



Parent Mentor News

Fall 2008

Parent Mentor Office

Board of Education Building
Third Floor
9370 Olde Eight Road
Northfield Center, OH 44067

Parent Mentor
Kitty Boylan

Phone & Voice Mail
330-908-6219
Days, Evenings and Weekends

Email
Parent.mentors@
nordoniaschools.org

Director of Pupil Services
Margo Gibson-Costello, Ph.D.
330-468-4600
Email: Margo.Costello@
nordoniaschools.org

Parent Mentor Resource Library

Call the Parent Mentor office for a book and video list or find it on the Nardonias School District website. There is also a collection of books in each building.

There are many books for children, teens, on parenting, special education and specific disabilities including LD and ADHD

Reach Us On The Web

on
The Nardonias Hills School District web site at:

www.nordoniaschools.org
Click on Pupil Services on the left. On the right side under Pupil Services click on Parent Mentor.

There you will find current listings and updates on upcoming events in the area, the parent mentor newsletter and complete resource library list.



We hope you enjoy this newsletter, but if you would like your name removed from this mailing list, please call and leave your name and address on our voice mail at 330 -908-6219.

About the Parent Mentor Program. . . .

. . . . for those who are new to the district or unfamiliar with the parent mentor program. A parent mentor is the parent of a child with a disability employed to help school districts and families by providing training, support and information services. Kitty Boylan is the parent mentor for the Nardonias School district. The Parent Mentor office is in the Central office Building. The phone number and voice mail is 330-908-6219.

Ohio Parent Mentor projects are funded through grants from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). The Parent Mentor program is based on the assumption that students with disabilities will be ensured an appropriate and meaningful education if parents and educators can communicate effectively and operationalize the partnership planning required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Some of the services provided by the Parent Mentor include guiding parents through the special education process including rights and responsibilities, listening and providing support to families and staff, providing information and resources, attending IEP meetings and other meetings when requested and conducting information sessions and workshops.

The parent mentor project has established a wonderful resource library for parents and staff. There are many books for children, teens, books on parenting and specific disabilities including LD and ADHD. For a complete book and video list, contact the parent mentor office or visit the parent mentor page on the district website.

Look in your school newsletters for parent mentor news on upcoming events and workshops within the district and in the area.



SURROGATE PARENTS NEEDED!!

- School districts in Ohio are in desperate need of Surrogate Parents. A Surrogate Parent is someone appointed by the school district who acts in the place of the child's parent when:
- 1) the parent cannot be identified
 - 2) The school district cannot locate the parent after reasonable efforts have been made
 - 3) The child is a ward of the state

The surrogate parent is the "child's parent" for special education concerns, acting as an advocate for that child by attending IEP meetings.

PLEASE consider attending the next training at SST-8 in Cuyahoga Falls on **September 30th from 9:00—3:00 pm.**

For registration information contact Carol Carrano @ 330-929-6624.

If you have any questions about becoming a surrogate, contact the parent mentor office or SST-8



September Thoughts: Reflections on a New School Year

As the summer winds down and the days get shorter, people in the LD OnLine community think about the new school year. Rick Lavoie wrote September Thoughts: Reflections on a New School Year exclusively for LD OnLine. He tells teachers timeless truths about the importance of their work with troubled children — the "Saturday kids" — kids who are confident and competent on Saturdays, summers, and school vacations, but are frightened and frustrated when they enter the classroom.

This article will inspire and inform parents, and help professionals and people with learning disabilities themselves. He uses the acronym SEPTEMBER. Here are some key points:

- S — Squeaky wheel: The squeaky wheel gets the grease, because the squeaky wheel needs the grease.
- E — Every child is motivated in a different way: So teachers must use a variety of approaches.
- P — Performance inconsistency: Learning problems come and go. The child can do the task one day, but can't do it the next. Don't blame the child if he can't do something you painstakingly taught him the day before. The inconsistency is beyond his control.
- T — Troubled kids: The pain that a troubled child causes is never greater than the pain that she feels. Kids need love the most when they deserve it the least.
- E — Entrusted, so act in loco parentis: Rick Lavoie reminds teachers to give their students the dignity and respect they would want for their own children.
- M — Multidisciplinary education doesn't work: Instead, Rick Lavoie suggests trans-disciplinary meetings in which professionals and parents discuss the child with a spirit of cooperation and collegiality.
- B — Bad vs. dumb: Children, particularly adolescents, prefer to be viewed as a bad kid rather than a dumb kid. So, Rick Lavoie says, "If a child is acting consistently 'bad,' reflect for a moment: Are your approaches and activities making him look 'dumb'?"
- E — Each year is a new year: Give each child a clean slate and let him or her start afresh in your classroom.
- R — Reward direction, not perfection: Progress may be plodding, but you must recognize and reinforce each step toward the target behavior.

To read the entire article visit: <http://www.ldonline.org/article/25626>

What is a Free Appropriate Education (FAPE) *From Wrightslaw.com*

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the law that provides your child with the right to a free, appropriate public education. The **purpose** of the IDEA is "to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to *meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living...*" 20 U.S.C. 1400(d) (Wrightslaw: Special Education Law, 2nd Edition, page 20).

Purpose is the mission statement of IDEA. When you develop, review, or revise your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), re-read the **Purpose** of IDEA. Is the IEP designed to meet your child's *unique needs*? Will the goals in the IEP *prepare your child "for further education, employment and independent living?"* The answers to these questions will help you determine if the IEP is appropriate and provides your child with a free, appropriate public education.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT

Courts have held that to receive a free appropriate public education, the child must receive meaningful educational benefit. Courts have also held that while children with disabilities are entitled to a free appropriate education, they are not entitled to the "best" education, nor to an education that "maximizes" the child's potential. Strike these terms from your vocabulary.

How will you know if your child is receiving "meaningful educational benefit"? You use objective information from tests that measure your child's knowledge and skills. This is why it is essential for parents to learn about tests, what tests measure and don't measure, the bell curve, and what test scores mean.

**To learn more about tests and measurements attend the workshop in January at Nordonia High School
For additional information see page 3**

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 2, 2008 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Down Syndrome Support Network Conference
"Living and Loving Life" Celebrating Families

Walsh University
David Student Center Multipurpose Room
2020 E. Maple St NW
North Canton, Ohio 44720

To Register-Send your name, agency, address, phone number and number attending to Nancy at DSSNstarkcounty@aol.com

OCTOBER 7, 2008 ~ 6:30 - 8:30 PM FREE

IDEA 2004 & OHIO OPERATING STANDARDS
Presented by Aimee Gilman, Attorney
Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr.,
Independence OH To register, contact Karen Lyke at
1-800-461-1928

AUTISM SUMMIT 2008 - October 10 - 12, 2008

The Renaissance Hotel, Cleveland, OH
First Ever International gathering of parents, caretakers,
medical professionals and educators.
For registrations and details visit www.autismsummit.org or
call 1-866-838-3687

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL SPEAKER DATES

Meetings are held at State Support Team 8 at
402 Washington Avenue in Cuyahoga Falls.
All parents are welcome to attend any of the following
presentations. If you have any questions, contact the parent
mentor office. All meetings are held at 9:30-11:30 am

October 8th	Preschool Transition and the New Operating Standards by Sarah Jackson, SST-8
November 17th	Social Skills Success: Practical Strategies for Children and Adolescents with Social Deficits and Bullying Issues by Dr. Jay Berk
December 10th	Motivation Breakthrough DVD—Secrets to Turning on the Tuned Out Child by Richard Lavoie
January 14th	Strategies For a Stress Free Life by Susan Mikolic R.N., Stepping Stones Mental Health
February 11th	ADD/ADHD or Special Needs Trusts Speaker to be determined
March 11th	Academic Success for Students with Aspergers or High Functioning Autism by OCALI
May 6th	What's New in Ohio—Keep Up to Date on Ohio's Legislation, Scholarships, Waivers and Other Services by Gary Tonks, ARC of Ohio

NORTHERN SUMMIT COUNTY PARENT MENTOR INFORMATIONAL SERIES

6:30 - 8:30 pm

October 15, 2008

Video Presentation featuring RICK LAVOIE, M.A., M.Ed.
"The Motivation Breakthrough: 6 Secrets to Turning On the Tuned-Out Child"
Twinsburg High School Media Center
10084 Ravenna Rd., Twinsburg, OH

November 6, 2008

Guest Speaker: Georgette Constantinou, Ph.D.
"Taking Care of the Caregiver"
Summa Wellness Center, 5625 Hudson Dr. Hudson, OH

January 12, 2009

Guest Speaker: Michelle DePolo, Psy.D.
"Understanding MFE's and Assessments."
Nordonia H. S., 8006 S. Bedford Rd. Macedonia, OH

February 2009 (Date to be Announced)

Video Presentation featuring JED BAKER, PhD.
"Social Skill Training and Frustration Management"
Hudson Library, Hudson, OH

For Information and Registration Contact Parent Mentors:

Kitty Boylan, Nordonia Hills 330-908-6219
Diane Rudzitis, Hudson 330-653-1296
Becky Thomas, Twinsburg 330-486-2416

CHAMPS BOWLING

- Roseland Bowling Lanes.
Bowling will be from 5:00 - 6:00 on 10/18 - 11/15 - 1/17 and 2/21. You can register online at: www.mytwinsburg.com or for more information contact Becky Thomas at 330-486-2416.

SPECIAL NEEDS CHEER TEAM - www.aeaoio.com

"American Idols" at American Elite in Tallmadge.
For information call 330-633-3160

KIDSLINK Neurobehavioral Clinic in Twinsburg, OH is

offering "Friday Night Fun", Social Skills Groups for children with Developmental and Autism Spectrum disorders and Study Skills classes for students with ADHD, Learning Disabilities and Autism.

For more information visit: www.kidslinkohio.com

GRANTS AVAILABLE for Families Struggling with Child Health-Related Expenses

The United Healthcare Children's Foundation provides grants to families to help pay for child health care services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, prescriptions, and medical equipment such as wheelchairs, orthotics, and eyeglasses. Parents and legal guardians may apply for grants of up to \$5,000 each for child medical services and equipment by completing an online application at the UHCCF.org Web site. For more information call 800-328-5979 Ext. 24459

WWW.DIFFERENTNEEDZ.COM - On-line marketplace where you can buy and sell gently used special needs equipment.

9370 Olde Eight Road
Northfield, Oh 44067



I cannot endure to waste anything as precious as autumn sunshine by staying in the house. So I spend almost all the daylight hours in the open air.
-Nathaniel Hawthorne, American novelist