

Fundamentally For Families

October, 2008

3rd Annual Heart and Hope Statewide Family Conference is coming to Orlando February 7th, 2009.



Toni Jennings
Exceptional
Education Institute.

Heart and Hope offers: FREE lunch and FREE kid camp to those 12 and younger. The kid camp fills up quickly, so pre-registration is required.

For more information call (800) 825-5736 or to register online please go to:
<http://www.fndfl.org/hearthope.asp>

Heart and Hope is a full day event that promotes family involvement and is designed to help bring individuals who are at risk, families who have children with disabilities, and the professionals that serve them awareness in regard to their options and rights that are available to them within the school system and beyond.

Heart and Hope is presented by: Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc. in partnership with Orange County Public Schools/ Exceptional Student Education and the

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Read all about your products and services!

You can advertise your business products and services in The Heart and Hope conference program! For a competitive rate, select from

advertising spaces beginning with a business card size, 1/8 page; 1/4 page; 1/2 page and full page! Ads will also be listed on our website for one year!

For more information about advertising and exhibitor opportunities visit:
<http://www.fndfl.org/hearthope.asp>

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November is Florida Parental Involvement In Education Month!



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION MONTH

WHEREAS, family involvement in a child's learning is critical to student success from preschool through college and sets the foundation for preparing Florida's students to be life-long learners and meaningful contributors to society; and

WHEREAS, creating an environment where learning takes place not just in a classroom, but as a central part of family life requires that parents play a more active role in their children's education; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that there is a direct correlation between the high expectations and positive contributions of a child's parents and high student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the role of parents in creating a successful pre-school through college education system for Florida's children cannot be overstated; and

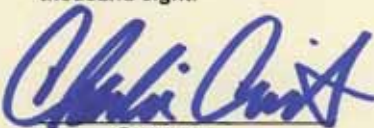
WHEREAS, Florida's educational leaders are developing resources for parents looking to engage more fully in their children's education and to strengthen the connections between parents and schools; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Parental Information and Resource Centers are available to provide information and training to support families and educators in using school and state accountability data, making informed public school choice decisions, and establishing effective home-school collaborations so that families can be meaningfully involved in the education and development of students;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing November 2008 as *Florida Parental Involvement in Education Month*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 8th day of September, in the year two thousand eight.




Governor

NCLB LEA and School Parent Involvement Policy Requirements-Online Webinar

<p>This informative workshop will review Title I Parent Involvement Policy Requirements, the Florida Department of Education School Title I Parent Involvement Policy Template, and Title I</p>	<p>Compact Requirements. Participants will also have the opportunity to develop a draft School Parent Involvement Policy! November 10th & 26th</p>	<p>10:00am-12:00pm This workshop will be conducted using GoToMeeting. For information and to register for these webinars contact Maribel @ 800-825-5736</p>
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Attention Polk County ESE Parents!!!!

Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc. is proud to announce SHARING THE COMMITMENT POLK COUNTY.

Sharing the Commitment is a collaborative project that has been created to foster effective partnerships between parents, schools, and the community. Along with the Polk County Exceptional Student Education Department, Family Network on Disabilities (FND) provides 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)** will be available to provide parents of students with disabilities with up-to-date information, resources and support.

Family Network is currently accepting resumes to fill 5 PEER positions. These positions are five hours a week and provide information, resources, and workshops to parents and professionals within Polk County.

Sharing the Commitment is a collaborative project that has been created to foster effective partnerships between parents, schools, and the community.

If you are a parent of a child with a disability in the Polk County school system, have a firm understanding of IDEA, like to help others navigate the system, have a proven track record of collaboration with the school system, and are interested in joining the FND family, please send your resume to:

Family Network on Disabilities of Florida
Attn: Tara Bremer
2735 Whitney Rd.
Clearwater, FL 33760
Or email: tara@fndfl.org



What is Differentiated Accountability?

Florida is one of six states using the new federal Differentiated Accountability (DA) model to measure the progress of Florida's public schools. DA aligns and integrates Florida's school grading accountability system with the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability system. These two systems have been very confusing to parents as well as the population in general, because an "A" school in Florida's accountability system may not be making adequate yearly progress (AYP) in the federal NCLB accountability system. One major change that will affect parents is that DA will change the order of choices parents have

for their children when it comes to school performance results. In the past, if a school did not make AYP for two consecutive years, then parents had the option of choosing another school for their child, if eligible. If a school did not make AYP for 3 consecutive years, then parents had the option of choosing supplemental education services (SES), or extra tutoring, for their child, if eligible. Now, under DA, using ONE accountability system to include state and federal

accountability requirements, the order of these options has been flipped. After 2 years of not making AYP, SES is an option. After 3 years of not making AYP, school choice is an option. The FL PIRC of FND is working with the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of School Improvement, to develop a guide to assist parents in navigating DA to enable them to make informed, relevant decisions for their children's education.

FL PIRC of FND's Parent Involvement Leadership Initiative

The Florida PIRC of FND is sponsoring a parent involvement initiative in collaboration with the Center for Parent Leadership (CPL) to assist Florida's parent involvement leaders in empowering Title I parents. This capacity building effort is called Parent Involvement Leadership Initiative (PILI). Participants of PILI are being provided with hands-on strategies on how to help parents gain the information and skills they need to help their children succeed in school. Participants are also gaining knowledge on how to promote successful partnerships with other parents and school professionals. PILI participants are charged with training and sharing the information they

learn at the five trainings with parent involvement leaders back at their home sites. PILI will culminate in the development of an action plan for parent involvement at schools, districts, and community organizations. PILI also includes a book study on "Beyond the Bake Sale" by Henderson, Mapp, Johnson, and Davies. PILI has an academic, empowerment, and advocacy focus. Each session has specific content that will be shared and implemented back at the participants' home sites. PILI session content includes: Authentic Parent Engagement and Understanding the Florida Story; The Missing Piece of the Proficiency Puzzle; Getting Parents Ready for FCAT; Planning for Parent Involvement; and Parent Involvement

Walk-Throughs/Creating Family Friendly Schools. The thirty PILI participants include FL PIRC of FND staff as well as Title I Parent Involvement Specialists from the following districts: Charlotte, Glades, Desoto, Volusia, Seminole, Osceola, Orange, Putnam, Hernando, Duval, Martin, St. Lucie, Alachua, Hardee, Manatee, and Columbia. The Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Student Assistance, Title I Parent Involvement, is also participating and supports the implementation of the FL PIRC of FND's PILI efforts.



TRANSITION, INDEPENDENT LIVING, EMPLOYMENT & SUPPORT

Family Network on Disabilities is proud to announce two new trainings being offered by the TILES Program called “**In the Drivers Seat**” and “**Transition Planning with Sticky Notes**”.

In the Driver’s Seat is a series of six workshops for

youth in transition from high school to adult life. During the workshops, youth experience hands-on learning that enables them to achieve adult life goals. With encouragement and support, young adults identify their skills, interests, and needs and work toward improving their ability for self-advocacy.

TILES Has 2 New Trainings!

Transition Planning with Sticky Notes is a hands-on, interactive way to plan an effective transition IEP with nothing more than a sharpie and a package of sticky notes.

To request workshops from the TILES program in your area, please contact: Marilyn Ruiz-Santiago at 800-825-5736 tiles@fndfl.org

Parent Involvement

Parents! Do you know you make a huge difference in how successful your sons and daughters are as adults?

The evidence is in! When parents are involved, everyone benefits.

- Youth do better in school and in life.
- Young people have increased motivation and better self-esteem.
- More youth go on to college and other post-high school training.
- Youth are better able to get and keep jobs.
- Communities grow stronger.

Here’s what the [National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth](#) has to say about the importance of family involvement. All

youth need parents, families and other caring adults who:

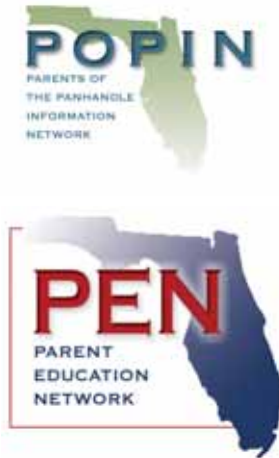
- Have high expectations for them.
- Help build on the young person’s strengths, interests, and needs.
- Foster the young person’s ability to achieve independence and self-sufficiency.
- Are involved in their lives and help them become successful adults.
- Know how to get information about employment, further education and community resources.
- Take an active role in transition planning with schools and community partners.
- Have access to medical, professional and peer

support networks.

In addition, youth with disabilities need parents, families and other caring adults who:

- Know about their youth’s disability and how it affects his or her education, employment and/or daily living options.
- Know their rights and responsibilities under various disability-related legislation.
- Know about and access programs, services, supports and accommodations available for young people with disabilities.
- Know how good planning can help youth achieve a successful transition to adulthood.

<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/>



Positive Father Involvement

Fathers, parenting is not easy, but do not think you are less important than mothers. Your roles are not the same; however they complement each other to fulfill what children need from their parents. You have a special place in your children's

lives, and your interest in them can make a significant difference. Children whose fathers take an active part in their daily lives tend to be

well-adjusted and better equipped for success. Take pride in your responsibilities and efforts. Children do not need perfect fathers; they need caring and involved fathers.



You are
the best
DAD your
child will
ever have!

10 Tips for Successful Dads

1. Spend Time With Your Child. For children, love is spelled T-I-M-E.

2. Play With Your Children. Through play, men teach self-control and perseverance to kids.

3. Be a Good Role Model. Lasting values are "caught" by children more than "taught" by adults.

4. Respect Your Child's Mother. A child's self concept is strongly linked to how their parents interact.

5. Discipline With Love. Give clear

guidelines, give praise for positives, correct with kindness.

6. Be a Good Teacher. Take daily opportunities to help children develop a love for learning.

7. Eat Meals Together. Regular meals provide opportunity for healthy interactions.

8. Read To Your Children. Children read to daily have great advantages in their education. For fathers who do not read well, activities with wordless picture books help children

get a good start on pre-reading and comprehension skills.

9. Show Physical Affection. Children feel more secure with regular comfort from fathers.

10. Stick With It! Never Quit! Be patient with your children and yourself. By seeking resources and support, father care can be positively enhanced.

--You are the best DAD your child will ever have!



To read this article in it's entirety go to:

<http://www.misd.net/earlychild/MOYChandouts/PositiveFatherInvolvement.pdf>

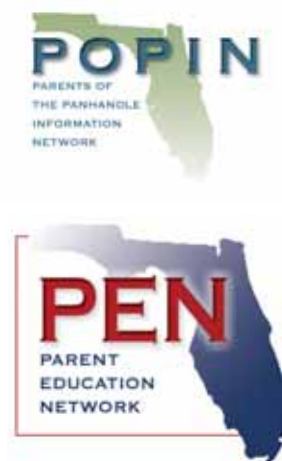
Dadvocates-Florida Father's Network

One fact of disability is the totally non-discriminatory fashion by which it affects the lives of families. With no regard for economic status, race, gender, age, or personal plans, a chosen group of individuals is entering into this cycle every-day. "We all have to start somewhere" is no longer an option. You have to begin the process and learn to deal with things that you have no idea how to deal with. Many surveys reflect the number one thing parents identified as needing was information. I have heard the term "empowering" used in describing what happens when we finally access information and skill

to become effective advocates. It is a self-empowering and self-advocacy process. NO one can do this for you. If you want the things you are entitled to, you have to become this advocate. This cycle we are involved in has been experienced many times before and in many different ways. The most prudent thing to do is to learn from the efforts of those going before you and duplicate the successes. Networking allows us to do just that. If we continue to be persistent and remain informed, we can be the difference. The best advice given to me was from an over-worked, underpaid

attorney after hearing me whine for awhile about my problems with the school district. "Mr. Hawke, IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR ON A WHITE CHARGER TO COME AND RESCUE YOU, FORGET IT. YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO DO THIS YOURSELF." I followed that advice and have reaped the rewards. This is reality of what has to happen. There are no shortcuts and the cycle continues as we teach our children to advocate for themselves.

By: Wilbur Hawke
<http://www.flafathers.com/>



" There are no shortcuts and the cycle continues as we teach our children to advocate for themselves."

DADVOCATES
 INVOLVING FATHERS IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

GUYS' NIGHT-Lee County

If you are a father of a child with special needs, then we are inviting you to an evening out with the guys. Come socialize with guys just like you. Wednesday, November 5, 2008 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Beef O' Brady's
 20301 Grande Oaks
 Shoppes Blvd
 Estero, Florida 33928

For more info: Robbie Powell (239) 825-4636 or robbiepowell@comcast.net

*This will be a monthly event. If you can't attend this first one, let Robbie know if you want to hear about future dates.





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www.fndfl.org

Respect, Independence, Knowledge

Help Support FND

Where Will Your Donation Go?

Development initiatives and priorities have been clearly defined for FND by the Board of Directors. Their thoughtful vision for the future of our family driven organization has been carefully developed and is continually monitored and adjusted to meet the needs of the disability community. Grant seeking, fund raising, and corporate sponsorship will be pursued to endow the full range of programs and activities provided by FND, including the following priorities:

- * 1) Matching funds to boost our currently government funded programs.
- * 2) Parent to Parent support services
- * 3) Adult services focusing on the individual and family after the school aged years

* 4) Building fund

* 5) Developing scholarship and other financial support programs

* 6) Community partnerships

These are only a few of our plans for the future. We ask for your financial support in bringing these priorities from goals to viable, active programs and services. Not one of us can achieve this alone, but together we can create this and so much more! Be a part of the future of disability services in Florida by supporting FND. Please remember, your donation is tax deductible.

If you would like to make a donation to FND online please go to:

<http://fndfl.org/Support.asp>

Or mail your donation to:

Family Network on Disabilities
2735 Whitney Rd.
Clearwater, FL 33760

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