



Kids Korner Connection

Dear Parents:

Welcome to our first edition of Kids Korner Konnection! As the Director of our Children's Division, I am privileged to support our nine wonderful programs, which include Preschool, ABLE, Rehabilitation Therapy, Behavior Analysis Services, Respite Care, Parents as Teachers (PAT), Youth Links Transition Services, Kamp Krayola, and Outpatient Mental Health Services. I hold a Masters Degree in Program Service Administration and have been working with children and adults with Developmental Disabilities since 1986. I am proud to have spent the past seventeen years of my career at ARC Broward. Although I have the honor of having met and worked with many of you over the years, I look forward to the opportunity to meet those of you who I have not yet met. Please feel free to stop by or call or email me (spreston@arcbroward.com) to say "hi" or to discuss specific issues you would like to.

Often I hear such wonderful praise and parent appreciation about our staff! We are so fortunate to have such a phenomenal team of professionals who truly give their all to the children. All of us are thrilled to partner with you in your child's growth and development. Our goal is simply to provide you and your children with support and services to accomplish your goals and enrich your lives! Please help us by sharing your needs and goals openly and frequently.

We all believe that no matter how well we do our jobs, we always have room to learn, grow and improve. Please help us to do that by sharing your input, feedback and recommendations with us throughout the year. We value that input and use it to improve our services and supports. Communication is vital to our success. Please contact us by phone, in person or by email! (All of our email addresses are our first initial then last name followed by @arcbroward.com). Also visit our website at www.arcbroward.com !

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children! Together, I know that we are going to have a fabulous year!

Warm Regards,

Shawn Preston

ARC Broward Children's Division

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Articles

- ☺ New and Enhanced Assistive Technology for Our Children... pg 2
- ☺ Play & Learn Curriculum pg 2
- ☺ Kamp Krayola pg 3
- ☺ Parent Corner pg 3
- ☺ Counseling Services pg 3
- ☺ Parents As Teachers pg 4

Upcoming Special Events

- ☺ **August 26, 2006**
Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Family Resource Fair and Fun Day
- ☺ **September 18, 2006**
ARC Broward - VISTA Community Drivers Golf Tournament pg 4



Caption describing picture or graphic.

New and Enhanced Assistive Technology for Our Children...

By Shawn Preston, Director of Children's Services

Children's Division is thrilled to announce the commencement of our *Assistive Technology Project*, which was made possible by the tireless and unyielding hard work and dedication by our team. We are proud to have received awards for financial support of this project through Health Foundation of South Florida, Jim Moran Foundation, Sun Sentinel Diversity Fund, and Wachovia Foundation.

These awards will make the Assistive Technology Program a reality. We can now provide children in our preschool and outpatient rehabilitation programs with phenomenal new tools that will open doors for them to access information, knowledge and skills that they previously could not. Advances in technology will help our children achieve so many things that several years ago we could not have dreamed possible.

Kim Fox will be spearheading this project and providing training and support to ARC Broward's team of licensed Speech, Physical and Occupational Therapists, certified teachers and teachers' assistants to utilize Assistive Technology supports to help children access their education, making it easier for them to move, communicate and interact in their world. The goal of the Assistive Technology Program is to assist children with disabilities to accomplish tasks that would have been difficult or impossible to complete.

ARC Broward will receive consultation from The Debbie School at the University of Miami, which was also supported by funding from the Health Foundation of South Florida to implement a similar AT program.

As we begin to expand and enhance our provision of such fabulous accommodations and technology to our children, it is critical that we keep in mind what really matters!!! We must give this gift to our children in a manner that preserves and promotes their dignity, humanity and feelings. We must always listen to the thoughts and feelings of the children and their families. We must always remember that the key and most important decision makers about the children's needs, goals, services and strategies, are ALWAYS the children's parents and the children themselves! Following is an excerpt from Prentke Romich Company, a company specializing in Augmentative Communication, that helps us empathize with and understand ... "some of the feelings and thoughts of such children who use augmentative aids and techniques.

Children from across the United States were asked, 'If you could wish one thing people around you would do for you, what would it be?' Here are some of their responses:

- I wish my friends would joke with me
- I wish my teacher would learn how to work my communication aid
- I wish adults would stop shouting at me like I can't hear
- I wish my therapist wouldn't have a heart attack when my machine doesn't work
- I wish my friends would have more patience with me
- I wish my teacher would call on me for "Share Day"
- I wish everyone would just give me enough time to say what I am thinking
- I wish people wouldn't hit my machine when it doesn't work, that is my mouth they are hitting!
- I wish I could walk and talk like my sister and brother

My greatest wish, as someone who is privileged to be in a position that provides services and supports to children and their families, is that we can in some small or large way help make the wishes of all of our kids and parents come true!

Play and Learn Curriculum

The Play and Learn Curriculum, is a research-based model of teaching, which emphasizes meaningful and relevant activities using a holistic model in which the child, environment, and functional tasks are integrated, not isolated. It empowers family and staff members to be integral members of the team by providing specifics on ways to become facilitators and coaches for more meaningful peer interactions. It provides for modifications that allow children that are nonverbal, have severe cognitive and physical impairments, or have autism spectrum disorders to participate in activities with their lesser involved peers. The implementation of this curriculum in conjunction with the Assistive technology project will dramatically increase the children's ability to learn and playfully interact with others. They will open doors and provide new opportunities for our children of all abilities to play side-by-side.

Kamp Krayola...

by Gretchen Clark, Coordinator of Education

What a great summer! It is hard to believe it is over! There were so many exciting and wonderful events and we will all cherish the incredible memories! I wish to share one very special and moving one with all of you. The following letter is from an out of state man who was here on vacation at a waterpark with his grandchild. He was so touched by his observations of our Kamp Krayola staff with campers. Upon his return to Michigan, he called and stated that he was moved to tears while watching our camp staff work with our campers. He also stated that he was taken aback by our camp staffs' patience and caring interactions.

July 1, 2006

Dear Ms. Clark:

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of making a financial donation to ARC for the purpose of providing "Ice Cream treats", etc. For a "Very special student" that I had the pleasure of meeting during my recent Florida visit.

We would like \$100.00 put into a fund for Preston G. to be used for purchasing refreshment treats when the school goes on activity trips. We would like the additional \$100.00 used for other children who would not be able to purchase a refreshment treat because of financial hardship.

From my observation you have a very caring, compassionate, loving staff who are very kind to the very special children that I observed at the swimming activity. It was an experience that I shall never forget.

We will look forward to receiving the school's newsletters and also visiting the school in May 2007 while we are in Coral Springs for our Granddaughter's graduation.

Sincerely , Richard & Barbara Nye

Kamp Krayola is made possible by the generous financial support of The Children's Services Council of Broward County.



Counseling Services

Did you know that ARC Broward provides counseling to individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members at low or no cost? Funding is available for individuals who do not have other sources of payment, such as Medicaid or private insurance through generous funding from **The Blue Foundation**. Appointments are available Monday -Friday from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm at the ARC Broward campus. Call (954) 577-4111 or (954) 577-4113 for more information or to request an appointment.

Parent Corner

At ARC Broward we are always facing the question of how to stretch our resources so that our folks can have the very best! We need all of the assistance that we can get to be able to accomplish more and more and continue to do it better and better!!! If you can help in any way, it will make a tremendous difference! Following are some of the many volunteer opportunities and who to contact for each (all can be reached at (954) 746-9400 or via email). Thank you all for joining us and giving the gift of yourself!

- Join the Preschool or ABLÉ Parent Leadership Committee (PLC). This group of parents provide advisory input, conduct fundraisers and plan special events. To join, please contact Gretchen Clark, Coordinator of Education Services
- Become a classroom mom or dad in preschool or ABLÉ program. Use your wonderful talents and ideas to plan fabulous activities and visit on a regular or periodic basis to lead the activities. Organize other classroom parents to plan classroom events/parties/etc. Provide support to your child's teacher. Contact Marisa Chazaretta, Education Supervisor if interested.
- Help us complete tasks from home such as washing dress up clothing, cutting out shapes for art projects, typing, etc. (there is always something to do that is needed!) Contact your program Coordinator or Team Leader.
- Write articles for the parent corner celebrating your child's successes!
- Compile the newsletter articles and organize them into the finished product. Contact Tonya Ricker.
- Volunteer to help us beautify our campus (landscaping, painting, etc.) Contact Debbie Harte
- Conduct a parent meeting for PAT or Youth Links. Contact Tonya Ricker.
- Become a host family and welcome new families into ARC's program. Contact your program coordinator.
- Parents and their friends can volunteer to join the "ARC Angels" a voluntary auxiliary group dedicated to fundraising activities for ARC Broward. Contact Matt Leachman.

ARC Therapy Program Needs Your Donations

1. Frozen juice lids-cleaned
2. Thread spools
3. Capri-sun boxes
4. Fabric remnants
5. Pringle potato chip containers/ lids-cleaned
6. Clean Styrofoam trays (fruit & veggie, no meat)
7. New sponges
8. String/rubber bands/ribbons
9. Styrofoam packing pieces
10. Small squirt bottles

2006 Vista Community Driver's Golf Tournament

Benefiting ARC Broward Programs

September 18, 2006 at Coral Ridge Country Club

Many thanks to all the staff, friends, and family members who are assisting in promoting this year's Golf Tournament! People are getting auction items, goody-bag items, sending out letters, folding brochures... you name it, it's happening!

Have you seen the shirts? And The banners?

This is a wonderful avenue to get the GREAT word out about who we serve, what we do, and to raise funds for OUR organization!

We need your help in getting the community involved!

If you would like to help, please contact me!

It's easy.... On-line

registration and sponsorships at:

www.arcbroward.com

Matt Leachman, Director of
Marketing and Development
954-746-9400



Parents as Teachers (PAT) Program by Tonya Ricker, Coordinator of Family Support

ARC Broward's Parents as Teachers program is a behavioral parent-training program, which includes family education and support that begins at birth and extends through kindergarten entry. The program is based on the belief that parents are their children's first and most influential teachers and that the early years lay the foundation for children's success in school and in life. The PAT program offers child development activities that encourage language development, intellectual growth, social development and motor skills, and suggests ways to strengthen the parent's relationship with the child. Through the program, parents also become familiar with their community's resources. Specific services include In-home Parent Counseling Services, Group Meetings, Developmental Screenings and Case Management. Additionally, ARC's Parents as Teachers Program offers two ancillary services, Specialized Mental Health Counseling and In-Home Behavior Analysis, for those families in need of such interventions. For more information or to enroll in the program please contact Tonya Ricker at 954-577-4106

PAT is made possible by the generous funding from The Children's Services Council, the United Way, and the Sun-Sentinel Children's Fund.

Children's Services

- Preschool
- After-School Program
- In-Home Services
- Respite Care
- Transition Support
- Behavioral Analysis
- Behavioral Assessment
- Summer 'Kamp Krayola'
- 'PAT' Parent Training
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech/Language Therapy
- Mental Health Counseling

Adult Habilitation

- Supported Living
- Community Living
- Community Day program
- Center-Based Day Program
- Seniors Day Program
- Individualized Supports
- Transportation Services

Workforce Development

- Community Employment
- Self-Employment
- Skills Development
- Culinary Arts
- Calypso Grill
- Electronics Recycling
- Landscaping Services
- Vehicle Washing

Advocacy & Social Services

- Nursing Services
- Information and Referral
- Human Services Training Solutions



ARC Broward
Achievement and Rehabilitation Centers, Inc.

Enriching the Lives of People With disabilities since 1957

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*At ARC Broward, we take PRIDE in all that we do...
"We have a Passion for what we do, Respect for all of our stakeholders, Integrity for how we do our jobs, a Drive for excellence and an Entrepreneurial spirit."*

