



# Partners for Success Family Support and Resource Center

**Family Support and  
Resource Center**

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## Teaching Children Fire Safety

Every day Americans experience the tragedy of fire. Each year more than 4,000 Americans die in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Figures show that each year about 150 people are killed and \$200 million in property is destroyed in fires attributed to children playing with fire.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) encourages parents to teach children at an early age about the dangers of fire play in an effort to prevent child injuries, fire deaths and fire setting behavior in the future. Children under five are curious about fire. Often what begins as a natural exploration of the unknown can lead to tragedy.

- Children of all ages set over 35,000 fires annually. Approximately 8,000 of those fires are set in homes.
- Children make up 15-20% of all fire deaths.
- At home, children usually play with fire in bedrooms, in closets and under beds.
- Too often, children repeat their fire setting behavior.

### Practice fire safety in your home.

- Supervise young children closely, do not leave them alone even for short periods of time.
- Keep matches and lighters in a secured drawer or cabinet
- Have your children tell you when they find matches/ lighters.
- Check under beds and in closets for burned matches, evidence your child may be playing with fire.
- Develop a home fire escape plan, practice it with your children and designate a meeting place outside.
- Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching children that fire is a tool, not a toy.
- Teach children the nature of fire, it's fast, hot, dark, deadly!
- Teach children not to hide from firefighters, but to get out quickly and call for help from another location
- Show children how to crawl low on the floor, below the smoke, to get out of the house and stay out in the case of fire.
- Demonstrate how to stop, drop to the ground and roll if their clothes catch fire.
- Install smoke alarms on every level in your home
- Familiarize children with your smoke alarm
- Test the smoke alarm each month and replace the battery at least once a year.
- Replace the smoke alarm every ten years, or as recommended by the manufacturer.

For more information about fire safety visit <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov> or <http://www.sparky.org>

## *National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY)*

NICHCY is an information and referral center that provides information on disabilities and disability-related issues. Children and youth with disabilities (birth to age 22) are their special focus.

Anyone may contact NICHCY for information. They are pleased to respond to your questions and offer a number of services.

- **A web site.** All their publications, and many other resources, are available free on-line.
- **Personal responses** to questions on disability issues, including specific disabilities, early intervention, individualized education programs (IEPs), special education and related services, mediation, family issues, positive behavioral supports, transition to adult life, multicultural issues, education rights, and much more.
- **Publications**, including state resource sheets, fact sheets on specific disabilities, issue and briefing papers, parent guides, student guides, resource lists, and materials in Spanish and alternative formats.
- **Referrals to other organizations** and agencies, including national and state disability groups, regional and state organizations, professional associations, information centers, parent groups, and advocacy groups.
- **Information searches** of NICHCY's databases and library
- **Technical assistance** to parent and professional groups.

NICHY can be contacted at [www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org), (800) 695-0285 voice/tty , PO Box 1492, Washington DC 20013-1492

The CDC has produced videos in American Sign Language on several emergency preparedness topics, including hurricane preparedness.

To view the videos, go to:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/psa.asp>

**REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 2, 2007  
DON'T DELAY ... ONLY A FEW SPACES LEFT!**

Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program, Preschool Services Branch of  
The Maryland State Department of Education Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

And

Maryland School for the Deaf

Presents:

**Maryland Invests in Family Support  
Bridging the Gap Between Parents and Professionals  
November 9, 2007 - 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Holiday Inn Holidome & Conference Center  
5400 Holiday Drive, Frederick MD 21703

**Professionals Supporting Parents**

Featuring: Joni Alberg

Beginnings for Parents of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Inc.

**Parent Advocacy Presentations**

Featuring:

Pam Miller – Maryland State Department of Education,

Julie Foley – Parents Place

Melody James – AG Bell

**For more information or to register contact**

**Dorothy at (410) 767-0261 or dmc Micha@msde.state.md.us**

**Parental Information Resource Center  
(PIRC) Launches New Website**

The Maryland Parental Information Resource Center (PIRC) is proud to announce the launch of its new website, [www.mdpirc.org](http://www.mdpirc.org). This website is aimed at giving parents and educators the tools they need to boost family engagement and achievement for all Maryland's students.

The centerpiece of the website is the frequently asked questions section. Other features include a list of resources for parents, parent advocates, and educators, a searchable database of studies, reports, news articles, and training materials, and lists of social service agencies, advocacy groups and relevant government agencies. The website also has organizational information on the Maryland PIRC and descriptions of other programs that it is sponsoring through the PIRC grant.

**New Infant-Toddler  
Language and Early Literacy Activities**

New, birth-to-three age range, parent-child early literacy activity materials are now available at the Washington Learning Systems website free of charge. The development of these materials was supported by Grant H324M020084 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

These materials include twenty home and community activities for adults and children birth to three that encourage early language and literacy development. They are appropriate for children with disabilities as well as children who are developing typically.

Each of the twenty activities includes an activity description, and hints for making the activity fun and developmentally appropriate. In addition to the activities, you can download an activity checklist that helps parents and caregivers notice their children's skills, and also cues adults to examine and increase their own interaction with children.

The materials are specifically designed to address the three key skills of language development; sounds, rhythms, and general book and print awareness.

The files are in PDF format and allow easy and secure downloading. The materials are made available by Angela Notari-Syverson and colleagues, and may be copied and distributed as long as they are not sold.

To download materials go to [www.wlearning.com](http://www.wlearning.com) and click on the purple button that says "Free Parent Education Handouts" on the homepage.

For questions please contact Mary Maddox, Washington Learning Systems, (206) 310-7401 or [mmaddox@wlearning.com](mailto:mmaddox@wlearning.com)

**The Internet and Your Child**

**November 12, 2007 ~ 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Maryland School for the Deaf – Columbia Campus  
8169 Old Montgomery Road, Ellicott City MD 21043**

A must for all families with children who use or will be using the internet

Learn how to keep children safe on the Internet

The websites your children are visiting are they safe?

How much information is too much to share?

Presented by:

**Howard County Community Resource Officer  
PFS Bonita Linkins**

Who should attend: All Parents and Children over 10 years old



Space is limited ... Please register by November 5, 2007

For more information contact:

Cheri Dowling or Pat Timm,  
Family Support and Resource Center

(410) 480-4597 v/tty or (410) 480-4598 fax or  
[partners@msd.edu](mailto:partners@msd.edu)

The Parents Place of Maryland

Presents:

### **The IEP Team: Who is a Member**

#### **Teleconference**

**Tuesday, November 5, 2007**

**10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

This workshop looks at who is considered to be a member of your child's IEP team and what role each member might have in developing, reviewing and revising IEP's.

Participants will learn who is a member of the IEP team and how decisions are made.

Presenter: Rochelle Howell, Parent Educator

This workshop is free but pre-registration is required.

To register for this workshop contact Rochelle Howell at (410) 768-9100 ext 109 or Rochelle@ppmd.org

## **Reading Strategies**

**December 3, 2007 - 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Maryland School for the Deaf – Columbia Campus  
8169 Old Montgomery Road, Ellicott City MD 21043**

Picture books, chapter books, where and how to start helping children enjoy reading and become better readers  
You will leave with strategies to use at home

Presented by:

**Maryland School for the Deaf Reading Specialists**

**Elizabeth Reed and John Felix**

Space is limited

Please register by November 26, 2007

For more information contact:

Cheri Dowling or Pat Timm, Family Support and Resource Center

(410) 480-4597 v/tty or (410) 480-4598 fax or partners@msd.edu



## **Navigating the Road from School to Adulthood for All Youth with Disabilities in Maryland**

Wednesday, November 28 and Thursday, November 29, 2007 at Martin's West, 6817 Dogwood Road, Baltimore MD 21244. This annual event has become Maryland's premier event for individuals responsible for and interested in the transition of youth with disabilities to successful and productive post-school outcomes.

**Who should attend?** Youth with disabilities, families, advocates, caregivers, vocational rehabilitation personnel, secondary educators, post secondary educators, developmental disabilities and mental health professionals, and workforce development professionals.

**Special features, including** over 35 best and promising practice sessions from locally and nationally known transition experts. Youth focused sessions, designed particularly for youth. Show-casing posters and exhibits, community colleges, community rehabilitation programs, services, organizations, schools, vendors, all sharing their best practices, new trends, transition programs, products and other relevant topics with conference participants throughout the day.

Wednesday, November 28th, focused for professionals with interest to family members and Thursday, November 29th focused for families and youth with interest for professionals.

Registration fees \$45 for 1-day or \$60 for 2-days; youth with disabilities \$10 for 1-day or \$20 for 2- days. A limited number of scholarships are available for families with limited resources. Please call (410) 554-9409 for details before October 30, 2007.

For more information or to register visit [www.dors.state.md.us](http://www.dors.state.md.us) or [www.mdtransition.org](http://www.mdtransition.org)

**Monday, November 5, 2007**

**The Maryland State**

**Department of Education**

**Announces the launch of a**

**comprehensive**

**Online Autism resource:**

**Autism Connect**

**[www.AutismConnectMd.org](http://www.AutismConnectMd.org)**



## Family Support and Resource Center

Maryland School for the Deaf  
Steiner Building, Room #100  
8169 Old Montgomery Road  
PO Box 894  
Columbia MD 21044

Phone: 410-480-4597 (v/tty)  
Fax: 410-480-4598  
E-mail: [partners@msd.edu](mailto:partners@msd.edu)

A statewide support service for families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and the professionals who support them



# The Early Childhood Gateway

[mdecgateway.org](http://mdecgateway.org)

A resource for providers and families with young children with disabilities birth through five.

Developed through a partnership of the Maryland State Department of Education Special Education and Early Intervention Services and the Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education with funding from the U.S. Department of Education, IDEA Part B/C

## WASH YOUR HANDS

- With soap and warm water
- For at least 20 seconds
- Covering your palms, fingers, wrists, nails and the backs of your hands
- After you use the restroom, blow your nose, cough, handle garbage, clean up after a pet or come in contact with someone who is sick

For more information visit [washup.org](http://washup.org)

## Cochlear Implants and Meningitis

Although extremely rare, meningitis caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* has been reported in patients with cochlear implants. To minimize this risk:

Make sure your pneumococcal meningitis vaccinations are up to date.

New CDC guidelines (06/07) are as follows:

- For children under 2 years of age: Along with the usual vaccinations for Measles, Mumps, and Rubella, vaccination for *Haemophilus influenzae* (H.flu), and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* should be given. After the age of 2 years, vaccination for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* should be repeated in the form of Pneumovax. The need for a second (booster) shot with Pneumovax 5 years later is currently under study.
- For children between the ages of 2 and 10 years. Pneumovax vaccination is needed as soon as possible. The need for a second (booster) shot 5 years later (and prior to age 10) with Pneumovax is currently under review.
- For adolescents and teenagers (10–18 years) Pneumovax vaccination is needed as soon as possible. Immunization for *Neisseria meningitidis* is recommended for those in group living (e.g. dormitory and barracks) conditions.

For more information on these guidelines visit the CDC website at: [www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/meningitis/cochlear/cochlear-gen.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/meningitis/cochlear/cochlear-gen.htm)

As always discuss any vaccinations with your child's doctor.

<http://www.behavioradvisor.com>

Endorsed by the United Federation of Teachers, Dr. Thomas McIntyre has created a comprehensive set of information and practical tools for teachers and parents wishing to address behavior. The thousands of strategies he offers are broken down into very specific categories of:

- The basics of behavior management
- Tips for becoming an effective and well-liked behavior manager
- Step-by-step how to do it pages
- How to assess and measure behavior
- The applied behavior analysis model and its interventions
- The psycho-educational model and its interventions
- How to implement school-wide practices
- Interesting and/or humorous readings
- Great resources for teachers
- Pages for our colleagues
- Other stuff

This site offers a seemingly endless amount of information and advice. The bulletin board provides a place where anyone can post a problem and get helpful suggestions from others who may have experience with a similar situation. This provides users with a vast network of supportive people who may be able to offer a different point of view.