

Connecting with Families and Educators



Providing information, support and encouragement to families and educators of children and young adults with disabilities.

Opportunities: Teens benefit from routine chores

Parenting books that stress the importance of daily chores usually focus on the assignment of responsibility as skills emerge, especially during the middle school years. With all the "busy-ness" of high school and the teen years, often families shift focus and household chores take a back seat to homework, jobs, and extracurricular activities.



When teens are involved in household chores that involve other family members, it promotes a sense of responsibility and participation. They realize the benefits and satisfaction of contributing to the welfare of the family team.

If you are having difficulty getting your teens to do chores, here are some suggestions from Kate Kelly, author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Parenting a Teenager*.

- Pay, if a chore takes a lot of time and effort and goes above and beyond what's usually asked.
- Let your teens have input into which tasks they feel they can complete on their timetable and according to their level of skills and abilities.
- Keep chores gender neutral. Kitchen chores are appropriate for sons as well as daughters, and taking out the garbage and mowing the lawn is good exercise for either girls or boys. Knowing how to cook and do laundry, wash the car and rake leaves are great skills for any young adult.

Just as adults can't shirk their duties because they're having a bad day, you should expect teens to follow through on their regular chores even when times are tough. According to Kate Kelly, "a chore can give a teen an anchor when things aren't going well at school or socially. Taking the dog for a walk has nothing to do with an A or a B, and can serve as a welcome distraction."

Parents as Presenters Opportunity

You are invited to participate in "Parents as Presenters," a 2-day workshop that will teach you the skills you need to effectively share your story with college students and community professionals. There will be no cost for attending the workshop. Applicants selected to participate in "Parents as Presenters" will receive a stipend in the amount of \$325 to assist with childcare, hotel, and travel expenses. Each couple will receive one stipend. Training is scheduled for September 25 & 26, 2009.



Telling Your Story

Did you know when college students hear directly from families, they become better teachers, social workers and health professionals?

Your Story is Important to promote sensitivity and awareness:

Your story is a way to let current and future service providers know how they can be sensitive to families; Most service providers have little or no opportunity to interact with families of children with disabilities before they begin working in the field. Your story will contribute to their education and preparation to work with families and to include children with disabilities with other children.

continued

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Your Story is Important to educate about family-centered services:

Children with disabilities are a part of a family. As you speak about your family, they will see that you focus on other family members, as well as your child with disabilities; Service providers will understand that their own expertise is enhanced when they consider the family as a valuable resource.

Your Story is Important to show your audience that kids are kids:

Children with disabilities are kids first, and have the same hopes and dreams as other children; Children with disabilities need opportunities to be with other children in natural community settings.

Through the Parents as Presenters training, participants will:

- Understand the multiple purposes of being able to tell their family story to an audience in a positive way;
- Understand presentation strategies and will formulate creative ideas for their personal presentation;
- Demonstrate and receive feedback from other participants as they present a sample "Telling Their Story" presentation;
- Develop a network among themselves to support "Telling Your Story" around the state.

Participation will be limited to 40 family members throughout the state. Applications must be received by May 26, 2009.

This training is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education, Parent-Educator Connection, Family Voices, Early ACCESS, the Parent Training and Information Center of Iowa and the College of Human Sciences, Iowa State University. For an application, contact the AEA 267 Family-Educator Connection at 800-392-6640, 800-735-1539 or 800-542-8375.

Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research Looking for Parent Input

Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research (ICATER) at the University of Iowa is currently conducting a needs assessment on assistive technology (AT) in K-12 schools across the state. In order to get a complete picture, ICATER is asking parents whose students are using assistive technology and/or are interested in the use of assistive technology to complete a brief survey. Your responses will help us understand what is working well - and not working so well - with your student's AT usage, as well as with the services and support he or she receives.

Your responses are completely confidential, and your participation is voluntary. We are not collecting identifying information about individuals who complete the survey. After the information is compiled ICATER will share information with the Iowa Department of Education on the state of AT in Iowa's school system.

Understanding the needs surrounding AT in K-12 educational settings will help the Iowa Department of Education better support AT users across the state, and help universities identify ways to better prepare teachers to work with AT in the classroom.

The link to the survey is here:
https://survey.uiowa.edu/wsb.dll/691/at_needs_parents.htm

If you prefer a paper copy of this survey, or have any questions, please contact ICATER at 319-335-5280.

Thank you for your help. Your response may benefit your student, as well as students with disabilities across the state.

**FAMILY
EDUCATOR
CONNECTION**



**Check us out
on the Web!**

www.aea267.k12.ia.us

Announcing Internships, Mentoring Programs, and other Opportunities for Students and Alumni With Disabilities

The Midwest Alliance is a regional program with the goal of increasing opportunities for students and alumni with disabilities. The program is based at the University of Wisconsin, the University of Illinois, and the University of Northern Iowa.

The Midwest Alliance is currently recruiting high school students as well as any postsecondary level students or alumni with any type of disability to take part in our mentoring and internship programs. We have stipends available in the amount of \$200 for mentees and \$300 for mentors for a 16 hour commitment.

We also help students and recent postsecondary alums find internships in businesses, research labs, camps, and summer programs, and provide \$500-\$1,000 in stipends. Our opportunities are offered to students at any postsecondary level (undergraduate, graduate, alumni) who have a degree in a variety of fields, or who are in the process of earning one. For a complete list of eligible majors and fields, click here: <http://stemmidwest.org/default.asp?contentID=544>

Note: You can receive a stipend for an internship you have found by yourself.

Applying to our program is easy:

- Applications are available at our website: <http://www.stemmidwest.org>
- Send us your completed application by fax, postal mail, or email.
- Please let us know if you would like to receive an application by mail or in an alternate format.

Upcoming Deadlines for High School Students:

- Summer Science Institute April, 2009 <http://www.wisc.edu/cbe/ssi/timeline.html>
- PEOPLE Program April, 2009 <http://www.peopleprogram.wisc.edu/application.html>
- UW-Madison Engineering Summer Program April 17, 2009 <http://studentservices.engr.wisc.edu/diversity/esp/>
- **Upcoming Deadlines for College Students:**
- Entry Point! April 30, 2009 <http://ehrweb.aaas.org/entrypoint/apply.htm>
- Research Experiences for Undergraduates Various Dates, 2009 http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm
- Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Program—UW-Madison Spring 2009 <http://www.wisc.edu/cbe/urm/application.html>

Note to parents, educators, faculty/staff, and community leaders:

We would like to attend your event, meeting, or campus to talk to students about our opportunities. Please contact us if you are interested!

Join our online mailing list to learn more:

For events, news, and other announcements related to student and alumni opportunities, please sign up for our general announcement mailing list by sending a blank email to: midwest-recruit-subscribe@googlegroups.com <<mailto://midwest-recruit-subscribe@googlegroups.com>>

If you have any questions, please contact one of our Outreach Coordinators:

For Wisconsin and Eastern Iowa: Dan Nordstrom
TTY/Voice (608) 890-0992 Email: dnordstrom@wisc.edu

For Illinois and Western Iowa: Tina Lam Rolfe
TTY/Voice (217) 244-1571 Email: tinarolfe@illinois.edu
This information provided by the Midwest Alliance.

“Career Forward” Resource for Students

According to an article included in December 11, 2008 *eschool News*, Microsoft’s U.S. Partners in Learning program has developed CareerForward, a resource to help students plan their career in a global marketplace.

CareerForward is a free multimedia on-line resource for middle and high school students. The program can be incorporated with classroom-based instruction or for individual student study.

The course is organized into four modules, each of which addresses student’s own interests, abilities, and values. The course encourages students to explore job titles, identify their social networks, and assess their ability to manage money. Outcomes of the program include learning more about globalization, career planning, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship. The course helps students consider what they want to do with their lives, what types of careers they might want to pursue, and what skills and training they’ll need to succeed,

The project was developed to help middle- and high-school students learn about the 21st-century jobs awaiting them and take charge of their own education. Learn more about CareerForward at <http://www.mivhs.org/content.cfm?ID=693>.

Parents’ Guide to Internet Safety



Qwest has partnered with Linda R. Young, Ph.D., a family therapist with more than 20 years of counseling experience, to develop a free, downloadable handbook: *Understanding A Child’s Virtual World*.

Check out the resource at:

<http://www.incredibleinternet.com/online-safety/dr-linda-young/parent-guide>

21st Century Skills

Collaboration between the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) has provided English teachers with a free on-line resource to help them infuse 21st-century skills into their curriculum. A framework provides teacher-created models for how 21st-century skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity can be incorporated into English classes. This resource includes sample lessons that combine 21st-century skills with interdisciplinary themes such as global awareness and civic, economic, and entrepreneurial literacy. Students from fourth through twelfth grades may benefit from this resource.

Learn more at: http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/documents/21st_century_skills_english_map.pdf

Visions for Tomorrow: Free Classes through NAMI

A free eight-week class for family members and direct primary caregivers of children and adolescents who have brain disorders, including ADD/ADHD, Autism, Bipolar, Depression, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and Tourette’s is available in our area. *Visions for Tomorrow* teachers are family members trained through NAMI Iowa, the state office. The course offers an opportunity to share mutual experiences and learn valuable lessons from one another in a supportive environment. The class covers a variety of educational materials and provides ideas for day-to-day care-giving skills. Topics include accessing school services, IDEA, communication, problem management, coping, self-care, the recovery cycle, and advocacy.

NAMI Black Hawk County will offer the class every Thursday from April 2 to May 21, 2009. It will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the second floor classroom at the First Congregational Church, 608 West 4th Street, in Waterloo.

For more information or to register for this class, please contact Leslie Cohn at NAMI Black Hawk County, 319-235-5263 or by email at namibh@qwestoffice.net.

The class will also be offered in Mason City beginning March 5 on eight Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9 p.m. For more information or to register, call Julie at (641) 420-1740 or Theresa at (641) 430-3667

Registration is required for the class. A stipend of up to \$75 per family may be available through the state office if you need to cover the cost of a childcare provider.

This information provided by NAMI.

Summer Transition Program for College-Bound Students

St. Ambrose University's Eighteenth Annual Summer Transition Program for College-Bound Students with Learning Disabilities, ADHD/ADD, or Autism/Asperger's is scheduled June 14 through July 10.

Students do not need to be admitted to St. Ambrose to participate in this program, nor does completion of the program guarantee admission to St. Ambrose. In this program, students earn three college credits in Introduction to Psychology, which would apply towards a degree at St. Ambrose or transfer to other institutions.

During tutorial sessions, staff members from the Services for Students with Disabilities office assist students in applying learning skills to their Psychology 105 coursework. Students receive instruction on note taking, textbook reading, memorization strategies, test preparation and other study skills.

Students are introduced to the FOCUS (Career Interest Inventory) and will develop individual career plans which allow students to establish clear goals and purpose for their college experience.

Orientation seminars help students identify and access university and community resources that facilitate their adjustment and success in college. Students meet one-on-one with faculty, giving them a personal introduction to academic advising, as well as providing an opportunity to discuss college transition issues. The advisors help students learn how to select courses that lead to career goals.

Self-advocacy seminars assist students in achieving greater self-confidence and independence in college life. These sessions include structured simulations that help students develop skills to choose and fully utilize the most beneficial accommodations for their learning disability.

Students are encouraged to live on campus to get the full benefit from the experience.

In order to participate, students must have completed their junior year of high school; have a documented learning disability, ADHD, Asperger; desire to be successful in college and complete an application form.

Applications are due May 29, 2009.

Estimated cost of the 2009 session:

Tuition (3 credits).....	\$2224
Room and weekday meals.....	\$640
Program Activity Fee	\$400
Matriculation Fee	\$75
Total Cost	\$3339

For more information, check out the St. Ambrose web site at <http://web.sau.edu/disabilityservices/> or call Ryan Saddler, Director for Services for Students with Disabilities at 563.333.6275.

Web Resources on Autism

There are many resources on the internet about autism, and this is just one of them. A Speech Language Pathologist from Apple Valley Minnesota has developed a "web blog" for teachers and families focusing on social language and emotional awareness. She has compiled lesson plans, tips, a list of resources and a number of other resources that may be of benefit to either families or educators working with individuals who have autism/PDD. If this is of interest to you, check out her web site at: <http://jillkuzma.wordpress.com>.

... focusing on social language and emotional awareness...

- *lesson plans*
- *tips*
- *list of resources...*

all available at the click of a mouse!





The University Of Iowa REACH Program: College for Students with Cognitive Disabilities

REACH (Realizing Educational and Career Hopes) is a two-year certificate program for young adults (18-25) with learning and cognitive disabilities. Our students live in the residence halls and participate in university and community life. Core aspects of REACH include: Academic Enhancement, Career Development Skills and Internships, Community Integration, Interpersonal and Social Skills, University Residential Life, Advising and Life Skills Support, Computer Training and E-portfolios®, and Post Program Employment Support.

Applications are now being accepted for Fall 2009. Enrollment is limited. Refer students today!

Visit our web site at www.education/uiowa.edu/reach to learn more about this exciting opportunity at a Big 10 University. You will find valuable information about what makes the REACH Program unique, an overview of the REACH experience, and application materials.

Contact us with questions or to arrange a campus tour at 319-384-2127 or via e-mail at reach@uiowa.edu.

This information provided by the University of Iowa, REACH Program.

Support Group information

There are a number of support groups across Iowa and in AEA 267. If you are affiliated with a support group and would like information about the group listed on the AEA 267 Family-Educator Connection web site and in our newsletters, send information to Sandy Kraschel at skraschel@aea267.k12.ia.us or call 800-392-6640.

PDD/Autism Support Group

The PDD/Autism Support Group that previously met in the Mason City/ Charles City area will no longer be holding monthly meetings. They will continue to connect through e-mail. If you are interested in being part of this network, please contact the group organizer, Karn Palmer at palmerkarn@hotmail.com.

Autism Spectrum Support Group

Meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m., AEA 267, 3706 Cedar Heights Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613. For more information call the Family-Educator Connection at 319-273-8265.

Autism Dietary Network Support Group

For more information call Amy Roberts at 319-233-8043.

F.A.S.T. Families of Autism Standing Together

Autism and GFCF (Gluten-Casein Free Diet) Support Group that meets in the Independence area. For more information call Cory or Renae Kress at 319-334-3832.

Designer Genes - A Support Group for parents of children with Down Syndrome

For more information call 319-939-8065 or e-mail designergenes2005@yahoo.com.

Prader Willi Syndrome Association of Iowa

For more information please contact: Edie Bogaczyk 515-987-0288 or dbogaczyk@msn.com.



Calendar

February

Tuesday -Thursday, February 10-12
16th Annual Early Childhood Iowa Congress

Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn,
Des Moines, Iowa

Presenters include Walter S. Gilman, Yale University, speaking on the growth of state funded prekindergarten programs; Stacie Goffin, Goffin Strategy Group and Valora Washington, CAYL Institute, presenting on the issues facing the educational and care systems as states quickly establish systems of preschool programs.

Audience: Anyone who works in or is interested in early childhood care and education.

Registration through Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC.)

For more information or a registration form, visit the Early Childhood Iowa web site at <http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/>.

Wednesday, February 18
Solving Behavioral Issues in Autism

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Sponsored by Grant Wood AEA, this workshop provides an overview of strategies used for students with autism spectrum disorders. Demonstrations and presentations will be provided including TEACCH, PECS, ABA, behavior management characteristics of autism, social stories, and scripting. Intended audience: K-12 administrators, general and special education teachers, and paraeducators.

For more information go to www.aea10.k12.ia.us/profdev/exceptlearners.html

Friday, February 27
Every Move Counts

Des Moines, Iowa

Jane Korsten will present non-traditional assessment and intervention strategies appropriate for the development of communication in individuals of all ages with severe multiple differences, developmental differences, and/or autism who are currently unable to communicate

their wants and needs spontaneously in their environment

Intended audience: educators, physical and occupational therapists, parents
Register for this course online at: www.iaadeafblind.k12.ia.us/learning.html.

March

Saturday, March 7
Down Syndrome Association of Greater St. Louis Educational Conference

St. Louis, Missouri

Topics address issues from birth through adults.

For more information: <http://www.dsagsl.org/2008%20Conference.cfm>

Saturday, March 7
OK Statewide Down Syndrome Conference

Oklahoma City, OK

For More information: http://www.ndss.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=107&Itemid=128&limitstart=4

Monday, March 9
The Why, What and How of School, Family & Community Partnerships

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Presenter, Karen Mapp, Ed.D is a lecturer on education at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her research and expertise is in the areas of educational leadership and educational partnerships among schools, families, and community members. Intended audience: educators, community members, and parents

Registration available on-line through Grant Wood Area Education Agency www.aea10.k12.ia.us, Course # 9279-08-01.

For more information contact Kathy Dulle at 319-399-6517 or 1-800-798-9771 ext. 6517.

Monday & Tuesday, March 16 -17
7th Annual CESA 5 Speech Language Institute, Autism Conference

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Featured speakers include Carol Gray, consultant, author and President of

the Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding. Best known for her strategies of developing social stories. Taylor Crowe, a successful young adult who has autism. Dr. Barbara Moore, Director of Special Youth Services at Anaheim Union High School, who will speak on the Response to Intervention (RTI) approach for SLPs. Charlie Osborn, teacher of fluency disorder courses at Stevens Point, University of Wisconsin.

Audience: Speech Language Pathologists and educators.

For more information contact Dallas Kerzan at kerzand@cesa5.k12.wi.us.

April

Tuesday-Friday, April 14-17
Midwest symposium on Therapeutic Recreation and Adapted Physical Activity

St. Louis, Missouri

For information: http://muconf.missouri.edu/midwest_symposium/index.html

Friday, April 17
Autism Society of Iowa Spring Conference

West Des Moines, Iowa

Keynote speaker for this conference is Jed Baker, Ph.D., author of The Social Skills Picture Book, Social Skills Training, Preparing for Life, and No More Meltdowns. Intended audience: Parents, educators, persons interested in autism

For more information, call: (888) 722-4799 or contact: Kris Steinmetz at autism50ia@aol.com. Website: www.autismia.org.

Friday & Saturday, April 17-18
Advocating Change Together: 2009 Minnesota Self-Advocacy Conference

St. Paul, Minnesota

This conference will focus on the network and connections available to individuals with disabilities as they advocate in the disability rights movement.

Intended audience: Adults and transition-aged youth who have disabilities and others interested in disability rights.

Information available at: www.selfadvocacy.com/Conference2009.htm.

The Family-Educator Connection

The AEA 267 Family-Educator Connection provides information and support for families and educators around disability related issues. Whether you would like to talk about family adjustment issues with a new baby or newly diagnosed disability, home-school communication issues, questions relating to understanding a disability, or parenting strategies, we are happy to take your call. We have quite a library of resources available for loan and a number of highly qualified people to consult. If you have a question, we will do our best to help you find the answer. We are available by phone, mail, e-mail or by appointment, in-person.

Cedar Falls/ Waterloo Office

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FAMILY-EDUCATOR

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