



Family Voices Inc.

Understanding Indian Culture to Enhance the Delivery of Services to Indian Families with Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs: Helpful Tips

- ♥ Take time to learn more about your own culture so that you can compare your cultural values with those of other cultures in increasing your cultural self-awareness.
- ♥ Do take time out to participate in cultural events or celebrations (Pueblo Feast Days, Indian Christmas Dances, etc) that are open to the general public. This will build trust and respect with the Indian families you serve.
- ♥ Ask for their suggestions on books or other reading materials about the American Indian culture.
- ♥ Do spend time with people from the culture, is the best way to learn more about their customs, values, and practices.
- ♥ Do ask questions and let it be known that you are only asking to better learn and understand how to best work with and provide information and resources.
- ♥ Do ask about when cultural and religious Indian events will take place and let it be known that you are only asking as not to schedule appointments and therapies during that same time. (Some tribes do not have a specific date, but more of a specific time of the month that events happen)
- ♥ Do ask if the tribe has any developmental milestones that are used, such as a baby's first laugh, first hair cut, and ceremonies that go along with them. If possible incorporate them into program plans, i.e. an IFSP.

Network News

Network Welcome

Welcome to David Murchio, our newest Family Voices Network Member in New Mexico! David, dad to two wonderful little boys—the oldest who has special needs—is the Coordinator for the Family to Family Health Information at Parents Reaching Out in Albuquerque, NM. Along with a cadre of Health Information Parent Specialists, David provides information, consultation and educational opportunities to families on how to access health care services and supports for their children with disabilities and chronic health conditions. David serves on several boards, tasks forces and committees including, but not limited to, Presbyterian and Lovelace Salud! Consumer Advisory Boards, the NM State Medicaid Advisory Committee and Medicaid Coalition. David, through his work, partners with numerous community and state agencies and organizations, including UNM Carrie Tingley Hospital, Community Coalition for Healthcare Access, New Mexico Voices for Children, Health Action New Mexico and the New Mexico Pediatric Society. Please join us in welcoming David!

Sharing the Wealth

Recently, a ND State Legislator complimented Donene Feist, Family Voices of ND and the ND Family to Family Health Information Center, on her e-newsletter, *Share the Wealth*. He asked if he could share some of the information from the e-newsletter on a monthly basis via the State Legislative web page and include a link to FV ND. Of course, the answer was “Yes!” Congratulations, Donene! Now ND families have yet another way to link to the information and resources they need.

WHAT DOES NORMAL MEAN?

This newly released 60-minute documentary follows seven students with disabilities through an academic year as they attend regular classes with their friends. Three award-winning documentary filmmakers visited elementary, middle, and high schools in urban and rural communities in New Mexico. The film-makers and the producers, two of whom have sons with disabilities, created a film that illustrates how inclusion can succeed and learning environments can improve when school administrators, teachers, families, and disabled students and their friends work together. The stars of this film—Rudy Via, Brandon Via, Tara Matzick, Kade Goss, Phillip Contreras, Rebecca Salazar, and Seda McLuckie—show us that they are just like other kids. For more information, please visit <http://www.familyvoices.org/whatdoesnormalmean.htm>.



ReCap of FV Talk

Resources, News, & Stories

- <http://www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=2967>
Parent brief on what does health have to do with Transition.
- http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1965
A new report on toxic chemicals and children's health in North America.
- <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability-new-approach/>
The final rule establishing a new disability determination process for Social Security.
- <http://www.philly.com/mlid/inquirer/living/health/14687073.htm>
Donations tie drug firms and nonprofits.
- <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/pdfs/wvfactsheet.pdf>
An analysis of what will West Virginia's "Medicaid Redesign" mean for children living in the state.
- <http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v66n2/v66n2p21.html>
A profile of children with disabilities receiving SSI: highlights from the National Survey of SSI Children and Families.
- http://www.college-scholarships.com/learning_disabilities.htm
Almost all colleges and universities provide some level of services and/or accommodations for learning disabled students, as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The colleges and universities listed here go a step further; they offer programs, some quite comprehensive, designed to support students with learning disabilities.
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/26/education/26hutch.html?ex=1149652800&en=8b8ad05f52fac238&ei=5070>
A Seattle School Where Extra Kindness Is Part of the Curriculum
- http://www.autismspeaks.org/sponsoredevents/autism_every_day.php
Autism Every Day is a new film produced by Lauren Thierry and Jim Watkins of October Group and Eric Solomon of Milestone Video. The link allows you to view a version of the film.

With the new day comes new
strength and new thoughts.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

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Send an email to
fridayschildnews-subscribe@yahooogroups.com
To become a member of our family and for more information
please visit our website: www.familyvoices.org



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