



family @ linkages

NEWSLETTER

A way to connect families of children and youth with special needs in Michigan with information, education and support

June 17th is Father's Day: a day of celebration honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society.

** Happy Father's Day **

from the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition



*Nurturing Men * Thriving Children
~A Practitioner's Network~*

The Michigan Fatherhood Coalition (MFC) is a Michigan nonprofit organization composed of committed volunteer practitioners/professionals who work in private and public agencies with fathers. The MFC formed because a group of interested practitioners recognized the need for an organization within Michigan solely committed to responsible fatherhood for the well-being of Michigan's children.

Child well-being requires the presence of nurturing and caring parents who understand the value of good parenting and how this impacts healthy child development. MFC believes that both parents are important to healthy child development. We work with agencies and organizations to create more father-friendly environments and engagement strategies that better support fathers.

For more information about the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition please visit www.michiganfatherhood.org

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day — June 19, 2012

Sickle cell anemia is an inherited disease. If a person is born with it, steps should be taken to reduce its complications. People who are at high risk of having a child with sickle cell anemia and are planning to have children may want to consider genetic counseling. A counselor can explain the risk (likelihood) of having a child who has the disease. He or she also can help explain the choices that are available.

You can find information about genetic counseling from health departments, neighborhood health centers, medical centers, and clinics that care for people who have sickle cell anemia, by visiting <http://www.sicklecelldisease.org/> or by calling the Family Phone Line at (800) 359-3722.





Each June, the National Safety Council encourages organizations to get involved and participate in National Safety Month. NSM is an annual observance to educate and influence safety behaviors.

Safe Kids Michigan is one of more than 450 coalitions affiliated with **Safe Kids Worldwide**, an organization dedicated solely to preventing accidental childhood injury for children 14 years of age and younger. Nationally, Safe Kids partnerships have contributed to a 45 percent reduction in the child death rate from accidental injury – saving an estimated 38,000 lives. There are 15 Safe Kids coalitions covering 29 counties in Michigan. The lead agency for Safe Kids Michigan is the Michigan Department of Community Health.

The state coalition is responsible for providing support to the local coalitions; assisting in the implementation of community-based injury prevention programs; and statewide dissemination of injury prevention information to children, parents and care givers.

Local coalitions conduct events and programs in cooperation with a variety of community partners

including firefighters, educators, law enforcement personnel, public health workers, medical and emergency care providers, and neighborhood associations. Car seats, smoke alarms, winter sport helmets, and bike helmets are just some of the safety devices that have been distributed to at risk families during safety events and programs across the state. Technical assistance on injury prevention issues is provided to Safe Kids members, public health staff and the general public.

The Safe Kids network is maintained and strengthened through quarterly meetings and an annual conference for coalition coordinators. Support for many of these activities is provided by grants from Safe Kids Worldwide, businesses, state and federal government, and charitable foundations. **For more information about Safe Kids contact Linda Scarpetta 517-335-8397 or your local Safe Kids Coalition listed below.**

Safe Kids Michigan Coalitions 2012

Safe Kids Branch-Hillsdale-St. Jo County	Ph: (517) 437-7395 x137	Branch, Hillsdale, & St. Joseph Counties
Safe Kids Capital Area	Ph: (517)364-2616	Clinton, Eaton, & Ingham Counties
Safe Kids Greater Flint	Ph: (810) 262-7064	Genesee County
Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids	Ph: (616) 391-1591	Kent County
Safe Kids Greater Thumb Area & Saginaw	Ph: (989) 882-5276	Lapeer, Saginaw, Tuscola, & Sanilac Counties
Safe Kids Kalamazoo County	Ph: (269) 341-8830	Kalamazoo County
Safe Kids Lakeshore	Ph: (616) 396-7566	Ottawa County
Safe Kids Lenawee County	Ph: (517) 263-8905	Lenawee County
Safe Kids Macomb County	Ph: (586) 293-5880	Macomb County
Safe Kids Metro Detroit	Ph: (313) 745-0072	Detroit/Wayne County
Safe Kids Michigan	Ph: (517) 335-9518	State of Michigan
Safe Kids Monroe	Ph: (734) 240-8503	Monroe County
Safe Kids North Shore	Ph: (231) 922-4843	Benzie, Grand Traverse, & Leelanau Counties
Safe Kids Huron Valley	Ph: (734) 764-7281	Livingston & Washtenaw Counties
Safe Kids West Michigan	Ph: (231) 672-4910	Muskegon, Mason, Lake, & Oceana Counties
Wexford-Missaukee Child Protection Council	Ph: (231) 878-6544 cpc@gmail.com	Wexford & Missaukee Counties





Developmental Snapshot

When you show a picture of your baby to others you know what they are seeing is exactly what you see, such as the color of your baby's eyes or the shape of their nose.

But what happens when your doctor asks you about the things your baby is doing? Telling the doctor what your baby is able to do, or not do, can be hard. Wouldn't it be helpful if you had something you and your doctor could look at together to see how your child is doing? A developmental screening tool is just the right thing to help you and your doctor talk about your child.

A developmental screening tool is a list of questions that ask how your child is moving, talking, thinking, and sleeping. You can fill it out at your doctor's office to get a snapshot of what your child is now doing. This snapshot can be used to see if your child is growing and learning well for a child his or her age or if there are things he or she has not learned to do yet.

If the screening shows that your child is developing like other children his or her age, you can breathe a sigh of relief and continue as you have been. On the other hand, if the screening shows your child may have delays in his or her development, you can also rest easy knowing you found a possible problem area as soon as you could. Getting your child the help he/she needs at the earliest possible time is the best thing you and your doctor can do. If you have questions about how your child is learning and growing, talk to your doctor. He or she can work with you to get your child the help they need.

If you are a parent and would like more information on developmental screening, please visit www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment.

If you are a physician, and would like more information on training opportunities to learn to implement developmental screening, contact Tiffany Kostelec at kostelect@michigan.gov.

Next month's article "Will it hurt?" will tell you what to expect when your child is screened.

PCDS is a project of the Michigan Department of Community Health in partnership with the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians.



Girls with Disabilities

Her Power • Her Pride • Her Voice

**August
24—27
2012**

**Girls With
Disabilities
Event**

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**Camp Fish
Tales
2177 E Erickson
Road
Pinconning, MI
48650-9419**

Are you a high school girl with a disability between the ages of 14-19?
Would you like to meet other girls with disabilities from across the state of Michigan?

Then you need to register **TODAY** for Michigan's girls with disabilities event,

Her Power • Her Pride • Her Voice

As a group, we will explore what it means to be a girl teen with a disability, in today's world.

You will challenge stereotypes and shatter myths about what it means to be a girl with a disability. The media and some adults are continually telling us how we are supposed to act, who we are supposed to be, and what we are supposed to look like.

It is time for us to **CHALLENGE** it all.

At this interactive weekend, we will use art-based activities to learn from each other and teach the world how we see ourselves.

You will find and use your **POWER**.

You will find your disability **PRIDE**.

You will find your **VOICE**.

*This event is only open to high school girls with disabilities (any visible and/or invisible) ages 14-19.

Her Power • Her Pride • Her Voice Facilitators



Melinda Haus-Johnson

Melinda serves as Program Manager at Michigan Disability Rights Coalition. Her educational background includes a Masters in Social Work with an emphasis on organizational and community practice. Melinda has been part of, and has worked with, the disability community for over a decade. She is committed to helping people with disabilities understand their disability culture.

Registration should be sent to:
MICHIGAN DISABILITY RIGHTS COALITION
Attn: Theresa Squires
3498 E. Lake Lansing Rd. Suite 100
East Lansing MI 48823
My email is tsquires@mymdrc.org.



Theresa Squires

Theresa identifies proudly as a woman with an invisible disability. She has a strong passion for working with young girls with disabilities and helping them find their own power. Her dream is for every girl to find her voice, and for her to take pride in who she is. Theresa is a Program Manager at Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, and very excited for the third year of "Her Power, Her Pride, Her Voice!"





As summer approaches, families begin to seek and plan activities to keep their children busy—including summer camp. Summer camp experiences can be rewarding and create memories that last a lifetime.

Finding a camp to meet a child's particular needs and interests is important, especially for kids with special needs — from developmental differences like autism or intellectual disabilities, to medical issues like diabetes or cancer. There are two links that can assist you in your search:

<http://tinyurl.com/dg64hs>

and

<http://www.veryspecialcamps.com/Michigan/Special-Needs-Summer-Camps.shtml>.

Lunchtime IEP Learning Webinar Series



Michigan Alliance for Families archived webinars from the Spring IEP Lunchtime Learning Series are now available online at www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/webinar

Visit our website to see our summer webinar series schedule. Have a topic you'd like to see covered? Tell us on our Facebook page!

➔ Affordable Care Act Forums



What health insurance changes can families anticipate from the Affordable Care Act?

Michigan F2FHIEC will be hosting three Affordable Care Act Forums:

- **June 25, 2012 at the Royal Oak Public Library, 222 E. 11 Mile Rd. Royal Oak, MI 48067 from 1PM – 3PM**
- **June 26, 2012 at the Lapeer County Ed Tech Center, located at 690 Lake Pleasant Rd., Attica, Mi, 48412 from 7PM – 9PM**
- **July 9, 2012 at the Ingham County Health Department, located in the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Lansing 48909 from 6PM – 8PM**

These two-hour sessions will offer practical, basic information about anticipated changes in accessing health insurance benefits, the requirement to buy health insurance (sometimes known as the “individual mandate”), who will be eligible for financial help to pay premiums, what will be covered through health insurance, and purchasing health insurance through an exchange. In addition, we'll talk about Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act and the issues currently being decided by the United States Supreme Court. The Power Point presentation, handouts, and discussion are designed to supplement what you already know about this law. An interactive approach and conversation will be used to share information based on the needs of participants.

To attend one of these free sessions visit: www.gifttool.com/registrar/ShowEvents?ID=1862&VER=1&LNG=EN

➔ Michigan Family-to-Family Health Information and Education Trainings

Dates/ Times/Locations are being determined. Training information will be available after August 1, 2012.

