

# About Special Kids

Dear Friend

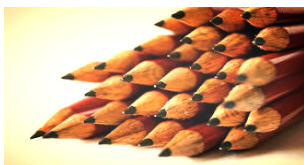


Helping Children with special needs live better lives by educating, empowering and connecting their families.

[www.aboutspecialkids.org](http://www.aboutspecialkids.org)

## Is College right for my child?

with permission of [Think College Indiana](#)



Parents should be encouraged to consider the options for their sons and daughters, regardless of ability or disability, including a post-secondary education option for

everyone who elects this path. This could be a college/university experience, a technical school or auditing classes. Planning can begin as early as 5th or 6th grade!

The benefits of post-secondary education for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability can be measured in their growth in a number of areas: academic and personal skill building, independence, self-advocacy, self-confidence, and friendship and socialization opportunities. For all students in a post-secondary education, the experience of being part of campus life, taking classes (whether auditing or for credit), joining student organizations, and learning to navigate a world of heightened expectations leads to the development of skills and confidence that are so important to a successful adult life.

Currently there are very limited options in Indiana for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who wish to pursue this type of post-secondary educational experience. Through the efforts of the [Think College Indiana coalition](#), a grant was awarded from the US Department of Education to the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community. The grant is structured to address systemic issues in Indiana as related to post-secondary education opportunities, and, for those individuals who chose this option, to promote the transition of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities into higher education. One of the goals of the coalition is to help facilitate discussion around post-secondary educational options, helping

## February e-News Sponsor



### Central Office Parent Liaison Opening

ASK is currently hiring a parent liaison to work out of the ASK Central office in Indianapolis. The parent liaison will help families of children with special needs identify and navigate through available resources and programs to meet their child's physical, mental, emotional, and educational needs. The majority of the work is done on the phone and email. This position will be 20 hours per week. Parents of children with special needs (physical disabilities, mental health diagnoses, chronic health conditions, developmental disabilities, etc.) are encouraged to apply for this position that will provide parent to parent support in central Indiana.

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

### Upcoming Workshops

individuals and families begin this process as early as practical. So if this is of interest to you, please check out: <http://www.thinkcollegeindiana.org/index.php>

Some information is from National Think College....  
[www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)

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## **Sibling Leadership Network**

The Sibling Leadership Network is studying the support needs of siblings of individuals with disabilities. We invite you to complete this survey and to encourage other individuals you know to participate in the National Survey about Siblings of Individuals with Disabilities, their Support Needs, and their Families. We are looking for people to share their perspectives. The survey is for the following individuals to complete:

- Siblings of people with disabilities
- People with disabilities
- Parents of people with disabilities
- Professionals working with people with disabilities and their families

This is an online survey; it will take less than 30 minutes to complete. The survey is available in English and in Spanish.

The link to the survey is: <http://bit.ly/SiblingSurvey>

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## **Help us Help!**

ASK helps families find hope. We help them understand they are not alone and though this journey may not be an easy one, we are there to help ease the burden and find the most appropriate resources. ASK staff are parents of children with special needs and have traveled this road and understand the unique stress parents go through. With your help, we can reach more families and give them the support and tools to live better lives.

With your gift, you can give ASK the ability to reach more families. Any size gift is appreciated and needed. Donations help us continue the work our founders began 28-years ago. Our parent-to-parent support touches more than 3,000 families every year thanks to generous donors like you.

## **ASK and Learn Parent Liaisons**

2-25-2015  
5:00 - 6:30pm  
ASK Office  
7172 Graham Road, Suite 100  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

## **Roadmap to Special Education: Laws and Process**

3-11-2015  
8:30 - 4:00pm  
North Christian Church  
850 Tipton Lane  
Columbus, IN 47201

## **It's Not WHAT You Say. . . It's HOW You Day It: Effective Communication**

3-17-2015  
10:00am - 12:00pm  
First Christian Church  
118 W Washington Street  
Shelbyville, IN 46176

## **Roadmap to Special Education: Laws and Process**

3-19-2015  
8:30 - 4:00pm  
Speedway United Methodist Church  
5065 W 16th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46224



**Check out our New Website**

<http://www.aboutspecialkids.org/>

If you would like to help us please go to:  
<https://www.aboutspecialkids.org/donate/>

**To view archived webinars, click [here](#)**

Contact Us | Phone: 800-964-4746 | [familynetw@aboutspecialkids.org](mailto:familynetw@aboutspecialkids.org)

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