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ASK E-Newsletter | August 2014



2014 Trainings

My Child Has Special Needs: Now What?

Aug. 26th - Ft. Wayne
Aug. 28th - Greenwood
Sept. 9th - Gary

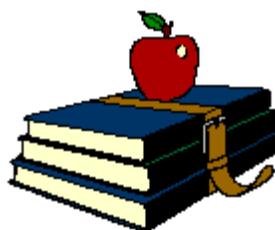
Public Health Insurance: What You Don't Know Can Cost You

Sept. 10th - Evansville
Sept. 24th - Shelbyville

Roadmap to Special Education: Laws and Process

Aug. 20th - Terre Haute
Aug. 23rd - South Bend
Sept. 8th - Muncie
Sept. 11th - Evansville
Sept. 17th - Wabash

To view the calendar or register
for a training, visit our website at
www.aboutspecialkids.org.



Is School Meeting Your Child's Needs?

by: Holly Paauwe, parent and ASK staff Parent Liaison

In what seems like a blink-of-the-eye, summer has ended and many of our children are now back-to-school. If you have a child with special learning and/or health needs, as I do, the start of a new school year can feel extra stressful. One common underlying cause of that added stress is the fear that our child's needs are not being met at school or that something critical is being overlooked, or worse yet, ignored. As parents, we may have questions like, "what can I reasonably ask the school to provide or do for my child?" or "how do I know if the school is offering all that they can or should to help my child?" At times, we may feel that school staff do not freely offer up information, resources or supports, and that we have to ask for everything our child gets. We may say something like, "I just don't know what I don't know" or "I didn't even know we could write a goal on that!" If you identify with any of these statements, questions or feelings, you are not alone.

I hope to offer some insights and a plan that you can use to help harness that internal dialogue for the educational benefit of your child.

Over the last 7 years, as I've advocated for my own daughter and served families here at ASK, I've come to hold two things to be true in the world of parenting children with any sort of special need. The first is this – information is power. It's always true, even when the information isn't what we wanted to know or hear. Information provides the basis we can use to build a realistic path forward, allowing us to make informed decisions on "where to go from here."

The second is – advocacy is a necessary part of our parental journey.



Unique Opportunity: Providing Insight to Medical Interns

In collaboration with the Indiana University School of Medicine, ASK is one of three community based organizations that provides community learning experiences for pediatric residents.

During their second year, a resident is given the opportunity to select ASK as their service learning project. He/she is then introduced to the services ASK provides, sits with a Parent Liaison for an afternoon, and chooses two other learning opportunities from a list of options.

One option is to shadow a family at a medical appointment. If you come to central Indiana for medical services for your child and would be willing to have a resident shadow one of these appointments, please call Jane Scott at 317-257-8683.

This is a great learning experience for the residents and an opportunity for you to make a difference for future medical care for children with special health care needs.



Contact Us

About Special Kids (ASK)

Central Office
7172 Graham Road
Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46250

In order to make sure our child is getting what they need at school, it will most certainly require some level of advocacy on our part. While school districts are generally trying to meet the needs of students with special learning and/or health needs, parents must remember that schools have a big job and responsibility for ALL their students.

Everything we can do to help them understand our child, their needs, and our hopes and dreams for them (as well as the child's own hopes and dreams), will go a long way in laying a better foundation for each new school year.

To read the entire article, click [here](#).

Burn Safety

by: Heather Muston, M.D.

As grilling season and summer are in full swing, here are some helpful tips to prevent burns. First of all, a burn is a type of injury that causes redness and pain of the skin. Many different things can cause burns. Heat from fires, hot liquids, steam, or irons are common things. However, there are other materials that can cause burns including chemical, electricity, and radiation. Burns are more common in children than they should be. According to the electrical safety foundation international, in 2007 over 98,000 children 14 and younger were seen in emergency rooms for burn injuries.

There are simple ways to prevent burns in children. Some of these include:

- Wearing sunscreen and protective clothing when children are out in the sun. Sunburns are a type of burn caused by radiation.
- Keeping the water temperature in your house less than 120 degrees Farenheit can prevent scalding burns. It is always important to check water temperature prior to placing a child in the bathtub.
- Ensure that children are not around hot liquids while cooking.
- It is also important to cover wall outlets and to remember to turn off hair dryers and hair straighteners when not in use.



About Special Kids has been nominated by a friend at Century 21 Scheetz for a chance to win a \$5,000 grant from their foundation.

Please go to the Realtor Foundation Facebook page NOW and like them – then beginning September 1 – 30th go there early and often to vote for ASK as your favorite charity – the charity with the most votes wins the \$5,000 grant.

VOTE – VOTE and VOTE AGAIN!!!

317.257.8683

1.800.964.4746 (toll-free)

familynetw@abouthspecialkids.org



Voting begins on September 1 at
www.facebook.com/realtorfoundation

We want to thank ASK's good friend,
Shereen Wallace, Branch Leader

[About Special Kids | 800-964-4746](#)

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About Special Kids
7172 Graham Road, Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46250
United States

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