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## July e-Newsletter

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When President (George H. W.) Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law — the world's first comprehensive civil rights law for people with disabilities — in front of 3,000 people on the White House lawn on July 26, 1990, the event represented an historical benchmark and a milestone in America's commitment to full and equal opportunity for all of its citizens.

The President's emphatic directive on that day — "Let the shameful walls of exclusion finally come tumbling down" — neatly encapsulated the simple yet long overdue message of the ADA: that millions of Americans with disabilities are full-fledged citizens and as such are entitled to legal protections that ensure them equal opportunity and access to the mainstream of American life.

Enactment of the ADA reflects deeply held American ideals that treasure the contributions that individuals can make when free from arbitrary, unjust, or outmoded societal attitudes and practices that prevent the realization of their potential. The ADA reflects a recognition that the surest path to America's continued vitality, strength and vibrancy is through the full realization of the contributions of all of its citizens.

Source: [ADA Handbook – Preamble](#)  
(askjan.org/media/adahandbook/PREAMBLE.html)

For more go to – <http://www.adaanniversary.org>

About Special Kids will be participating in a couple of events celebrating the passage of the ADA.

[Arts for All Festival](#)  
July 22 - 4:00 - 8:00pm  
[VSA Indiana](#)  
1505 N Delaware St, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202



[25th Annual  
Access & Inclusion Awards Ceremony](#)  
July 23 - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Indianapolis Artsgarden  
Hosted by the City of Indianapolis  
Mayor's Advisory Council on Disabilities

### **Say It Isn't So – Do We Really HAVE to Talk About Going Back to SCHOOL!!**

By Andrew VanGordon – About Special Kids' Development & Marketing Manager

As I was trying to research information on timely topics for this *Newsletter*, I looked at my calendar and realized that my kids go back to school at the end of this month. Both are going to have major milestones to deal with – the oldest ("typically" developing) starts as a freshman in high school; my other (with Spina Bifida) starts kindergarten.

Both of them are excited and needless to say, nervous. I feel that my role is to attempt to lower their level of anxiety and to begin to get their internal clocks reset from the lazy summer hours to the new school schedules they will be facing.

As a parent of a child with special needs, I realize there is much more to the transition from summer to school. So, I wanted to find a checklist of suggestions that I could use to make sure I wasn't overlooking anything. After a little of on-line searching I found one that will help my kiddo and me

transition rather smoothly. You can access by clicking the link below. I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and that your transition back to school is smooth.

[http://www.Idonline.org/pdfs/BTS\\_Parents\\_LDOL.pdf](http://www.Idonline.org/pdfs/BTS_Parents_LDOL.pdf)

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### **Trending at ASK**

In the Arc's June e-news article, "The Lifeline is Under Attack – Help us Fight for it this Summer!", the article details actions being taken in Washington that could threaten existing programs which are the lifeline to individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). The Arc provides useful information in its Toolkit that helps to guide us into becoming an effective voice for those with I/DD. ASK firmly believes in the power of individual voices and gladly shares The Arc's Toolkit, a good educational tool.

The window of time is short. The ARC's [Don't Cut Our Lifeline Medicaid](#) toolkit explains why it is important to engage with your Members of Congress, and provides information to share in your calls, e-mails, or in person.



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### **Upcoming Workshops**

#### **My Child Has Special Needs:**

##### **Now What?**

July 21  
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
North Christian Church  
850 Tipton Lane  
Columbus, IN 47201

August 3

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House  
7922 W Jefferson Blvd.  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46804

August 6

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
LaPorte County Public Library  
904 Indiana Avenue  
LaPorte, IN 46350

[Register Here](#)

#### **My Child Has Special Needs:**

##### **Now What?**

August 12  
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
IPMG  
1305 Cumberland Avenue, Suite 110  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

##### **It's Not WHAT You Say . . .**

##### **It's HOW You Say It: Effective Communication**

July 21  
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
North Christian Church  
850 Tipton Lane  
Columbus, IN 47201

August 3

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House  
7922 W Jefferson Blvd.  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46804

[Register Here](#)

#### **Roadmap to Special Education:**

##### **Laws and Process**

August 4  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
Indian Creek Christian Church  
6430 S Franklin Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46259

August 24

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church  
3050 E David Drive  
Terre Haute, IN 47802

##### **Life with Stress, Balance and a Plan**

September 2  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Noble  
7701 E. 21st Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46219

[Register Here](#)

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