

# IPVI INSIGHTS

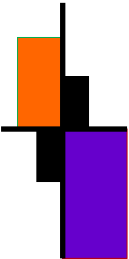


*Connecting & Supporting Families Whose Children are Visually Impaired, Including Those with Additional Disabilities*

OCTOBER 2018

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Filiberto Almendarez III



I was thinking what do I enjoy most about IPVI, and each time I conclude the same response—the Families. The wonderful families and the beautiful children. I always keep in mind, “The love of a family is life’s greatest blessing” and that “Children are the keys to paradise”. To our children, IPVI is an organization for Parents of Children with visual impairments, but dream big, go out and create your own organization. Have gatherings and socialize as you help others along the way. For example, the last Friday in September, my family and I went out to dinner. During our dinner, I hear another table. The sound was like a crowd talking and laughing. Well, as the night progressed, we finished dinner and were leaving and approached where the laughter was. There I saw a group, maybe an organization in what appeared to be a scheduled night out. Now equal to their table, I noticed several familiar items. There were canes, service dogs and transportation vehicles lined up outside. As I looked closer, they were all adults who were blind/visually impaired. On an average, the ages varied between sixty and up and holy mackerel were they having fun. Wow, I thought. It’s beautiful to see individuals going out without any boundaries. Living life, having fun and socializing with no limits. They knew how to party. I thought again. Just when I think progress has slowed down I get a big surprise. It’s amazing to see people being amazing people.

Take care and see you soon!



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**New Illinois Legislation regarding Treating Minors without Parent Consent:**



HB 3709 was signed into law. This law amends the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code by stating that counseling services or psychotherapy on an outpatient basis provided to a minor 12 years of age or older must be provided by, or under the supervision of, a licensed service provider. It requires that, until the consent of the minor's parent, legal guardian, or person in loco parentis has been obtained, outpatient counseling or psychotherapy provided to a minor under the age of 17 shall be initially limited to not more than 8 90-minute sessions (rather than 5 sessions, a session lasting not more than 45 minutes). After the eighth session, the service provider shall consider specified statutory factors throughout the therapeutic process to determine, through consultation with the minor, whether attempting to obtain the consent of a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis would be detrimental to the minor's well-being. It states that obtaining the consent of a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis shall be presumed to be detrimental to the minor's well-being for counseling services or psychotherapy related to allegations of neglect, sexual abuse, or mental or physical abuse by the minor's parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis. It further states that the minor's parent, guardian or person in loco parentis shall not be liable for the out-of-pocket costs, including co-payments, deductibles, or co-insurance (rather than costs) for outpatient counseling or psychotherapy which is received by the minor without the consent of the minor's parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis.

Legislative Update  
Terrence Koller, Ph.D., ABPP and Michael Sanchez, MA  
provided by The Illinois Psychologist, Vol. XLVII, No. 1  
Summer 2018 [www.illinoispsychology.org](http://www.illinoispsychology.org)

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=100-0196&print=true&write=>





**PLAY FOR ALL**

**CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE *and* IPVI FAMILIES**

**A morning of fun for everyone**

**The Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier  
700 E. Grand Avenue, Suite 127  
Chicago, IL 60611**

**Saturday, November 10, 2018**

**Pre-registered families 9:00 - 1:00**

**General public 10:00 - 1:00+**

**To register or for more information, please contact:  
Gail Patterson at the Chicago Lighthouse -  
(312) 997-3695**

**Pre-registration includes:**

**Free admission for Chicago Lighthouse & IPVI Families  
Free shuttle from the Chicago Lighthouse to Navy Pier**

**First 50 people only!!!**

**If leaving from Chicago Lighthouse, please arrive at 8:30am.**



## 15 HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS WITH DISABILITIES



For most of us, Halloween is a holiday filled with fantasy, fun and candy. For children and adults with a disability there can be some unique challenges.

Avoid a too-scary night and treat yourself to the following list of enchanting Halloween safety tips. Based loosely off a list prepared by Prevent Blindness America in 2005, the tips are valuable for any children with a disability but are geared more towards kids who are visually impaired or blind.

- 1) Stay away from costumes that include elaborate masks, eye patches, long-haired wigs or over-sized hats. They can become unwieldy and may frustrate children. Be prepared to wear them yourself if your child decides to discard it!
- 2) In lieu of a freakishly scary mask, which can feel claustrophobic and limit vision, try creating a mask with makeup or face paint. Kits can be purchased from specialty stores or just about any drugstore or supermarket. Moms, you can also use your own makeup! Just make sure it's hypo-

allergenic before applying it on your child's skin.

- 3) Be careful with fake eyelashes. These can be dreadfully irritating to a child's eyes if not applied correctly.
- 4) Grisly boots, princess slippers and any other shoes should fit snugly so they don't fall off in the fog on Halloween night.
- 5) Ensure all your child's costume elements are fire resistant. You can do this by checking tags or the costume packaging. (Don't take a match or lighter to it like a mindless mummy would.)
- 6) If your child is uncomfortable in a traditional costume, let them pick out something they enjoy instead. Maybe they prefer a Halloween themed T-shirt, or forgoing a costume altogether. Some children with cognitive differences are uncomfortable with trick-or-treating. That's okay! Let them hand out candy at home, with parental supervision of course.
- 7) After a night of fun, go through the candy haul and remove anything that looks like it may have been opened or tampered with. For those with food allergies, look for these teal pumpkins! The Teal Pumpkin Project is a movement to provide non-food treats, so children with food allergies or other conditions can still fill their bucket.
- 8) Don't be afraid while walking around your neighborhood in the mysterious moonlight of All Hallows' Eve. Sport a bright and/or reflective costume so street traffic can easily see you. Remind your ghoulish gang to walk on the sidewalk and look both ways before crossing a street!

Read more: [brailleworks.com/15-halloween-safety-tips-for-kids-who-are-blind/](http://brailleworks.com/15-halloween-safety-tips-for-kids-who-are-blind/)



**Play a Game of Pumpkin Bowling With a Braille Twist**  
*By Hillary Kleck*

Maybe you've been bowling, but have you ever been pumpkin bowling? This multi-sensory game is perfect for Fall and makes a fun Halloween party game, too! READ MORE at:

[www.wonderbaby.org/articles/pumpkin-bowling](http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/pumpkin-bowling)



**10 Accessible and Sensory-Friendly Halloween Ideas**  
*By Amber Bobnar*

Find ideas for Halloween crafts and activities that are accessible for blind or visually impaired kids. We've also got a lot of multi-sensory ideas too! READ MORE at:

[www.wonderbaby.org/articles/10-accessible-and-sensory-friendly-halloween-ideas](http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/10-accessible-and-sensory-friendly-halloween-ideas)



**Autumn Wreath Art Project**  
*By Amber Bobnar*

Learn how to make an autumn wreath sensory art project with your blind child. It's easy and fun! READ MORE at:

[www.wonderbaby.org/articles/autumn-wreath-art-project](http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/autumn-wreath-art-project)



**5 Back-to-School Resources for Kids With Visual Impairments and Their Families**  
*By Hillary Kleck*

Want to make this school year the best year yet? Browse our collection of resources for tips and ideas on how to make the most of the "Back-to-School" season! READ MORE at:

[www.wonderbaby.org/articles/back-to-school-resources-for-blind-kids](http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/back-to-school-resources-for-blind-kids)



## What Is A Multi Sensory Environment?

Our senses are important. They tell us about our surroundings and they influence our reactions. In time, they mold our personality and "in a sense" they are what we are. We, therefore, seek to control the things that stimulate our senses. Multi-Sensory equipment gives that control. That is why Multi-Sensory Environments (Snoezelen/Sensory Rooms) are known to produce a wide range of positive results in special populations who often depend on others.

Multi-Sensory Environments (MSEs) provide dedicated, flexible spaces where individuals experience a range of non-patterned visual, auditory, olfactory and tactile stimuli. These rooms are designed to create a feeling of comfort and safety where the individual can relax, explore, develop relationships and enjoy their surroundings.

MSEs vary in their appearance and in the equipment they contain... To read more, go to:

**[www.specialneedstoys.com/usa/content/multi-sensory](http://www.specialneedstoys.com/usa/content/multi-sensory)**

## Thinking of Having a Sensory Room



We have been designing and installation Sensory Rooms for over 25 years.

Contact us for a free consultation and design today!

To Contact a Consultant email at:

[mse@tfhusa.com](mailto:mse@tfhusa.com)

### **TFH Special Needs Toys**

4537 Gibsonia Road  
Gibsonia, PA 15044

*(Continued from page 2)*

## **New horrors at CPS and coverage of the saga of CPS and its self-destruction:**

### **SEX ABUSE SCANDAL:**

Tribune coverage of sex abuse scandal- Over 400 students over the last ten years are alleged to have been abused by CPS STAFF. Many of the victims were students with disabilities and many of the staff accused of abuse received little or no punishment.

**<http://graphics.chicagotribune.com/chicago-public-schools-sexual-abuse/student-offenders>**

Referring to the victims with disabilities, Matt Cohen, a Chicago lawyer and expert in special education, said "They are more vulnerable. They may have less awareness of when there is danger. They have

less ability to speak out when they are at risk. They have less knowledge of whom to go to when they need help." Chicago Tribune, July 27, 2018

**UNAUTHORIZED PRIVACY BREACH:**

CPS inadvertently sent personal data on its students to thousands of families. OOPS.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-chicago-public-schools-data-breach-20180616-story.html>

**SPECIAL ED CUTBACK SCANDAL:**

WTTW coverage of the appointment of the ISBE special monitor, quoting Matt Cohen.

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**New Special Education Legislation,  
Proposed in Response to CPS Special  
Ed Scandal, Signed by Illinois  
Governor expanding rights of kids with  
disabilities, particularly in CPS**

Per Barb Cohen of the Legal Council for Health Justice, SB 454, which they spearheaded, has been signed and is effective immediately. It requires all districts in the state to notify parents about the availability of AT evals, but equally important, it includes several CPS-specific provisions:

- At least ten days prior to the IEP meeting, CPS must send notice of all IEP components that require data collection and say whether data collection on that component has commenced.
- At least 5 days prior to the IEP meeting, CPS must send draft copies of all evaluations and draft language for the IEP to the parents
- If an IEP team determines that a service is necessary and that service is not implemented within ten days, the parent must be notified.
- Locks and blocks in the computerized IEP program, that prevented IEP teams from adopting various services for kids even though the team supported them, are banned.

**Other New Illinois Special Ed and School Legislation Signed by Governor:**



- 1) HB 3784 was signed - effective immediately. It amends the School Code by removing provisions that allow a school district to deny enrollment to a student 17 or older for one semester for failure to meet minimum academic standards. It provides that a truant minor may not be expelled for nonattendance unless the minor has 15 consecutive days of absences without valid cause and the student cannot be located by the district or the district has located the student but cannot compel the student to attend after exhausting all available support services. PA 100-0825.
- 2) SB 3466 was signed - effectively 1/1/2019. This is Loyola Child Law Clinic's bill that amends the School Code to require schools to take a more restorative approach to truancy. There is language in the legislation governing cases involving kids with IEPs, 504 plans and kids being evaluated for eligibility - please look at legislation for specifics.
- 3) House Bill 4369 was signed. Provides that the State Board of Education shall develop and maintain a handbook to be made available on its Internet website that provides guidance for pupils, parents or guardians, and teachers on the subject of dyslexia. Specifies handbook requirements. Provides that the State Board shall review the handbook once every 4 years to update, if necessary, the guidelines, educational strategies, or resources and services made available in the handbook. Effective immediately. Public Act 100-0617.
- 4) HB 4193 was signed - effective immediately. The bill amends the School Code to exclude weekends and holidays when determining the 10-day timeline for issuing a due process hearing decision



FOUNDATION  
FIGHTING  
BLINDNESS

**VisionWalk**  
A CURE IS IN SIGHT



## Chicago VisionWalk Celebration!

**June 1, 2019**

Chicago Vision Walk  
Busse Woods Grove 28, Ned Brown Meadow  
Golf Road Entrance at Ring Road  
Elk Grove Village, IL

Registration and Fun Begin at 9:00 a.m.  
Stage Presentation Begin at 10:00 a.m.  
Walk Begins at 10:30 a.m.

Our **Chicago VisionWalk**:

**[fightblindness.org/site/TR/VISIONWALK/  
VisionWalktr?  
sid=1400&type=fr\\_informational&pg=informational&fr\\_id=6059](http://fightblindness.org/site/TR/VISIONWALK/VisionWalktr?sid=1400&type=fr_informational&pg=informational&fr_id=6059)**

website is open for you early birds and I know a couple of you have already started your fundraising. For everyone else, I hope you will consider adding your team early this year, and think about some fun things you might be able to do to start that fundraising thermometer moving. We can use your help!

Research in 2018 has taken a huge leap for retinal diseases with the first FDA-approved pharmaceutical for ANY degenerative disease, Luxturna. Two of my Youth Chairs at other walks have had the surgery, and their vision improved dramatically WITHIN A COU-

PLE DAYS. There are nearly 30 clinical trials going on right now for retinal diseases, and new projects coming up. They could use additional funding, and you can help.

Please register your team early and start spreading the word. Invite anyone and everyone! We would love to see a record crowd at Busse Woods this year to hear from our Medical Chair about how restoring vision has become a reality!

We hope to see you in June!

If you have questions, please contact Steve Sroka at (847) 680-0100 or e-mail

## Proactive Parenting Approach for Positive Results



November 29, 2018  
CPS Garfield Park  
2651 W. Washington Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60612

### About This Workshop

Learn about proactive parenting techniques that will help you fulfill children's emotional needs that foster good behavior and minimize power struggles. Recognize that all behaviors are trying to tell us something. Children misbehave for a reason. As we become better equipped, we can address these behaviors in a more strategic, positive way and see more positive results!

Family Resource Center on Disabilities |  
(312)939-3513 |  
[info@frcd.org](mailto:info@frcd.org) | [www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org)





# SPECIAL NEEDS TOYS

## MULTI SENSORY ENVIRONMENTS

**Problem Solving** can challenge anyone. Using toys and games is a fun way to improve these skills and have a laugh too! **Sorting** toys are designed to engage minds while getting the player actively involved. **Puzzles** have all sorts of different levels to build confidence or make you ponder. Push a little harder to put the pieces together, matching shapes and colors, testing memory and forming words to recognize a broader understanding of category and concept. **Matching** and **Placing** offers many choices to engage the brain with satisfying results and gives a greater understanding of the world around us.



**Bead Stacker**

One of the all time favorite tools for educators and therapists. Users try to match 1 of 10 different patterns by stacking brightly colored beads on wooden dowels.



**Super Sorting Pie**

Fruity pie teaches early number skills and attributes (color and fruit shapes). Place the sorting cards into the bottom of the pan to provide visual cues that support student success.

<http://www.multisensoryenvironments.com/>



We are a family run business

With **thousands** of sensory rooms under our belt, TFH is the right choice for you!

**IPVI**

**P.O. Box 316634, Chicago, IL 60631**

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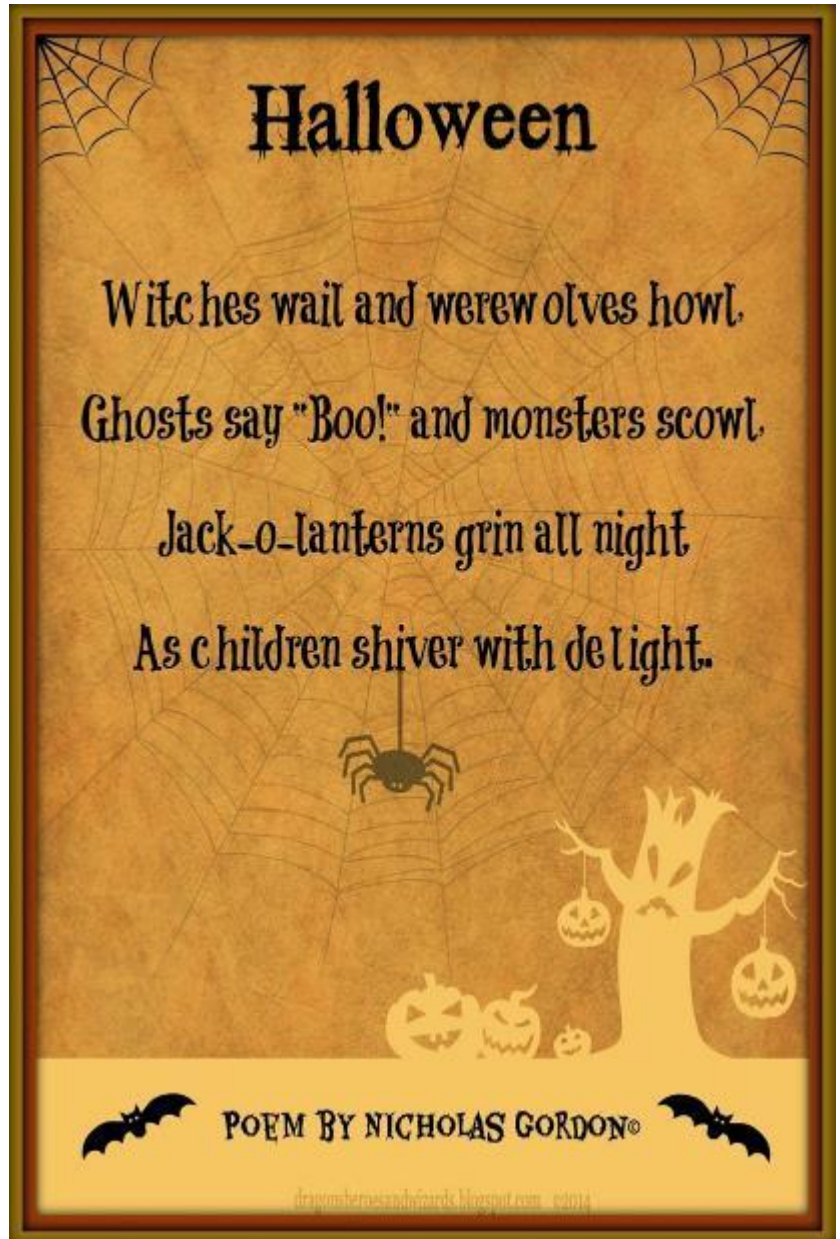
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# Join **IPVI** or renew your membership today!

The *Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments* is a state-wide, non-profit organization that enables parents to find information and resources for their children who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities.

## Your IPVI membership dues or generous contributions help to support all of our ongoing efforts:

- Regular communications which include: workshops, conferences, training seminars, legislative issues, organizational announcements, products, and advice about raising a child who is visually impaired.
- Offers several \$500 college scholarships each year.
- Publishes a resource catalog which includes anything and everything to do with visual impairment.
- Conducts training and support sessions where parents share experiences and ideas.
- Holds fun outings adapted for children with visual impairments at athletic, cultural, educational, and entertainment settings.
- Represents parents of children with visual impairments at conferences, public hearings, and on committees.

## What does IPVI do?

- Promotes and provides information through meetings, correspondence, publications, etc., which will help parents meet the special needs of their children with visual impairments.
- Facilitates the sharing of experiences and concerns in order to provide emotional support and relief from feelings of isolation for parents and their families.
- Creates a climate of opportunity for children who are blind in the home, school, and society.
- Fosters communication and coordination of services among federal, state, and local agencies and organizations involved with providing services to people who are visually impaired.
- Advocates on a statewide level for services to children who are visually impaired and their families.
- Keeps members informed about current proposals and actions which impact on children with visual impairments and their families.

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$20 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate(s) of my visually impaired child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

My child(ren)'s eye condition: \_\_\_\_\_

I give my permission to release my name to other parents.

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

Extended Family/Friend Assoc. Membership \$20/year.

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose this form along with your payment by check to:

IPVI • P.O.Box 316634 • Chicago, IL 60631

**Have questions or need more information?**

**Call us at  
1-773-882-1331**



**Illinois Association for Parents of  
Children with Visual Impairments**  
P. O. Box 316634  
Chicago, IL 60631

## **IPVI CALENDAR**

- |                       |  |                          |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| ▶ <b>October 27</b>   | <b>Learning Disabilities Assoc. of IL Conference</b>     | <b>Grayslake</b>         |
| <b>November 10</b>    | <b>TCL &amp; IPVI “PLAY FOR ALL”</b>                     | <b>Chicago</b>           |
| ▶ <b>November 29</b>  | <b>Proactive Parenting Approach for Positive Results</b> | <b>Chicago</b>           |
| ▶ <b>June 1, 2019</b> | <b>FFB VisionWalk - Busse Woods</b>                      | <b>Elk Grove Village</b> |

Please call  
1-773-882-1331  
for any questions, concerns,  
or comments that IPVI can  
help you with.

**Newsletter Deadline for  
November 2018 is October 15, 2018**



**Check Out  
[www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)**

Calendar of Events!  
News and Updates!  
Useful Links to Web Sites!  
And more...