Issue 4 | Volume 2 | 2016-2017

Special Education Newsletter

February 2017

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS FORM FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

East Grand Rapids Public Schools is partnering with the East Grand Rapids Department of Public Safety (EGRDPS) to develop a student centered support form to ensure that our children with disabilities continue to enjoy a positive community experience within the City of East Grand Rapids. Included below is a link to the Developmental Disability Awareness Form for First Responders. The information collected through this form will be sent directly to the EGRDPS where it will remain in a safe and confidential data base that is only accessible by the public safety officers serving our community.

The awareness form is designed to collect information that could be utilized by the EGRDPS to find a missing student with a developmental disability or address a student with a developmental disability in crisis within the community. Submission of a safety input form is completely voluntary and is designed to support students with developmental disabilities within our community. The EGRDPS also suggested maintaining a copy of the form within your home in case of an emergency for use by first responders.

If you require assistance with the completion of the form, please contact Bill Behrendt, East Grand Rapids Public Schools Director of Special Education at **wbehrend@egrps.org.**

Click here for the Developmental Disability Awareness Form for First Responders

Autism Support of Kent County presents

Work Opportunities for your Young Adult with Autism

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church Library

1100 Lake Drive SE, Grand Rapids

Presenter:
Anthony Centille
Goodwill Industries

For more information, call ASK at (616) 752-8577

Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids in conjunction with Grand Valley State University and Michigan Rehabilitation Services developed a program to assist youth on the ASD spectrum between the ages of 18-26 with life and employment skills.

In the **LITE Program** (Leaning Independence through Experience), individuals are provided opportunities to learn the expectations of common workplace environments. Participants receive training in social skills and interactions, explore career options, and participate in paid work experiences at Grand Valley State University or Goodwill. Following the work experience, job placement, job coaching and retention services are all provided to assist those desiring long-term employment.

John Ball Zoo
johnballzoosociety.org

Sign up at: www.firstgiving.com
"Autism Support of Kent County"
(Walk for Autism)

2nd ANNUAL

Walk for Autism

Sunday, May 7, 2017 12:00 Noon until 3:00 p.m.

Be a Team Captain and bring a team of walkers! Prizes are awarded for teams that raise the most pledges. Sponsor the event as a family or business! Sponsorships start at $150. Showcase your business at the Resource Fair. Expected attendance is over 500 people!

Details available on firstgiving.com. Contact us at (616) 752-8577 or at pam@autismsupportofkentcounty.org.

Bring in $25 in pledges (per person) and take part in all event activities! Children under two get in free. $25 pledge gets you into the event, a t-shirt, and a pass for the Zoo that can be used on May 7 or saved for a later date. Register by April 10 to guarantee your shirt size!

P. O. Box 150348
Grand Rapids, MI 49515

ASK AUTISM SUPPORT OF KENT COUNTY

TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES ABOUT SEXUALITY

This program will help parents/guardians become more comfortable and confident in addressing sexuality issues with their children who have intellectual disabilities. Participants will compare and contrast sexual learning in the general population with sexual learning in children with intellectual disabilities. Unique circumstances in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities will be explored which shape attitudes and behaviors around sexuality. Key foundational concepts for healthy sexuality along with parent resources and ideas for addressing sexuality with your child will be included.

The speaker, Terri Couwenhoven, MS, is an AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator who specializes in working with people who have intellectual disabilities, their families and the professionals who support them. She is a Clinic Coordinator for the Down Syndrome Clinic of Wisconsin at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Terri is the mother of two daughters; her oldest has Down syndrome.

THIS PROGRAM WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE MONTHLY PARENT ADVISORS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION MEETING (PASE). ALL INTERESTED PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

We look forward to seeing you on March 13, 2017 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Kent ISD, 2930 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525; there is NO COST for this program. For more information call Cheryl Blair, Ed.D., 616-365-0293 or email cherylblair@kentisd.org

LEAD/EMPOWER/ASSIST/PARENTS: LEAP CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE!

LEAP

CONFERENCE

LEAD/EMPOWER/ASSIST/PARENTS

A Conference for Parents & Providers of Children with Special Needs

Saturday, March 4, 2017

8:30am – 2:30pm

Kent Intermediate School District, Educational Service Center
2930 Knapp Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Keynote: Janice Fialka is an author & advocate for creating a life that matters for ALL our children. She has helped assist parents & providers to gain insight as they work together. Her message is both inspiring and hopeful.

Some breakout topics include:

- Building Communication through Play
- Calming, Energizing & Body Awareness Strategies
- Understanding the MI-ABLE Act
- Creating Circles of Support
- Strategies for Decreasing Challenging Behaviors
- Legal Planning for a Child with Disabilities

Learn, share, and network with others ○ Explore community resources

$15 registration per person ~ Continental breakfast & lunch included
Scholarships available for parents
Free childcare (registration required)

Watch for more information at www.Kentisd.org Professional Learning-Workshops & Registration
For questions email: MandyLovell@kentisd.org

Click here for LEAP Conference Registration

Kent ISD
We Lead Learning

Family Tree Therapies

CTC Comprehensive Therapy Center

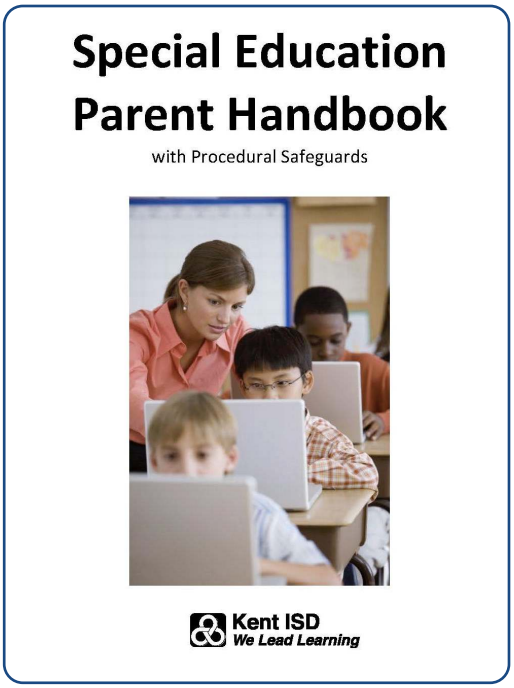
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BRAINS

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT HANDBOOK WITH PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

We invite you to become acquainted with the programs, people, and organizations available to help you and your child. This handbook was developed for parents of students with disabilities by the Kent Intermediate School District. It serves as one source of information regarding state and federal laws that have been written to protect the rights of special education students. In general, as a parent of a child with a disability, you will receive a copy of procedural safeguards prior to each IEP team meeting. Additional copies of the booklet are available upon request from the EGRPS Special Education Department or the Kent Intermediate School District.

Procedural Safeguards



IMPORTANT LINKS

EGRPS Special Education Home Page

EGRPS Community Budget Guide 2016-2017

Kent ISD - Special Education Home Page

Parent Advisors for Special Education - PASE

Michigan Department of Education - Special Education Home Page

US Department of Education - OSERS