



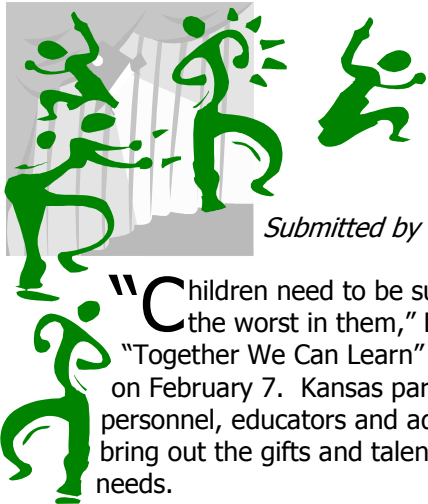
Educating, Assisting, Supporting, and Informing through this newsletter!
 A newsletter for and by parents with sons & daughters with disabilities and education advocates.

Families Together, Inc.

Administrative Center 3033 W. 2nd, Suite 106, Wichita, Kansas 67203 (316) 945-7747 www.familiesstogetherinc.org
 Wichita Center 1-888-815-6364 • Topeka Center 1-800-264-6343 • Garden City Center 1-888-820-6364 • Kansas City Center 1-877-499-5369
 Statewide Spanish parent line 1-800-499-9443 (All toll free numbers for Kansas parents & education advocates)

Volume 60

Mar. 2004



Statewide Conference Highlights

Submitted by Kristen McFarren, Kansas City Center



"Children need to be surrounded by people who see the best in them, not the worst in them," Dr. Thomas Armstrong stated to kick off the 2004 "Together We Can Learn" statewide conference held in Kansas City, Kansas on February 7. Kansas parents, professionals, foster parents, siblings, support personnel, educators and administrators gathered together to discover how to bring out the gifts and talents in all children, including those with special needs.

This year's conference agenda was packed with informative breakout sessions and inspiring keynote addresses along with a variety of resources and exhibits from across the state of Kansas. Networking opportunities enabled all to share strategies and stories of great successes as the theme that "all children have qualities of genius" was echoed throughout the day.

Thomas Armstrong, Ph.D., an award-winning author and speaker with thirty years of teaching experience, gave the morning keynote address and started the day with an emphasis on thinking outside the box. That shift in thinking began with strategies on "Awakening the Genius in Every Child." His address was based on 3 basic principals.

- Every child is a genius. The definition of genius was given as not being elite but instead, giving birth to life, radiance and joy. Dr. Armstrong also outlined 12 qualities of genius that did not focus on "getting good grades." The qualities had more to do with strengths in curiosity, playfulness, imagination, creativity, wonder, humor and joy rather than test scores and purely academic goals.
- The genius in children shuts down. Children are born with genius, but Dr. Armstrong points out that because of home, school, community and media, genius begins to shut down. Adults have a tendency to be wonder-disabled whereas we all began life with genius qualities, but time and influences have worn away those qualities.
- We can reawaken the genius. Hope is not lost. We, as parents and educators, can overcome those societal barriers to genius by beginning to reawaken the genius in ourselves and by creating a climate to foster all children's experiences. That climate, according to Dr. Armstrong, should include the freedom of choice for children, the opportunity for open-ended exploration, freedom from judgment and the belief in every child's genius!

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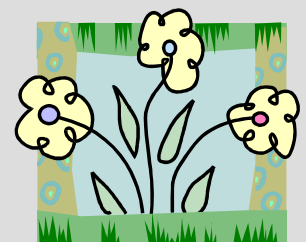
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With further elaboration, Dr. Armstrong addressed "Eight Ways of Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms" in his breakout session. He drew on the strength-based perspective by recognizing that we all have multiple intelligences enabling us to learn in different ways. Dr. Armstrong suggested different lesson plans with the same objective taught in a variety of methods to appeal to all individual learning styles. The "Multiple Intelligences" approach lends itself to making inclusion work because the focus is shifted to finding all children's strengths and focusing on those assets, the regular classroom becomes more diverse, labels are eliminated and the students learn about diversity and uniqueness. Everyone is valued in the classroom. All students are learning according to their own style and strengths (and genius) are brought out of each individual regardless of learning style or special needs.

Participants gained more insight and inspiration from the other breakout session speakers covering a wide variety of topics concerning the education of all students and meeting needs of family members of children with special needs.

Mary Davidson Cohen, Ed.D., Secretary's Regional Representative, U.S. Department of Education, spoke about the benefits that can be gained from the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and participants explored the free and appropriate public education of all children with disabilities.

"Creating the Future Care Plan for Family Members with Special Needs," was presented by Tim Gingles with Gingles Financial Group. This session focused on government benefits, wills, trusts and guardian issues with an emphasis on developing a future care plan.

Heidi Cromwell – Narciso, Rainbows United, discussed characteristics of autism and reviewed screening tools, interventions and strategies for young children with autism.

Participants were inspired by Steven Engelken during his breakout session about his inclusion experiences throughout his life. He shared ideas according to what has been beneficial to him, as a young adult with Down Syndrome, and what has helped his teachers and mentors over the years.

Kim Harrison and Dana Lovern from Project STAY presented problem-solving methods for school teams and families in order to create positive and proactive behavior interventions. They also shared ideas for adapting school curriculums in this informative breakout session.

Kathleen Wilson, KAPS, addressed some factors to be considered as students with disabilities transition from school to adult life and examined the impact that

transition may have on their eligibility for social security benefits.

Participants learned of the benefits of sensory processing interventions from Jessica Clark, KU Medical Center. She explained service delivery and how sensory processing issues affect children with mental health or developmental diagnoses.

This year's inclusion award was presented to Mrs. Tierney Thompson from Bonner Springs Elementary School in Bonner Springs, Kansas. Mrs. Thompson received an astounding eight nominations from parents of children with whom she works in the classroom. She operates her classroom and adapts her teaching style by believing that all children are students first and that every child can learn. She realizes the different learning styles of her individual students and helps accommodate their exceptionalities. As one parent, Susan Finley wrote in her nomination of Tierney, "Before Mrs. Thompson, I had no ideas for my child on how he would succeed in school or life. Thanks to Mrs. Thompson, I was given hope for my child."

The conference ended with the afternoon keynote address given by Marlene Wagnon and an entertaining and lively performance by the B.E.S.T. (Beyond the Evening Star) Network troupe members. Marlene described to the conference participants how the B.E.S.T. Network was born out of the idea that participating in arts and theater can help build self-awareness, improve self-esteem and create greater confidence in individuals with developmental disabilities. In keeping with the conference theme, troupe members, all young adults with special needs, displayed their gifts and talents by using sign language, dance moves and quotes about how everyone has something to offer to our society. Their performance was truly the inspirational highlight of the day! Marlene and the B.E.S.T Network emphasized that we need to, "change the present, so the future does not look like the past." By creating opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to shine, the network effects positive change with each and every performance and encourages everyone to think outside the box.

This year's conference proved to be another success in getting parents and educators together to learn how to focus on the strengths, gifts, talents and the genius in all children. Strategies were shared, networks and contacts were formed and participants came away feeling inspired and energized to work together with their school teams and community providers in seeing the best in all children.



? Q&A



Q. What can I do to help my child have a positive summer?

A. It's not too early to be thinking about how you can help your child have a healthy and happy summer. If your child is old enough to participate in the decision-making, involve him or

her in planning activities. Just make sure to offer them only choices you can live with!

Almost all the recreation centers have their summer calendars out now. Many scholarship and low cost opportunities exist for summer programs.

If you are staying home with your children, you can develop your own "summer camp" that will be rewarding for both you and your child. Work with your youngster to find out what free or low cost

things they'd like to do (visit the park, travel downtown on the bus to visit the sidewalk sculptures, go to the library to check out books, cook, make play-dough). Purchase an inexpensive wading pool or sprinkler, remembering never to leave a child unattended in one. Be sure to build in some time for your school age youngster to practice reading and writing to keep their skills up over the summer. Also build in some quiet, separate time for you and your child to keep things calm!

Teens need parental guidance when planning for the summer too. Establish a structure around completing chores, summer school and/or job and visiting with friends.

Most of all, remember you're helping your child build positive memories of his childhood that will stay with him all his life. The most important thing is to provide a safe environment, have fun together and watch your child's self-esteem blossom!

Reauthorization Update

*Submitted by Lesli Girard,
Topeka Center*



Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is reportedly on hold until some time this month. However, there is much speculation as to whether or not the IDEA will be reauthorized before the 2004 elections.

The U.S. House bill (H.R. 1350) was passed in April, 2003. Senate bill 1248 passed out of committee, but the full Senate has not voted on it yet.

Next, the full senate will pass its bill; then, the House and Senate bills will be reconciled in a conference committee. The two houses will then approve one bill and finally, the approved bill will go to President Bush to sign into law.

Still of concern to parents are these proposed changes:

- Eliminating short-term objectives in IEPs
- Creating the option for schools to offer a three-year (rather than an annual) IEP for students
- Changing the "stay put" provision, affecting students with disabilities not adhering to the school code of conduct, if their behavior is unrelated to their disability

Information about the IDEA is available at <http://Thomas/loc.gov/> (U.S. Congress site).

Regional Coordinator Opportunity

*Submitted by Karen Snell,
Topeka Center*



Would you like to work **part time from home** and have **summers off**? Are you willing to **listen to parents' concerns** and **help others learn about educational rights**? Do you **enjoy helping children and their families** and do you have **good organizational and people skills**? If your answers are "yes", you live in south central Kansas and are the parent of a child with a disability or a person with special education experience, you could be the person we are looking for! Families Together is currently accepting applications for the position of Regional Coordinator.

Please send resumes to:

Families Together, Inc.
501 SW Jackson
Attention: Karen
Topeka, KS 66603
Fax: 785-233-4787
karen@familiesitogetherinc.org

Family Story

Submitted by Jane Rogers, Families Together Inc. Northwest Regional Coordinator

Has anyone ever failed in what they were trying to do to help a child? If you haven't, God bless you because if you continue, failure is going to happen sometime. Success and failure come in the same package. Did you hit the ball the first time you swung a bat? Remember the ones who hit the most home runs also strike out a lot. Don't worry about failure; think about the chances you miss if you don't even try. Failure happens; it is what you do afterwards that counts.

If your foster child moves on, salvage whatever you can. Try to give him some love and hope to take with them. Each experience is a chance to learn. The more we learn the greater our chances of overcoming the impossible. We never know when and how the seeds we plant will begin to grow.



We had a young man come to our home. He had taken a ride with a friend who had stolen a car. They were caught. When he came to our home his excuse was "I didn't do anything, I was just there." We kept telling him it was his choice to be there or not to be there. When he left our home he was sent to a low security detention center. He walked away with another person. That person killed someone to steal a car. They were caught. What do you think his excuse was? At seventeen years old he was sentenced to forty years without parole.

That was years ago. Recently we received a letter from him. He is remembering what we had been trying to teach him and he wrote to thank us. The seed we planted had started to grow. Failure and success came in the same package. It is up to us to plant that seed. Thirty nine years ago God planted a seed in our home. He blessed us with a child with Down syndrome. When he was about four years old we took in a child with a disability, so he would have a peer. God set our feet on a path that brought us about one hundred children, most with disabilities, to care for. We are still blessed with the opportunity to plant those seeds.

~anonymous~

Coming Soon!

The Parent to Parent Handbook

Connecting Families Of Children with Special Needs

By Betsy Santell, M.Ed., Florene Stewart Poyadue, M.A., & Jane Leora Young

If you are a parent of a child with special needs, perhaps you have also felt lost and wished you know someone in a similar situation you could turn to for support. If so, you're not alone. Across the country, parents are providing emotional and informational support to other parents through a national network of Parent to Parent programs. In this comprehensive book, the authors share with you the ins and outs of developing and maintaining a strong, local Parent to Parent program that individually matches "veteran" supporting parents with those who are new to the challenges of caring for a child with a disability. Drawing on research about Parent to Parent groups and best practices in program development and training, you'll get the basics of setting up your own program, including:



- guidelines for finding, preparing, and matching supporting parents with newly referred parents
- ideas for organizing and incorporating your program, and evaluating its effectiveness
- tips on accessing funding and promoting your program throughout the community and useful forms and extensive lists of contacts and resources to get you started.

No one should go it alone! With the Parent to Parent Handbook, you'll discover how to get (and give!) much-needed support and provide the best care for your child—order today! Call us toll-free for more information! **800-638-3775**

FAMILIAS UNIDAS, INC. TALLERES DE DEMANDA ESPECIALES

Talleres son presentadas gratis para padres y los profesionales con quien ellos trabajan con. Un costo nominal puede cobrarse por presentaciones sólo pedidas por las organizaciones profesionales.

La Ley de Educación Especial y Usted

Los Individuos con el Acto de Educación de Invalideces (IDEA) protege los derechos de estudiantes a la educación pública, libre y apropiada en lo más mínimo ambiente restrictivo. Este taller quiere nfórmelo, paso a paso, de sus derechos y esponsabilidades en el desarrollo de programas educativas para los estudiantes con las invalideces.



Adelante-A-Edad 3 Años: Transición a Preschool La Transición del Infante- Los Servicios del Niño Pequeño

A los servicios de educación puede ser un proceso asustadizo. Este taller les proporcionará una comprensión del proceso a los padres para que la transición sea tan lisa como posible.

Desarrollo del IEP: El Esfuerzo del Equipo

Este taller les permitirá a los padres que sean miembros constructivos del equipo del IEP (Programa de Educación Individual). Nosotros empezamos con los elementos esenciales; que es un IEP, pensando en ideas y pre-planeando, habilidades de comunicación eficaces y éxito midiendo el en el IEP. Descubra las estrategias para volverse un IEP eficaz unza al miembro y consigue lo que su niño necesita tener éxito escrito en su IEP.

Las Páginas Amarillas en la Inclusión

Este taller proporciona a los participantes con un entendimiento de la base legal para la inclusión y una visión que todos los estudiantes, con y sin las invalideces, puede aprende lado a lado aunque ellos pueden tener las metas educativas diferentes.

Planeando Para La Transición De La Escuela a La Vida Adulta

Si usted es el padre de un niño 14 o más años, esta sesión es imperativo. Descubra cómo el plan de la transición puede (y deba) refleje los sueños de su juventud por el futuro de el/ella. Los participantes explorarán el proceso de transición de la escuela a la vida adulta, incluir independencia empleo y educación. Los participantes aprenderán cómo eficazmente usar el Plan del IEP/Transition, usted necesitar planean y preparar para estos asuntos.



Tomando Cuidado de Usted: La Dirección de Tensión

El propósito de este taller es permitir a los padres saber que ellos no están solos. La tensión es una parte de la vida do todos. Cada de nosotros necesitamos de encontrar maneras de aliviar la tensión que nosotros experimentamos. Nosotros necesitamos recordar relajar,

sonrisa y disfruta con nuestro niños y cuidado tomar cuidado de nosotros cada día.

La Abogacía eficaz

¿Que significa para ser un abogado? Este taller comparte ideas y estrategias adelante cómo ser un asertivo en lugar del abogado agresivo.

Gradúe para Graduar...Escuela a Escuela

A veces toma un año escolar entero para sentirse cómodo y entonces es tiempo a la transición a otra calidad o incluso a otra escuela. Esta sesión se condensa con listo-a-tomar-a-casa-y-use las estrategias para hacer éstos transicións más fácil y alisador para todos involucrados.

¿Que es 504?

Sección 504 del Acto de la Rehabilitación prohíbe organizaciones que reciben los fondos federales de diferenciar en base a la invalidez. Este taller le ayudará a aprender cómo este acto civil de los derechos afecta a su niño sobre la educación.

Hermanos Y Hermanas

Este taller interactivo es diseñado para ayudar le a los padres entienda las necesidades de hermanos cuando una familia incluye a un niño con una invalidez.



Conductas Desafiantes

¿Todos nosotros sabemos qué son conductas, o sabemos? Esta presentación interactiva para los padres permitirá a un equipo entender bien los desafíos de conducta de un niño. En este taller nosotros examinamos las posibles razones por qué los niños se portan mal y métodos para aumentar la conducta positiva.

Disciplina

Este taller discutirá las protections disponible a estudiantes servidos por IDEA y los derechos de la escuela para suspender a un estudiante con una invalidez, etc.

Abogado De Educación

Hay encima de 500 niño con las invalideces en Kansas, donde los padres son desconocidos, no disponible o de quien se han terminado los derechos paternales. Estos niños necesitan alguien para representarlos en las materias de educación especiales. Antes de que un individuo pueda fijarse como un Abogado De Educación, el/ella deben asistir a este taller. Este taller incluye la Ley De Educación Especial, Disciplina y Entrenamiento De Abogado De Educación.

Para más información o para fijar un taller, por favor avise loel centro de Garden City a: (620) 6364 o 800-499-9443 (gratis)

Working With Caregivers in Your Home

Reprinted with permission from Family Voices of Tennessee and University of Illinois at Chicago Home Care Program

There are different types of caregivers who can provide services to your child in your home. Some examples are nurses, nurse aides or technicians, personal attendants or assistants, therapists, teachers, and respite care providers or sitters.

Getting one or more of these home-based services depends upon factors such as your child's diagnosis or disability, age, program eligibility or availability (waiting list), funding source, as well as rules and regulations specific to your state.

It is natural to feel nervous or unsure about having someone you may not know come into your home to provide care or other services for your child with special needs.

To help you get a good start in your relationship with your child's home-based caregiver, here are some steps to take before services begin:

- Learn as much as you can about the scope or description of services to be provided, and about the agency that employs the person who will be your child's caregiver.
- Be open and honest about your expectations and discuss them with the agency management. Find out what the agency expects of you.
- Ask about your rights and options in case you are not satisfied with the care or services your child receives. You may want to ask the agency for a different caregiver or switch to another agency altogether.

You, the parent or guardian, should be able to interview and have final approval of any home-based caregiver for your child. You should decide if your child or other family members should participate in the interview.

Families should expect the service agency that employs the caregiver to do the following:

- Recognize that you, the parent or guardian, are the main authority for decisions in the home.
- Provide fully qualified and trained personnel suitable to the job, including proof of background checks and references from previous employers.
- Follow through with agreed upon arrangements for times when the regular caregiver is unavailable.



- Replace a caregiver who is not providing good care for your child.
- Arrange for meetings with the agency supervisor, home care staff, and your family to review and resolve any problems.
- Maintain ongoing communication as agreed upon to discuss services and plan for future needs or changes.

Keeping communication open and honest but respectful is the best way to maintain a positive relationship with your child's caregiver and with the agency that employs her or him.

Communicate your child's needs as specifically as you can and have all agreements in writing. If appropriate, talk with your child and the caregiver about what activities or situations may be decided by the child and which ones may not be negotiated.

Be clear in the beginning about any household rules, like "no smoking", but be sure your rules are reasonable. For instance, can you provide an ashcan for a caregiver who agrees only to smoke outdoors during breaks?

Families should uphold their end of any agreements and act respectfully toward caregivers. Examples:

- Always make sure the caregiver knows where you are, how to reach you, what time you plan to return home, and what to do in an emergency.
- You, and not the caregiver, are responsible for all other children or family members in the household.

One final suggestion: Talk with other families who use in-home caregivers and learn from their experiences.

Other resources on caregivers include:

American Association for Homecare, 703-836-6263, www.aahomecare.org

Family Caregiver Alliance/Nat'l Center on Caregiving 800-445-8106, www.caregiver.org

National Association for Home Care, 202-547-7424, www.nahc.org

PACER Center, Inc., 952-838-9000, www.pacer.org electronic newsletters at

www.care-givers.com and www.caregiver.com

Your Support Can Make A Difference!

Your donation of:

- \$60... will help a family attend a statewide conference.
- \$50... will provide toll-free line access to parents for a week.
- \$25... will provide a new book for the free lending library.
- \$10... will provide information packets to families.
- \$5... will provide newsletters to 20 families.



Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$_____.

Send to:
Families Together, Inc.
3033 W. 2nd Ste. 106
Wichita, KS 67203

**Families can designate an organization when they give to United Way or to the Combined Federal Campaign.*

Thank you!

KPIRC

Kansas Parent Information Resource Center
PO Box 320
Lecompton, Kansas 66050
785-887-6711
866-711-6711
fax: 785-887-6711
e-mail: nkraft@nekesc.org
website: <http://www.kpirc.org>

NICHCY

*National Information Center for
Children and Youth with Disabilities*

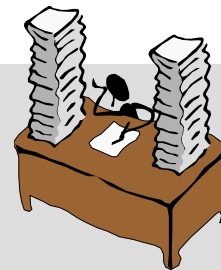
NICHCY has NEW Website!!
Same address - www.nichcy.org

- ★ All text-only publications have been reformatted to a new easy-to-read layout
- ★ A side-bar menu makes navigation easy
- ★ The ALL-NEW resource library featuring the Technical Assistance & Dissemination (TA&D) Network makes finding information a breeze

Call us or visit
our website!

1-800-695-0285
www.nichcy.org

A Note From the Director's Desk...



Dear Families and
Education Advocates:

As Spring's promise is getting closer to reality, there are many important decisions being discussed by our elected officials in Washington and in Topeka. Many times, I have asked you to let your representatives know how you feel about the issues that will affect you and your family or the child for which you serve as an education advocate.

Education is very high on the list of items on the agenda in Topeka. Make sure that your representative knows how you feel about funding for education and about accountability of schools to the children and young adults that they serve.

In Washington, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is being reauthorized. If you would like to know the status of the reauthorization, please call the center nearest to you or check the links on the front page of our website:
www.familiestogetherinc.org.

Another important issue for families of children with disabilities is the funding for community services. These funds serve families through Supportive Home Care, Home Modification, Family Subsidy, etc. The rate of pay for the persons who provide the direct care of people with disabilities has not been increased for five years! These are the people that care for some of the most vulnerable persons we know. More money is needed to attract good applicants for these important service positions.

Does this seem overwhelming? None of us can do it all, but if we each do one thing - write one note to a legislator (federal or state), call one representative or senator - we can make a real impact. Write or call one or more representatives about the issue that is most important to you or your family, TODAY. Legislators tell us that only five (5) letters or calls on a single issue get their attention.

Each of you do wonderful things for the children in your home or the children that you serve as an education advocate. Thank You! Let us speak up and let our legislators know what is important to those children.

Sincerely,
Connie

KANSAS RESOURCES

Families Together toll free numbers:

Wichita	1-888-815-6364
Topeka	1-800-264-6343
Kansas City	1-877-499-5369
Garden City	1-888-820-6364
Spanish line	1-800-499-9443
NC Region	1-866-778-7710 or 1-866-963-1734
NW Region	1-866-775-7710
SE Region	1-877-948-3049

Make A Difference Information Network 1-800-332-6262

An information service for children and adults with disabilities, their families, and their service providers.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SPIN (*Spectrum Parents Intervention Network*)

Meeting the 3rd Friday of each month
Great Plains Laboratory, 11813 W. 77th St.
Lenexa, KS 66214
(913) 841- 8949

The members of **SPIN** use a wide variety of biomedical as well as behavioral and traditional approaches in helping our children be the best they can be. We share information and provide support. We invite speakers on a wide variety of topics related to autism spectrum disorders and intervention. This is an open-minded group. Our families have diverse needs and each follows a different path in addressing those needs. We believe the symptoms of autism arise largely from biological damage, dysfunction and imbalance and that by addressing those issues we can help our children achieve healthier bodies and better opportunities to learn and grow.

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)

is the leading patient-directed national organization focusing on the most prevalent mental illnesses – depression and bipolar disorder. DBSA's mission is to improve the lives of people living with mood disorders.

DBSA helps facilitate support groups all across the U.S. A support will soon be developed in the Garden City region. A grant through the Partners in Community has been received to help set-up a mini-conference and development of a local support group. For more information you may call DBSA at 1-800-826-3632 or the Garden City office at 620-276-6364



**Check Out
these Internet
Resources!**

SearchDisabilities.com is a resource for anything related to disabilities, from independent living to assistive technology. It was launched to provide timely breakthrough research and health news to people interested in disability research and assisted living programs. The web site, which is part of the Wisdomatics Health Information Network, is compiled by experienced editors and includes content from a wide range of reliable news sources including press services, government, probate agencies, universities and the thousands of small companies that work towards increased opportunity for people with disabilities.

Interesting web site: KSDE is providing a homepage that summarizes the Governor's proposed school finance plan. You will also find a column explanation and computer printout providing the effects for each school district. There is information dealing with tax increases proposed to fund the plan. Visit www.ksde.org and look under "News/Hot Topics".

The Learning Camp is a unique summer camp that focuses on helping children with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and other learning challenges. For more information, check out their website at: www.learningcamp.com.

My Baby's Hearing– web site

Practical, thoughtful discussions of common topics (e.g., hearing and amplification, language and learning, partnering with early interventionists, parent concerns about newborn hearing screening and infant hearing loss) are the mainstay of this easy-to-navigate web site.

<http://www.babyhearing.org>

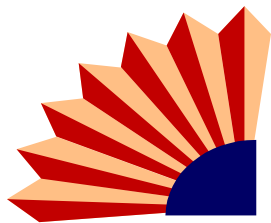
Special Education Complaint & Due Process Handbook

<http://www.nekesc.org/ksde/process.html>

Trish, John and Diana Michelle's Web Page

The Internet's One-stop Resource for Parents with Disabilities

ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/trish_and_john



Thankyou!



Families Together wishes to thank the following people for their generous contributions:

Wal-Mart, Wichita
 Wal-Mart, Derby
 Holiday Inn Select, Wichita
 Bridget Bowman, Belle Plaine
 Lisa Finch
 Brent Clarke
 Gina Ervay
 Eleanor Samuelson
 Connie Zienkewicz for Mary Gillard
 United Way Donor Choice
 Lori Wheat
 Woner, Glenn, Reeder, Girard, Riordan
 WA and CY Co Child Care Prividors
 the Hixson family
 the Lynck family
 the Reisinger family
 Doug Petrie
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 the Harclerode family
 the Rottinghaus family
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 the Volen family

the Hannah family
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 the Hoffman family
 the Tanking family
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 Dickinson Theatre of Salina
 Trevors Gifts of Salina
 Candy Bouquet by Vicki Augustine, Salina
 Martini's Steak & Chop House
 Lisa Hoffman, Salina
 Tracey Oltmanns, White City

A special "Thanks" goes out to all of our volunteers who help make Families Together a success.

Our hope is to acknowledge all contributions.

Submitted by Shannon Garrett, Wichita Center

If we have missed anyone who has contributed, please call Shannon Garrett at 1-888-815-6364.

Education Advocate Update

*Submitted by Darla Nelson-Metzger,
Education Advocate Co-coordinator*



The coming of spring brings tulips, red buds, baby animals of all kinds and the education advocate annual survey. Every active education advocate will receive a survey. You will be asked to answer some questions and to submit the forms back to us. This is your chance to tell us where you are currently residing and working, whether you wish to continue your service, and how the students to whom you are assigned are doing. The information you provide is valuable to us. It keeps our database up-to-date and lets us know if the students in our program are getting the services they need. It also lets us know if a child has moved and is no longer in the area in which you are willing to serve.

Unfortunately, we have communication break-downs, and the survey may be the only communication we have had on a student for a year or more. It is the duty of each of us to ensure that the nearly 900 students in the education advocate program are represented. We need your help to do this! Please take the time to complete your survey and send it back—let's continue to work together on behalf of Kansas kids.

As always, thank you for your time and efforts,

Darla

P.S. Did you receive progress notes and grade cards at the end of the second quarter?

Share Your Wisdom

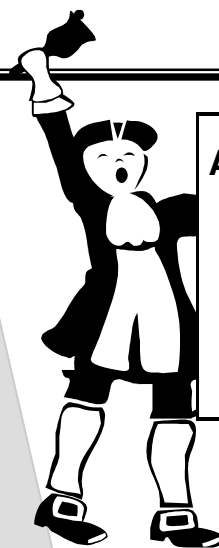
Would you like to volunteer your time to give your opinion or perspective to a state or local group?



Families Together has many requests for parents to serve on boards, councils, taskforces, and committees. We can help match you to the organization or agency where you would like to serve. Please call the Center or the Regional Coordinator near you to discuss positions that are waiting for you wisdom.

Families Together has information of effective membership on these groups. We will help you to be comfortable advocating for your son, daughter, or the child for whom you serve as an Education Advocate.

Connie



**Advertising
Policy for
Families
Together,
Inc.
Print**

Families Together, Inc. will only consider informational advertisements.

No "issue" advertisements will be accepted.

Advertisements for 1/2 page or smaller will be considered.

Families Together has editorial discretion on all copy submitted for publication.

Families Together has the right to reject any advertisement that does not fit with our mission and philosophy of services to persons with disabilities.

Cost of advertisements:

1/2 page \$150

1/4 page \$80

One eighth page \$45

Please submit ads to the Families Together, Inc. administrative office for approval.

Please send payments to Shannon at the Families Together, Inc. Administrative Office.

3033 W. 2nd Ste. 106

Wichita, KS 67203

316-945-7747 #888-815-6364

e-mail:

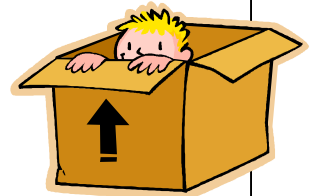
wichita@familiestogetherinc.org

Spring 2004 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Contact
Mar. 19-20, 2004	<i>Families Together Family Enrichment Weekend, Garden City</i>	888-820-6364
Mar 30-31, 2004	Annual KansTrans Transition Conference, Wichita	785-296-7453
March 31, 2004	Big Tent Coalition Freedom Rally, South steps of the Capitol, Topeka	785-234-6990
Apr. 2-3, 2004	<i>Families Together Parent Networking Conference, Coffeyville</i>	877-948-3049
Apr. 6-8, 2004	17th Annual Issues Forum, Kansas City, MO	573-884-3473
Apr. 16-17, 2004	<i>Families Together Family Enrichment Weekend, Lawrence</i>	800-264-6343
Apr. 29-30, 2004	15th Annual KSDE Conference, Overland Park	785-296-8110
May 17-18, 2004	Seventeenth Annual Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference, Chicago	312-996-2875
Summer of 2004	<i>Families Together Parent -to-Parent Conference</i>	800-264-6343

When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

Author Unknown



- * When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my drawing on the refrigerator, and I wanted to draw another one.
- * When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me goodnight, and I felt loved.
- * When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's alright to cry.
- * When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you become very angry yet stay calm and "use your words", and I learned to do that too.
- * When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you read, just for fun, and I learned to love books and learning.
- * When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you look at the night sky, and I learned to see beauty in the world around me.
- * When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you sing as you worked, and I learned that work can bring great satisfaction.
- * When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you fail, and make mistakes, and I saw you keep doing your best, and I learned perseverance.
- * When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.
- * When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.
- * When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked... and wanted to say thanks for all the thing I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.



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You can help us keep our mailing list current and save postage by letting us know if:

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- you are receiving duplicate copies; or,
- you would like to be removed from the mailing list.

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Or email **PTP@familiesTogetherinc.org**

Thanks!

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