



**Community Events for Families and Educators
Of Children with Disabilities**
Partners for Success Resource Center
Oakwood Elementary School, 330 Oak Manor Drive,
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
Phone: 410-222-3805
partnersforsuccess@aacps.org
April 2012: Autism Awareness Month



For Questions and Concerns....

Debbie Wetzel, Katy Schieman, Partners for Success Resource Center 410-222-3805
Online: <http://www.aacps.org/specialed/> Click on "Partners for Success Monthly Calendar of Events"

Facilitated IEP Team Meetings

As stated in *Facilitated IEP Team Meetings in Maryland*, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services, Maryland State Department of Education, "Having IEP team meetings facilitated by an external, independent, trained "Facilitator" is rapidly becoming a popular means for parents and school personnel to reach agreement in the educational decision making process for students needing or suspected of needing special education services. When the relationship between parents and school personnel becomes strained or better yet, before the relationship has the opportunity to fray, parents and school personnel are finding that using external facilitators can assist the IEP team process. A facilitator may help parents and school personnel avoid misunderstandings or disagreements when it is believed that discussions at the meeting may become challenging. Using a trained facilitator has been found to be an effective means to keep IEP teams focused on the development of the educational program for the student while addressing some of the conflicts and disagreements that may arise from inadequate communication. The facilitator will utilize skills that create an environment in which the IEP team members; school personnel and parents can listen to each other and work together in developing high quality education programs for students suspected of, or identified as disabled."

If you would like more information about Facilitated IEP Team Meetings, please contact: Ellen Meyer, Coordinator of Compliance and Related Services, Anne Arundel County Public Schools at 410-222-5422 or Linda Deming, Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center at 410-266 -9033.

To request a Facilitated IEP Team Meeting, please contact the Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center at 410-266-9033.

Anne Arundel County Systems of Care
1-800-485-0041
www.annearundel.md.networkofcare.org

Can't find local resources for your family? Talk to someone who can help! Anne Arundel County Systems of Care provides one-on-one support/system navigation and access to agency referral information and community resources by phone.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Parent Involvement Conference: Nourishing the Whole Child
Wednesday, April 11, 3102 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Location: The Church at Severn Run, 8187 Telegraph Road, Severn, MD

Some of the workshops to be presented are, "Mental Wellness for Young People", "Positive Parenting", "Diagnosing and Treating Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder", and "Healthy Students, Healthy Schools". Spanish and Korean interpreters will be present. For other languages, please call 410-222-5425.

The Conference is free and open to all parents and community members. **Childcare will not be provided at this conference.** Space is limited, so please register early by calling the Office of School and Family Partnerships at 410-222-5414.

Transition Series: Employment Opportunities

Wednesday, April 11, 2012 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Woods Memorial Church, 611 Baltimore Annapolis, Blvd., Room 155, Severna Park, MD 21146

This workshop will be an open discussion about employment and employment initiatives. Several Anne Arundel County community resource providers will talk about their services and supports for adults with developmental disabilities. The goal is to maximize the building of independence. Community resource providers support individuals in finding a job that fits their individual abilities, need, and skills. Representatives from the following agencies/programs will be present: The Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region, Opportunities Builders, Inc. (OBI), Providence Center, Inc. (PCI), Abilities Network, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), Work Opportunities, and Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). **Registration is required for this workshop.**

The Life Transition Series of workshops is designed to provide families of students with disabilities, transitioning from school to adult services, with valuable information and resources to facilitate a successful transition. Each session will focus on a specific topic providing information that is crucial for preparing for adult life. The Life Transition Series is open to all families interested in increasing their knowledge on specific topics. For more information, or to register for the free workshops, please email or call one of the following persons: Michele Dilegge, Division of Special Education, AACPS: mdilegge-goldfein@aacps.org, at 410-222-5481, Katy Schieman at Partners for Success AACPS: kshiemman@aacps.org, at 410-222-3805, or Jessica Dicus, The Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region: jdicus@thearcccr.org at 410-268-8085.

Conflict Management Skills Training, Erika Bridgeford, Director of Training, Community Mediation Maryland, presenter

Wednesday, April 18, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Oakwood Elementary School, 330 Oak Manor Drive, Glen Burnie, MD

This workshop is for parents who are involved with the IEP process. Ms. Bridgeford will use experiential learning to teach listening and conflict resolution skills, which means 1) people learn from their own and each other's experiences; 2) exercises are used to create an experience in the room and then the group processes what they can learn from that experience to be effective in conflict; and 3) as the participants learn skills, they practice them and gain experience with the skills through skill-building exercises and role-plays – all in a safe learning environment. As a safe learning environment is created for the training participants, the group learns about what it takes to *create an environment safe enough for those in conflict to be honest, collaborative, and open to listening and learning from their differences*. This free workshop is limited to **20 participants. Please register by 4-17-2012 at the Partners for Success Resource Center at 410-222-3805, or partnersforsuccess@aacps.org.** There is no child care for this event. There will be a follow-up workshop for parents on **May 23, 2012** to revisit and tweak acquired skills from this workshop.

Anne Arundel County Asperger Support Group

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: St. Martin in the Field Church, 375 Benfield Blvd., Severna Park, MD

Support Group meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (during the school year). For more information, please contact Sue Hayward at 410-903-6661 or suehayward@engisol.com. You can also check the website for additional information concerning guest speakers, resources and links at www.aacaps.org.

Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks

Adaptive Recreation- A Place for All Abilities

These programs are designed for all abilities, however not all programs are appropriate for all individuals. Programs are offered that are intended to provide integration opportunities in a fun and non-competitive manner. Peer coaches are always welcome to volunteer and participate in the programs. If you are a new participant, or wish to volunteer, please contact Wendy Scarborough at 410-222-7313, ext. 3554 for additional program information. Current programs may include: Teen and Young Adult Social Clubs, adaptive sports, recreational activities at Freedom Field Lake Waterford Adaptive Sports Complex and Ruth P. Eason School, and Swim Programs for Youth and Adults of All Abilities. To view descriptions of the current schedule of programs and/or obtain registration materials, please go to: <http://www.aacounty.org/recparks/recreation/adaptive.cfm>.

Anne Arundel County Down Syndrome Connection

Please visit website: www.downsyndromeconnection.com or call 888-279-2279 for meeting information.

Anne Arundel County Kinship Caregiver Support Groups

Wednesday, April 4, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Annapolis Area Library, Training Room, 1410 West Street, Annapolis, MD

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Pascal Senior Center, 125 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, Maryland

Are you caring full time for your relative's child (grandchild, niece, or nephew)? You are not alone. This group is facilitated by Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services. For more information or to request services call 410-897-3908. TTY users can call via Maryland Relay at 7-1-1.

Anne Arundel County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (AA-SECAC)

Topic: Crisis Intervention and Prevention

Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: The Carol S. Parham Board of Education Building, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD

AA-SECAC, "A voice for positive changes in Special Education", meets the second Thursday evening of the month. The goal of SECAC is to develop partnerships and facilitate a discussion among parents, families, community leaders, organizations, educators and administrators as a means to enhance services and opportunities by the Division of Special Education. AA-SECAC also promotes the implementation of proactive supports to students with disabilities and/or special needs, while advocating for positive changes in special education within Anne Arundel County Public Schools. For additional information, please go to: <http://www.aasecac.org> Kim Offutt, Chair, bkoffutt@verizon.net; Carolyn Fiume, Vice-Chair, cfiume@thearcctr.org, or, Partners for Success Resource Center: partnersforsuccess@aacps.org 410-222-3805.

CHADD of Anne Arundel County

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Severna Park United Methodist Church, 731 Benfield Road, Rm. 203, Severna Park, MD

CHADD meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from September to June. Please see the website (www.aacochadd.org) for additional information including adult and parent support groups. For assistance and further information, please leave a message for volunteer staff on 410-721-2468 and they will return your call.

(Army) Exceptional Family Member Program Support Group of Fort Meade

EFMP Meet & Greet

Wednesday, April 11, 2012 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Midway Commons Neighborhood Center

Share, support, encourage, and network. Join other EFMP parents for monthly informal parent to parent chats. Registration required. **Open to EFMP parents.** To register and /or to obtain more information, please contact Joi Barnes at: joi.barnes@us.army.mil, 301-677-4473

Topic: Exceptional Family Member Program Respite Care (all branches)

Wednesday, April 11, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Community Readiness Center, Army Community Service, 830 Chisholm Ave., Fort Meade, MD

Find out what is EFMP respite care: how to qualify, how to use the hours and who will be providing the services for your family member. Get answers to your questions and learn the process. Representatives from each branch of service will be on hand to answer your questions. **Registration required. Open to military and non-military.** To register and /or obtain more information please contact Theresa Strawhecker, theresa.r.strawhecker.civ@mail.mil, 301-677-7836.

Friends of Early Childhood Intervention

Friends of Early Childhood Intervention is for parents and educators of children who receive special education services in A.A. Co. Infants and Toddlers Program, Child Find, Early Childhood Identification Program (ECI) and Community Based Services Program (CBS). There are no membership dues. Friends also sponsors two play dates a week at Rolly Pollies locations in Anne Arundel County locations. On Mondays, from 6:15 to 7 pm, Friends has a play date at the Severna Park location, 476 D Ritchie Hwy. On Wednesdays, from 5:15 to 6:00 pm, Friends has a play date at the Crofton location, 1612 C Professional

Blvd. The cost is \$5 per child which is half of the regular open play cost. It is a great time where the kids can play and parents can make friends. We greatly appreciate the support that Rolly Pollies gives us for this effort!!! If you are a parent, guardian, grandparent, or educator of a child with special needs and would like to join Friends or get more information/resources, contact Carolyn Fiume at cfiume@thearcccr.org or 410-269-1883 or Ashley Williamson, ashwilliamson@hotmail.com.

Kennedy Krieger: Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)

The Following Presentations are Free for Parents, Family Members and Professionals:

What is Your Special Education for Your Child? Kim Marchman and Marjorie Shulbank, Div. of Special Education/Early Intervention Services at MSDE, presenters
Tuesday, April 3, 2012 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Getting the Most Out of Play Time with Your Child, Dr. Rebecca Landa, presenter
Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at 11:30 a.m. and an additional presentation at 5:30 p.m.

What Brain Changes Lead to the Early Development of Autism, Dr. Eric Courchesne, guest speaker
Monday, April 16, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and an additional presentation from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Location for Above Presentations: Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute, 3901 Greenspring Ave., Creamer Building, 3rd Floor Large Conference Room, Baltimore, MD
For more information or to register, please go to <http://kennedykriegercard.eventbrite.com/>.

How Do Students with Disabilities Achieve Success When School is Over?: An Honest Dialogue and Strategies to Make it Work!!! Charles Durgin, presenter
Tuesday, April 24, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Kennedy Krieger High School-Bowles Building, Bowles Board Room (4th floor), 3825 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, MD
For more information or to register, please go to <http://kennedykriegercard.eventbrite.com/>.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

Family Support Group
Thursday, April 5, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location: West County Library, 1325 Annapolis Rd., Odenton MD

Thursdays, April 12 & 26, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Arundel Lodge, 2600 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater, MD

NAMI Family support groups are for relatives, caregivers, and others involved with individuals with mental illness. They meet the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Arundel Lodge, and the first Thursday at the West County Library. Support groups provide a caring atmosphere for individuals to share their common experiences. It also assists individuals in developing skills for understanding and coping. For more information please contact 443- 569-3498 or visit website: www.namiaeac.org

The Parenting Center at Anne Arundel Community College

AACC's Parenting Center offers courses for parents, grandparents, caregivers, and teachers. For a complete listing of workshop descriptions and online registration, visit www.aacc.edu/parenting, email: parenting@aacc.edu or call 410-777-2159.

Parents of Children with Type 1 Diabetes Meeting

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Anne Arundel Medical Center, 2000 Medical Pkwy., Health Sciences Pavilion, 7th Floor Classroom, Jennifer Road and Medical Parkway, Annapolis, MD

For further information, please contact Ruthellen Sheldon at 410-729-5595 or Ruthellen_Sheldon@comcast.net.

Special Olympics Maryland, Anne Arundel County

Developmentally disabled people age 8 and older are invited to train in the following sports:

Bocce	Mondays from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. at Ruth Parker Eason
Cycling	Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at B & A Trail Park at Earleigh Heights Rd.
Duckpin Bowling	Saturdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Severna Park Bowling Lanes
Softball: Teams	Mondays starting 4/23 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Lake Waterford Park
Softball: T-Ball/Individual Skills	Mondays starting 4/23 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Ruth Parker Eason
Swimming: One to One	Fridays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Annapolis Swim Center
Swimming: Intermediates	Fridays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Annapolis Swim Center
Swimming: Lappers	Fridays from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Annapolis Swim Center
Track and Field South County (tentative)	Sundays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Bates Athletic Complex
Track and Field North County	Sundays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Glen Burnie High School

If schools are closed, there will be no practice. For more information, please call Gregg Meade at 410-923-0383, wgmeade@worldnet.att.net. For additional information go to www.soaamd.org

Special Olympics Young Athletes Program

Tentative Practice Dates and Information (Schedule is subject to change)

Wednesdays, April 11 & 25, 2012 from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

Location: Ruth Parker Eason School, 648 Old Mill Road, Millersville, MD

This program is currently offered for children with special needs, ages 3 yrs. to 6 yrs. **Parent participation is mandatory.** Siblings may participate in activities. This program provides motor skills activities that encourage young children to participate in group athletic exercises. A variety of materials and equipment, music, and movement are used to introduce young special needs children to group motor games. It is also a great socialization time for the children and parents! The young athletes should wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. There are no fees for the program. Additional information and applications are available at all practices. Please contact Janis Jank at jjank@aacps.org to obtain information concerning the current program.

TACA – Talk About Curing Autism Now

Topic: Improving Attention, Dr. Lori Perez, Dr. Jennifer Kungle, and Pat Fasick, OT, guest speakers

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Severna Park Baptist Church, 506 Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD

A panel of providers will discuss the difficulties children with ASD often have with attention, a problem that can have multiple causes. Dr. Lori Perez of the Educational Resource Group in Severna Park will address cognitive issues; Dr. Jennifer Jungle of the Center for Vision Development will talk about visual problems; and Pat Fasick, OT, will discuss sensory systems, auditory integration, and cranio-sacral therapy. Attendees will learn about different factors that can contribute to attention difficulties and therapies that can help children improve this all-important skill.

This group meets the second Tuesday of the month. For current information about events, please access the following website: www.tacanow.org/maryland For more information, please contact Alison Hamilton (410-451-8015), Alison.hamilton@tacanow.org or Jill Zaukus (410-439-1828), Jill.zaukus@tacanow.org.



April is Autism Awareness Month – Find Out More!

TACA – Talk About Curing Autism Now

www.tacanow.org/maryland For more information, please contact Alison Hamilton (410-451-8015), Alison.hamilton@takanow.org or Jill Zaukus (410-439-1828), Jill.zaukus@takanow.org.

Autism Connect MD

www.autismconnectmd.org/

Pathfinders for Autism

www.pathfindersforautism.org/

Autism Society – Maryland

www.autism-society.org

Maryland – Autism Speaks

www.autismspeaks.org

Children’s Resource Hotline: Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs

Resource Hotline: 800-638-8864, Angela Sittler, Parent Coordinator

The Children’s Resource Hotline helps parents/caregivers find the resources they need to successfully care for their child with special health care needs. The Hotline can accommodate both English and non-English speaking families. Resources include: financial assistance, education, transition, medical services, home care services, respite, information/support, recreation, mental health, and dental care.

MarylandLearningLinks.org

“Get Linked” to all things Special Education and Early Intervention in Maryland!

MarylandLearningLinks.org offers helpful information for families and educators working with children with disabilities, birth through age 21. The website provides information about the Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) and Individualized Education Program (IEP) processes, family involvement and other topics and trends related to special education. The site features a number of interactive tools, blogs, and newsletters aimed at administrators, teachers, service providers, and parents.

Attorney General’s Health Education and Advocacy Unit

The Health Education Advocacy Unit of the Attorney General’s Office provides free help to families with insurance issues. If you have experienced denial of services, billing disputes, confusing forms and letters, or if you are selecting a new insurance plan, the Attorney General’s Health Education and Advocacy Unit, may be able to help you.

Call 410-528-1840 or toll free in Maryland 1-877-261-8807. For more information and/or to file a complaint online go to:

www.oag.state.md.us/consumer/heau.htm