



May 2016

Spring is here - Find some outside fun!



Check out some fun summer activities!!

- **DIY Sprinkler:** With a plastic bottle and a drill, create a DIY sprinkler. Your child will love running thru the water, perfect for cooling off.
- **Lemonade Stand:** Create a classic childhood memory – have a lemonade stand!
- **Spray Sidewalk Chalk:** Sidewalk fun with spray sidewalk chalk.

Find more here!

<http://www.babble.com/toddler/25-fun-toddler-activities-for-the-summer-bucket-list/>

The Every Student Succeeds Act: *The Highlights*

The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities encourages you to take part in a regional community forum in your area that state and local education leaders are holding across the state in the upcoming weeks.

Parents and caregivers are invited to learn more about Oregon's education initiatives and help build the Oregon State plan for the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act [ESSA] which replaces No Child Left Behind. ESSA allows Oregon to create a State Plan with increased flexibility in assessment, accountability, school improvement and educator effectiveness.

Details on upcoming Community Education Forums are

provided below.

***Dates and times are subject to change so please check the website listed at the bottom for the most up to date information.**

- **Monday, May 2, 2016 - 6:00 pm**
Four Rivers Cultural Center (River Rooms)
676 SW 5th Ave, Ontario, OR 97914

- **Eugene, (Lane County) Tuesday, May 10,**
2016 - 6:00 pm
South Eugene High School (Cafeteria)
400 East 19th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401

- **Portland, (Multnomah County) Thursday, May 12,**
2016 - 6:00 pm
Sunrise Center (formerly Black Cat Cantina restaurant)
18901 E Burnside St, Portland, OR 97233
- **Portland, (Multnomah County) Monday, May 16,**
2016 - 6:00 pm
Portland Community College, Cascade Campus (Student
Union Building - rooms 202, 203, and 204) 705 N.
Killingsworth St. Portland, OR 97217

- **Hood River, Thursday, May 26,**
2016 - 6:00 pm
Best Western Hood River Inn (Columbia Room)
1108 East Marina Way, Hood River, OR 97031

- **Astoria, (Clatsop County) Thursday, June 2,**
2016 - 6:00 pm
Barbey Maritime Center
1792 Marine Dr, Astoria OR 97103

- **Coos Bay, (Coos County/South Coast) Monday, June 6,**
2016 - 6:00 pm
Southwestern Oregon Community College (Lakeview Rooms
in Hales
Center/Empire Hall) 1988 Newmark Ave, Coos Bay, OR
97420

For more information, the Oregon Department of Education has additional information posted online at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/ESSA>.

Are you looking for WAYS TO GET INVOLVED ?



The SICC

needs YOU!

Opportunity

for parents and professionals

...to work together benefiting
Infants • Toddlers • Preschoolers
with

diverse-abilities!

For SICC meeting times and
locations please contact:

Mindy Cordsen

ODE/SICC Support

mindy.cordsen@state.or.us

(503) 947-5731

Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1229>

As a member of the SICC you will:

- Gain a better understanding of the EI/ECSE programs
- Advise on the improvement of services
- Increase your awareness of concerns affecting statewide EI/ECSE programs
- Represent parents of young children in EI/ECSE programs
- Become advocates for all children with special needs throughout Oregon

Benefits of SICC:

- Networking with parents and representatives from the community
- Increasing opportunities for creative problem solving
- Connect with Local Interagency Coordinating Council



Do you have a child who is transitioning to Kindergarten this year? FACT has a great resource page with information on how to prepare for your transition meeting, how to create a person centered profile of your child and also what to expect from Special Education in Kindergarten. Check out their webpage here!

<http://factoregon.org/family-support/early-years/transition-kindergarten-resources/>

Oregon Summer Food Program

Summer meal sites are community programs and all children are welcome, no application or proof of income is required!* Many of the sites offer fun, supervised enrichment activities for kids.

You can use the map link below to locate which sites in your community offer activities, and what times.



<http://www.summerfoodoregon.org/map>

Summer Meals is open to all kids 1-18. Adults are welcome to attend, although the meal service is just for kids.

UPDATE! Advocating for my Daughter!



In the last four months, our local educational service district has stepped up and provided the support, essential services, tools and equitable educational opportunities that our daughter deserves. We are now confident that she will enter Kindergarten prepared with the stamina and skills she needs to meet her goals. We have always been confident, that if given the opportunities she deserves, she would reach her fullest potential.

In part, because of the dramatic growth she showed after given access to typically developing peers, our daughter has been placed in the general education Kindergarten class in her home community starting in the 2016-2017 school year. As I stated in my previous letter, "This has been our goal since she was born.

She deserves, as much as any other student, to be educated in her community with local peers. These peers will be the same ones standing at her side representing her and helping her with the engagement of her rights in the future. They will also be the ones working alongside her when she enters the workforce and participates in the many community efforts and events that are in her future. We want her peers to connect with her on a personal level and to know her and her loving capabilities that she brings to their community." We are so thrilled that she will have the opportunity to do all of those things.

My husband and I know that our daughter has been blessed with many opportunities and services that an overwhelming percentage (97.4%) of Oregon students in the "high-need" category never receive. Although we are ever grateful for the quick response to our daughter's needs, the State of Oregon still needs to improve services to special education students. The deficiency in service levels for young children with disabilities in this state is appalling, with only 2.6% of students in the ECSE "high need" category receiving adequate services in 2015. Children with the highest level of need receive the least amount of support, yet are held to the highest standard. It is time for this failure to provide a free and appropriate public education to our state's youngest and most vulnerable citizens to come to an end.

If this letter does nothing else, I hope I have made clear that the increased service level provided by our local ESD has

CHANGED OUR DAUGHTER'S LIFE in only four short months. What could have been if she had been receiving adequate services all along? How much more would she know and be able to do? When I sit in an IFSP (Individual Family Service Plan) meeting with a team of educators and therapists praising her recent accomplishments, I can't help but think of the thousands of other students in the state that may never get the opportunities and support she was given due to lack of funding.

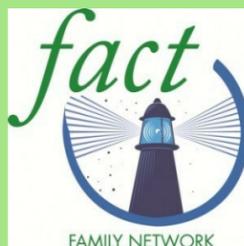
Oregon Consortium of Family Networks

The Oregon Consortium of Family Networks is a formal partnership between family led community focused organizations around Oregon. Each organization is unique and is responsive to its own community and the strengths of the families who live there. Family Networks share the belief that peer support celebrates families as the tremendous resource they are. Sometimes the support we need is simply connection with someone else who shares common experience. Sometimes what we need most is another mom or dad, another sibling or grandparent, another neighbor or friend. That is the role of Family Networks - help connect families with each other, and help those families connect with their community.

Click the icon of the Family network working in your county to learn more about upcoming events close to you!



<http://www.codsn.org>
Deschutes, Crook, and
Jefferson Counties



<http://www.factoregon.org>
Clackamas, Multnomah,
Washington, Hood River,
Wasco, Columbia, Clatsop,
Tillamook, and Lincoln
County



<http://www.roccosfamilynetwork.org>
Union, Baker, Grant,
Wheeler, Malheur and
Harney County



<http://www.featt.org>
Douglas County, OR



<http://www.familiesforcommunity.org>
Josephine and Jackson
Counties



<http://www.creatingops.org>
Polk, Yamhill, and
Marion Counties



<http://www.arclane.org/families-connected.html>
Lane County



<http://www.oregonaei.org>

