

Regional Wrap-Up

Region 5 T/TAC @ JMU



SVAP 5K Race

The second annual Shenandoah Valley 5K Race for Autism was held on Saturday, March 28 in Harrisonburg. Sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Autism Partnership in cooperation with JMU's Gamma Sigma Sigma, Circle K International, and Phi Gamma Delta, the money raised helps the Shenandoah Valley Autism Partnership continue to raise awareness of the impact of autism in the valley community through dissemination of materials about autism and the organization, to provide respite care for families, to continue to offer training and support to parents and professionals, and to share resources with other organizations in the valley community who assist persons on the spectrum. Over 400 participants were registered to either walk or run. Region 5 T/TAC was represented by two teams: Team Lowman (T/TAC coordinator Dianne Koontz Lowman and her family) and Team T/TAC.

Pictured above is Team T/TAC. Sarah Chappel & Kelly Chappel (Sally's daughters), Fred Good (Cheryl's husband), Cheryl Henderson (T/TAC co-director), Sally Chappel (T/TAC coordinator), Wes Chappel (Sally's husband), Melinda Bright (T/TAC co-director), and Judy Bland (T/TAC coordinator).

Summertime

And the T/TAC Remains Open

However, staff does take vacation during the summer months, so if you plan on visiting the T/TAC, please call ahead to be sure the staff person you wish to visit is available. You may contact the person directly or call Loretta's number (540.568.6746 or 888.205.4824) and she'll refer your call to the appropriate person.

Calling All Lending Library Materials

Loretta requests that all materials from the T/TAC lending library be returned by Friday, May 29 so that she may conduct inventory. The library will re-open following completion of the inventory. Thank you!



EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCES

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) recently published the *State of Preschool 2008 Yearbook*, its annual analysis of state-funded preschool programs. The report shows an increase in state preschool enrollment by more than 108,000 children and an increase in spending of nearly \$1 billion (23 percent) over the previous year. Additionally, 11 states improved the quality of their preschool programs and only one fell back. The yearbook is available online at <http://nieer.org/yearbook>.

Downloadable Video Series on Early Childhood Assessment

The Colorado Department of Education's Results Matter Program is pleased to share a collection of videos (at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/resultsmatter/RMVideoSeries.htm>) that help providers better understand ways to use observation, documentation, and assessment to inform practice. Two styles of videos are provided: 1) practitioners discussing and illustrating their exemplary practices; and 2) clips for practicing observation, documentation, and assessment skills, showing children participating in typical routines and activities. You can watch the videos online or download the free clips for use in educational and professional development activities. Additional clips are will be added periodically, so check back from time-to-time. The clips currently available include:

Focus on Early Care & Education

- Connecting Learning Opportunities
- Linking Documentation and Curriculum
- Sharing Documentation with Families
- Sharing Video Documentation with Families
- The Essential Role of Observation and Documentation
- Using Documentation to Become a Better Teacher

Focus on Early Intervention

- Using Video for Self-Reflection
- Using Video to Share with Family Members

**Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
Module now available on the Autism Internet
Modules Web site**

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) leads the Autism Internet Module (AIM) project primarily through a grant from the Ohio Department of Education. This project is a collaborative effort with the Autism Society of America (ASA), the Nebraska Department of Education/Autism Spectrum Disorders Network, the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders, and the Geneva Centre for Autism, Toronto, Canada. In addition, the Arizona Department of Education and the Indiana Resource Center for Autism have collaborated on content development for the AIM project. The AIM project will develop a series of 80 online modules including characteristics, diagnosis, interventions and supports, transition, and employment. Module authors include experts from across the nation.

The partners are pleased to announce the launch of the newest module, The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders (www.fpg.unc.edu/~autismPDC) has provided the content for this module. Content was adapted from and with special thanks to: Frost, L. A., & Bondy, A. S. (2002). *The Picture exchange communication system training manual* (2nd ed.). Newark, DE: Pyramid Educational Products, Inc. Please see Pyramid Educational Products, Inc. at www.pyramidproducts.com for the PECS manual and other resources to make implementation more efficient. Visit <http://www.autisminternetmodules.org> to access the module.

**2009 "Next Steps"
Transition Webinar Series**

The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) and Virginia Commonwealth University's Rehabilitation Research & Training Center are sponsoring six 30-minute Webinars: *Next Steps: Transition for Students with Disabilities*. There is **no cost** to participate, but registration is required. To register, go to www.peatc.org/newsmanager/news_article.cgi?sess=8ee7992460bb0064160079671f724c0a&news_id=66.

For more information, contact:
Catherine Burzio, Transition Coordinator
Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)
100 N. Washington Street, Suite 234
Falls Church, VA 22046
703.923.0010 (phone)
800.869.6782 (toll-free phone)
800.693.3514 (fax)
burzio@peatc.org
www.peatc.org

Parent Resources

ZERO TO THREE, a national non-profit organization that is committed to supporting the health and development of infants and toddlers, has developed a resource designed to help parents understand infant and toddler development through the first three years. The set of nine, age-based handouts, are available in English and Spanish, and include developmental milestones, FAQs, a common issue or challenge for each age, and ideas for helping learning at each stage. The materials are available for order from ZERO TO THREE (800.899.4301 or PO Box 960, Herndon, VA 20172) or via the Web site at [www.zerotothree.org/age-based handouts](http://www.zerotothree.org/age-based%20handouts).

The Family Support Center on Disabilities' Knowledge & Involvement Network is a new clearinghouse established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide family-centered information and promote the work of the many organizations and agencies working in every state and territory to improve the lives of individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families. The new Family Support Center on Disabilities is establishing a centralized resource, to provide specialized information and assistance that meets families' needs.

Check it out at www.familysupportclearinghouse.org.

For more information, contact: Family Support Center on Disabilities, 1825 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

You may also call toll-free at 877.535.7575 or e-mail to familysupport@aed.org.

Professional Development

June 22-26: *10th Annual Content Teaching Academy*. James Madison University, Harrisonburg. Visit <http://www.jmu.edu/contentacademy/> for academy strands and registration information.

July 13: *We Can Work It Out: Improving Student Achievement through Collaboration*, presented by Rick Wormeli. Festival Conference and Student Center, James Madison University, Harrisonburg. Contact Susan Bowman @ Region 5 T/TAC, bowmansp@jmu.edu or 540.568.8843.

July 29: *Literacy-Based Interventions that Support Communication: Pre-K through Secondary* presented by Joanne M. Cafiero, Ph.D. Marriott Richmond West, sponsored by VA Department of Education and Commonwealth Autism Service. Contact Commonwealth Autism Service at 1.800.649.8481.

July 29: *VADCDT SUMMER INSTITUTE 2009 - Rich Transition on a Lean Budget: Providing Excellent Transition Services during Tough Economic Times*. Roslyn Center, Richmond. Sponsored by The Council for Exceptional Children Virginia Division on Career Development and Transition. Contact Jaycee Bova at jlbova@shenandoah.k12.va.us for information.

September 17: *Building Social Relationships: A Systematic Approach to Teaching Social Interaction Skills to Children and Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum* presented by Scott Bellini, Ph.D. Frontier Culture Museum, Staunton. Sponsored by VDOE Region 5 T/TAC @ JMU and Shenandoah Valley Autism Partnership. Contact Sally Chappel at chappesl@jmu.edu or 540.568.8095 for information.