



Innovative Approaches

Planned Activities For IA Next Year:

- ◇ Additional parent workshops about resources available in the community and how to access them.
- ◇ The development of a website so that resource and transition information is readily available and accessible to parents and professionals.
- ◇ In conjunction with community partners, the development of activities for youth with special health care needs related to self-advocacy, support and/or recreation.
- ◇ The development of a parent/educator training series, with topics such as transition, specific diagnoses, behavioral issues, etc.
- ◇ Follow-up focus groups for parents next spring to address progress towards the overall IA goals below:
 - *Improve access to services
 - *Improve coordination of care within the Medical Home
 - *Increase family involvement and participation regarding services
 - *Improve transition services (NICU to home, early intervention to preschool, preschool to kindergarten, high school to adulthood, and pediatric to adult medical care)
 - *Increase screening for special needs and referrals for intervention at an earlier age

For Parents of
Children with
Special Health
Care Needs.

May 2011

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month



This annual event provides opportunities to raise awareness about communication disorders and to promote treatment that can improve the quality of life for those who experience problems with speaking, understanding, or hearing. We have many resources to help you celebrate BHSM every day. Visit the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association website to find out more: <http://www.asha.org/bhsm/>

7 Things To Do Before The School Year Ends

The end of the school year is often a whirlwind of activity. Here is a checklist to help the next few weeks go smoothly for you, your children, and your family.

1. Check with your child's teachers: are there any skills your child should be working on over the summer, either to maintain or to improve upon?
2. If you are concerned your child may lose valuable academic progress he or she has made this past school year, it's not too late to discuss summer school services. If your son or daughter needs services over the summer to prevent regression on IEP goals, now's the time to be investigation options and making arrangements.
3. Will you be requesting to meet with your child's next teacher(s) before next school year starts in the fall? If so, you might want to run this by the principal now, as scheduling for late August and early September often takes place in June.
4. Get contact information from the parents of your child's classmates and friends, for summertime playdates. You may even want to talk about starting a weekly playground meetup, or a rotating playgroup that meets at different families' homes each week.



5. Check with your local library to see what programs they'll be running. The children's department might offer story hours, craft activities, puppet shows, and more! Make visiting the library a regular part of your week during the summer months. It's a great way to continue exposing your children to the joys of books and reading!

Ten Common Mistakes Parents Make During the IEP Meeting

1. Believing the professionals are the only experts.
2. Not making requests in writing.
3. Not being familiar with your rights as a parent.
4. Requesting a related service instead of an assessment that supports the need for a related service.
5. Accepting assessment results that do not recommend the services you think your child needs.
6. Allowing the assessment information to be presented for the first time at the IEP meeting.
7. Accepting goals and objectives that are not measurable.
8. Allowing placement decisions to be made before IEP goals and objectives are written.
9. Allowing your child's IEP meeting to be rushed so that the school staff can begin the next child's IEP meeting.
10. Not asking a lot of questions.

"Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."

~Robert Brault

Make Preparations Now For the Summer

It's May. Are you ready for Summer?
Here are some things you may want to consider as you put your summer plans in place:



1. **Therapy** - What therapies will your child need to continue over the summer? Which ones can be put on hold? What are the therapists summer schedules? If your child is not eligible for an extended school year, will you seek out therapies in home or in a clinic in your area?
2. **Summer School/classes/lessons** - What forms need to be filled out? What accommodations will need to be made?
3. **Daycare** - Do you need to fill out any special permission forms? Will the daycare providers need any special warm-weather-related instructions? Do they need to know about allergies?
4. **Camps** - Are there medical records you'll need to submit with the camp applications? Will you need to meet with the camp director and/or staff to discuss your child's needs?
5. **Vacation** - If you're traveling for vacation this summer, which hotels are the most family friendly? Which activities and destinations have accommodations or special programs for children with special needs?
6. **Respite Care** - Need to take a break? Check out the respite care programs available in your area. Remember to "care for the caregiver"- - replenish your own inner reserves with some time off to relax, recharge, and renew.
7. **Downtime** - Block out dates and times on the summer calendar NOW for downtime. Downtime is essential to the wellbeing of everyone in the family! Make it a priority by providing regular time to just be! "be."

"The central struggle of parenthood is to let our hopes for our children outweigh our fears."

~Ellen Goodman

Summer Camp Spotlight

****ABC Language Stimulation Summer Program** - Matthews, NC

704-443-2990 www.abctutoring.com

****Camp Carefree** - Stokesdale, NC

336-427-0966 www.carefree.org

****Camp Crossway** - Charlotte, NC

704-847-3911

www.crosswaytherapy.com

****Therapeutic Recreation Summer Camp** - Charlotte, NC

704-432-0237

<http://tr.charmeck.org>

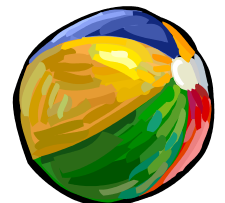
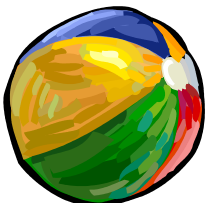
****Victory Junction** - Randleman, NC

336-498-9055 www.victoryjunction.org

To see more about camps and other fun things to do over the summer, visit the Charlotte Parent Magazine website to view their publication for parents of children with special needs called "Exceptional Child - A Special Needs Guide". The link to the website is:

<http://www.charlotteparent.com/publications/exceptionalchild/>

Or call (704) 344-1980 to find out where you can get a copy.



For more information on this
project or to get involved,
please contact:

Debbie Biggerstaff
Innovative Approaches Project Coordinator
Cabarrus Health Alliance
1307 S. Cannon Blvd
Kannapolis, NC 28083
704-934-4399
dcbiggerstaff@cabarrushealth.org

Amber Pierce
Innovative Approaches
Resource Coordinator
Community Care of Southern Piedmont
845 Church St. North, Suite 204
Concord, NC 28025
704-262-1063
AmberPierce@CCofSP.com

*Innovative Approaches is a grant
funded project working to
improve the system of care for
children and youth with special
health care needs up to age 21,
through the collaborative efforts
of parents, our community
providers, and organizations.*



SAVE THESE DATES !!

12th Annual Blue Ribbon Rider Horse Show
Saturday, May 21st, 2011 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
(lunch available 11:30 to 1:00)
Wings Of Eagles Ranch 704-784-3147
4800 Faith Trails Concord, NC 28025

Sensory Friendly Film Screening of Kung Fu Panda 2
Saturday, June 4th, 2011 10:00 am
AMC Concord Mills 24
8421 Concord Mills Blvd. Concord, NC 28027

2nd Annual Pediatric Special Needs Trade Show
Friday, June 10th, 2011 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Charlotte Motor Speedway
5555 Concord Pkwy South Concord, NC 28027