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The Parent & Educator Connection provides support and resources for families and teachers. For more information please contact the Parent & Educator Facilitator in your service center.

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The Mission of the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency is to improve teaching and learning for all students through active partnerships and assertive leadership in a climate of mutual respect.

The Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender identity, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, socioeconomic status, or disability in its educational programs, services or employment practices. Inquiries concerning this statement should be addressed to Dr. Edward Gronlund, Equity Coordinator, at 563-344-6315.



Partners

A newsletter from the Parent & Educator Connection for families and educators of students receiving special education services

Spring 2012

DARE TO EXCEL: Creating home environments that help kids succeed at school

Routines at home help children succeed at school; feel safe and secure; develop self-control, independence, and trust; and reduce impulsive behavior.

Morning Routines. Help kids start the day feeling good about themselves.

- Greet children with a smile and a positive comment. Avoid yelling or negative statements.
- Decide who wakes up whom and what must happen to be ready on time
- Pack a lunch or snack if needed.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Avoid TV or computer time before school.
- Review afterschool schedule with your child.

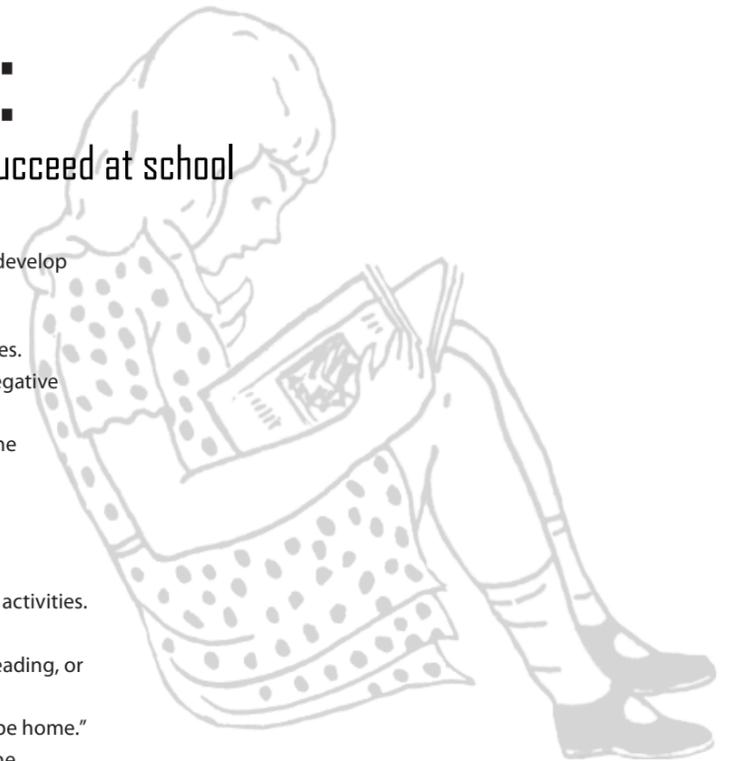
Afterschool Routines. Vary routines by a child's age and involvement in activities.

- Plan a healthy snack.
- Provide transition time from school to home like physical activity, TV, reading, or texting.
- Avoid over-scheduling kids with activities. Allow time to readjust and "be home."
- Ask about the day, check for notes from school, or homework to be done.
- Plan a consistent time and place for homework - perhaps right after school or before bedtime with lots of light and no TV, cell phone, or iPod.
- Be available for questions about homework or identify someone who can help.

Bedtime Routines. When kids have a regular bedtime routine, they fall asleep faster and are up less at night. You may want to make a checklist and let kids check off tasks.

- Help kids get their backpacks and clothes ready for the next day.
- Check notes from school if you didn't have a chance to after school.
- Help your child remember routines before bed (e.g., homework, shower, brush teeth)
- Keep the house quiet an hour before bedtime. Avoid noisy games; turn off the TV, computer, and video games; turn down the lights; and keep cell phones out of the bedroom at night

Used by permission from Iowa State County Extension and Outreach.



PROVEN PARENTING PRACTICES

- Routines at home help kids learn
- Learning at home helps kids learn at school
- Setting limits with love helps kids learn at school
- Good nutrition helps kids learn
- Physical activity helps kids learn
- Sleep helps kids learn
- Community programs helps kids learn at school

Agency News • Save the Date •

November 8, 2012

Dr. Laura Riffel (the Behavior Doctor) will be presenting information to families, educators and providers on positive interventions and effective strategies at Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency in Bettendorf on November 8, 2012. For questions and more information, please contact: Carol Aden at 563-344-6287 or 1-800-947-2329.

IOWA SUMMER CAMPS

Abe Lincoln Camp: 1624 West Front St., Blue Grass, Iowa • (563) 381-3053 • <http://www.ymcacampabelincoln.org/>
Ages 4-17 and adults with hearing, mental disabilities, and special needs.

Albrecht Acres: 14775 Sherrill Rd., Sherrill, Iowa 52073 • (563) 552-1771 • <http://www.albrechtacres.org>
Age 2-18 individuals with physical and mental disabilities.

Camp SUPERKIDS: American Lung Association of Iowa: 5601 Douglas Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50310 • (515) 278-5864
Age 7 - 14 children with asthma & other lung diseases.

Camp Courageous: 12007 190th St., Monticello, Iowa 52310 • (319) 465-5916 • <http://www.campcourageous.org>
Age 3-99 (co-ed) individuals with mental, physical, learning disabilities, hearing, visually impaired, autistic, and ADHD disorders.

Camp Sunnyside: Easter Seals of Iowa: 401 NE 66th Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50313 • (515) 274-1529
<http://www.ia.easter-seals.org> • Age 5-39 individuals who have Physical & mental disabilities, spina bifida, epilepsy, and autism.

Camp Hertko Hollow: 1192 166th Drive, Boone, Iowa 50036 • (515) 432-7558 or 1-888-437-8652
<http://www.camphertkohollow.com> • Age 6-16 individuals with diabetes.

Homestead Daycamp: 8272 NE University Avenue, Pleasant Hill, Iowa 50327 • (515) 967-4369 or 888-228-8476
<http://www.thehomestead.org>

School age children with Autism: Iowa Baptist Deaf Camp • PO Box 80, Ventura, Iowa 50482 • (641) 829-3824
<http://www.irbc.org> • Age 10 to adult who are hearing impaired.

Camp Tanager: 1614 W. Mt. Vernon Road, Mt. Vernon, Iowa 52314 • (319) 365-9164 • <http://www.camptanager.org>
Ages 7-12 with Diabetes, hemophilia, and emotional disorders.

Camp Wyoming: 9106 42nd Avenue, Wyoming, Iowa 52362 • (563) 488-3893 • <http://www.campwyoming.net>
Ages 10 to adult with Mental disabilities.

Other Area Camp Opportunity:

Independence Camp: Children's Therapy Center, Moline and the Boy Scouts of America • (309) 762-9552 ext. 15
Located at Camp Loud Thunder, Andalusia, Illinois • Age 7-18 individuals with special needs.

Other Summer and Educational Opportunities:

Davenport Parks and Recreation Special Events • (563) 326-7812 • <http://www.cityofdavenportiowa.com>
A variety of summer activities are available for individuals with special needs

Try it with the Disability Resource Library First!

Iowa COMPASS Disability Information & Referral

These are exciting times for assistive technology. Imagination knows no bounds in creating not only useful, but attractive tools to overcome barriers in daily life. While the price of technology remains steep for the newest products, the Disability Resource Library would like to share some of the most compelling buys of 2011. All Iowans can try these items out at home free of charge. If you wish to purchase a particular item after the three-week home trial, we can help you find manufacturer and dealers. Start today by giving us a call at 1-800-272-7713!



TouchChat HD Speech On-the-Go AT Bundle

For the nonverbal adult, teen or child, this synthesized voice system for the iPod has more than 10,000 talking symbols with which to express thoughts, feelings and needs. The app also gives users the ability to import their own images from files or to use the built-in camera and keypad to make personalized messages. A hard shell, high-output stereo amplifier case is included.

Clipboard Portable Induction Loop

Ingeniously designed to double as a working clipboard, this self-contained hearing loop offers hearing impaired people who use T-coil (telecoil) enabled hearing aids or CI (cochlear implant) the opportunity to hear clearly in interviews, meetings, and professional exchanges. Read more at the manufacturer's website: <http://www.tecear.com/Clipboard.htm>.



Kindle 3G + Wi-Fi

The graphite 6" display Kindle has an optional read-aloud function, useful for all readers. Although the Disability Resource Library does not have the newest model, the Kindle will give the user a feel for similar products with a small sampling of books for ages 2 to 99. The Disability Resource Library hopes you will visit the lending library and "test the water" on available assistive technology.



Echo Smartpen

For the nonverbal adult, teen or child, this synthesized voice system for the iPod has more than 10,000 talking symbols with which to express thoughts, feelings and needs. The app also gives users the ability to import their own images from files or to use the built-in camera and keypad to make personalized messages. A hard shell, high-output stereo amplifier case is included.



Boost Personal Video Magnifier

A nifty and sophisticated little tool to help people with limited vision optimize text or photos. Designed with a child-friendly interface, the magnifier is simple to use. Boost has two levels of magnification, anti-blur technology, an LCD screen and even freeze frame!



Assistive Technology (AT) Tips for Educators

Are you interested in expanding your AT horizons? Then the AT Tip of the Day is for you! These practical ways to include and expand the use of AT in school settings come from the Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research (ICATER) at the University of Iowa College of Education. You can download them monthly at <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/html/icater>, follow them daily on Twitter at [iowa_icater](https://twitter.com/iowa_icater) or on Facebook at Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research.