

Issue: Dec. 2008

About Special Kids



Visit our website, www.aboutspecialkids.org.



Help Us
Help Kids

Contact Us

About Special Kids (ASK)

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Looking for Something Fun to do Over the Holiday Break?

The Children's Museum has the following programs available to qualifying families:

Access Plan Program: This program allows families who qualify the following benefits:

- * \$1 admission per family member per visit
- * Access to all galleries at the museum
- * Free Parking
- * Fun, educational experiences for the whole family

To become a member of the museum's Access Pass program you must be a recipient of the following programs: TANF,

Did you know Indiana has enough families of children with special disabilities to sell out the Colt's football stadium four times? At ASK, we do our best to help these children play on a level field, but the need is so great that we can't possibly reach every family. With your support, we hope to one day assist families in even the smallest Indiana towns. A donation to our Capacity Building fund will take us a step closer to achieving this dream.

A key element of our outreach is advocacy for children being served in special education programs at school. One of the most defining moments for these boys and girls is the day of the school case conference. Parents and school representatives participate in the conference to make sure each child receives an educational plan that answers his or her unique learning challenges. A donation to our Case Conference fund will help families find advocates to attend case conferences with them to offer support, expertise and an outside perspective.

Visit our website at www.aboutspecialkids.org and click on the "**Help Us Help Kids**" button to donate online.

If you are interested in donating your time through volunteer activities, please refer to our Employment and Volunteer Opportunities located on our website under "**Inside ASK**".

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 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.

Hoosier Healthwise Insurance, Food Stamps. The application is available at the museum and you must bring your Hoosier Works care (without Visa logo) or Hoosier Healthwise card and a Photo ID when applying.

Foster Family Members Program: Foster families throughout the state can sign up for the new Foster Family Members program. Sign up for a free membership between Sept. 1, 2008 and Aug. 31, 2009. The membership process is simple. Foster parents visit the museum box office and show a valid foster parent license, issued either by Department of Child Services or a Licensed Child Placement Agency. The membership includes adults sharing the same household, their foster children, step children and biological children under 21. The membership entitles the entire family to full access to the exhibits, programs and special member events at The Children's Museum for the year.

Upcoming 2009 ASK Trainings

Article 7 / IEP Trainings

Jan. 12 - Indianapolis
Jan. 16 - Ft. Wayne
Jan. 17 - South Bend
Jan. 31 - Merrillville

Understanding Public Health Insurance for Children with Special Needs

Feb. 9 - Indianapolis
Feb. 12 - Richmond
Feb. 21 - South Bend

Additional trainings are added to our calendar as they are scheduled. To register for a training, visit our website at www.aboutspecialkids.org

Become a Parent Mentor

Have you been through First Steps with your child? Would you like to help other families that are presently in the First Steps

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.

Family to Family 2009 Training Series

Topic 3: Where do I Find the Village? Finding Family Supports around Disability Issues

The saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" may be especially true when raising a child with a disability. Parent-to-parent support helps families realize they are not alone on this journey. Reaching out to others who have walked a similar path and have experience navigating the complex system of services and supports can be a huge benefit to families working to expand their knowledge base.

Participants in this session will learn about supports available to families on local, state, and national levels, how to find supports, how to create supports, and how to choose the supports that best suit your family needs.

February 5, 1-3p
Indianapolis-Marion County
Public Library-Irvington Branch
5625 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219

February 28, 9-11a
Wabash Center
2000 Greenbush St.
Lafayette, IN 47904

March 11, 7-9p, EST
Webcast
<http://breeze.iu.edu/f2fsupportgps/>

Other topic descriptions, dates, times, and locations are online at www.inf2f.org/F2Fevents-train09.htm

Contact for more information

- About Special Kids-ASK - <http://www.aboutspecialkids.org> - 800-964-4746
- Early Childhood Center - <http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/ecc> - 800-825-4733
- Funding provided by the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration, Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services, First Steps Early Intervention System.

system? Go to our website and click on Parent Mentor to find out how to get involved as a Parent Mentor.

Holiday Schedule

The ASK central office will be closed December 22-26, 2008 and January 1, 2009.

We wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday and look forward to wonderful 2009.

Registration Information

There is no cost for attending but individuals need to register for the session/s of their choice. Pick a registration option:

1. Online www.inf2f.org/F2Fevents-train09.htm
2. E-mail fif@indiana.edu. Subject: F2F training
3. Call the Early Childhood Center at 1-800-825-4733



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