

YOUTH TRANSITION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015

SUPPORT GROUPS

The Youth Transition Specialist and the District 186 Parent Mentor, Ms. Mary Wyman, continue to host the Support Groups for Teens/Young Adults and Parent 2 Parent (P2P), which are sponsored jointly by SCIL and District 186. With input from parents, SCIL and District 186 strive to address topics that are of interest to every teen/young adult with disabilities and their parents in Springfield and area wide school districts. Future topics will be determined by those teens/young adults and parents who attended the previous month's meetings.

The Teen/Young Adult Support group continues to be for any teen/young adult with a disability between the ages of 14-21. P2P will be part of this support group meeting and is for any parent who has a student with a disability in Springfield and surrounding area school districts. These meetings are a good way to socialize, develop new friendships, share stories and connect with others. Meetings are for any teens/young adults with disabilities and parents; family members interested in learning more about transition topics are always welcome to attend. Child care will be provided from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. but you must pre-register your child for this service. Refreshments are no longer being provided but you are welcome to bring your own drink/snack. Please watch your mail for announcements of the topics for future support group meetings.

All meetings will be conducted at Lawrence Adult Education Center located at 101 E. Laurel St. from 6:00 to 7:30 on the second Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise announced.

Please contact Carolyn Thorpe, SCIL Youth Transition Specialist, at 523-2587 v/tty, or Mary Wyman, District 186 Parent Mentor, at 525-3060, at least two days in advance before attending any meetings. The next meeting of the 2015-2016 school year is tentatively scheduled for **September 8, 2015**. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn at 523-2587 v/tty. I look forward to welcoming returning and new parents and teens to this group!

SCIL will be closed on

Friday, July 3, 2015

Monday, September 7, 2015

SUMMERTIME LEARNING ACTIVITY WEBSITES

Summer is here. Another school year has recently ended and a new one will sneak up on us soon enough. Some parents have asked how they can keep their student's academic skills in check without their children realizing they are learning. You may want to visit the following websites to help your student retain the academic skills they have learned or to give them a head start when they do return to school. Websites are listed according to subject area. Note that some websites are geared for younger children.

Math -

<http://yuthink.com/fun-math-challenge/>
<http://school.familyeducation.com/summer-learning/math/70200.html?page=1>
www.hoodamath.com/
www.middleweb.com/15579/ideas-activities-stem-summer-slide/
www.funbrain.com/brain/MathBrain/MathBrain.html
www.pbs.org/parents/education/math/math-tips-for-parents/summer-math/

Language Arts - (Reading, Writing, Grammar)

www.weareteachers.com/blogs/post/2015/04/03/awesome-apps-for-the-six-traits-of-writing
www.readingrockets.org/article/get-ready-summer-ideas-teachers-share-families#learning
ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2013/06/14/ready-set-read-summer-fiction-ideas-for-kids-of-all-ages/
www.readingrockets.org/
www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/
www.ala.org/alsc/2015-summer-reading-list
www.cybils.com/2013/01/the-2012-cybils-finalists.html
www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/50-best-books-summer
www.colorincolorado.org/article/24695/
www.education.com/summer-reading/
www.openculture.com/free_k-12_educational_resources

General -

<http://wonderopolis.org/about/>
<http://makercamp.com/>
<http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2014/03/27/10-free-online-educational-game-sites/>
www.commonsemmedia.org/guide/summer-learning-guide
www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/collection/outdoor-activities/fun-sun-activities

WEBSITES FOR THE JOB HUNTER

The job search site, Monster, shares useful tips for people with disabilities searching for jobs at <http://career-advice.monster.com/job-search/getting-started/5-tips-for-jobhunting-with-a-disability-hot-jobs/article.aspx>

The United States Department of Labor provides information on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as lists of employment resources by topic at www.dol.gov/odep/topics/.

The U.S. federal government website, www.disability.gov, offers information on disability programs and services nationwide.

The Job Accommodation Network, <http://askjan.org/soar/index.htm>, offers advice on workplace accommodations for a wide range of disabilities.

College Central lists several articles for students in college seeking jobs or internships. Visit www.collegecentral.com/ArticleList.cfm?CatID=CAR to peruse these articles. College students searching for jobs can also register at this site.

WHY KIDS SHOULD NOT WEAR SANDALS

Summertime always mean getting out near a pool, tanning, and wearing light clothing and footwear. As the author, Ms. Heather Montgomery, explains, sandals and flip-flops can be dangerous and advises parents why proper footwear is essential for our children's safety. Ms. Montgomery's advice can be found at www.brightstartoverland.com/kids-wear-sandals-heather-montgomery-demand-media/

ABLE ACT PASSES IN ILLINOIS

The ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act, which allows those who receive Social Security benefits to save more than the \$2,000 allotment, was signed by President Obama in December 2014. Several states have since introduced and adopted this bill. Recently, this same bill was passed in Illinois; however, Illinois ABLE accounts cannot be opened at this time. For more information on the ABLE Act and what its use is, please visit the following websites:

www.ndss.org/Advocacy/Legislative-Agenda/Creating-an-Economic-Future-for-Individuals-with-Down-Syndrome/Achieving-a-Better-of-Life-Experience-ABLE-Act/

www.autismspeaks.org/news/news-item/10-things-know-about-able-act



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To reduce costs, SCIL would like to send all newsletters via e-mail. Please e-mail me at cthorne@scil.org if you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail.



Inside this Newsletter:

- Support Groups
- Summertime Learning Activity Websites
- Websites for the Job Hunter
- Why Kids Should Not Wear Sandals
- ABLE Act Passes in Illinois

If you have any questions or need this newsletter in an alternative format - Braille, large print, or audio-cassette - please call Carolyn at 523-2587 v/tty.

SCIL provides the following services:

Independent Living Skills Training
Personal Assistant Services
Volunteer Opportunities
Information & Referral
Employment Resources
Reintegration Services
Access Coordination
Youth Transition
Support Groups
Peer Counseling
& Advocacy

SCIL does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of disability, race, age, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, or veteran status.