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Para obtener una copia en Español, por favor llame al (239) 337-8199 o al 337-8363

Pou gen bilten sila a an kreyòl, tanpri rele (239) 337-8363 ou 337-8199

Sharing The Commitment to Excellence

Sharing the Commitment is a collaborative advisory that has been created to foster effective partnerships between parents, schools, and the community. Along with the Exceptional Student Education Department, the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System (FDLRS), and the Family Network on Disabilities (FND) provide information, training and support to educators, parents, and agencies on services and programs for students with disabilities. Sharing the Commitment sponsors workshops for all persons interested in services for students with disabilities. Specially trained parents and teachers called **Parent Educator Exceptional Resources (PEERs)** are available to provide parents of students with disabilities with up-to-date information, resources and support.

Wilbur Hawke 417-3636 wilbur@fndfl.org		Parent Liaison
Nancy Ross 377-2228 rossna@collier.k12.fl.us	Naples High School	PEER Teacher/Specialist
Debbie Ramassini 774-2080 ramassde@collier.k12.fl.us	Laurel Oak Elementary	PEER Teacher/Specialist
Adella Spinella 774-2080 Adella@fndfl.org	Family Network on Disabilities	PEER Parent
Barb Southwick 777-0731 barb@fndfl.org	Family Network on Disabilities	PEER Parent/Mom's Night Out monthly meetings

The Family Cafe is a statewide event designed to meet the informational and networking needs of individuals with disabilities or special health care needs and their families. The Family Cafe is committed to the belief that better informed individuals make better decisions for themselves, and The Annual Conference is our way of putting that belief into action.

The 12th Annual Family Cafe Conference is scheduled for June 18-20, 2010 at [Disney's Coronado Springs Resort](http://www.disney.com/coronado) in Orlando, FL.

FDLRS is supporting families to attend this event by providing financial assistance. **If you would like to attend the conference, please register at www.familycafe.net.** We work closely with the Café staff to maximize the number of families that are granted complimentary financial assistance. You will be notified by mail of your status by the end of March 2010.

If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Smith, Parent Services Specialist (239)337-8162.



USE POSITIVE WORDS:

- Tell your child what to do instead of what not to do.
- Clearly and simply state what you expect the child to do.
- Have age appropriate expectations.
- Use age appropriate language. Young children have difficulty with contractions (two words that are combined to form one such as don't and can't).

Don't:

- Don't run!
- Stop climbing!
- Don't touch!
- No yelling!
- Stop whining!
- Don't stand on the couch

Do:

- Walk
- Use walking feet
- Stay with me
- Hold my hand
- Keep your feet on the floor
- Keep your hands down
- Look with your eyes
- Use a calm voice
- Use an inside voice
- Use a calm voice
- Sit on the couch

EXAMPLES:





Spotlight on Families:

Congratulations to Reno Williams. He is a student who wrote a book "Reno's World " about what it is like to live with Asperger's. His inspiration was to tell what it is like living with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Reno has also drawn on his experiences to become a disability awareness speaker. He spreads knowledge and awareness at various speaking engagements. Reno's mom, Tuesday Williams, is a parent mentor for the Lee County School District Department of Exceptional Student Education. We admire their courage and ability to see beyond their own circumstances to help others.

WAY TO GO!!!

"Kids Only! Town Hall Meeting"

This event provides a forum for students from across the state to pose poignant questions to the *Florida Children and Youth Cabinet* about the state of children's issues and services. The 20-member Cabinet chaired by Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp, is comprised of government officials, policy makers, and children's developmental and advocacy experts. The Cabinet will hear from a twelve member student panel, selected from a statewide pool of students applicants. For more information go to: <http://www.childrensweek.org/index.php?page=events&menu=kidsonlytownhallmeeting>



*Catch Your Child Being Good

Did you ever stop to think about how much time you spend telling your child what he should not do? Instead, try giving specific, positive attention to the behavior that you want to see. This will teach your child what you want him to do and increase the likelihood that this behavior will occur again and again.

*Stay Calm

When your child's behavior is unacceptable, you can choose to either respond to it or ignore it. If you decide that a reaction is required, remember that the least response necessary is usually best. Acting calm with a minimum of attention will reduce the risk of strengthening the very behavior you wish to discourage. When you remain calm, it also gives you time to think about how you want to respond. Remember, you are modeling desired behavior for your child the more out-of control your child becomes, the more self-control you need to show. When you remain calm your child learns appropriate ways to respond to difficult situations.



State Survey for Parents with Students Receiving ESE Services

The Florida Department of Education is conducting a survey for parents of students receiving Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Services. The survey is designed to measure how well schools are supporting parent's involvement with their child's education. The survey is computer-based at www.ESEsurvey.com. The survey can be completed after Feb. 1. If you do not have access to a computer, call your school to make arrangements to use one of their computers or call FDLRS at 337-8589. Your input is important!!



FDLRS is committed to helping parents have access to best practices and strategies which assist families to be effectively involved in their child's education. Sometimes this is done through trainings and/or meetings with FDLRS staff. Another form of support is through guiding families to other appropriate community resources. Through our lending library, FDLRS strives to provide families with up-to-date, quality literature to meet their needs. Materials are available for check-out. Below are a few of the many books we have available. Call Jennifer Smith at 337-8162 or e-mail: Jenniferasm@leeschools.net to request an item.

You Will Dream New Dreams: Inspiring Personal Stories by Parents of Children with Disabilities

Stanley D. Klein, PhD and Kim Schive

This is a collection of writings in which parents of children with disabilities share from the heart on how they mourned for the child of their dreams, learned the importance of turning to friends instead of being "strong" all the time, experienced the wrenching disappointment of letting go of certain expectations for their child, and found the unexpected joy of discovering new dreams.

This book offers an uplifting message of encouragement and hope, from parent to parent.

**Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy:
The Special Education Survival Guide**

Pete and Pam Wright

This is THE handbook for any parent learning how to plan, prepare for, organize, and get results by working with a school district. At times, a parent needs to advocate for their child, but may also be confused and overwhelmed at meetings, and have emotions that interfere with their ability to be a good advocate and team member for their child's education plan. Learn about your child's disability and educational needs, how to create a collaborative plan for your child's education, the roles of different experts, writing quality IEP goals, monitoring progress, understanding conflict and how to resolve it, the importance of documenting, and negotiation skills.

More than Words:

Helping Parents Promote Communication and Social Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Fern Sussman

For preschool children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), communication and social interactions pose specific challenges. This book will help parents learn how to turn everyday activities into opportunities for promoting interaction and communication skills. Whether the child is not talking at all, or can carry on brief conversations, this book will help parents build their knowledge about ASD, and about their own child's communication, to help children make connections with people, understand what you are saying, use visual helpers, and use routines to increase communication and social skills.

It Takes Two to Talk

A Practical Guide for Parents of Children with Language Delays

Jan Pepper and Elaine Weitzman

This guide shows parents how to help their child communicate and learn language during everyday activities like mealtime, bath time, playtime, and book reading. There are easy-to-use checklists and practical guidelines for choosing communication goals. Parents will discover their own and their child's communication styles, how to follow their child's interests, keep interactions going, the value of routines, and how to build language learning opportunities into daily routines like playing, reading books, and listening to music.

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/>

Amazing website for addressing social and emotional development in young children

<http://www.nclid.org>

The National Center for Learning Disabilities - features a link to IDEA updates

www.fldoe.org

Florida Department of Education official website - Click on Family Involvement

<http://www.readingrockets.org>

Fabulous reading activities

www.hanen.org

Official website of the "It Takes Two to Talk" and "More than Words" trainings - contact FDLRS/Island Coast for upcoming groups in our area.

<http://www.rarediseases.org/>

Find links to resources for rare diseases



www.autismspeaks.org

Information and involvement opportunities

www.fddc.org

Florida Development Disabilities Council

<http://apd.myflorida.com/>

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

http://news.com.com/The+ABCs+of+learning+online/2009-1025_3-6195272.html

Fun learning activities for kids

<http://www.nichcy.org/Pages/behaviorsuite.aspx>

NICHCY is pleased to connect you with sources of information for helping children who have behavior challenges. Because "behavior" is such a huge topic, we've divided the subject up into separate pages to make digesting it more manageable!

<http://www.zacbrowser.com/>

Free software program specifically for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

<http://www.aspergertips.com/>



FDLRS Island Coast
2855 Colonial Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33966
(239) 337-8363 or (239) 337-8199
1 (866) 551-8363
www.leeschools.net/fdlrs/

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