



About Special Kids (ASK) - Central Office
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Happy Mother's Day

Mother of A "Special" Child

When I was young, I'd often say, I'd like to be a mom someday
 While playing with my baby doll, I thought that jobs not hard at all
 I'd have a baby, maybe two, a girl in pink...a boy in blue
 Well I grew up and sure enough,

The baby that was sent to me, was born with disabilities
 At first I'm frightened through and through, there's much to learn to care
 for you

This wasn't in my plans at all, when I was young and played with dolls
 Your mind and body were so weak, you might not ever walk or speak
 So much special care required, I'm often scared and often tired
 As months and years go slowly by, I smile a lot but sometimes cry
 To watch you grow and not complain, though you endure your share of pain
 Oh, how I'd hold you and I'd pray, that you'd be healed and whole someday
 But I knew that was not to be, not physically or mentally
 And so I taught you best I could, your progress wasn't very good
 But then one day I realized, as I gazed into your loving eyes
 That I had learned so much from you, determination...courage too
 A love so unconditional, it floods my soul and always will
 I'm proud to say I gave you birth, for you're an angel here on earth.

written by Pansy

Article 7 / IEP Special Education Workshops

ASK has started scheduling Article 7 / IEP workshops throughout Indiana. This training is a great opportunity for family members and professionals who advocate for children with a disability or serious chronic illness. The workshop is an all day training that offers basic information about special education laws and regulations for Indiana children ages 3-21. It also introduces recent changes in federal law that impact Indiana's state regulations. In addition, this training will provide information on how to prepare for a case conference and write an IEP.

May Trainings Available

May 17th
9:00 – 4:00
Jasper, IN

May 21st
9:00 - 4:00
Ft. Wayne, IN

Visit our website at www.aboutspecialkids.org for more information or to register. Additional trainings will also be available on the website training calendar as they are added.

More Families Than Ever

ASK has filled all of our new regional positions and we are reaching more families. In the 1st Quarter of 2008, we were in contact with **over 700** new families and **over 300** new professionals.

ASK has a variety of topical Information Packets that are available. Topics such as, but not limited to:

- Health Care Financing
- Article 7
- Behavior Management
- Childcare
- ADHD
- Autism
- Mental Health
- Future Planning



We have also had contact with families through Information Fairs, Support Group Presentations, and Trainings. To date in 2008, we have had representatives in over a dozen such events.

P.A.L.S.S. Club - Summer Group

For children ages 6 - 9 with ASD or Developmental Delays

Designed to teach children new and previously learned social strategies, P.A.L.S.S. Club (Practice and Learn Social Skills) will cover personal space, body language, talking to peers, team work, thinking of others and good sportsmanship. Since some children do not always get accurate feedback from their body, they do not always realize that they might be doing something completely different from their peers. Or perhaps they don't realize how their actions or words will affect others. In the P.A.L.S.S. Club, the children learn from feedback in the form of cues (verbal, pictures, written). These cues will eventually be faded out as the children start to pick up the skills automatically.

Summer P.A.L.S.S. • Introductory Level

Tuesdays (June 3 - August 19) • 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. • \$360

Summer P.A.L.S.S. • Level 1+

Thursdays (June 19 - July 17) • 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. • \$360

Level 1+ may be right for your child if you can answer yes to the following questions:

- Has your child participated in formal social skills training before, or has your child participated in a social group?
- Is your child able to participate in structured activities for more than one hour?
- Does your child initiate interactions and communication with both children and adults?
- Does your child meet the criteria for participation listed below?

Please plan to attend one of the (required) ice cream socials on either May 13 or May 20 from 4:30 - 5:30 to determine if your child can benefit from our Summer P.A.L.S.S. program. RSVP to Stacey Parisi via e-mail at sparisi@eastersealcrossroads.org or call her at 317.466.1000 x2432. Contact Stacey for more information or to enroll your child. Limited scholarships available

For more information on summer camps and recreation available, visit our online Resource Directory at www.aboutspecialkids.org



FOR SALE !!

Printer/Fax/Copier Combo

ASK currently has a nearly new (about 1.5 years old) Ricoh AC205 desktop printer/fax/copier combo available for sale. Selling price is \$350 and buyer will need to arrange for pick up. Please contact carol@aboutspeakkids.org if you are interested in purchasing this machine.

Person Centered Planning Presented by Noble of Indiana

This is a great training for parents. This tool will help you assess your child's talents, skills and needs in all areas, not just in school, enabling you to more effectively advocate for your child, and for your child to achieve his/her potential.

Training Dates: Wednesday June 11th and Saturday June 21st from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Cost: \$80 - includes box lunch, Guidebook, CD-Rom of Map Templates, and List of Resources

Location: Faith Presbyterian Church, 8170 Hauge Road, Indianapolis

To register, contact Sally Reed Crawford at sallycrwfrd@yahoo.com

Community Alternatives to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities

The Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) and Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP) received a five year grant from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) to further develop intensive community-based services for youth who are either residing in Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) or who may be eligible for admission to a PRTF because of their high level of need for mental health services.

GOAL

The goal of the grant is to ensure that eligible families receive adequate and appropriate interventions and support to help maintain their child/youth in the community.

ELIGIBILITY

There are currently 40 access points across the state. Families must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Child/youth must be eligible for Medicaid
- Family resides in a county that is an access point
- Child/youth being served must be between ages 6-20
- Child/youth must have an assessment completed at the access point which identifies them as needing this level and intensity of service

A child/youth meeting the above criteria and currently residing in a PRTF will be able to access grant services to assist with the transition back to community-based care. Youth living in the community who meet the above criteria may access grant services as an alternative to treatment in a PRTF.

APPLICATION

Families/caregivers may apply for grant services at their local Community Mental Health Center or through the PRTF where their child is placed.

For additional information please contact Rebecca Buhner, CA-PRTF@fssa.in.gov, 317.232-7892.

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