



January 2015

Oregon AEI's letter from the Coordinator

Happy New Year!

We are beginning to plan our next advocacy events for this legislative session. Stay connected with us to learn more about specific locations and dates.

We are still in need of more families to share your own success stories. You can find a link to a short survey on our website.

Check out our website:
<http://www.oregonaei.org>

Or find us on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/OregonAssociationForEarlyIntervention>

President Obama Signs ABLÉ Act into Law

On Friday, December 19, 2014, President Obama signed the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act into law. The ABLÉ Act amends the Internal Revenue Service Code to create tax-free savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. The goal of the ABLÉ Act is to relieve some of the financial strains faced by individuals with disabilities by making tax-free savings accounts available to cover qualified expenses such as medical and dental care, education, community based supports, employment training, assistive technology education, housing, and/or transportation.

The ABLÉ Act allows individuals with disabilities to use the same type of flexible savings tool that all other Americans have access to such as college savings accounts, health savings accounts, and individual retirement accounts. It helps eliminate barriers to working and saving by preventing dollars saved through ABLÉ accounts from counting against an individual's eligibility for any federal benefits program.

Eligibility for the resources individuals experiencing disability depend on most, require them to have no more than \$2,000 in cash savings, retirement funds and other items of significant value.

For the first time in public policy, the ABLÉ Act recognizes the extra and significant costs of living with a disability by allowing eligible individuals and families to establish ABLÉ savings accounts that will not affect the individual's eligibility for SSI, Medicaid and other public benefits.

Original Article can be found at: NDSS.org

For more detailed information regarding eligibility, limitations, allowable expenses, and the status of the ABLÉ Act to date, please visit the advocacy page of the National Down Syndrome Society's website, here:
<http://www.ndss.org/Advocacy/Legislative-Agenda/Creating-an-Economic-Future-for-Individuals-with-Down-Syndrome/Achieving-a-Better-of-Life-Experience-ABLE-Act/>

One Family's Story
Read about Adam's success throughout EI/ECSE on page 2!



You can help Oregon's EI/ECSE Programs get Reimbursed!

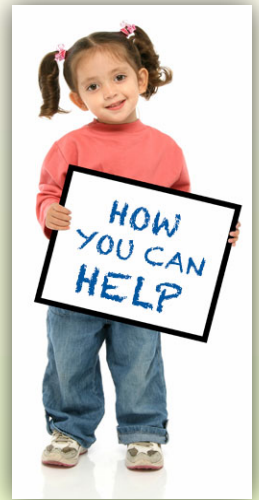
One way that Oregon's Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education programs can receive a reimbursement for services right now, is by having families consent to allow the Educational Service District serving their child, to bill Medicaid /OHP for some of the therapeutic services being provided. The families sign a form specifying their consent to bill insurance and provide corresponding insurance information. One of the concerns frequently addressed by families is the question of whether the school based therapeutic services being administered according to the Individualized Family Service Plan, will count against the child's yearly maximum allowable therapy sessions each year for occupational, physical and speech therapy combined.

According to a memorandum of understanding, sent out by the Oregon Health Authority in July of 2011, OHP clients may receive school based occupational, physical, or speech therapy services as specified within the Individualized Family Service Plan, and these services are NOT TO BE COUNTED toward the client's yearly maximum therapy allowances.

If your child is currently insured through the Oregon Health Plan, you can help get funding reimbursements for EI/ECSE today! Contact your child's Educational Service District to ask if you have already or still need to sign a consent form to bill Medicaid!

Read the full memorandum on the OHA website here:

[Oregon Health Authority Memorandum: IDEA Therapy Service Billing](#)



Adam is a very sweet 8 year old boy who lives with his mom and his twin sister Kaylee. He was born in 2006 and quickly had to have surgery to reposition his stomach. As he and his sister grew, his mother began to notice differences in the way the two children were developing. At almost a year and a half, Adam was not babbling, pointing or making eye contact with familiar adults, and he was very resistant to unfamiliar foods & situations. Thankfully, at 17 months, he began receiving early intervention services from UCLA where he would attend a part day intervention program three days each week. When he was about 32 months, Adam's family moved to Lane County. He was still struggling with speech and fine motor skills as well as with unfamiliar foods so Adam

began receiving Early Intervention Services from Early Childhood CARES. Initially, he was only seen intermittently at his child care center by an occupational therapist and a speech/language pathologist. However, once he turned 3 he was moved to a reverse mainstream classroom where he received a more consistent intervention schedule. Adam's mom reports that this classroom is where she really began to notice exciting changes. The teachers worked tirelessly with him to boost his confidence in making vocalizations and recognizing that he could control his world when he communicated his wants and needs. At 4, his team began to work with him on learning picture communication and this increased his ability to communicate effectively with his family and teachers. Adam's mom said that her most memorable moment was when he finally said his first sentence, "I love you mommy," at 6 years old.

Once Adam was ready to graduate out of early childhood special education, his mom said that his team did an excellent job of creating a transition plan that would work well for everyone, especially Adam. He still has an IEP in Elementary school and is still receiving speech therapy, but his mom says that she is excited that he is now comfortable speaking up for himself and will one day be able to be a great self-advocate.

Family Network Events and Trainings

<p>CODSN http://www.codsn.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Support Group -January 27th 6:00-7:30pm Bend, OR • Latino Support Group January 27th 6:00-7:30pm Bend, OR • Sibling Support Group January 27th 6:00-7:30pm Bend, OR 	<p>FACT http://factoregon.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet and Greet: January 21st 5-6:00pm Tillamook, OR • Understanding your Child's IEP: 6:30-8:30pm - January 22nd Burns, OR • Good Start-Transition to Kindergarten: 5:30-7pm - January 27th Bend, OR <p>For more information or to register: 1 (888) 988-3228 info@FACToregon.org</p> 
<p>ROCCOS http://roccosfamilynetwork.org/</p> <p>For more information about upcoming events contact Dana at: dana@roccosfamilynetwork.org</p> 	<p>Creating Opportunities http://www.creatingops.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Advocacy Training - January 20th McMinnville, OR 4:30pm - January 22nd Woodburn, OR 5:30pm 
<p>Families Connected http://www.arclane.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Night Out at Bounce Gymnastics: Tuesdays: Eugene, OR <p>Laura.dahill@arclane.org</p> 	<p>Families for Community http://familiesforcommunity.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TGIF Bowling, Fridays at 4pm Lava Lanes, Medford • For additional event information see: http://familiesforcommunity.org 

Events and Trainings Around Oregon

Swindells Resource Center:

- Mondays: Jan 12th-Feb 16th Developing our children's skills: Newburg, OR 6:30-8:30pm
- See website for more upcoming events: <http://oregon.providence.org/our-services/s/swindells-resource-center/events/>

Oregon Technical Assistance Commission

- January 26th: ISP-Individual/Family Forum: New ISP process for 2015 Portland, OR
- January 29th: ISP-Foster Providers: New ISP process for 2015 Hillsboro, OR

Autism Society of Oregon- ASO

- January 31st 9:00-5:00pm: Understanding Housing Options Portland, OR