



Parent to Parent of Whatcom County

Issue No. 1-06
January 2006
Newsletter

Supporting Families with Children Who Have Special Needs
2001 H Street Bellingham, WA 98225 (360) 255-2056
www.arcwhatcom.org/p2p email p2pwhatcom@nas.com

Parent to Parent Holiday Party 2005

On December 9th, Parent to Parent held our annual Holiday Party at the Bloedel Donovan Gym. There were about 100 people who came. Parent to Parent would like to thank the many families who attended and brought so much food to share and the desserts were all so yummy.

The kids enjoyed making ornaments, getting tattooed, writing letters to Santa and coloring at the craft tables, and the Super Sitters had a great time helping those who needed it.

Santa Claus was our special guest this year, straight from the North Pole, to deliver a special treat for all the children. Polaroid pictures were taken with Santa Claus and placed in hand-made frames that were made at our craft tables.

This year's Holiday Social was a huge success due to many of our local businesses and "Santa's Helpers" that I would like to give a **BIG**

THANK YOU:

Missy, Ben and Alex Bartel

Christine, Sawyer and Tess Griffin

Dave and Lynn Elarde

The Korver Family

Dana Little

Kathy Quinn

Rita Roeckl with Whatcom Volunteer Center

The Arc of Whatcom County

Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department

Brown and Cole Grocery Stores in Bellingham

Costco Wholesale Club

Fred Meyer Store on Lakeway Drive

Starbucks Coffee in Barkley Haggen

McDonalds

Wal-Mart Stores



WCF Story time

Whatcom County Families for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children would like to thank Parent to Parent for inviting us to join their Holiday party. It was wonderful seeing so many familiar and happy faces. A big Thank You to HSDC's James Christianson for his expressive and entertaining storytelling and to Katie Humes for her willingness to help and voice interpreting. *Submitted by Christine Griffin



Mission Statement: *The Parent to Parent Support Programs provide emotional support and information to families of a newborn or a newly diagnosed child with a disability or special health care need. "Helping Parents" are parents who provide one-on-one support to other parents who have a child with similar needs.*

Parent to Parent Calendar



Bowling Sibshop

Ages 8 - 13 years old
Saturday, February 4th,

12:00 - 3:00 pm

20th Century Bowl

1411 N State Street Bellingham



An afternoon of bowling, laughter, and support just for brothers and sister of children with special needs.

Parent to Parent Support Meeting

Monday, February 27th

7:00 - 8:30pm

Whatcom Center for Early Learning
2001 H Street, Bellingham

Guest Speaker - A representative of FEPP/ Family Educator Partnership Project

Come join us for food, fun, and support. Childcare and sweets provided. Please RSVP 24 hours in advance for FREE childcare. For more information, contact Parent to Parent at (360) 255-2056.

Parent to Parent Support Meeting

Monday, March 20th

7:00 - 8:30pm

Whatcom Center for Early Learning
2001 H Street, Bellingham

Guest Speaker - Whatcom County Families for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Come join us for food, fun, and support. Childcare and sweets provided. Please RSVP 24 hours in advance for FREE childcare. For more information, contact Parent to Parent at (360) 255-2056.

Hearing Loss Awareness Panel

Saturday, March 25, 2006

3:00pm - 5:00pm

Garden Street Family Center

1231 N Garden St Room #200

Bellingham, WA

Whatcom County Families for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children are joining with local and state wide agencies to spread awareness of Hearing Loss in today's youth. What are the issues our children face at home, in schools and around our community? Come be a part and listen to the stories & experiences of some of these children. Interpreters provided. Refreshments Served. For Free Childcare, RSVP required by Friday, March 17 as space is limited.

Upcoming Events

Whatcom Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Meeting

Tuesday, March 7th, 2006

12:00 - 1:30pm

Garden Street Family Center

The Whatcom ICC is a group of *providers and parents* who meet to discuss the needs of children birth to six years old. They are looking for interested *parents* to come to the meeting to provide input. Come join us to hear other parents stories and experiences. Goodies will be provided. For more information contact Maureen Godwin at 738-2504 ext. 32093 or Pam Dakar at 255-2056.

WANTED:

Participants in a research project on communication in Autism

Dr. Eva Baharav is conducting research investigating the use of video combined with audio enhancement to improve language abilities in children with autism who are minimally verbal. She is looking for children between the ages of 2 to 5 (preschool age) who are not using much language to communicate. The research period will last three months. If you are interested in having your child participate or would like more information, please contact:

Dr. Eva Baharav at Western Washington University Speech and Language Clinic at (360) 650 3157.

Save this Date:

26th annual

Infant and Early Childhood Conference

May 3 - 5, 2006

Meydenbauer Center

Bellevue, WA

The purpose of the Infant and Early Childhood Conference (IECC) is to provide opportunities for families and service providers to come together to learn, share and advocate on behalf of all young children, especially those with developmental delays, disabilities and/or other special health care needs.

<http://www.ieccwa.org>

A Big "Thank you"

to the helping parent who has volunteered to answer the Parent to Parent Phone Line!!

November - Dorene Moors



2006

Parent to Parent Calendar

January

Monday, January 23rd, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting

February

Saturday, February 4th, 12:00-3:00pm
Bowling Sibshop ages 8 - 13 years old

Monday, February 27th, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting
**Guest Speaker - FEPP {Family/ Educator
Partnership project}**

March

Monday, March 20th, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting
**Guest Speaker - Whatcom County Families
for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children**

April

Monday, April 17th, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting

Friday, April 21st, 6:30-7:30pm
Family Swim Social



May

Monday, May 15th, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting
**Guest Speaker - Bellingham Parks and
Recreations Department**

Saturday, May 13th TBA
Spring Sibshop ages 8 - 13yrs

June

Friday, June 9th, 6:30-7:30 pm
Family Swim Social

Monday, June 19th, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting
Guest Speaker - FACES

**All events are subject to change, please call
Parent to Parent at 255- 2056 to confirm dates.*

July

Thursday - Saturday, July 6th - 8th,
Super Sitter Training



Saturday, July 8th, 12:00- 2:00pm
Parent to Parent Family Picnic

Monday, July 17th, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting

August

Friday, August 4th, 6:00-7:30pm
Family Swim Social

Monday, August 21st, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting
**Guest Speaker - A Parent Advocate
on School Issues**

Saturday, August 26th, 10:00-2:00pm
All day Sibshop ages 8-13yrs

September

Monday, September 18th, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting

October

Monday, October 16th, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting

Friday, October 20th, 7:00-8:45pm
Swimming & Pizza Sibshop ages 8-13 years

November

Saturday, November 4th, 9:00am-2:00pm
Helping Parent Training

Monday, November 20th, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting
Guest Speaker - Educational Toys

December

Saturday, December 9th, 1:00-3:00pm
Family Holiday Party



Monday, December 18th, 7:00-8:30pm
Parent to Parent Support Meeting
It's Holiday Craft time



A Life in a Special Need's Parent World

You know you have a child with special needs when...

- You compare ER's instead of grocery stores
- You compare your child's oxygen saturations.
- You view toys as "Therapy."
- You don't take a new day for granted.
- You teach your child HOW to pull things out of the cupboard, off the bookcases, and that feeding the dog from the table is fun.
- The clothes your infant wore last fall still fit this fall.
- Everything is an educational opportunity, instead of having just plain old fun.
- You cheer instead of scold when they blow bubbles in their juice while sitting at the dinner table (that's Speech Therapy), smear ketchup all over their high chair (that's Occupational Therapy), or throw their toys (that's Physical Therapy).
- You also don't mind if your child goes through the house tooting a tin whistle.
- You've fired at least 3 pediatricians, and can teach your family doctor a thing or two.
- You can name at least 3 genes on chromosome 21.
- You have been told you are "In Denial" by at least 3 medical or therapy professionals. This makes you laugh!
- You have that incredible sinking feeling that you've forgotten SOMETHING on those few days that you don't have some sort of appointment somewhere!
- Your vocabulary consists of all the letters OT, PT, SSP, ASD, VSD, IFSP, IEP, etc.
- You keep your appointment at the specialist even though a tropical storm is raging because you just want to get this over with...you waited 8 months to get it...and besides, no one else will be there!
- Fighting and wrestling with siblings is PT.
- When potty training is complete, you take out a full-page public notice in the Washington Post.
- When the Doctors/Specialists/Hospitals, etc. all know you by your name without referring to your chart.
- You keep a daily growth chart.
- You phone all your friends when your child sits up for the first time, at age three.
- With a big smile on your face you tell a stranger that your four-year-old just started walking last week.
- Her medical file is two inches and growing.

You have a new belief...that angels live with us on earth!





The ARC
of Whatcom County
1111 Cornwall Avenue, #205
Bellingham, WA 98225

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BELLINGHAM, WA
PERMIT NO. 124

Parent to Parent Support Meetings

When: February 27th, Monday

Time: 7:00 - 8:30pm

When: March 20th, Monday

Time: 7:00 - 8:30pm

Where: Whatcom Center for Early Learning
2001 H Street, Bellingham

Come join us for food, fun & support. Childcare will be provided by a Trained Super Sitters, **please** RSVP 24 hours in advance for FREE childcare.