

Issue: August 2008

## About Special Kids



Visit our website, [www.aboutspecialkids.org](http://www.aboutspecialkids.org).



### Back to School

#### Contact Us

About Special Kids (ASK)

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1.800.964.4746 (toll-free)  
[familynetw@aboutspecialkids.org](mailto:familynetw@aboutspecialkids.org)

It is that time again, when alarm clocks go off a little earlier, there is a mad rush to find the missing shoe before the bus arrives, and homework returns. For a family of a child with special needs, the beginning of the year is a critical time for planning the transition back into the school year.

For many children with special needs, transitions of any type can be especially hard. Regardless of the disability, trying to readjust from the carefree days of summer to the structure of a typical school day can be difficult. The key to making it as easy as possible is planning. As parents of children with special needs, we offer several tips.

#### Showcasing Families !

ASK is currently seeking stories from the families we serve.

Personal family challenges and success stories are a great way to help other families understand that they are not alone in dealing with issues. It is a great way to share a part of your family with other ASK families.

If you would like to share your story please email [sorayavan@gmail.com](mailto:sorayavan@gmail.com) or call 866-544-4475 to set up an interview time. You and your family will be featured in our upcoming family showcase section of the newsletter.

Your time and attention to this request is greatly appreciated.

- Review the previous year Individualized Education Plan for any possible changes. What has worked and what hasn't? Are there any new strengths or weaknesses that need to be addressed?
- Find trainings in your area to increase your knowledge of special education regulations, rights as a parent, and advocacy techniques. About Special Kids holds trainings throughout the state. Please visit our website for a calendar of trainings. The calendar is constantly being updated as new trainings are added, so check back often.
- Contact the school to introduce yourself. Discuss any concerns and offer suggestions on what works with your child. Make sure to include all personnel that may have contact with your child such as teachers, principals, therapists, or nurses.
- Review all contact information and forms the school might have on file for your child.

#### Parent Liaison Job Opening

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## Trainers Wanted

ASK is currently looking for trainers who are knowledgeable about Article 7 and Indiana's public health insurance programs, especially as they relate to children with special needs. Please note that these are contract positions and will likely would require a time commitment of only one to three days a month. Most trainings would require a full day (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.) plus travel time.

All trainers must have reliable transportation and have the time to travel in their general region (Northern, Central or Southern Indiana). At this time, we are specifically looking for trainers in Northern and Southern Indiana who could provide group trainings to families and professionals on an as needed basis. However, if you live in a different region of the state and have an interest in this, please respond as we will be expanding our training program soon.

An hourly training rate will be negotiated with each trainer based on his/her experience and ASK's budget. Parents of children with special needs and individuals with personal or family experience with disability are encouraged to apply.

Extensive knowledge of Article 7, writing IEPs, Medicaid, Medicaid Waivers, Medicaid Disability, Children's Special Health Care Services and other state assistance programs is essential. Candidates will be asked to take a test showing their knowledge of the subjects, be trained on the various topics, and partner with a current trainer for a presentation before becoming an independent contract trainer for ASK.

Apply with a letter outlining your experience in either or both of these areas via email to [asktraining@aboutspecialkids.org](mailto:asktraining@aboutspecialkids.org).

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About Special Kids (ASK) is currently hiring 1 part time Parent Liaison to serve in the Indianapolis Central office. The Parent Liaison will help families identify available resources to meet their child's physical, mental, emotional, and educational needs and receive information and education to support parent skill development necessary to negotiate systems.

This position will be 20 hours per week at a pay rate of \$13-\$15 per hour, dependent upon experience. 16 of the 20 hours must be on Monday and Friday, 8-4:30.

Parents of children with special needs (physical disabilities, mental health diagnoses, chronic health conditions, developmental disabilities, etc) are encouraged to apply for this position of parent to parent support.

Please send a cover letter and resume to Jane Scott, Director of Family Support at [jane@aboutspecialkids.org](mailto:jane@aboutspecialkids.org) or fax to 317-251-7488.

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## Indiana Services - Working to Improve

The Indiana State Department of Health, along with other organizations and individuals in Indiana is seeking information from families of children with special health care needs of all ages. Please visit the link included in this information to take a short survey about experiences for your child and family. The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete and your responses will be used to develop programs in our state that will better serve the needs of your family.

Please visit the survey link at:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=1rt\\_2fIVECE\\_2f98RL\\_2barHHQYg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=1rt_2fIVECE_2f98RL_2barHHQYg_3d_3d).

Thank you in advance for your participation. The survey will be available until September 3rd.

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## Community Information Fair for Hispanic Families

About Special Kids – Power Program will be hosting a Community Information Fair for Hispanic Families at John H. Bonner Community Center (2236 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46201).

About Special Kids (ASK) is hosting this information fair in order to provide information and resources to Hispanic families who have children with disabilities.

The information fair will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2008 and will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Organizations Participating in the Information fair are:

- National City Bank
- Indiana Partnerships Center
- Anthem Hoosier Healthwise
- Family Development Services

## Medicaid Waiver Fact Sheet

ASK has available full color fact sheets for any professional interested in learning more about Medicaid Waivers:

- Who might qualify
- What waivers can provide families
- How and where to apply.

Please contact Cindy Robinson, Training and Information Coordinator at 317-288-6317 or [cindy@abousspecialkids.org](mailto:cindy@abousspecialkids.org) if you would like a copy of this fact sheet.

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- La Plaza
- The ARC of Indiana
- Community Action of Greater Indianapolis
- Immigrant Welcome Center
- Indiana Down Syndrome Foundation
- Citizens Health Care Center
- MD Wise
- Healthy Families
- About Special Kids
- Autism Advocates of Indiana

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