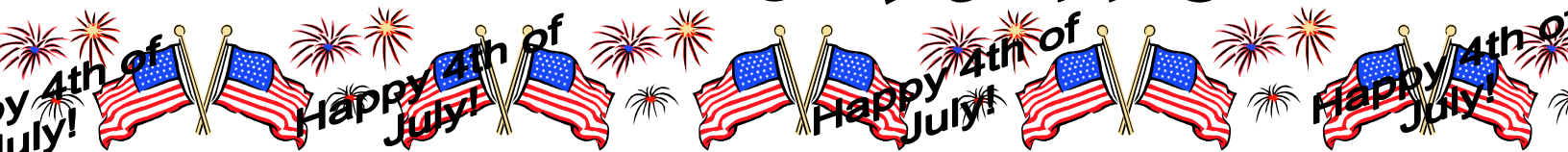


July 2009

DSACO News



Talk Tools

Oral-Motor Therapy for Speech Clarity

Presenter: Renee Roy Hill, MS., CCC-SLP
When: Saturday, July 11, 2009
Where: Integris Baptist Hospital
 Auditorium, 3300 NW Expressway, OKC, OK 73112
Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm

Sara Rosenfeld-Johnsons' innovative tactile-sensory approach to speech therapy uses therapy tools to train and transition muscle movements for speech production. Learn how 40 highly motivating motor activities can be used to improve phonation, resonance and speech clarity. Interactive, hands-on demonstrations will focus on therapeutically sound techniques to develop oral-motor movements for improved speech clarity. Muscles of the abdomen, velum, jaw, lips and tongue will be discussed within the parameters of movements necessary for speech production. Developmentally appropriate motor movements for speech are therapeutically targeted using highly motivating techniques appropriate for children and adults.

Registration Fee:

\$25.00 Parents
 \$75.00 Teachers/Professionals
 (includes lunch)

What you will learn at this workshop:

1. Appropriately assess oral-motor based speech clarity disorders based on muscle systems.
2. Integrate hierarchies for motor dissociation and grading (jaw-lips-tongue).
3. Plan programs of therapeutic intervention to address physiological and motor-based speech disorders.
4. Appropriately apply at least 5 new therapy techniques.
5. Learn to use oral-motor techniques as a tactile cueing system in conjunction with traditional speech therapy techniques to improve speech clarity.

There are a limited number of stipends for families and/or professionals to assist with paying costs to attend this workshop. To get more information about the workshop and request stipends, please contact us at conferenceinfo@dsaco.org or (405) 330-5025.

The Registration Deadline for this Talk Tools Workshop is July 3, 2009. Please see www.dsaco.org for registration information.

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A League of Their Own Greater the Difficulty, Greater the Glory

As parents of a child with a disability, we had not much opportunity to watch our son play with other children and participate in organized team sporting events or leagues. We wanted him to be included, a part of a team, something bigger than a life where he was always the bystander or spectator. Those same things his twin sister, Hayden was taking part in.

To be honest, our son never acted like he was missing out. If you are not familiar with Taylor, who has Down syndrome, autism and is also non verbal, he is often very happy at home with little interaction from others. Actually, he is often annoyed by it. This is not what we wanted to see for our son's future. Those moments that we all often take for granted.

When Taylor was 5, we joined a co-ed softball team that many of our DSACO friends were a part of in Oklahoma City. **Anyone Can** was a great experience for us, as players with disabilities were able to participate on a team to whatever their capability with the assistance of a "buddy". The buddies were there to keep our kids safe, giving support and encouragement. Every player bats and scores, but no record is kept. Our only problem was that we had to drive one hour each way to participate.

This year, we decided to replicate the idea in our home town of Seminole. We got the support of the little league softball association and the city park. We used the local paper and area schools to get the information out to those who might be interested.

We started our first season with 20 players divided into 2 teams of varying ages and disabilities. We had different buddies every game to get as much community involvement as possible. The high school football team, church youth

groups, college athletes, different student organizations and the local police department (wearing their guns and handcuffs) were the **Ball Hogs** and the **Ballistix** greatest fans. Our parents were able to sit in the stands and "just watch" as buddies cheered our kids on, gave high 5's, chased players to right field and back. We laughed and loved every minute.

Our kids improved every game. They learned to run bases (in order), they all learned to bat by themselves, some off a tee, others advanced to a pitcher. We had the most spectators of any games every night we played. Every one took away something from this experience of community involvement and inclusion.

We were able to end our season with trophies and t-shirts for all the players from donations made from area organizations. We will definitely be back for a second season. Our kids were, no doubt, in **A League of Their Own**.

Holli Harjo
Proud Parent of #13

*Many of us don't already have these great resources readily available for our kids. We can't always wait for someone else to make opportunities happen. Sometimes we have to get things started...like a group of people who got together to start an association that would provide information and support for families with Down syndrome, or a mom who wanted those families to be able to meet and discuss troubles and triumphs on a more personal level, or a grandma who started an annual golf tournament to raise money to continue all these good efforts.



Planning/Board Meeting

Everyone is welcome to attend the **Planning/Board Meeting**. Come and be a part of making DSACO a successful organization in 2009!

When: Thursday, August 13, 2009
Where: Baptist Medical Center
Rooms C & D
Time: 7:00pm—9:00pm
Childcare will not be provided

From the

President

I want to take this time to send out a heartfelt THANK YOU to all the committee chairs, coordinators and our P2P facilitators. We appreciate all the volunteer time you spend making DSACO a successful organization. Your hard work and dedication to our families does not go unnoticed. Thank you again!!!

Lori Wathen

President

*Down Syndrome Association of
Central Oklahoma*

Buddy Walk Update

Mark your calendars! The Buddy Walk is coming! This year's Buddy Walk will be held on September 19, 2009. The plans are underway and we are very excited about this year's events!

Look for more information and updates in future newsletters and mailouts.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Buddy Walk Committee Co-Chairs, Lesliee Boswell at lbene@cox.net/405-990-5498 or Fara Taylor at soonerfara@hotmail.com.

Special points of interest:

- DSACO is on the web...visit us at www.dsaco.org
- You can find advice, support and long time friends...visit a P2P Meeting near you!
- We need YOUR help! Contact Lori at president@dsaco.org to see how you can get involved.



Parent to Parent

supporting all parents

DSACO offers regular Parent to Parent meetings to provide education and support for parents and families of children with Down syndrome. The meetings also offer an opportunity for parents to meet other families. They are informal gatherings that allow families, friends and caregivers of those with Down syndrome an opportunity to share experiences while creating new and lasting friendships.

SOUTH MEETING

July 18, 5:00-7:00 p.m. (*this meeting only) at Fairmoore Pavilion (Kids Play) from 5-7p.m, where pizza and drinks will be provided. Each family is asked to donate \$5 to go towards the cost of the food/drinks. We have reserved the Fairmoore Pool. The entire DSACO Community is invited to come and play. Fairmoore Pavilion and Pool are located at 630 NW 5th Street in Moore. RSVP to Melissa Smith at p2psouth@dsaco.org or 405-378-2577. NOTE: If you don't get email announcements about P2P South but would like to, contact Melissa (see above for contact information).

NORTH MEETING

August 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Quail Springs Church of Christ, 14401 North May (between Memorial Road & 150th Street on west side). TOPIC: TBA. Childcare provided by RSVP only (RSVP no later than August 3). Contact Cindy Gould at 405-620-7501 p2pnorth@dsaco.org.

STILLWATER MEETING

July 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 504 S Knoblock (enter at far Northeast door). TOPIC: TBD. Contact Jeanita Kearns-Shook at 405-372-5680 or Shelly Sitton at 405-641-0302.

HISPANIC P2P MEETING

No tendremos reunion en el mes de Julio, Nuestera proxima reunion sera el 17 de Agosto.

August 17, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at Los Santos Angeles Catholic Church, 317 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City, OK. If you have questions please call Cathy Cardenas (405) 635-1557 or (405) 204-8320/Olga Deloera (405) 692-6156 or email p2phispanic@dsaco.org.

DE PADRES HISPANOS A PADRES HISPANOS

GRUPO DE APOYO PARA PADRES DE NIÑOS CON SINDROME DE DOWN. El grupo tiene encuentros mensuales. Las reuniones serán el tercer martes de cada mes. La Siguiente reunión será: **el martes, 17 de Agosto de 2009** Hora: 7:00p.m - 9:00pm.

Lugar: Los Santos Angeles Catholic Church, 317 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City, OK. Para más información, por favor contacto: Cathy Cardenas (405) 635-1557 or (405) 204-8320 email at p2phispanic@dsaco.org.

Buddy Walk's Wall of Achievement

This year we will be showcasing our children's abilities with a "Wall of Achievement." If you would like your child to be a one of our stars, please fill out the following information (some questions are age appropriate) and send in up to (3) 4x6 photos of your child. These photos should showcase their talents, show relationships, or show your child participating in everyday activities! We want everyone attending to "Imagine the PossABILITIES" of our children. Your child's photos and information will be showcased on a poster to create a wall for everyone to see. Please send this information and photos to "Wall of Achievement" c/o Holly Meadows at 3604 Silverwood Court, Norman, Ok 73072. All information and photos will be displayed at this year's Buddy Walk and available for you to take home after the walk.

Questions? Contact Leslee Boswell at Lbene@cox.net.

My name is _____.

I am _____ years old.

My family is most proud of me for:

I go to _____ school. (if applicable)

I work at (if applicable) _____.

I have _____ brother(s) and _____ sister(s).

I like to eat _____.

I am good at _____.

My favorite movie/tv show is _____.

My best friend is _____.

I love to _____.

When I grow up, I want to be a(an) _____.



DSACO Calendar of Events

JULY

- 11 **Bi-Monthly Meeting-Talk Tools**
- 16 P2P Stillwater
- 18 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler
- 19 P2P Hispanic
- 31 **National Down Syndrome Congress Sacramento CA**

AUGUST

- 8 P2P North
- 13 Chapter Board/Planning Meeting
- 18 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler
- 20 P2P Stillwater

SEPTEMBER

- 15 DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler
- 19 **Buddy Walk-AT&T Ballpark**
- 22 P2P Hispanic

OCTOBER

- 8 Chapter Board/Planning Meeting
- 10 P2P North
- 15 P2P Stillwater
- 20 P2P Hispanic
- 20 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler
- 24 **Teen/Adult Halloween Party**

NOVEMBER

- 14 **Bi-Monthly Meeting-Buddy Walk Awards**
- 17 P2P Hispanic
- 17 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler
- 19 P2P Stillwater

DECEMBER

- 5 "Deck the Halls" with DSACO Annual Christmas Party
- 10 Chapter Board/Planning Meeting
- 12 P2P North
- 15 DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler

(Dates are subject to change.)

Buddy Walk Family Teams Update

It's that time of the year again... Buddy Walk! The Buddy Walk promotes the acceptance of all people with Down syndrome and it is also one of the main fundraising events for DSACO. One way to raise money at the Buddy Walk is to form Family Teams. Families and groups form teams of family members, friends, co-workers, or anybody to walk and raise money to support research, programs and activities funded by DSACO.

Family Team packets will be mailed in late July but if you just can't wait, you can start forming your team now. We will be using www.firstgiving.com/dsaco for online donations this year. We will also have Family Team incentive prizes and will once again honor the top five teams.

By the way, the top five teams from the 2008 Buddy Walk were:

*Simon's Snowflake Squad
Drew's Crew
Addison's Army
Payton's Colorful Penguins
Tanner's Trotters*

Maybe your team can make the top 5 this year! If you have any questions or you haven't received your packet by August please contact Julia Trotter at julia_trotter@yahoo.com.

NDSC Conference Assistance

This year DSACO will be assisting two self-advocates and seven individuals and families to attend the 2009 National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) Conference in Sacramento, CA, in July. Following the conference, those receiving assistance will report on their conference experiences. We look forward to hearing from them in upcoming DSACO newsletters, at P2P meetings, etc. If you would like to find out more about the NDSC Conference, visit the website at www.ndsccenter.org.

Thanks,
Julia Trotter

Bountiful Blessings Update

The Bountiful Blessings is "rolling"! The pictures are going to be beautiful and everyone is doing such a great job.

We have some great spaces for advertising in the calendar available for sponsorships. If you would like to purchase a sponsorship you can find the form on the DSACO website, www.dsaco.org. The information there explains where to send your ad and the payment for sponsorship. We appreciate all your help.

The calendar will be sent to the printer in August and revealed for you at the Buddy Walk in September.

Thanks,
Rachel Thomas

Local Respite Care Programs

Wonderfully Made A Respite Care Ministry



Wonderfully Made is a ministry for families that have children with special needs. The respite ministry allows the parents to have a night out to themselves once a month doing anything they would like, such as shopping, going out on a date, relaxing, etc. The children with special needs and their siblings join us for four hours of one-on-one care and attention. Activities include arts and crafts, various play activities, dinner (parents provide the meals for their children), a Bible story time, and singing. As best as possible, volunteers will be matched with the same child each time as to build up a relationship with the child and the child's family. Trained medical personnel are always available and each volunteer is carefully selected, screened, and equipped.

Wonderfully Made is held on the second Saturday of every month. If you have a child you would like to enroll in this program or would like more information, please contact Crosspointe Church, at (405) 329-0823. Crosspointe Church is located at 2601 24th Ave. SE, Norman, OK 73071. Visit their Website at www.crosspointe.ws.

Samuel's Call

A respite care ministry, held on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 1pm to 5pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church located at 222 NW 15th, Oklahoma City, OK 73103. If you are interested in this program, contact Kim Parris at (405) 232-1371.



Hannah's Promise

A respite care ministry, held on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 5pm to 9pm at Church of the Servant located at 14343 N. MacArthur, Oklahoma City, OK 73142. If you are interested in this program, contact Lola Burgtorf at (405) 721-4141.



DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION
of Central Oklahoma

PO BOX 892592

Oklahoma City, OK 73189-2592

www.dsaco.org

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