



Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events!	Parent Networks
<p><b>Get Safe Seminar—Thursday, February 9</b>  <b>IEP Clinics— Saturday, February 11</b>  <b>DSAOC Annual Red Carpet Ball—Saturday, February 25</b></p> <p>For more information about DSAOC events visit our website calendar at <a href="http://www.dsaoc.org">www.dsaoc.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>Circle of Friends: 0—3</u></b>  <b>Thursday, January 5 from 7—9 p.m.</b>  <b>at the DSAOC Center</b></p> <p>Make friends and share the challenges, milestones, and triumphs as you raise your child.</p> <p>Expectant parents also welcome.</p> <p>Child care is not provided, but your little one with Down syndrome is welcome to come along with you.</p>
<p><b>Seminars</b></p>	<p><b><u>Circle of Friends: 3—11</u></b>  <b>Friday, January 27 from 7— 9 p.m.</b>  <b>at the DSAOC Center</b></p> <p>This month we will be discussing: Therapies vs. Extra Curricular Activities. <i>Thinking outside the box.</i></p> <p>This group will discuss issues that primarily focus on children 3 to 11, but families with children of all ages are welcome.</p>
<p><b><u>Adult Independence Options and Supports</u></b>  <b>Saturday, January 21, 2012 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.</b>  <b>at the DSAOC Center</b></p> <p>The transition to adulthood can be scary for everyone, especially the parent! Decisions need to be made on the level of independence and the supports that may be needed to maximize opportunity while protecting individuals with Down syndrome once they become an adult. We have put a series of presentations together to address many of the issues of concern during this critical transition.</p> <p><b>See reverse for more details.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Home school Friends</u></b>  <b>Thursday, January 5 from 11 a.m.—Noon</b>  <b>at the DSAOC Center</b></p> <p>For parents of children with Down syndrome that are currently home schooling or are considering this educational option.</p> <p>This is a great social opportunity for your children, so bring them along! The activity center will be available.</p>
<p><b><u>Assistive Technology for Early Learning</u></b>  <b>Tuesday, January 31 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</b>  <b>at the DSAOC Center</b></p> <p>Topics will include: Software that facilitates early learning, toy/book adaptation, storybook software, switch access software, and much more.</p> <p>Come and see how your little ones can benefit from assistive technology.</p> <p><b>Presented by:</b> Laura Simmons-Martinez, TASK</p>	<p><b>Activities</b></p>
<p><b><u>DSAOC Healthcare Series Seminar</u></b>  <b>Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.</b>  <b>at the DSAOC Center</b></p> <p><b>Dual diagnosis:</b> <i>Down syndrome and autistic spectrum disorder</i>    This presentation will focus on current research findings, diagnosis and intervention strategies.</p> <p><b>Presented by:</b> <b>Eric Doran, MS</b> - For the past 10 years Eric Doran has managed the Down Syndrome Program at University of California, Irvine Medical Center. He holds a masters degree in Genetic Counseling and completed his master's thesis on autism in children with Down syndrome. Mr. Doran's current research interests include aspects of both development and aging in individuals with Down syndrome.</p> <p><b>Co-Presented by:</b> <b>Teri Book, NP</b> - Teri Book is the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at the For OC Kids Neurodevelopmental Center in Orange, CA. She has a master's degree nursing with a special emphasis as a pediatric nurse practitioner. She has additional certification as a pediatric mental health specialist. Over the last 10 years she has worked at the For OC Kids Neurodevelopmental Center treating children diagnosed with autism and other developmental disabilities. Teri has additional experience as a flight nurse in the United States Air Force, school-nursing, clinical practice in general pediatrics and university teaching. She is the parent of a 20 year old daughter with high functioning autism.</p>	<p><b><u>Teen and Adult Bowling League</u></b>    For teens and adults with Down syndrome ages 12 and up.  <b>Saturday, January 14 from 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.</b></p> <p>Join us for our monthly bowling event. You'll have a BLAST, so RSVP today.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Irvine Lanes—3415 Michelson Dr. Irvine, CA  <b>Cost:</b> \$6 per session (includes 2 games and shoe rental)</p>
<p><b>Extras</b></p>	<p><b><u>Also included in this Fridge Post:</u></b></p> <p><b>Partners in Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ An important letter for your child's educator and/or education team</li> <li>♦ Details about an exciting, upcoming Partners in Education presentation—Adult Independence Options and Support—presented by Dr. Jan Weiner</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed Seminars for 2012:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Mark your calendars for these upcoming Parent Education and Self Advocate Seminars.</li> </ul>

## **January 2012 Partners in Education Seminars**

Wednesday, January 11 and Saturday, January 21 at the DSAOC Center

*See below for details. RSVP to the DSAOC Center.*

### **Evidence Based Best Practices for Preparing Independent Students**

Presented by Dr. Jan Weiner, Professor of Education at Cal State Fullerton

**Wednesday, January 11, 2012 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.**

**at the DSAOC Center**

**Who should attend?** Teachers, Therapists, Paraprofessionals and Parents are Encouraged to Attend!

Individuals with disabilities who have difficulty in their ability to express themselves effectively will often engage in challenging behavior in order to get their point across. This affects their work, their social connections, their education, and can ultimately compromise their independence and rights. Positive Behavior Support is a system designed to address contextual influences that can generate and sustain these challenging means of self-expression, and is designed to develop skills and strategies that result in durable, highly effective means of self-expression and communication considered to be socially condoned but still commands respect and dignity.

Dr. Weiner will be reviewing the Positive Behavior Support process and sharing successful ways to implement these in a student's educational day.

### **Adult Independence Options and Supports**

Presented by Area Board XI, Disability Help Center and our Parent Panel

**Saturday, January 21, 2012 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**at the DSAOC Center**

The transition to adulthood can be scary for everyone, especially the parent! Decisions need to be made on the level of independence and the supports that may be needed to maximize opportunity while protecting individuals with Down syndrome once they become an adult. We have put a series of presentations together to address many of the issues of concern during this critical transition, including:

- ◆ A parent panel who will share their choices made on either Conservatorship, Power of Attorney or Independence for their adult children with Down syndrome.
- ◆ A presentation by Public Law Center about the Conservatorship and Power of Attorney Process.
- ◆ Area Board XI presentation describing the Lanterman Act and other supports and services available to adults with disabilities
- ◆ A presentation offered by the Disability Help Center which is a non-profit program that assists with the SSI application and appeals process

We hope that you and other concerned family members will join us for this very informative day!

## Proposed 2012 Parent Education and Self Advocate Seminars

### January 2012

**Wednesday, January 11, 2012 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

Partners in Education (PIE) Presentation

*Evidence Based Best Practices for Preparing Independent Students*

Presented by: Dr. Jan Weiner, Professor of Education at Cal State Fullerton

**Saturday, January 21, 2012 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Adult Independence Options and Supports

*Choosing Conservatorship, Power of Attorney or Independence*

Presented by: DSAOC Parent Panel

*Conservatorship and Power of Attorney Process*

Presented by: Public Law Center of OC

*Lanterman and Other Supports for Adults*

Presented by: Area Board XI

*SSI Benefits*

Presented by: Charlene Autolino, Director at Disability Help Center

**Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Assistive Technology for the Early Learning

Presented by: Laura Simmons-Martinez, Team of Advocates for Special Kids.

### March 2012

**Saturday, March 3, 2012 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Teen/Adult Education and Employment Options

- *Transition Programs*

Presented by: Richard Rosenberg, Whittier Union High School District and Linda O'Neal, Irvine USD

- *Post Education/College Options*

Presented by: Richard Rosenberg, Whittier Union High School District and Linda O'Neal, Irvine USD

- *Employment Options*

Presented by:

Microenterprise Development Program

Integrated Resources Institute Mentorworks

Project Independence

- *Connecting to the Right Employment Program*

**Wednesday, March 21 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

IEP Workshops:

*IEP for the Young Child*

Presented in English by: Sandi Ames, DSAOC Education Consultant

*Transition to Public Schools*

Presented in Spanish by: Blanca Zambrano, Team of Advocates for Special Kids

### February 2012

**Thursday, February 9, 2012 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Internet and Transportation Safety for Teens and Adults

Presented by: Get Safe

**Saturday, February 11, 2012 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

IEP Parent Clinics (by appointment only)

Presented in English by: Sandi Ames, DSAOC Education Consultant

Presented in Spanish by: Blanca Zambrano, Team of Advocates for Special Kids

**Wednesday, February 29, 2012 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Least Restrictive Environment/Placement Options

Presented in English by: TBD

Presented in Spanish by: Blanca Zambrano, Team of Advocates for Special Kids.

### April 2012

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Assessments

Presented in English by: Sandi Ames, DSAOC Education Consultant

Presented in Spanish by: Blanca Zambrano, Team of Advocates for Special Kids

**Saturday, April 21, 2012 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

IEP Parent Clinics (by appointment only)

Presented in English by: Sandi Ames, DSAOC Education Consultant

Presented in Spanish by: Blanca Zambrano, Team of Advocates for Special Kids

**Thursday, April 26, 2012**

Employment Process for Teens and Adults

Presented by: Joseph Nacario, M.S. Director, Integrated Resources Institute Mentorworks

### May 2012

**May 16, 2012 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Transition to Adulthood with Assistive Technology

Presented by: Laura Simmons-Martinez, Team of Advocates for Special Kids

**May 19, 2012 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Adult Living Options

- *Introduction* by: Toward Maximum Independence Inc

- *Individual Choices*: Adult Panel

- *Supported Living Programs*

- *Living Option Supports*

**Thursday, May 24, 2012 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

Partners In Education (PIE) Presentation

*Historical Perspective and Evidenced Best Practice*

Presented by: Dr. Jan Weiner, Professor of Education at Cal State Fullerton



DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION  
OF ORANGE COUNTY

*Changing Perceptions – Changing Lives*

December 2011

Dear Teacher, Therapist, Paraprofessional and Other Concerned IEP Team Members:

While each student has particular strengths and challenges that need to be addressed, studies reveal that many commonalities exist in how students with Down syndrome learn. The Down Syndrome Association's *Partners In Education* (PIE) program has been developed to provide you with the training, resources and support you need to educate students with Down syndrome.

We understand how challenging it has become for educators to meet all the demands and expectations placed on them, especially at a time when supports are being continually cut. It is our goal to be part of the solution. We want to support educators by providing training, resources and other tools that have been successfully implemented in educational programs for students with Down syndrome of all ages and grade levels.

**Our PIE program offers:**

- Regularly scheduled trainings facilitated by experts in the education field
- Ongoing access to up-to-date teaching strategies and resources that address all areas of potential educational need, as well as functional development
- Samples of curriculum modifications and accommodations
- An online network opportunity for educators and professionals serving students with Down syndrome to share ideas and materials, or to trouble-shoot issues they may face in the classroom

We are eager for you to benefit from this great program. If you are interested in signing up for updates regarding seminars, activities and helpful resources, or to learn more about our PIE program, please feel free to e-mail me at [Sames@DSAOC.org](mailto:Sames@DSAOC.org) or call the DSAOC Center at 714/540-5794.

Yours truly,

*Sandi Ames*

Sandi Ames, Education Consultant  
Down Syndrome Association of Orange County