



SPINNING WHEEL

April 2009



National News:

- **Center to Mobilize Early Childhood Knowledge** The goal of the Center to Mobilize Early Childhood Knowledge CONNECT Project is to create web-based professional development resources that will help early childhood practitioners serve young children with disabilities more effectively. The modules are interactive and contain materials in a variety of formats including print, audio, and video. The content of the modules is focused both on young children with disabilities and decision-making skills. <http://community.fpg.unc.edu/connect>
- **CHARGE Syndrome Professional Packet** CHARGE Syndrome is a rare and complex pattern of birth defects resulting in extensive medical, physical, and educational challenges. The CHARGE Syndrome Foundation recently released a professional packet of information for teachers, related service providers, and others who work with children. <http://chargesyndrome.org/resources-professionalpacket.asp>
- **Proyecto Visión** Proyecto Visión (Project Vision) is a bilingual Web site for Latino individuals with disabilities. The site includes information for students and adults with disabilities, including job and scholarship opportunities, government resources, and a calendar of relevant events. <http://www.proyectovision.net/index.html>

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **April 13, 2009** "Stress Management" @ 10 am in Louisville, KY - Presenter from KY-SPIN, Inc.- Contact Mary Simmons @ Mary.Simmons@kentuckianaworks.org
- ◆ **April 14, 2009** "Early Intervention" @ 6:30-8 pm in Louisville, KY- Presenter from KY-SPIN, Inc.- Contact Linda Thompson @ 502-775-6700 x 12
- ◆ **April 24-25, 2009** The Arc of Kentucky 54th Annual Conference "CELEBRATE THE POSSIBILITIES - ADVOCACY IN ACTION" / KY-SPIN, Inc. will have a booth and presenters for two sessions / Best Practices for People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities and their Families. Louisville Marriott East Louisville, Kentucky For registration information contact the Arc of KY at Phone: (502) 875-5225/ (800) 281-1272 E-mail Address ArcofKy@aol.com

KY-SPIN Consultants are present at the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN) Clinics throughout the state at various times each month. For information on clinic visits & SPIN workshops contact us toll-free at 1-800-525-7746 or by e-mail at spininc@kyspin.com. All events are subject to change.

Did you Know

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week will be recognized from **May 3 – 9, 2009** with a national day of recognition and celebration on May 7, 2009. Please mark your calendar for that day and plan to join the Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children, Inc. (KPFC) in celebrating the national day of recognition and KPFC's TENTH anniversary at their office in Frankfort! They will be having a light lunch (hotdogs and chips) as well as youth speakers, parent speakers, and other fun activities. Green is also worn that day/week to signify children's mental health awareness. **Why green?** In the 1800's, the color green was used to label people who were diagnosed "insane." **NOW** we use green as a sign of growth, recovery and strength! Contact Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children, Inc. (KPFC) 502-875-1320 or 1-800-369-0533.

Spotlight on Kentucky: Kentucky Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN)

The Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN) provides specialty care to children with a variety of physical disabilities. They offer specialty clinics in 13 regional offices, doctor's offices and clinics across the state. Clinics are staffed by multi-disciplinary teams to provide comprehensive, coordinated care. Clinics offered include: Asthma (Severe), Burn, Cerebral Palsy, Cleft Lip & Palate, Craniofacial, Cystic Fibrosis, Eye, Hand, Heart, Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, Orthopedic, Otology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Reconstructive Surgery, Scoliosis, Seizure, Spina Bifida. CCSHCN also provides augmentative therapies and transition support for the young person preparing for adulthood. Any child under the age of 21 who is a resident of Kentucky may be eligible for services. The child must have a condition treated by a Commission clinic program and his or her family must meet financial guidelines based on income and family size. Children with a Medical Assistance card are eligible for treatment. Persons who have hemophilia are eligible for services regardless of age. A parent or guardian, physician or other caregiver can make referrals. Phone (800) 232-1160 Website: <http://chfs.ky.gov/ccshcn/>

SPIN (Special Parent Involvement Network) is a statewide project of KY-SPIN, Inc. that "HELPS YOU HELP YOUR CHILD." SPIN PTI (Parent Training & Information Project) is funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education. **SPIN** provides training, information and support to people with disabilities, their parents and families, and information on all types of disabilities and topics for all age groups. There are no fees for **SPIN** services. Consultation, resource materials, and referral services are also available.

You can call us toll-free at 800-525-7746 or at 502-937-6894, our e-mail address is spininc@kyspin.com and our website is www.kyspin.com ; our main office is located at 10301-B Deering Road / Louisville, KY 40272.



Early Childhood: Cognitive (birth to three):

Kentucky Early Childhood Standard – Explores the environment and retains information. Your child's ability to understand his/her world. It involves learning and problem solving.

What does it mean?

- Babies and toddlers want to actively explore their environment through all of their senses.
- Babies and toddlers are curious and like to investigate their surroundings.
- Babies and toddlers learn through play and exploration.
- Babies and toddlers watch and may try to imitate what they see and hear.
- Babies and toddlers develop preferences for people and things.
- Babies and toddlers begin to understand the purpose of objects and materials in their daily environment.



What are some things you can do?

- Provide a safe and healthy environment for children to explore (covered outlets, gated steps, and dangerous materials locked up).
- Provide children safe and interesting materials with which to play (pots and pans, rattles, shape sorters, blocks). Use materials that vary in texture, color, size, shape, etc. Use materials that let your child fill, dump and sort (rice/sand/water play).
- Encourage your child to explore – watch and comment as she tries out new things.
- Watch and learn from your child about their interests. Provide materials in which she seems to have an interest. For toddlers, check out picture books from the library on topics of interest – animals, toys and family members.
- Support your child's preference for a special toy (such as a blanket or stuffed animal). Let her talk about her special toy on outings with the family.
- Allow children the opportunity to play and repeat activities (knocking over the blocks, etc.).
- Have conversations with your child. Even before she can talk, she can communicate and learn from your words.
- Talk with your child(ren) about the function of objects as you and your child(ren) use them during the course of daily routines (cups, plates, cars, etc.).
- Play games with your child (imitate sounds, peek-a-boo, etc.).
- Limit television. Very young children learn from playing with real objects that they can handle and explore. TV is not recommended for children under 24 months of age.
- For toddlers, provide pretend play materials, like telephones, play kitchens, and cars. Pretend with your child and use make-believe.
- Take your infant or toddler on outings. Talk about the things that you see at the grocery store and walking in the neighborhood.
- Engage in activities that involve a sequence of events (peek-a-boo) to allow your child to anticipate and predict.

By: Kentucky Department of Education (2004). "Building a strong foundation for school success: The Kentucky early childhood standards. Parent guide for children birth to three." Frankfort, KY: Author. The full publication can be accessed at <http://education.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/13339B02-6065-42F0-B00E-40486538FB9E/0/birthtothreewebversion.pdf>

Transition: Health Care Skills Checklist

The following checklist can be used to set goals for achieving independence in managing your own health:

1. Can describe your illness or disability
2. Asks questions to doctors, nurses, and therapists
3. Understands medications and carries information in wallet
4. Gets prescriptions filled/refilled
5. Calls to schedule own medical/dental appointments
6. Knows emergency phone numbers and carries information in wallet
7. Knows about insurance coverage/benefits
8. Has identified a physician for adult care
9. Knows how drugs/alcohol affect illness/disability
10. Has developed a medical history/summary



Developed by Judy Blackwell, MSW at the Commission For Children With Special Health Care Needs in Lexington, Ky.

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