



Partners for Success Family Support and Resource Center

Family Support and
Resource Center

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AskUsNow!

The Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Library Development and Services along with Maryland libraries celebrated the fifth anniversary of *AskUsNow!*. The unusual service has answered more than 230,000 questions, from the serious to the wacky, since it was launched in 2003.

Maryland's *AskUsNow!* is one of the first of its kind in the nation, implementing a 24-hour online answer service that has become a model for many other libraries and state projects nationwide.

The free online service provides answers to questions, research guidance, and help in navigating the Internet 24/7. *AskUsNow!* Offers trusted information using the resources of trained librarians who have answered questions like:

Would a refrigerator work in outer space?

Why is the sky blue?

How does a smashed hand heal?

And

How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop?

The librarians have found that the top requested information involves how to set up and carry out science projects, as well as inquiries related to history, literature, math, and art/music.

AskUsNow! has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education's Virtual Reference Desk Project as an outstanding online information service.

AskUsNow! is accessed through the website www.askusnow.info.



Governor O'Malley Appoints New Director To Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Lisa Kornberg has been named Director for the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Ms. Kornberg has over twenty years of experience as a hard of hearing professional providing advocacy, technical assistance, program development and policy making services to the deaf and hard of hearing resident's of Maryland.

Ms. Kornberg will begin her new position on April 9, 2008.

The Family Support and Resource Center would like to congratulate Lisa Kornberg on her new position.

For more information about the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, visit their website at www.odhh.md.gov

World of Possibilities Expo

World of Possibilities Expo

May 2 - 3, 2008

Montgomery County Fairgrounds
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Admission is \$3.00 per person at the door

For free passes visit

www.expo.caringcommunities.org

Something for everyone!

Don't miss this disabilities, healthy aging and independent living expo

For more information call

Caring Communities at

1-866-227-4644

Or

www.CaringCommunities.org



Deaf Performing Artists Network

Presents

Their interpretation of

Christina Aguilera's song

"Beautiful"

To view visit

<http://www.d-pan.com>

Emergency Preparedness - Are You Prepared?

Why prepare for a disaster? Disaster can strike without warning, forcing you to go for days without basic necessities or to evacuate your home. Relief workers will be on the scene following a disaster, but may not be able to reach you immediately. You need to be prepared.

Creating a Basic Emergency Plan

Having a plan is one of the most important steps you can take in disaster preparedness. Knowing what to do and how to do it can help your family manage disasters with less worry, fear and uncertainty.

- Decide what you and your family would do in each potential emergency situation.
- Draw a floor plan of your home showing escape routes.
- Choose a place away from your neighborhood where family members can meet in case you are separated and cannot return home due to a disaster.
- Identify a friend or relative who lives out of the area for family members to contact if you are separated.
- Post emergency numbers by every phone and teach children how and when to dial 911.
- Know how to shut off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches in your home.
- Plan how to help elderly or disabled neighbors in a disaster
- Check that your insurance policies are up-to-date and provide good coverage.

All information reprinted from Emergency Preparedness Guide, What to do when Disaster Threatens printed by the Frederick County Government (301) 600-9000, www.co.frederick.md.us

Prepare a Disaster Supply Kit

Having a disaster supply kit ready to take with you at a moment's notice ensures that you will have necessary supplies no matter how fast you may need to evacuate.

Pack supplies in a duffel bags or backpacks and keep them in a designated place. Your kit will also come in handy if you must take shelter in your home. This list will help ensure that your disaster supply kit includes all the essentials.

Water

Pack at least one gallon per person per day for at least 3 days. Store water in tightly sealed, non-breakable plastic, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Change your water every six months.

Food

Pack enough food to last each family member at least 3 days. Include canned and boxed foods because they require little preparation and stay good for long periods of time. Remember to bring a manual can opener or to buy food in self-opening cans. Pack food in sealed metal or plastic containers. Replace food every six months. Include foods for infants and family members with special diets.

Personal Items

Pack personal identification, copies of birth and marriage certificates, inventory of household goods, bank account numbers and other important documents, extra car and house keys, prescription medications.

Tools and Equipment

Pack battery-powered radio, flashlights, spare batteries, resealable plastic bags, washcloths and towels, paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant and other toiletries. Heavy-duty plastic garbage bags, change of clothing and an extra pair of shoes and socks for each person, blankets or a sleeping bag for each person.

Managing a Disaster at Home

Although you may not be asked to evacuate - even if you are - disasters can isolate you from outside help and make it necessary for you to care for yourself for days at a time. In addition to your disaster supply kit here are other ways to use and manage the resources you have at your home.

Water

Water is crucial for health and survival. If a disaster is imminent, fill pitchers, jars, buckets, water bottles and your bathtub in case your community water supply is cut off. If your drinking water supply is running low, use water from ice cube trays, the water heater and toilet tanks, but not the bowls. It is not safe to use the water from radiators, waterbeds or swimming pools. Each person should drink at least two quarts of water each day.

Food

Ration food supplies for everyone except children and pregnant women. Most people can survive easily on half the normal amount. Avoid eating food from dented or swollen cans or food that looks or smells abnormal. Use pre-prepared formula for babies.

In Case the Power Goes Out

Practice energy conservation. Keep your car's fuel tank at least half full, gas stations use electricity to operate pumps. Know how to manually release your electric garage door. Protect your computer with a surge protector. If the power goes out, check your fuse box or circuit breaker, or contact neighbors to see if the outage is limited to your own home. Turn off computers, stereos, televisions and appliances you were using when the power went off. Leave one light turned on so you know when the power is restored. Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer doors. Food will remain fresh for up to four hours after the power goes off. If the outage is expected to last for several days, consider relocating to a shelter or a friends home.

Thunderstorms

During a Thunderstorm

About 10% of the thunderstorms that occur annually in the United States are classified as severe. Even those that are not can still be dangerous. Lightning in particular is a threat, though it may seem that a thunderstorm is miles away.

Get or stay inside. Do not bathe or shower. Do not use a corded telephone, except in an emergency. Unplug electronics, turn off air conditioners.

If outside in a forest, take shelter under a thick growth of small trees. If outside in an open area, move to a low spot such as a ravine or valley, but

beware of flash flooding. Never stand under a tall, isolated tree, on a hilltop, in an open field, on the beach or near open water. Stay away from metal equipment and apparatus such as fences, tractors, pipes and bicycles. If swimming or boating get out of the water immediately and take shelter.



Deaf Shalom Zone Honored

Congratulations to Deaf Shalom Zone which has received the most prestigious volunteer award presented by the Office of the Governor. They will be receiving the Governor's Volunteer Service Award on April 22nd, 2008.

Deaf Shalom Zone is a group of deaf and hearing people serving together to meet the unmet needs of the Deaf community. Deaf Shalom Zone is a Deaf community based program which uses volunteers from the community to identify areas of service and develop and implement programs for culturally Deaf people and their families. It is a place of advocacy and empowerment of Deaf people in service to other Deaf people.

Deaf Shalom Zone serves the Deaf community living in the Baltimore City and the five surrounding counties of Baltimore, Harford, Carroll, Howard and Anne Arundel. They also serve the hearing community as they interact with the Deaf community.

Deaf Shalom Zone offers several programs, Deaf parenting classes, interpreted AA/NA meetings, Deaf-Blind services and hospice.

For more information about Deaf Shalom Zone contact Carol Stevens at (410) 566-6662 or carolstevens100@hotmail.com

Extended School Year Teleconference

The Parent's Place of Maryland

Presents:

Extended School Year Services Teleconference

Monday, April 21, 2008

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Summer is a fun time for fun and sun. For some young children with disabilities, however, it can also be a time when important skills gained during the school year are lost. The three-month break from special education instruction and related services can mean that by September, some children have lost significant ground from their achievements in May. For them, extended school year services may be a solution. This teleconference workshop will help participants understand

What is ESY

What ESY isn't

Understand the steps that are taken to determine if ESY is appropriate for your child

Know your procedural safeguards if you disagree with the IEP team's decision regarding ESY

Register at (410) 768-9100 or rochelle@ppmd.org

Planning Transition from Early Intervention to Preschool

On or near any child's third birthday, your child steps out of the local Infants and Toddlers Program. Based on your child's individual needs, there are a variety of options that may be considered as your child steps ahead. There will be many questions for you to ask and consider. If your child has continuing needs, your child may be eligible for the special education services. This time in your child's life is called transition.

Beginning at age 2 you will start talking about transition with your service provider. As a parent you want to start asking questions about this process.

- Recognize that transition from early intervention to preschool is a process rather than an event. Attend and participate actively at every step along the way. Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions.
- Consider the short and long term outcomes that you envision for your child and your family. This will help define more clearly what services and supports your child and your family need in the school setting in order to reach future goals.
- Keep lines of communication open with early intervention and preschool professionals during the transition process. Ask them about supports they can provide. Having information in advance of meetings, having an opportunity to visit programs that are being considered for your child and having a key person, including a veteran parent, to guide you through the process, will help make this a smooth process.
- Talk with other families about what their experiences have been with the transition process and find out if they have any tips or advice for you to consider.
- Know that you are an active decision maker in the transition process. Understanding your rights as a parent under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

For more information about transition, visit www.mdecgateway.org

**Family Support and
Resource Center**

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



**Deaf Awareness Day
June 21, 2008**

Tickets on sale through the
Maryland School for the Deaf PTCA
Only

\$24.00 for an all day ticket

This is less than 1/2 the cost of a general admission ticket

Tickets must be purchased in advance

For more information or to purchase tickets
Contact

Cheri Dowling, 443-277-8899 or CAD800@aol.com

*Family Support and Resource Center
Library will be closing
May 1, 2008*

*If you have any materials
Please return them immediately*

*The office will continue to be open
With limited hours*

*For more information please
Contact Cheri or Pat
At (410) 480-4597
Or
Partners@msd.edu*

Fun Fair For Dad's and Kids

Monday, April 28, 2008

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Glenwood Library

2350 Route 97

Cooksville, MD 21723

This is a social event for dads and their Deaf
or hard of hearing children (toddlers - 1st
graders). There will be fun and games for all.

Light refreshments will be served

For more information or to register

Contact:

Pat Timm (410) 480-4544 or
patricia.timm@msd.edu