

WY Early Intervention

Wyo Dept of Health,
Developmental
Disabilities Division,
Early Intervention and
Education Program



Special points of interest:

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- > Preschool Success
- > WAPSD
- > Parent Resources
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2010 MEGA Conference

The 2010 Mega Conference was held October 20-22 in Laramie and seemed to be well attended by many different groups. Among the different agencies and other entities were: UW, Council for Exceptional Children, Developmental Disabilities Division, WIND, NowCap Services, Magic City, and many others. This year's Mega was organized by the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and sponsored by several other groups.

Many breakout sessions were held on various topics such as: preschool services, sensory disorders, parent partners, crisis intervention, autism, the Special Olympics, 21st Century

Skills, and many more. Evening activities were provided for attendees to socialize and get acquainted.

Along with the breakout sessions attendees were able to visit approximately 25-30 ven-



dors who had set up displays about their organizations. People could talk with providers, take some pamphlets, have their assistive technology checked for maintenance, sign up for more information and

grab a piece of candy.

One breakout session involved describing the various services that children birth to five could take advantage of when they are referred with a suspected disability. Besides the child development cents, parents could visit the public health nurse, Department of Family Services, Peak Wellness, and the local school district to name a few.

All of the comments floating around were positive and appreciative towards attending the MEGA Conference. The 2011 Conference will be held in Laramie at the Hilton Garden Inn again on October 6 & 7, 2011.



Preschool Success—Transition from Part C to Part B

Parents of a child in Part C (Birth through 2) should be helped to understand the transition process from Part C to Part B several months before the child turns 3. At least 3 months prior to the 3rd birthday a transition conference should be held to explain the differences in the programs (services at preschool vs. home, a different plan, stricter eligibility requirements)

and it should be attended by the EI coordinator, parents, and a representative from the local educational agency for Part B/619.

Also at this conference, the special education professionals should explain the eligibility requirements, any testing the child has to go through, and any program options the providers

have. It is very important the parent understands the process, know their rights, feel comfortable asking questions, and their suggestions/concerns are valued. Their consent is also required to proceed.

Hopefully with everyone working together the transition process from Part C to Part B is smooth and benefits the child the most.

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WAPSD: Who, What, When and Why

The Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities is an appointed panel made up of parents, public agency employees, and other stakeholders who advise the State Superintendent of Public Instruction on best practices and more for students in Wyoming's school age Part B category. Their mission is to raise a common voice to advise the superintendent of public instruction on the unmet needs of students with disabilities by advocating for and commenting on the improvement

Of educational opportunities. They meet monthly around the state and just recently held a joint training with The Early Intervention

Council in Jackson, Wyoming. They are currently collaborating on their annual goals and priorities.



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HELPFUL LINKS

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities: http://www.k12.wy.us/SE/panel/WAPSD_brochure.pdf

Office of Child Care: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/> Inclusion of students: <http://www.unl.edu/spedsev/webinclusion.html>

Resources for Parents on the Web—UPLIFT

Amongst its many services and areas of help, UPLIFT provides a wealth of resources on their website. Go to www.upliftwy.org and browse their publications. They provide printable, educational documents on various topics such as: ADHD, IEPs, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Siblings, and more. Click on these topics to bring up a separate window with tips, signs/symptoms, FAQs, and more.

Their UPLIFTING News is a large newsletter highlighting outstanding programs around the

state, their staff, training guides, regional reports, current projects, essays, and more. The website provides an avenue for anyone to subscribe to their



news letter.

Click on resources at the top of

the website for a large list of links to other sites dedicated to helping parents and children.

The Events tab will bring up a calendar of trainings around the state such as Love & Limits Parenting, Effective Advocacy, and a Teen Group.

Their Mission:

Encouraging success and stability for children and youth with or at risk of emotional, behavioral, learning, developmental, or physical disorders at home, school, and in the community.

Please send any suggestions for content you would like to see such as: websites, TA help, Q&A topics, etc.

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The Early Intervention and Education Program at the Developmental Disabilities Division provides assistance and oversight to the regional child development centers that serve young children, from birth through 5 years of age, with disabilities and their families across Wyoming.

We're on the web!

<http://health.wyo.gov/ddd/earlychildhood/index.html>

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