website, www.frcn.org, click on "Newsletter" on the left tool bar then look up the Spring 2005 newsletter.

Some of the changes to IDEA 2004 give parents options on various issues. These include:

IEP Team Member Attendance

An IEP team member may be excused from attending the IEP team meeting if the parents and the Local Education Agency (LEA) [typically this means the school district], agree because the area of the curriculum or related services is not being modified or discussed. The agreement must be in writing and include parent consent.

What does this mean? It means that if the parents and the school agree, a member of the team can be excused from attending the meeting because that person's area is not being discussed. For example, the speech therapist could be excused if there will be no discussion about speech services. However, if the parents or school feel that the subject of speech might come up, then the speech therapist should not be excused. IDEA 2004 does not indicate when the written notice must be given.

An IEP team member may be excused even if their curricular area is being discussed by the written agreement of the parent and the LEA. The IEP team member shall submit their input in writing.

What does it mean? If the parent and school agree, the team member may be excused but must submit their report in writing.

IEP Meeting

The IEP meeting may be held using alternate means such as a video conference or a conference call if the parents and the LEA agree.

What does this mean? Parents who are unable to attend in person could be able to participate at IEP meetings via the telephone or video conferencing.

Children exiting Early Start

If a child received Early Start services (children ages birth to 36 months), the parent has the right to request that the Early Start Coordinator or representative be invited to the initial IEP meeting.

What does this mean? Parents may request that the child's Early Start Coordinator or representative from that agency attend the child's initial IEP meeting.

Short term objectives or benchmarks

An IEP must include short term objectives or benchmarks only for those students with disabilities who will be assessed using alternative achievement standards.

What does this mean? If a student participates in the statewide assessments (aka the Star test) the IEP does not need to include short term goals ("by October 1st the student will be performing at 50% accuracy, by February 1st the student will be performing at 70% accuracy, etc."). However, if the parent wishes, short term goals may be included in the IEP. Annual measurable goals ("by the end of the annual IEP student will be able to add two digit numbers with 80% accuracy.") must be part of every student's IEP.

IEP Amendments

An IEP may be amended between the annual IEP meeting without the necessity of calling a new IEP meeting if agreed to by the parents and the LEA. The amendment or modification to the IEP shall be in writing. Upon request, the parent shall be provided a revised copy of the IEP with the amendments incorporated.

What does it mean? If the parent and school agree, changes to the IEP, during the year that the IEP is in effect, may be made without calling a new IEP meeting. For example, if a service, such as transportation, is to be added and all parties are in agreement, the IEP can be amended to include transportation, and an IEP meeting does not need to be held. However, if the parent wants to meet, the meeting must be held. Parents must request a copy of the revised IEP.

In order to make informed decisions, parents need to understand the law. All of the special education rights workshops that FRN conducts include information on IDEA 2004 updates. See page 3 of this newsletter for upcoming workshops.

Knowledge is Power.

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Stockton, CA 95207
Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com website: www.frcn.org

Congratulations to the winners of FRN's recent drawing:

Maria Carrillo
Maricela Jimenez
Candace Thomsen



Holiday Open House

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 3rd for FRN's Annual Holiday Open House. Santa will be there as well as craft activities and lots of food. There's no cost to attend, but please let us know if you're coming. Santa needs time to check his Naughty or Nice list. RSVP to FRN at 209-472-3674, 800-847-3030, or email us at FRNfamilies@aol.com. Please let us know how many adults and children will be attending.

Central Valley Down Syndrome Association News

The Spanish-language group meets the 2nd Friday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. at M.L. Annear School in Modesto. Call Maria at 845-8028 for information.

Call Angie Purewal at 499-2420 for time and location for the English-language group.

The Buddy Walk will be held Saturday, October 8th at 10 a.m. at Graceada Park in Modesto. Call Maria for info at 845-8028.

Autism Support Groups

Lodi

The Lodi Autism Group meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Nichols School. For more information call Sylvia at 334-3025.

Modesto

The Modesto FEAT subgroup meets the last Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Borders Book Store on Sisk Road. For more info contact Suzanne at 545-2644.

Tracy

The Tracy FEAT subgroup meets every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at JavaMakers Café, 2179 W. Grantline Road, in the back conference room. Additionally there is a meeting the 3rd Thursday evening of each month at the conference room at Sutter Tracy Community Hospital at 7 p.m. The evening meeting will feature speakers and specific topics of interest. For more information contact Heidi at 209-832-3878 or email her at HeidiKaufmann908@msn.com.

Oakdale

A new Asperger's Support Group is starting up in Oakdale. For more information, contact Tasha or Ann at 847-0272.

SNAFU News

SNAFU, Special Needs Advocates for Understanding, meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the Ripon area. Contact Stacy at 599-4519 for more information.

Special Parents

is a discussion group for parents of children with special needs. The group meets the third Tuesday evening, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., of every month during the traditional school year at Quail Lakes Baptist Church, 1904 Quail Lakes Drive, Room W-410, in Stockton.

All Special Parent meetings are FREE and open to all interested parties, including professionals. Refreshments are provided. We even have a door prize! We regret that we are unable to provide childcare.

September 20 – Transitioning Your Special Needs Child to a New School Setting

Presenter: Ann Cirimele, FRN

Ideas will be shared to help make the change easier on students, families and teachers.

October 18 - Understanding Special Education Assessments

Presenter: Robert Morrow, Ph.D.

Back by popular demand, Dr. Morrow will help parents understand how children are tested for special education services. He will assist parents in determining what types of tests might be best for their child.

November 15 – IDEA 2004 Updates

Presenter: Ann Cirimele, FRN

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has been rewritten recently and now includes many options for parents. Come learn how these changes will affect your child's IEP.

There is no cost, but reservations are required. Call FRN at 800-847-3030 or email us at FRNfamilies@aol.com.



Spanish Language IEP Workshop

FRN will be conducting a special education rights workshop on Saturday, September 17th. **This workshop will be conducted in Spanish only.** See the back page of this newsletter for more information.

Local Training Opportunities

September 7– Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program •

Presenter: Ann Cirimele, Family Resource Network • FRN Office in **Stockton**, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., scholarships for parents, \$10 fee for professionals, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

September 8 - Special Education Rights Workshop

• Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • City County Administration Building, 1010 Tenth Street, **Modesto**, 6 p.m., FREE, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

September 22 - Special Education Rights Workshop •

Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • Area VI Board Office, 2529 W. March Lane, **Stockton**, 6 p.m., FREE, for reservations call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

October 5– Parental Rights and Advocacy in Special Education •

Presenter: Ann Cirimele, Family Resource Network • FRN Office in **Stockton**, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., scholarships for parents, fee for professionals, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

October 13- Special Education Rights Workshop •

Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • General Services Administration, 12200 B. Airport Road, **Jackson**, 6 p.m., FREE, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

November 2– Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program •

Presenter: Ann Cirimele, Family Resource Network • FRN Office in **Stockton**, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., scholarships for parents, \$10 fee for professionals, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

November 3- Special Education Rights Workshop •

Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • Lathrop Community Center, 15557 5th Street, **Lathrop**, 6 p.m., FREE, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

December 1- Special Education Rights Workshop •

Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • Boys & Girls Club of Tracy, 753 W. Lowell Ave., **Tracy**, 6 p.m., FREE, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

Check FRN's website, www.frcn.org for updated information on trainings and events.

New FRN Library Resources

FRN thanks Emily Bauch-Donnan who donated the following books to the library:

- * *A Mind Apart*
- * *Parenting Your Asperger Child*

FRN thanks Charla Conover who donated the following books to the library:

- * *Evidence of Harm*
- * *Special Diets for Special Children*
- * *A Thorn in My Pocket: Temple Grandin's Mother Tells the Family Story*
- * *The World of the Autistic Child*

FRN thanks Debbie Hesch who donated the following videos to the library:

- * *ADD – A Dubious Diagnosis?*
- * *Answers to ADD – The School Success Tool Kit*
- * *Strategies in Dealing with the Problem Child*

FRN thanks Beverly Klunk who donated the following DVD to the library:

- * *Autism is a World*
- (note: this is also available on vhs tape)

Also new in the library:

- * *Riding the Bus with My Sister* (video)

FRN's entire library list is located on its website at www.frcn.org. FRN is happy to mail resources. To find out more about how to borrow resources from the library, call FRN at 800-847-3030 or log onto our website.

DENTAL CARE INFORMATION

Disability Rights Advocates (DRA), a nonprofit law center, is investigating complaints regarding refusal of or improper dental care for individuals with developmental disabilities. This includes individuals who have been refused dental care due to a developmental disability or individuals in managed care situations where proper dental care is not being provided. If you or someone you know has experienced either one of these situations, email DRA at general@dralegal.org or call 510-451-8644 and ask for Michelle.



Fun events for siblings ages 7 to 14
Saturday, September 24, 2005
 1 to 4 p.m. at Valley Community Baptist
 Church in Tracy.

Friday, November 4, 2005
 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Quail Lakes Baptist
 Church in Stockton.

**Registration is required. Call 472-3674 or
 800-847-3030 to get registration form.**



Project Rudolph

What a success this project has been! After learning that there were some adults with developmental disabilities who live in local group homes who did not have family to bring them gifts during the holiday season, FRN initiated Project Rudolph. As parents of children with special needs, we did not want anyone to feel forgotten at the holidays. We hoped to be able to bring gifts to consumers living in 4 group homes. Thanks to the generosity of so many FRN families, we were able to double that number. Volunteers purchased and wrapped gifts which Santa delivered to the group homes. Santa was greeted with squeals of delight and he loved posing for pictures with the consumers. If you'd like to donate to this year's Project Rudolph, please send your tax-deductible donation to FRN and identify it as funds for Project Rudolph. 100% of Project Rudolph funds will be spent on the gifts.

FRN's 5th Annual Mothers Retreat
Save the Date
Saturday, February 4, 2006

**We're looking forward to another fun
 day for Moms!!**





FRN extends its thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Tina Bambico
 Kathy Barnes
 Emily Bauch
 Brenda Blakeley
 Dennis and Mary Carter
 Jamie Carroll
 Charla Conover
 The DuBose Family
 Armeida Escalona
 Joseph and Heather Gilchrist
 Antonia Gonzalez
 Chris and Shawna Gonzalez
 Kristy Howell
 Skye Jones
 Deborah Hunley-Seabrooks
 Nellaine Kilgore
 Karen Mairs
 Sherrie Olson
 Ray and Karen Pekarcik
 Gail Rieger
 Tina Rouse
 Sabriana Schneweis-Coe
 Jennie Stormes
 United Way Donors- Anonymous
 Tessa Zertuche

The following made donations in memory of Gerry Crittenden:

Tom and Sue Chinchio
 Leslie Oliver
 Roy and Netti Pezzi



FRN thanks the following for their donations through United Way:

Paul A. Antigua
 Thea C. Etheridge
 Susan K. Perondi
 Bianca Sanchez
 Steve D. Stewart
 Kathleen Werner
 And
 Anonymous Donors

Many thanks to FRN's Fabulous Volunteers:
 Anthony Cirimele
 Joel Gallegos
 Don Okura



The following individuals were honored with Friend in Deed certificates:

Beatrice Andrade
 Kathie Aylwin
 Nancy Brown
 Roxanne Busch
 Shawn Chavez
 Michelle Chipponeri
 Lisa Coburn
 Susan Fisher
 Lucille Ganbrell
 Maria Guzman
 Dena Hayashino
 Helena Hendrix
 Rose Kleinert
 Jill Lee
 Debbie Link
 Marty McCandless
 Vicky MacKinnon
 Sandy Rux
 Jirii Sakata
 Sandra Shirley

If you would like to honor someone with a Friend in Deed Certificate, please contact FRN for an order form.



Operation: Birthday Wishes Donors:
 Nelley Finnegan
 Gail Rieger
 Traci Trujillo

100% of these donors' generous donations are used to send birthday cards to people with developmental disabilities in group homes. FRN is also indebted to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Area VI Board, which is collaborating with FRN on this project.

To date, over 130 cards have been sent.

Eleventh Annual Early Start Symposium
Celebrating Every Child's Ability to Learn, Change and Grow
Friday, November 18, 2005
DoubleTree Hotel, 1150 Ninth Street, Modesto

Check In and Refreshments 8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

Welcome 8:45 – 9:00 a.m.

Keynote: David D. Love 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

**“Creating an Environment that Enhances
Brain Development in Infants and Toddlers”**

Break 10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Morning Break Out Sessions 10:45 a.m. to noon

1. Children of Chaos

David D. Love, MFT – This workshop will identify the damage done to children when they live in homes experiencing substance abuse, domestic violence and other forms of chaos.

2. Oral Motor Issues in the Young Child

Michelle Edache, CCC/SLP – Let's explore the oral mobility and strength of the young child and provide functional strategies to help improve oral development.

3. Ideas for Sensory Play Throughout the Day

Debbie Link, OTR, and Dena Hayashino, COTA – This workshop will identify signs of poor sensory processing during infancy, toddler and preschool years, and suggest ways to incorporate a variety of sensory integration activities throughout a child's day.

4. The Essential Skills for Success

Paul Stephany, MFT, BCBA – Practical information on using the scientific principals of behavior to teach young children specific skills that will help them be successful in home, school and community settings.

5. The Power in Our Hands: Sign Language for Everyone!

Jason Gillespie– Sign Language isn't just for deaf children anymore. Come see the benefits of early signing with hearing children, and learn some basic signs with us.

Buffet includes vegetarian choices

Afternoon Break Out Sessions 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

6. Treating Traumatized Children

David D. Love, MFT – This workshop will help participants identify children who need specialized mental health services and available community resources.

7. How Early Can We Identify Autism?

Sally J. Rogers, Ph.D.- This session will describe the most current finding from studies focused on accurate identification of autism in children age 2 and younger.

8. Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC): An Overview

Carol Lehman, CCC/SLP – AAC has been used successfully with very young children with a variety of disabilities. Examples of a variety of systems, from low to high tech, will be provided.

9. Selected Topics in Nutrition

Dan Lowensteiner, RD – Infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities often face a number of nutritional challenges. Topics to be addressed include: Failure to thrive, feeding problems faced by preemies, “picky eaters”, and transition from tube feeding.

10. The Power In Our Hands: More Sign Language for Everyone!

Jason Gillespie – A second-level introduction to using sign language with young children. Participants should have taken the introductory session offered at this year's or at last year's symposium.

Closing and Door Prizes

2:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Must be present to win.

Lunch

noon – 1:15p.m.

Continuing Education Units are available for nurses with their paid registration. Information is available at the Symposium.

Complete one registration per person.

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Scholarships may be provided for parents residing in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus or Tuolumne Counties

I am attending as a:
 Parent of an Early Start Child or
 Professional.

If registering as a professional, it is anticipated that a registration fee will accompany this form.

AM Session: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

PM Session: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Registration Fee Enclosed:
 Parent/Guardian of child enrolled in Early Start, scholarship requested.

Parent/Guardian of special needs child 3 –5 years old, requesting scholarship. Limited number available.

Professional or parent within the five county region above.....\$60.00

Professional or parent outside the five county region.....\$75.00

Payments must be made by check or money order only and must accompany registration form. No purchase orders accepted. We regret that we are unable to provide refunds, but substitutions are always welcome.

Send registration and check made out to Family Resource Network (no purchase orders accepted) Family Resource Network, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 239, Stockton, CA 95207. Call FRN at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030 if you have questions.

Those booking hotel accommodations must contact the DoubleTree Hotel at 800-222-TREE or 209-526-6000.

IMPORTANT PARKING INFORMATION for the Early Start Symposium
Parking is included if you park in the garage on 9th Street between K and L Streets. Take your parking ticket to the bell stand or the front desk of the hotel for validation. We cannot validate tickets at the conference check-in table.

Early Start Symposium Registration
Participation space is limited. Registration fee includes continental breakfast, buffet lunch and snacks. Vegetarian choices are available. To reserve conference materials and lunch, registration and check payment must be postmarked no later than October 15th. Participants wishing to register after October 15 or at the conference will not be guaranteed lunch or participation.

**Entrenamiento en Español para la forma IEP
(Programa de Educación Individual)**

El taller será presentado solamente en español

SÁBADO, 17 DE SEPTIEMBRE, DEL 2005

10 AM – 2 PM

**En las Oficinas de Educación del Condado de San Joaquín
2707 Transworld Drive, Salon Chartville, Stockton, CA**

El entrenamiento es gratuito, pero se requiere que se registre con anticipación. Favor de llamar o mandar la forma de abajo antes del 9 de Septiembre del 2005. Si necesita arreglos especiales bajo el Acta de Americanos con Discapacidades, llame al Red de Medios Familiares (Family Resource Network) al 800-847-3030.

Favor de Mandar esta forma a:

FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK, 5250 Claremont Ave, Suite 239, Stockton, CA 95207, FAX 209-472-3673

Nombre _____

Domicilio _____

Teléfono _____

Numero de personas quienes asistirán de su familia _____