



About • Special • Kids
Answers for families of kids with special needs

October 2016 ~ E-Newsletter

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NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Did You Know

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month; if you have a child with special needs who is 14 and older you and your child need to begin to think about the future.

There are many things we, as parents, need to consider as we help our kid's achieve their highest level of independence possible. Many resources are available online to guide your efforts.

You may want to consider calling an ASK parent liaison to help you connect the dots. Because there are many things to consider – our parent liaisons can help you filter the ones that are right for your situation.

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/transitionadult/>

<https://www.disability.gov/can-high-school-college-students-get-help-job-search/>

<https://www.nasponline.org/Documents/Resources%20and%20Publications/Handouts/Families%20and%20Educators/Transition%20Planning%20WEB.ppt>

Fun Times at Halloween

A kid at heart, I have always enjoyed Halloween. Now, as a parent of a child with special needs I find it fun but challenging to have him be a part of the festivities and enjoy trick or treating in his wheelchair or other device. He has been his sister's soccer team physician riding in a wagon with a stethoscope and bandages, a hot dog vendor & the librarian from Shawshank Redemption in his dynamic stander, then Thomas the Train and Batman with his own Bat Mobile in his wheelchair, then last year Leonardo (TMN) out saving the city on his adapted bike.

I find it fun to try to come up with something fun but simple for him. Having him be part of the planning and design makes him feel special and an important part of the process.



Because of his need for DME, we have to choose our route and which houses' sidewalks we can successfully maneuver. As a parent of a child with special needs we all have to take several factors into account to make sure our children are not overwhelmed and can enjoy the time out and about. I did some research for you to help with ideas for trick or treating and some expert tips and tricks (pun intended). Even found some ideas for decorating pumpkins.

<http://www.pregnancy.org/article/halloween-fun-for-kids-with-special-needs>

<https://parentingspecialneeds.org/article/6-no-carve-halloween-pumpkin-ideas-for-special-kids/>

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/babymantis/20-creative-wheelchair-costume-ideas-for-halloween-10pu>



ASK Needs Your Input

2017 Training Survey ~ The end of the year is quickly approaching and the New Year will be here before we know it. As we plan for our 2017 trainings we would like your feedback on how to best reach families and professionals. Please take a minute to fill out this short (5-question) survey.



Link to add: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2RZVFNM>

Trending at ASK

Is The Honeymoon Over with School and Your Child's IEP?

Our parent liaisons are hearing that some of our families are beginning to have concerns that their child's IEPs are not being followed. If you have any of these concerns – don't let your frustration build. Please call ASK ~ (800-964-4746 / 317-257-8683). We can help you work through the issues and better understand the nuance of communicating with schools and what your rights are under Indiana Special Education Law.

Upcoming ASK Community Workshops

My Child Has Special Needs: Preparing for the Journey

Finding out that your child has special needs can be overwhelming. Some common reactions can be "What do I do now? Where do I start?" This training provides families with a brief overview of how to find support for your child and family, find appropriate information and services, ways to pay for services, and will help you start thinking about the future. This training is geared to help parents map out the next steps for their child and family.

October 24 – 6:00 - 8:00 PM

We Rock the Spectrum Kids' Gym
210 S Emerson, Suite D
Greenwood, IN 46143
Family Member – Free
Professionals - \$25
[Register](#)

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

Effective communication is critical in working with individuals and organizations. This interactive training is geared toward helping you build positive working relationships with school officials, medical professionals, and others you encounter in daily life through improved communication skills. Topics like building partnerships, negotiating skills, and active listening will be our focus.

October 28 - 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Noble East (atrium)
7701 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219
Cost: FREE
[Register](#)

Roadmap to Special Education: Laws and Process

This all-day workshop provides basic information about special education laws and regulations for Indiana children ages 3-21. In addition, this training will provide information on how to prepare for a case conference and write an IEP. This training is a great learning opportunity for family members and professionals who advocate for children with a disability or serious chronic illness.

November 1 – 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Greene-Sullivan Special Education Co-Op
77 A Street NE
Linton, IN 47441
Cost: (\$40 – Family Member / \$75 – Professional)
[Register](#)

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

This training provides parents and professionals with information about public health insurance programs that can be accessed by families caring for children with special needs. It includes information on Medicaid, Medicaid Disability, Medicaid Waivers, Children's Special Healthcare Services, Hoosier Healthwise, SSI (Supplemental Security Income), and private insurance.

November 12 – 9:00 – 12:30

Rolling Fields Baptist Church
1858 E 8th St, Jeffersonville, IN 47130
Cost: (\$40 – Family Member / \$75 – Professional)
[Register](#)

Hungry?

This month's recipe comes courtesy of Marsha Cheesman, ASK Senior Parent Liaison. Marsha has been with About Special Kids since 1992 – [Checkout Her B](#)



Ranch Style Oyster Crackers

12-16 oz. package oyster crackers
1 packet ranch dressing
2 Tablespoons dill weed
1 cup oil

Warm oil, dill weed, and ranch dressing - stir well
"Drizzle" over oyster crackers
Stir
Best if kept in a sealed container



Giving Tuesday

This year, on Tuesday, November 29, About Special Kids is participating in #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving.

Last year, more than 45,000 organizations in 71 countries came together to celebrate #GivingTuesday. Since its founding in 2012, #GivingTuesday has inspired giving around the world, resulting in greater donations, volunteer hours, and activities that bring about real change in communities. We invite you to join the movement and to help get out and give this November 29

Stay Tuned

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

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

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