

Fall 2011

Volume 19, Issue 1

Hand-In-Hand

Parents and Educators Working Together

The Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC)

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Secretary
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Join our
Yahoo Group,
BaltoCO-SECAC@
yahogroups.com

Meeting Dates

2011

September 12
October 10
November 14
December 12

2012

January 9
February 13
March 12
April 16
May 14
June 11

7-9 p.m.
ESS Building
Room 114
6901 Charles St.
Towson, MD 21204

New Members Welcome!



A joint publication of the Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC) and the Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS), Office of Special Education.
Its purpose is to provide families and staff with information related to children with disabilities.

What is a SECAC?

A SECAC is a Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee established by the local school system to seek input from parents, community partners, service providers, educators, and administrators on local issues relative to the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and the achievement of students with disabilities. To work most effectively, a SECAC operates as a partnership between parents and families, community leaders and organizations, educators and administrators at the local level. SECAC facilitates collaboration between the director of special education and others on local issues and it has the potential to make positive changes in the delivery of special education services and increase achievement of students with disabilities.

All meetings are open to the public and we encourage anyone with an interest in improving educational outcomes for students with disabilities to attend.

Important Parent Workshops

Brought to you by the Resource Center for Families and Schools:

Applying for Social Security Income (SSI)

Answers questions about the SSI process and eligibility for students with intellectual or other developmental disabilities who are 17 or older.

Tuesday, October 4, 2011
7-9 p.m.

What Will Happen to My Child When I am Gone?

Focuses on planning for your child's lifelong financial security.

Thursday, October 13, 2011
7-9 p.m.

No One Knows My Child Like I Do: Writing a Letter of Intent

A letter of intent is used when you are not available to direct your child's care. This is a valuable tool that includes all of the critical information about your child with a disability.

Thursday, October 20, 2011
7-9 p.m.

All workshops are **FREE!**
ESS Building, Room 114
Greenwood Campus
6901 Charles St.
Towson, MD 21204
To register call **410-887-5443**

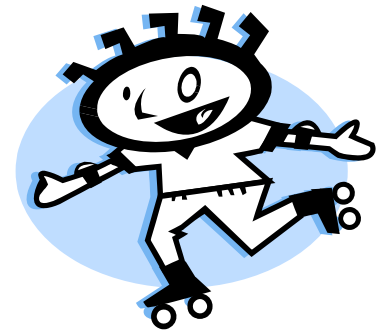




Beyond Sticks and Stones: Bullying and Harassment

Presented by Baltimore Collaborates!

Saturday, November 5, 2011
1–4 p.m.
Abilities Network
8503 LaSalle Road
Towson, MD 21186



Please come to an interactive workshop for parents featuring an exciting keynote speaker and informative panel discussion!

Middle & high school students are invited to attend with their parents.
Student must be pre-registered and parent must attend.

This workshop is free, but space is limited and registration is required.
Contact Sarah Pinsker at (410) 828-7700 x1259
or spinsker@abilitiesnetwork.org

Revitalizing Respite! 14th Annual Respite Awareness Day Conference

Monday, October 24, 2011
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Conference Center at the
Maritime Institute
(near BWI airport)
692 Maritime Boulevard
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

**Lunch and Refreshments
Provided
(included in conference fee)**

For more information, call
(240) 453-9585

Register online at
www.RespiteCoalition.org



Practical Life Skills for Teens and Young Adults with Autism and Asperger’s Syndrome

15 sessions, 2 hours each, first hour: skill training,
second hour: performance arts to be held in Towson, MD.

Preteen group- 11–14 yrs of age • Teen group- 15–18 yrs of age
Young adult – 19–late 20s

This program is designed to provide each member with an outline for navigating the daily experiences of life with skill training and a multi-sensory method of learning to create personal connections through performance arts. Video, role-playing, and other visual imagery used to assist in understanding social concepts. Groups limited to 10 members.

For more information, call Janet L. Palmer, M.A., M.Ed. (410) 343-2153

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● **Did you know the Resource Center supports parents**
● **of children with disabilities in Baltimore County?**
●
● **Call us for more information!**
● **(410) 887-5443**
●
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Why help people with disabilities make art?

Because art can:

- Give voice to their experiences.
- Help with goal setting.
- Impart new skills that are translatable to various workplaces.
- Foster leadership roles.



Make Studio is a non-profit, professionally-equipped art studio, staffed by artists, mental health providers and art therapists, in the business of celebrating and actively promoting artists with disabilities.

Come see how we put art and abilities to work. Contact Jill Scheibler, Director of Programming and Operations, at (443) 627-3502 or write or email: Make Studio, Load of Fun Building, 120 W. North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201 info@make-studio.org

For more information, visit us on the Web at www.make-studio.org

PTA Special Education Liaisons Needed!

Does your school have one? If you are the parent of a child with an IEP, please consider volunteering for this important PTA position.

Interested parents can call the Resource Center at (410) 887-5443



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parent Group, Inc (CDSPG)



Mission: The purpose of the Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parent Group, Inc. (CDSPG) is to serve families of and persons with Down syndrome by providing information and support.

Vision: The group wishes to promote a happy, healthy, accepting environment which enables independence for people with Down syndrome so that they may reach their potential at all stages of their lives.

Membership: The group is primarily for families of children with Down syndrome. However, families, individuals, and organizations may become members.

To request a newsletter or to become a member of the Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parent Group, Inc., call (410) 321-5434 or e-mail infoplease@cdspg.org

Mailing Address

Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parents Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 20127 Baltimore, MD 21284-0127



POKODD

A support group for Parents of Kids with Oppositional Defiant Disorder meets monthly in Baltimore County.

Call (443) 838-6577 or e-mail pokodddhereford@gmail.com for more information.





Sibshops

A program for siblings of children with disabilities is offering Saturday sessions. For more information or to register call (410) 578-5169.



Please visit the **Maryland Transitioning Youth Web site** for families and youth with disabilities. There you will find information and resources for transition planning, postsecondary education, employment services and much more.

www.mdtransition.org

Community Bulletin Board

Family Resource Academy Supporting Resilience Within Families

Are you a Baltimore County resident raising a child with intensive behavioral health issues?

Do you find yourself feeling overwhelmed with the day-to-day challenges of parenting a child who is demonstrating challenging behaviors?

The Family Resource Academy may just be the thing that gives you the support, strength, and understanding to enhance your ability to parent a child with intensive behavioral health needs.

Childcare provided on site. Transportation is available on a limited basis for Baltimore County families who need this support to attend.

Free workshops are available Saturday mornings from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at St. Rita's Church in Dundalk, MD.

Call us at (410) 252-4700 xt. 265!

Help is a phone call or email away!

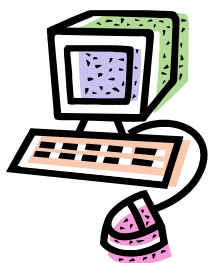
**Hand-In-Hand
is available online:**

[http://www.bcps.org/
offices/special_ed/
parent-resources.html](http://www.bcps.org/offices/special_ed/parent-resources.html)

Comments, questions, or submissions to this newsletter should be directed to:

Jean Considine,
Parent Coordinator.
jconsidine@bcps.org
(410) 887-5443

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Families and Schools
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Room 100
Baltimore, MD 21234



This Web site will give you some great ideas for working with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorders and also serve as a place to share your own insights. There's a lot of information out there so we are attempting to present different therapies and strategies using video in a very focused and thoughtful way. Our edited stories will only be a few minutes in length and will be partnered with an article on the same topic written by a parent or specialist...Or both!

www.reallookautism.com

To feel
hopeful
To feel
connected
To **see**
good things happening.



**Special Needs Cub Scout Pack 117
(ages 6 -10)
Special Needs Boy Scout Troop 117
(ages 10 & up)
Venture Crew 117
(ages 14 & up)**

Christian Community Church
155 Orville Road
Essex, MD 21221
Meeting Days: Monday 7-8:30 p.m.

This is a new program in the Chesapeake District for boys with disabilities. Please call, come, and see what we do.

For more information contact:
Karen or Rich Gambrill
(410) 335-8435
Rgambrill@aol.com