



CARE PARENT NETWORK

The Link

"Linking Exceptional Families in Contra Costa County"

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A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM CONTRA COSTA ARC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to announce that Joan Crook will be the new Program Director for CARE Parent Network effective April 1. Many of you might already know Joan from her work as a Parent Liaison to the California Children Services (CCS) program. Joan joined CARE five years ago and has diligently developed the Parent Liaison position in partnership with CCS. We are very pleased that she will be assuming this new role and providing leadership for CARE into the future.

Joan is the parent of two children, Alex (13 years) and Amy (15 years). Although her background is in the personal computer/high technology field, she became interested in the world of early intervention and the disability service system when Alex was born with severe, life-threatening medical conditions. Her own experience in coordinating care for her child and learning to advocate for him led to her interest in working with a family support program.

In addition to her work with CCS, Joan has served on the board of Bright Beginnings Preschool in Moraga and the EA-TEF Foundation. She has been an invited presenter to train both parents and professionals here in Contra Costa County as well as for statewide conferences and institutes. Joan earned her undergraduate degree and an MBA from the University of Santa Clara.

Over the next few months Joan will work closely with Betsy Katz to accomplish a smooth transition. Please join us in welcoming Joan.

Barbara Maizie, Executive Director

New Parent Welcome

Has your child just been found eligible for Early Start services through the Regional Center of the East Bay? If so, we extend an invitation to you to meet with staff from CARE Parent Network and the Regional Center, as well as other parents, to learn more about the Early Start Program. You will receive useful information and have a chance to meet other parents. The next Welcome will be **May 18 at 10:00** in our office. Please give us a call to let us know you are coming. We hope to see you then.

Transition Workshop

A Transition Workshop for parents of children with developmental disabilities aged 16 and up will be held on Saturday, **April 21** from **9:00 am** until **12:00 noon**. This workshop will provide a basic orientation to parents about the transition process. All participants will receive a planning notebook to organize their transition materials. Our guest speaker will be Laraine Domenico, Contra Costa SELPA Coordinator. Register by calling our office.

News From CCS

Introducing the CCS Social Worker

Marsha Krinsky, MSW, has been the Medical Social Worker at CCS for over 15 years. Her background includes graduation from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo "a long time ago" and then completing her Master's in Social Work at San Jose State several years later. Prior to working for Contra Costa County for 2 years at the Home Health Agency, Marsha was employed as an Adoption Social Worker for the State of California where she did independent adoptions in Contra Costa County. Other jobs include social worker at Agnews Developmental Center and San Andreas Regional Center. She is the mother of 2 daughters, age 19 & 21 and a son age 12-1/2.

As a part-time social worker (working Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays) Marsha's duties include working with families with a multitude of concerns and needs. She can assist families to problem-solve issues such as transportation, housing, money, social support and school problems. She works closely with the Regional Center of the East Bay, hospital and community social workers and CARE, to provide the maximum support needed by CCS families. Referring families to local resources for support, information and assistance is an especially important part of her job.

Marsha can be reached directly at 925-313-6134. You may leave a confidential message on her voice mail 24 hours/day and she will call you back on her next work day.

Youth Leadership Forum

This is a special event developed especially for students with disabilities. It is held annually in Sacramento and this year's dates are July 22-26. Students live on a college campus and are able to meet successful adults with disabilities, talk with policy makers, and learn how to reach their academic and career goals. All expenses are paid. For an application or to request more information, call 800-695-0350 or TTY 916-325-1695, or go to www.cfilc.org.

Opportunity for Parent Participation

The State Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention invites parents, grandparents, or guardians of young children with special needs to get involved. They welcome parents to attend their meetings, give public input, or inquire about becoming a community representative to one of the committees. Parents may be eligible for a stipend to defray the costs of attending a meeting through the Family Participation Fund (www.cafec.org). The next ICC meeting will be held May 17-18 in Sacramento. For additional information call 800-515-BABY.



Resources

New Guide for Parents of Children With Autism

The East Bay Autism Campaign has just made available a new guide for parents, Autism Spectrum Disorder: An Introductory Guide from Early Diagnosis to Primary School Services. This guide gives parents basic information including how to find help for your child, a description of intervention strategies, and resources. As time goes on, we hope to add to this guide and make it even more useful for parents. If you would like a copy, please call our office and we will send one to you.

New Parent Tool Kit on Assessing Students with Disabilities

A CD version of a tool kit has been released and is designed to assist parents and states in their efforts to work together to raise the achievement of all students with disabilities. The Parent Tool Kit compiles materials identified to augment the previously released CD, Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities, and offers a collection of resources on the same substantive areas addressed, including assessment, instructional practices, behavior and accommodations. These new documents were written specifically for parents and include information they need as they work with schools to ensure that their children are receiving a quality education. Materials included in the new Parent Tool Kit provide information that will help them become active and informed participants in IEP discussions and other decision-making meetings that support students with disabilities and their families. To encourage

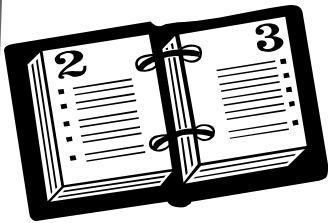
broad dissemination of these materials, a web site has been launched, <http://www.osepideastthatwork.org/toolkit/index.asp> which includes the materials in the Parent Tool Kit. The web site will continue to be updated with additional materials as they become available. This Parent Tool Kit is an example of the Department of Education's ongoing commitment to ensuring that states, local school districts, schools and families have the most current and relevant information about practices that will improve and enhance education opportunities for children with disabilities throughout the nation.

Communication Works will be offering social language groups this summer from June 11 through August 22nd, meeting weekly in Berkeley for 60 minute sessions. The summer theme is "Working It Out". All activities and games will require group participation and collaboration. A fun and safe environment is provided to practice a variety of social skills, including compromising, negotiating, flexibility, thinking about others and much more. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Communication Works at (510) 530-3085 or check the web site at www.cwtherapy.com.

Summer Recreation List

After an absence of two years, our Summer Recreation List is now ready. This comprehensive list contains information about residential camps as well as special summer day programs in Contra Costa County and other nearby areas. Summer camps are already starting to register, so call to request your list now.

CALENDAR 2007



April 11, 2007: Neural Basis of Social Communication Deficits in Autism: Insights from Functional Imaging. UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute, Sacramento. For more information call 916-703-0280. (Free)

April 19, 2007: MINDS behind the M.I.N.D.: Integrative Medicine, Considering Biomedical Treatments. Lecture by Robert Hendren, D.O. M.I.N.D. Institute, Sacramento. Information at 916-703-0280. (Free)

April 21, 2007: Information and Resource Conference. Sponsored by Support for Families of Children With Disabilities, San Francisco. Information at www.supportforfamilies.org. (Free)

April 23-24, 2007: Core III: Putting It All Together. Early Start Statewide Institute sponsored by WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention. Island Palms Hotel, San Diego. Registration information at www.wested.org/cpei. (Fee, scholarships available)

April 23-24, 2007: Service Coordination Institute: Partnering. Early Start Statewide Institute sponsored by WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention. Island Palms Hotel, San Diego. Registration information at www.wested.org/cpei. (Fee, scholarships available)

May 9, 2007: Language Problems in Fragile X Syndrome: From Behavioral Phenotypes to Family Contexts. UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute, Sacramento. For more information call 916-703-0280. (Free)

May 18, 2007: New Parent Welcome. Orientation to the Early Start Program for new parents. Reserve space by calling CARE Parent Network. (Free)

May 19, 2007: May I Play, Too?, Resources for Including Children of All Abilities in Early Education and Child Care Programs. Concord. For more information call Deborah at 925-313-0999 x 107.

June 13, 2007: Looking for Subgroups Among Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute, Sacramento. For more information call 916-703-0280. (Free)

July 19, 2007: MINDS behind the M.I.N.D.: Uncovering the Mysteries of Autism. Lectures by David Amaral, Ph.D., Judy van de Water, Ph.D., Robin Hansen, M.D., and Sally Rogers, Ph.D. M.I.N.D. Institute, Sacramento. Information at 916-703-0280. (Free)

July 30-August 1, 2007: The 3rd International Conference on Patient- and Family-Centered Care. Sponsored by the Institute for Family-Centered Care. Sheraton Hotel, Seattle, WA. Additional information from www.familycenteredcare.org. (Fee)

August 17, 2007: New Parent Welcome. Orientation to the Early Start Program for new parents. Reserve space by calling CARE Parent Network. (Free)

October 18, 2007: MINDS behind the M.I.N.D.: TBA. Lecture at the M.I.N.D. Institute, Sacramento. Information at 916-703-0280. (Free)

Opinions expressed in *The Link* do not necessarily reflect the endorsement of CARE Parent Network or any of its associations. We do not recommend any treatment, therapy, institution or professional system, etc.

SPECIAL THANKS

- ★ Sylvia Castillo, LCSW
- ★ Cheryl Clift
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- ★ Down Syndrome Connection
- ★ First 5 Contra Costa
- ★ Shawn Garcia
- ★ Maria Grosskopf
- ★ Gloria Hartsough
- ★ Bob Jacobsen



- ★ Barbara Kitagawa, WCCUSD
- ★ Cheryl Kondrat, SRVUSD
- ★ Kaiser Martinez
- ★ Lucia Milburn, Ph.D.
- ★ Evelyn O'Dell
- ★ Caroline and Celso Ortiz
- ★ Wynne Osborne, MFT
- ★ Debbie Patrizi
- ★ Hector Rivera, Ph.D.
- ★ Rosa Valledor
- ★ Meg Verga

SUPPORT GROUPS

<u>Name of Group</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Facilitator(s)</u>	<u>Meeting Schedule</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Support for Moms	Martinez	Louise Schneiders	1st Thursday of each month	All disabilities
Support for Moms	Danville	Cheryl Clift	3rd Tuesday of each month	All disabilities
Support for Moms	Brentwood	Louise Schneiders,	1 st Tuesday of each month	For parents of children with autism
Transition Information & Support	Martinez	Betsy Katz	April 21	For parents of children 16 and up
Autism Family Support Project	Concord	Nicole Sanders	Monthly, check dates	For parents of children with autism
Padres Latinos (Spanish)	Martinez	Angela Gattis	1st Saturday of each month	All disabilities
Grupo de Autismo (Spanish)	Martinez	Cecilia Zepeda	1st Friday of each month	For parents of children with autism
Voces de Amor (Spanish)	Martinez	Cecilia Zepeda	2 nd Wednesday of each month	For parents of children with special health care needs
Just for Fathers	Walnut Creek	Bob Jacobsen	1 st Wednesday of each month	All disabilities

If you are interested in attending a support group, please contact CARE Parent Network at 800-281-3023.

Training for Early Education Providers

“May I Play, Too?, Resources for Including Children of All Abilities in Early Education and Child Care Programs” is a new training for early education professionals being offered by CARE Parent Network’s Early Education Council and the Contra Costa Child Care Council. This workshop is an opportunity for early education professionals to hear from local colleagues with inclusive programs and to learn from their examples how to include children with special needs in their programs. The training will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2007 from 8:30 am to noon at the Contra Costa Child Care Council office in Concord. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required. If you are interested in this training, please contact Deborah Penry at (925) 313-0999 x107 or dpenryCARE@aol.com.

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