



Family Support & Resource Center

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September/October 2016

The Family Support & Resource Center at Your Service

The Family Support and Resource Center has been providing services to families and professionals in Maryland for 16 years. The Family Support and Resource Center (FSRC) is funded through a grant from the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland School for the Deaf. The FSRC has offices located at both the Frederick and Columbia campuses of the Maryland School for the Deaf, and also is able to provide services to families around the state.

The goals of the Family Support & Resource Center are to encourage:

- **Families as lifelong educators.** To encourage families to observe, guide, promote and participate in the everyday learning of their children at home, school, and in their community.
- **Family engagement in transitions.** To teach families how to support and advocate for their child's learning and development as they transition to new learning environments from birth to age 21.
- **Family connections to peers and community.** It's important that families form connections with peers and mentors in formal or informal social networks that are supportive and/or educational and enhance social well-being and community life.
- **Families as advocates and leaders.** To encourage families to participate in leadership development, decision making, program policy development, in the community and the state.
- **Positive parent-child relationships.** Beginning with transition to parenthood, parents and families develop warm relationships that nurture their child's learning and development.

The Family Support and Resource Center works towards these goals by providing parents, families, and professionals:

- **Information and resources.** The FSRC provides families and professionals information about national and state resources. Helps families resolve concerns and make informed

decisions regarding their child's education. Provides families with support, resources, and information about language learning opportunities for their deaf or hard of hearing child. The FSRC also helps families prepare for their IEP and IFSP meetings, when invited by parents or school systems the Parent Coordinator also attends IEP and IFSP meetings to support families through this process.

- **Workshops and support groups.** The FSRC provides practical workshops designed to meet the needs of parents and educators. Workshops are offered throughout the year and at locations around the state. Workshop and support group topics include IEP, Advocacy, Parent Rights, Transition, School Records, Internet Safety, Special Needs, Literacy, Writing, and much more.
- **Parent to Parent Support.** The FSRC is available to work individually with parents to help resolve issues, review paperwork, prepare for upcoming meetings and much more.
- **Lending library.** A variety of books and DVD's are available for loan to families and professionals. Topics include deaf culture, sign language, behavior, parenting and much more.
- **Newsletter and email news.** The FSRC publishes a newsletter several times throughout the year. The newsletter contains topics of interest to families and professionals. Emails are also sent periodically with upcoming events to keep families and professionals informed.

The Family Support and Resource Center is available to help any family in Maryland who has deaf or hard of hearing children.

For more information or to make an appointment with the Family Support & Resource Center contact Cheri Dowling at 443-277-8899 or via email at cheri.dowling@msd.edu.



Described and Captioned Media Program

The Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) is a free library of over 4,000 media titles that are captioned and described. They also have a library of media captioned and described media in Spanish. DCMP strives to provide equal access

to communication and learning for students who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind.

To start your **FREE** membership to DCMP visit them at www.dcmp.org



NATIONAL LITERARY COMPETITION

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MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT

**PHIKAPPAZETA.ORG/YOUTH
YOUTHPROGRAMS.GALLAUDET.EDU**

Create a Happy Homework Environment

Chances are homework will never be your child's favorite activity, but creating a study environment that is fun and functional can help it go more smoothly.

Pick a place, any place. There is no right room for a study spot, a desk in their bedroom may be ideal for some children, but for many, the kitchen or dining room table works just as well. Wherever it is, make sure there is good lighting, minimal distractions and a writing surface.

Set it up right. If your child works best in their room, find a desk that fits your budget, even a sturdy folding table may suffice. Working at a desk, instead of sprawling on the floor or the bed, improves posture and helps keep your child alert. Add a chair that lets your child put their feet on the ground and isn't too comfy, which can lead to napping rather than doing homework.

Create a portable toolbox. Every time a child has to get up to find an eraser or paperclip, they are subject to distractions. Keep your child focused by supplying them with a box of supplies that can sit on their desk or be carried to their study spot.

Get organized. A folder holder can help your child keep track of papers, and a dry-erase board or hanging wall calendar can help them keep track of when assignments are due.

Provide a showcase. Designate an area where your child can put up schoolwork that they are proud of, whether it's a bulletin board in their room or the front of the refrigerator. This will give your child incentive to do their best.

Reprinted from womansday.com

Veditz.org - Tutoring Service

Veditz.org is a new service that will allow your child to receive after school tutoring in subjects such as math, science and ASL. Tutoring is delivered in ASL online in your home, many of their services are FREE.

Tutoring at Home, Anytime. Veditz is the first online, mobile, on-demand and live interactive video chat tutoring platform for the Deaf regardless of where they are or what device they are using.

FREE ASL Math Academy. Have a question on math and want an answer in ASL not just English. The free ASL Math Academy has dozens of videos signed in ASL with English captioning on arithmetic, pre-algebra, al-

gebra, geometry and more. New videos are added weekly.

Practice ASL with Study Partners for FREE. Parents and their children can use Veditz for free to find ASL practice partners and then meet up online on Veditz' secured platform and conduct live video peer-to-peer ASL practice with other parents and their children.

Get Tutoring on ASL, ABC, and even E=MC². Whether your child needs help in algebra, English writing, ASL or something else, Veditz and their hundreds of tutors are at your service. All their tutors use ASL.

Learn more at veditz.org.

Writing Contest for Students

Scribblitt and DawnSignPress are joining together to offer a writing contest for school-aged children nationwide in support of International Week of the Deaf. Kids create a short story with a modern-day fairytale theme. The grand prize contest winner will have his/her story published in hardcover by Scribblitt, translated into American Sign Language (ASL) by Deaf kids and filmed in ASL. Ten other winners will have their stories published in hardcover by Scribblitt and receive a "Once Upon a Sign" video from DawnSignPress.

The contest launches via Scribblitt.com on September 19th in honor of International Week of the Deaf and continues through December 15, 2016. Winners will be announced around January 16, 2017.

To enter simply register for a free account at Scribblitt.com, log in, write a story in "Write it" and enter the story on the Scribblitt contest page.

Contest rules can be found at http://www.dawnsign.com/images/Scribblitt_DawnSignPress_Contest.Rules.pdf

A Workshop for Families and Professionals
Deaf Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Thursday, November 10, 2016
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Maryland School for the Deaf,
 101 Clarke Place, Frederick, MD 21705
 Ely Building, Board Room

This presentation is designed to explain the characteristics of autism spectrum disorders in a clear, understandable way and help pinpoint the struggles deaf children with autism spectrum disorder most often experience. Everyday examples and tips for providing support and practice in specific skill areas will be discussed.

About the Presenter:

Dr. Rachael Plotkin received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Gallaudet University and completed her pre-doctoral internship training at Children's Hospital Colorado. After receiving her doctorate, Dr. Plotkin completed a post-doctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at the Kennedy Krieger Institute/Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In addition to providing neuropsychological evaluation to children and adolescents with a variety of developmental and medical conditions, Dr. Plotkin is fluent in American Sign Language and specializes in providing accessible neuropsychological assessments to children who are deaf, hard-of-



Registration Required by November 7, 2016
<http://tinyurl.com/ASDCConf>

For more information contact Cheri Dowling at
 443-277-8899 (v/text) or
cheri.dowling@msd.edu



LEADers Training

"The PPMD class that I participated in was the most informative class that I have ever taken. The resources given to us have helped me tremendously and I often share them when I reach out to other parents who need help in the IEP process."

~ Bonnie, Baltimore County

TRAINING DETAILS

▪ **DATES**

- November 19, 2016
- December 10, 2016
- January 7, 2017
- January 28, 2017
- February 18, 2017
- March 11, 2017
- April 1, 2017 (snow date)

▪ **TIME**

9:00AM - 4:00PM

▪ **LOCATION**

MD School for the Deaf
 Columbia Campus
 8169 Old Montgomery Rd.
 Columbia, MD 21044

▪ **For questions contact**

Kelly Meissner —
kelly@ppmd.org

The LEADers Program provides parents with the information they need to be informed and active in advocacy at the state and local levels around special education and health. This program offers parents the tools they need to be an active voice for not only their own child, but also for other children with disabilities in their communities.

Participants will:

- Gain knowledge and understanding about special education law
- Increase understanding of where healthcare and education intersect
- Increase communication and advocacy skills in health & special education
- Enhance leadership skills
- Expand their network of colleagues with a similar focus

Topics covered include:

- Special education law and regulations
- Tests and measurements
- SMART standards-based IEPs
- 504 plans
- Dispute resolution
- Discipline under IDEA
- Health and the IEP
- Developing a leadership plan

Who Should Apply

Applicants must be family members of children with disabilities who want to develop a better understanding of special education and health advocacy and make a difference in the lives of families of children with disabilities.

To apply, go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/16-17LEADersApplication
Application deadline is Monday, October 24 at 5pm

Requirements

The program requires full participation in ALL sessions. Participants are required to provide feedback on their leadership activities after the training. You are committing to promote change using your newly learned skills after the completion of the project. Follow-up sessions will be offered after the program ends.

Growing Together



VL2 Parent
 Information
 Package



GALLAUDET
 UNIVERSITY

VISUAL LANGUAGE
 AND VISUAL LEARNING



The Visual Language & Visual Learning (VL2) Parent Information Package contains accessible summaries of VL2 research, tips for parents and educators, a DVD with interviews with families, researchers, and scientists, along with other materials.

This information is intended to bring together families, children, communities and stakeholders in ensuring the success of a child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Materials are available for download at:
www.vl2parentspackage.org

