



SPINNING WHEEL

March 2009



National News:

- **New NCLB Guidance** The U.S. Department of Education recently released non-regulatory guidance to assist states and districts in implementing school choice and supplemental education services (SES) provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). School Choice Guidance: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/schoolchoiceguid.doc>, SES Guidance: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/suppsvcsguid.doc>
- **OSEP-Funded Personnel Center** (<http://www.personnelcenter.org/>) The Personnel Center assists states to recruit, prepare, and retain diverse highly qualified special education, early intervention, and related personnel. Find out about their latest activities by visiting their web site.

Upcoming Events

- **March 9, 2009 "Basic Law/IEP"** @ 6-7:30 pm in Bedford, KY: Contact Joy Varner @ 502-802-3565 or Allison Butters @ 502-802-4177 or JVarney@sevencounties.org. Presenter from KY-SPIN, Inc.
- **March 10, 2009 "Bullying"** @ 6:30-8 pm in Louisville, KY: Contact Linda Thompson @ 502-775-6700 x 12 or 502-930-6254 or ThompsonLinda@bellsouth.net. Presenter from KY-SPIN, Inc.
- **March 14, 2009 "Basic Law/IEP" & a session on "Autism"** @ 2:30-4 pm in Louisville, KY: Contact Linda Thompson @ 502-775-6700 x 12 or 502-9306254 or ThompsonLinda@bellsouth.net. Presenter from KY-SPIN, Inc.
- **March 16, 2009 "Self Esteem"** @ 10 a.m. in Louisville, KY Contact Mary Simmons @ Mary.Simmons@kentuckianaworks.org. Presenter from KY-SPIN, Inc.
- **March 24, 2009 "From Darkness to Light"** This program will provide parents/guardians of children or adults with intellectual disabilities information on how to protect them from sexual abuse. Presented by Partnership to Prevent Child Abuse (PPCA), Sponsored by KY-SPIN at Kosair Charities Community Room in Louisville from 6:30—8:30 p.m., Refreshments Provided. For More Information: Email jthompson@famchild.org (authorized facilitator in the Greater Metro Louisville Area) or call (502) 584-8505 ext. 218. You may also contact your SPIN Consultant Debbie Wright at 485-9027 or via email at squidwright@bellsouth.net
- **March 26, 2009** The next Kentucky State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC) public forum at 6:30pm. For information contact Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) at Phone: (502) 564-4970
KY-SPIN Consultants are present at the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN) Clinics throughout the state at various times each month. For information on clinic visits & SPIN workshops contact us toll-free at 1-800-525-7746 or by e-mail at spininc@kyspin.com. All events are subject to change.

Did you Know

- **Prescription Help:** The **Partnership for Prescription Assistance** brings together America's pharmaceutical companies, doctors, other health care providers, patient advocacy organizations and community groups to help qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need through the public or private program that's right for them. Many will get them free or nearly free. Its mission is to increase awareness of patient assistance programs and boost enrollment of those who are eligible. Through this site, the Partnership for Prescription Assistance offers a single point of access to more than 475 public and private patient assistance programs, including more than 180 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies. To access the Partnership for Prescription Assistance by phone, you can call toll-free, 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669). <https://www.pparx.org/Intro.php>
- **Telephone Help: What Programs Are Available to Assist Low-Income Consumers?** There are two programs available to assist low-income consumers with their telecommunications needs: the Lifeline program and the Link-Up program. **What is the Lifeline Program?** The Lifeline program was designed to preserve and promote telephone services to qualified low-income households. The program provides a monthly credit for local service. **What is the Link-Up Program?** The Link-Up program offers eligible individuals a reduction in the local telephone company's charges from starting telephone service. The program pays for half of the installation charge up to \$30. **How Do I Enroll?** Contact your local telephone company for enrollment details. You must be able to provide proof of participation in a qualifying program. For brochure: <http://psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/consumer/lifeline.pdf> website: <http://www.lifelinesupport.org/>

SPIN (Special Parent Involvement Network) is a statewide project of KY-SPIN, Inc. that "HELPS YOU HELP YOUR CHILD." SPIN PTI (Parent Training & Information Project) is funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education. **SPIN** provides training, information and support to people with disabilities, their parents and families, and information on all types of disabilities and topics for all age groups. There are no fees for **SPIN** services. Consultation, resource materials, and referral services are also available.

You can call us toll-free at 800-525-7746 or at 502-937-6894, our e-mail address is spininc@kyspin.com and our website is www.kyspin.com ; our main office is located at 10301-B Deering Road / Louisville, KY 40272.





Early Childhood: "Developing your child's 'super-ready' literacy skills"
From The PTA Parent

The National Institute for Literacy's Early Literacy Panel just released its "Developing Early Literacy (<http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/NELP/NELPreport.html>)" report. The report identified essential early skills and abilities important to later literacy development. It also found that parent involvement had a significant impact on measures of oral language skills and cognitive abilities. The findings and recommendations inspired Liza McFadden, president of the Volunteer USA Foundation, to compile this "To Do" list of actions to help children become "super-ready" for school.

- **Alphabet knowledge** "Alphabet Knowledge" is the knowledge of the names and sounds associated with printed letters. I think of this finding as if my kids were wearing superhero costumes while becoming "masters of the alphabet." Their job: to learn the name of every letter and the sound each letter makes. My job: to switch on the TV closed-caption option so words are part of my child's every TV experience; to point to the beginning letter of words and make the sounds of the letter.
- **Phonological awareness** This finding says super-ready kids have "phonological awareness" which means they have the ability to distinguish words and syllables, independent of their meaning. It's critical that children truly hear the sounds in words and play with these sounds. It means reading fun poetry like Dr. Seuss books and singing songs like "Clap, Clap, Clap your Hands" where children clap to syllables.
- **Rapid/Random order learning** By age 5, super-ready kids must be able to instantly identify letters, numbers, colors and objects in "rapid" and "random order." So it's not just knowing the numbers one to 10 in order it's important to recognize them quickly in any order.
- **Writing skills** Super-ready kids need to be able to wield powerful pencils. While most of us spend lots of time reading bedtime stories, I'm not sure we've been as conscientious about writing skills. Specifically, at age 5, children should be able to write their own names and write any letters that are called out. One idea is to have your children write their name in all their books.
- **Phonological memory** This finding is a doozy; researchers call it developing a child's "phonological memory." Simply stated, super-ready kids have great recall and we know how they love to "retell" their favorite stories.

Previous reading research suggested parents read to their kids 20 minutes a day. If you've been doing this, you're ahead of the curve. But the takeaway here is that simply reading doesn't get us all the way there. With just a little more effort, parents can become Super-Parents to Super-Kids. For more tips, go to Volunteer USA's **Love.Read.Learn** (http://www.lovereadlearn.org/tips_to_help_your_child/3_to_4_years.htm) program.

Liza McFadden president and founder of Volunteer USA Foundation. To learn more, go to volunteerusafoundation.org.

Spotlight on Kentucky: Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children, Inc. (KPFC)

The Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children (KPFC) has a 30-member board that consists of agency-affiliated professionals and caregivers of children with emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health challenges. Parent support group delegates act in an advisory capacity to KPFC's board of directors. These delegates are invited to attend "train the trainer" conferences twice a year at little, or no, cost to their support group. A 15-member Youth Council acts in an advisory capacity to KPFC's board. The Youth Council is comprised of youth and young adults between the ages of 14 and 24 with emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health challenges. Call their Parent Resource phone line to get information about specific disabilities, support groups, and/or parent contacts in your area. (502) 875-1320 or 800-369-0533 e-mail: kpfc@kypartnership.org website: www.kypartnership.org

Transition: What Are Transition Services

Transition services refer to a specific set of activities meant to prepare youth with disabilities for adult life. These can include the following:

1. Developing post high school education and career goals
2. Getting work experience while still in school
3. Learning/acquiring daily living skills
4. Connecting with adult service providers in your area
5. Receiving vocational evaluations
6. Finding and transferring to an adult health care provider



Youth should be fully involved in creating a transition plan, so the plan will truly reflect the youth's future life goals. It is importance to start planning early especially by age 14, so that plans are put into place before graduation from high school.

Prepared by Judy Blackwell, MSW at the Commission For Children With Special Health Care Needs in Lexington, Ky.

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