

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**September
2011**



BROOKFIELD ZOO OUTING

Literacy through Experience at Brookfield Zoo – July 8, 2011



Group picture taken after lunch before heading to the dolphin show.
See the whole zoo article plus pictures on page 10.
We hope to see your family in the group photo next year!



Inside This Issue:

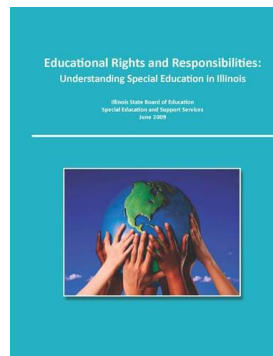
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What do I do now?

Bill Bielawski, IPVI President

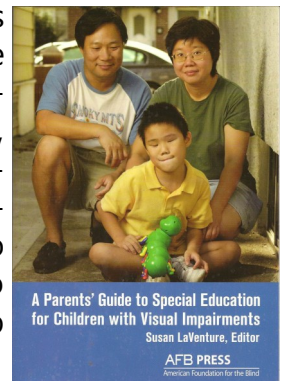
We need to be intensely involved with the education of our children who are visually impaired. If we simply rely on the education system to do what's best for our child, we will get the typical result which is an adult who is visually impaired who has a 70% likelihood of being unemployed.

I did not know how to raise a daughter who was legally blind, but I learned how to. My wife and I met Barbara Cheadle from the NFB parents' group when Jennifer was only 4 months old. I co-founded IPVI with Lee Robinson of NAPVI when Jennifer was only 1 year old. It takes a lot of study and effort, but we all can raise successful, independent adults if we work at it.



The best way to start your education is to study this guide published electronically by the state of Illinois. You can download the pdf from the www.ipvi.org home page or click the "SP Ed Guide" link under Information.

Next you need to read this book edited by the executive director of NAPVI and written in part by Mary Zabelski, co-founder and charter president of IPVI and past President of NAPVI. These two references will get you off to a good start, but don't stop there.



I know how much it hurts to find out that your child is blind or visually impaired. But you must get past your grieving and become determined to do everything possible for your child to lead an independent, fulfilling life. IPVI can help.

MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS
Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

Since our last publication, we welcome the following families, individuals, and/or organizations who became members:

Marie and John Gallagher, Mundelein
Andre and Tahirah Haynes, Homewood

VOLLEY II

I am almost embarrassed to admit this. Never in my wildest days did it ever occur to me that I would even let these words roll off my tongue. It just never ceases to amaze me how, with each passing day, I sound more and more like my mother. There, I said it. It's true. I am telling the kids stuff like "When I was your age..." (you fill in the blanks with whatever is pertinent) "...Sliders were a nickel; gasoline was twenty-five cents a gallon; and two movies with cartoons, popcorn and a pop cost me \$1.25 each Saturday. That was my allowance for doing my chores and getting good grades. As you can tell by today's current prices, that was a long, long time ago—eons, some might even say. But I'm telling you straight up, I'm too young on the inside to be this old on the outside.

Why is it that wisdom is wasted on the old? It's when we're young and vigorous that we should have the wherewithal to obtain our dreams, and not just the money but the common sense to seek the right things. We all feel that our parents didn't have a clue and so most of us didn't follow their advice all the time. We forged our own paths. Sometimes it turns out great, and sometimes not so. We then revert back to our original tutor's advice and try it that way. Many times, I find their ways work.

SHARING THE VISION: PARENT TO PARENT

Let's have a dialogue. Do you have a question? One of us may have an answer or at least a suggestion. Submit questions and responses for the IPVI Newsletter to Pam Stern, NAPVI Region 3 Representative:

pamstern3@gmail.com

FALL ISSUE QUESTION

THRILLS AND CHILLS!

No, it's not Halloween; it's the start of a new school year! Let's talk about hopes and fears for the upcoming year. If your child won any award(s) this past year, please share it with us to promote "can do" school spirit!

Jacob got his Masters in Social Work this June from Cal State University East Bay.

Abby was on the high honor roll at Oakville Middle School in the Mehlville School District in St. Louis County!

Ryan won a Super Kewpie award. The teachers choose their best students throughout the year and Ryan was chosen by 2 teachers. Both boys got a 4.0 this grading period, but Matt has had a 4.0 for 5 straight semesters!

Pam Springer completed her Master's Degree in History from University of Illinois@ Springfield in May 2011. Her undergraduate work was at Illinois College, Jacksonville, Illinois. Her thesis was entitled, "A New Vision: Redefining Mu-

(Continued on page 5)

My tip of the day is to respect the elderly and take their advice. They'd tell us to live within our means. Trust me, if I bought every item my children whined for, I'd be broke. I make them wait for Redbox movies at one dollar a movie versus \$7 times 6 people which is \$42, not counting popcorn. (I also find having the pause button has great benefits now that I am older -- but I digress.) You can even keep the movie for a few days without feeling too guilty. Those little cost savings add up. Remember Ben Franklin said, "a penny saved is a penny earned."

Also, nowadays I don't care about being first in line for the latest and greatest gadget. I've found usually waiting for the next rendition of an electronic gizmo is cheaper and it will have better features. But can you wait? If not, are you putting yourself into debt for another electronic toy or whatever?

Parents should teach their children to prepare for the future. That means teaching your child about the life skills of being ready to take on whatever comes along, adjusting as needed, and learning to wait until you can afford it. Saving money for the future is a task that needs to be completed every payday. Be disciplined. Pay yourself a fee every payday as if it were a bill. Even at a dollar a paycheck, that's \$52 saved for the future. At \$5 a week that's \$260 and \$25 a week is \$1,300. Make yourself do this and don't touch the future fund. Pretend it doesn't exist. This is the only way you can truly keep it for the future for use at a time really needed, like when our kids want to go to college.

In the vein of living within our means, many times when my children want something, I tell them they can get it if they pay for it. Wow, you'd be surprised how quick the whining stops with that bit of info. I've told them "yes, but not with my money." Many times they will then save up and buy something they just had

to have. Then guess what? It wasn't the "end-all" they thought it would be. Then they end up dealing with the loss of their cash for something that wasn't worth it. It stops them from jumping up for every little whim. It also teaches fiscal responsibility.

To help them obtain their wishes, I tell them there are extra chores they can do to earn some money. This teaches them entrepreneurship by showing them a determined person can make a buck if they really want to. That inspiration helps our visually impaired children a great deal. Don't let them think they're not going to support themselves when they get older. Let them know it's expected, and from a very young age have them help with chores. Even if they are slower than you, let them finish it. It shows them a can-do spirit that helps them self-advocate in the future. In this way you instill confidence, self-sufficiency, and hope. You also prepare them for their future, and it will pay off tenfold.

Yes, I also know there are some children with a great deal of challenges that prevent them from helping themselves, with their parents just hoping for some respite because the work never ends. For them our hearts go out and prayers are with them. If you know a family like this, reach out and offer to babysit for a few hours or offer to help run a few errands. This truly assists these parents by giving them a little breathing room.

In the end, the more we show our children how to do something for themselves, the more they will absorb the lessons and become the independent, self-starters we know they can be. And that's all I have to say about that! Have a great new school year.



(Continued from page 3) - *Sharing the Vision: Parent to Parent*
seum Access and the Museum Experience for the Visually Impaired."

Teaching Blind or Partially Sighted Students

A major challenge facing blind students is the overwhelming mass of printed material with which they are confronted--syllabi, course packs, books, time schedules, bibliographies, campus newspapers, posters, tests, etc. The increasing use of films, videotapes, overhead projectors, and closed-circuit television adds to the volume of visual material to which they must have access in some other way.

This article is helpful for regular classroom teachers for modifying their teaching style in order to better the learning experience of blind or visually impaired students, including providing accommodations.

http://www.mendocino.edu/tc/pg/5488/teaching_blind_or_partially.html

Blind Students Confront the Chemistry Lab

Lab managers also fear that blind people could be harmed by the many toxic materials that can't safely be touched. Supalo says today blind people can work in laboratories, even without the help of a sighted assistant. In addition to adaptive technical tools, it requires certain skills.

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/2009/aug/18/blind-students-confront-chemistry-lab/>

Math Activities for the Blind

Math is a daunting subject for many visually impaired students. This article may provide reassurance.

Teachers can use a host of math activities to help blind and visually impaired students to understand math concepts. Fortunately other senses, including auditory

and touch, can help blind students master many math lessons without sight.

http://www.ewhat.com/list_7221365_math-activities-blind.html

Teaching English as a New Language to Visually Impaired and Blind ESL Students: Problems and Possibilities

Mainstream community-based ESL programs rely on fully sighted, fluent, English-speaking volunteers and professionals who are both literate in regular print and familiar with the ways to navigate the mainstream culture. These fully sighted people are generally not familiar with the equivalent competencies and resources required by blind and visually impaired newcomers. In addition, most ESL volunteers and professionals are neither interested in nor prepared to commit time and energy to becoming fully literate in accessible formats or to learn the other skills and information that are vital for adjusting to living as people with disabilities in society.

<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=>

[44&TopicID=108&SubTopicID=32&DocumentID=1933](http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=44&TopicID=108&SubTopicID=32&DocumentID=1933)

For Blind Students, Another Challenge Shortage of Vision Teachers Vexes Schools, Angers Parents

Aaron, an 11-year-old who previously earned A's and B's in school went without a vision teacher for his entire fourth-grade year when the district could not find one. The difference was stark. He was without Braille reading textbooks for two months because no one placed the special order over the summer. He was excluded from activities such as computer lab and that hallmark of a grade school education, the science project. He ended the school year with near-failing grades.

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<http://www.bridges4kids.org/articles/2002/8-02/WashPost7-28-02.html>

P.E. Activities for Blind Students

A common misconception is that individuals with visual handicaps cannot participate in physical sports. While special considerations need to be taken when participating in physical activities, there is really no reason for those who are blind or have significant visual impairments to be excluded.

http://www.ehow.com/way_5455424_pe-activities-blind-students.html

Blind school's marching band fosters student pride, inspires audience

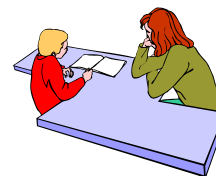
The audience members cheered loudly, yet they wanted to give more. Realizing the blind marching band students would not see their standing ovation, the spectators used their feet to stomp and raise the volume of their appreciation. It was a moment the members of the Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band will never forget.

<http://www.marching.com/spotlight/2010/blind-school-marching-band-inspires-at-tournament-of-roses/>

If you at anytime have a web article you want to share, please email it to me. Also, anytime your child receives an award, a stellar report card, and/or is an active participant in extracurricular activities, etc. it inspires all of us to have positive expectations for our children--please toot your horn by letting me spread the word!!

FALL ISSUE QUESTION

Securing accommodations for standardized testing can be a real ordeal. Please discuss your stories both positive and frustrating—so that parents and their children learn what to anticipate and how to plan accordingly.



Newsletter entries will be published maintaining the anonymity of all unless otherwise approved.

Please submit your comments to Pam Stern before October 1st so we can get all of them in the Fall Issue of IPVI INSIGHTS. Thank you.

Oldies but Goodies: The "Established" APH Product Series

[The Everyday Exposure to Experiences for Enjoyment Calendar](#), also called the **Everyday Activities Calendar**, was written by Nancy Smith, a Wisconsin state-wide consultant for children who are blind or visually impaired and produced by APH in



2001. It is an idea-filled calendar that suggests a fun preschool activity for each day of the year. The calendar was designed specifically for young (ages 3-8) visually impaired children, but all children may benefit from and enjoy participating in the activities. The activities are drawn from everyday occurrences in a child's life and make use of easily accessible, low cost materials typically available in the home. The large print/braille calendar comes in a three-ring binder with a colored dividing page between each month. The calendar is formatted with two days per page. This calendar does not track any specific year, and can therefore be used year after year.

The introduction for this product includes detailed task analyses of washing the dishes and of crushing crackers for meat loaf stuffing. These are provided in order to demonstrate examples of how to break an everyday experience down into

(Continued on page 15)

ASK M@



Hey everyone!

Hope all of you are still doing good, enjoying the rest of this warm weather, with sadly only a little left. Basically what I want to talk to you about this issue are dreams. So start thinking about yours, but please don't dream while reading this because I still want you to pay attention.

Recently I was asked by someone in the media how exactly I make my way around a golf course and be so successful despite my vision issues. Now this was something I had to think about because everything that I do is just so natural now, but I had answered him by saying that I do many things to give myself the best chance to succeed. First, if I have any free time to do so I will either play or just scope out the course to give myself a little sneak peak at what I am going to be playing. But the key component is my spotter (the person who watches the ball flight once I hit my shot because I can't tell where it's landed.) He can help me in a lot of ways, not just with golfing, but in staying safe.

Let's say I miss my tee shot to the left or right of my target into the line of fire from another golfer. My spotter will be sure to let me know that so I don't get hit by someone's ball. Then he can also help by painting a picture of the landscape, yardage, and very importantly making sure my alignment is good. These are all keys to my being able to get around a golf course in a professional, safe, and most importantly successful manner. Without being able to have my spotter, I would not be able to be in the same places that I am now...such as along the lines of being able to place Second in the Cog Hill Junior Tour and making Lincoln Way North's Varsity golf team, even though I am just a Sophomore.

So my main question that I want to know from you is: Do you have any dreams that you are afraid to go for because of your vision issues or do you have a dream that you would love to accomplish but you just can't because of your vision issues? If this is your case, **ASK FOR HELP!**

Looking at my situation, if I hadn't asked for help from someone to be my spotter, how could I play the game that I love and go for all my goals? It doesn't have to be sports related either. It could be anything at all. I know it is some people's mindset to be independent, but what you have to get into your head is that no one is completely independent. It is truly as impossible as being perfect. Kids rely on their parents for a lot, that is obvious; but even as adults, people rely on their bosses to send them their pay check, and for the electric company to keep supplying the energy, and so on.

So if you just need a little help, just ask. You would be surprised at how many people would be honored to help you reach your goal. The only other thing I can say is if you have a goal that you would like to reach but don't know where to go for help, please feel

free to email the ask M@ account and I'm sure together we can find someone that could provide assistance. You are who you are, so shoot for the stars; and if you fail, keep pushing, keep working at it and you will get it. Just remember the vision issue doesn't have to stop you, its just an obstacle, like a tree in the way of your approach shot into the green, a hurdle on the track, or a defender in between you and the basket. Just remember the quote by Henry Ford, "Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."

Now go get 'em and let me know how it goes!

Best wishes!

M@



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS RECEPTION Held at the Chicago Lighthouse

The Chicago Lighthouse hosted a Scholarship Awards Reception was held July 23, 2011. It was an ice cream social and scores of college bound students received 4 yearly awards from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

On this day, Megan Dowell, a second-year recipient of our own MBJ Scholarship Award of \$500, was also awarded a \$1,000 Scholarship for 4 years from the Dr. Joel & Mrs. Roberta Kaplan Scholarship in Loving Memory of Gilbert H. Kaplan. Erika Davis of the Lighthouse presented the award to Megan. Way to go, Megan!!!!

IPVI currently has eight scholarships pending. We could not do this without the wonderful donations received by our members and their families and friends. Please remember the IPVI MBJ Scholarship fund whenever you can and help us continue to support our college bound students pursue their goals.



Megan Dowell and Dr. Joel Kaplan



Congratulations to all of the recipients and to the Chicago Lighthouse for all its wonderful work in helping our children get their degrees so they may reach their goals and dreams.



IPVI's Matthew Benedict Juskie Scholarship Fund

For students who are blind or visually impaired

Any individual intending to continue his/her education at a college, university or trade school and is interested in being considered for the MBSJF, must meet the following criteria: Illinois resident, blind or visually impaired, undergraduate or graduate student, and an IPVI member.

The candidate's application is processed free of charge. The student must mail or fax a written request to receive a copy of the application from IPVI. Then the student must complete the MBSJF Application Form, provide 3 completed Reference Forms, submit medical records or a letter from the vision specialist confirming the condition, and mail them to IPVI. The applicant may attach a 1-page resume of clubs, offices held, or any other pertinent information concerning his/her activity record.

The IPVI Board of Directors will review all scholarship applications and select the winners. IPVI reserves the right to announce such awards in its newsletters and marketing materials.

The MBSJF is funded completely from tax-deductible donations from individuals, companies and corporations who support IPVI's goals. Any individuals or groups wishing to donate to this fund, please forward your tax-deductible donations to IPVI. Thank you for your continued support of IPVI.



To request a scholarship application, please contact the Scholarship Program Coordinator, Vicki Juskie at: 815-464-6162 or vajuskie@aol.com

BROOKFIELD ZOO OUTING

Literacy through Experience at Brookfield Zoo – July 8, 2011

As usual, the Brookfield Zoological Society, together with its staff and docents, did a tremendous job in making our group feel welcome. Thank all of you so very much, especially, Diane Wehrmeister!

The day was beautiful. We enjoyed a delightful Dolphin show and afterwards we were allowed to get closer to the dolphins. The children weren't allowed to touch the dolphins except for one lucky boy who was chosen from our group. The reason for not letting all the VI children touch the dolphins was explained—that there was only one dolphin trained in human touching from people other than his trainer. Since they did not want to upset the animals, the Zoo decided only one person would be chosen from our group.



There was also a Chicago Bears Fans Appreciation Day also going on. The patrons of the zoo were provided with music, a training pull blow-up game, a jumping challenge, and a table full of trading cards with Bears stickers. Staley, the Bears mascot, was also there dancing and High 5-ing the crowd.



The tactile exhibits at the Hamill House and in its Sound and Sensory Garden were terrific. The kids had a great time painting their faces like animals and touching the animal hides and skeletons.

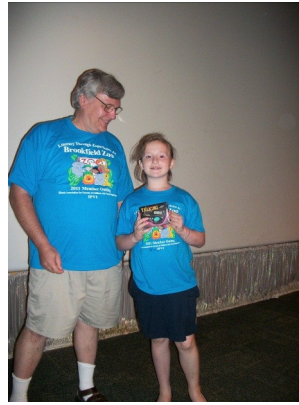


Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

Lunch was phenomenal. The pizzas just kept coming and coming. If you left hungry from this buffet, it was your own fault.



A great big shout out goes to the 100% Foundation and Frank Davis for their unwavering support of this event as well as to Rich King, who donated \$100 for a raffle prize. (Thank you so much.)



During our session we held some raffles. Magdalena Ellet, Lily Ewen, Amanda Hampe,

Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

Brie Burke, Kimberly Vujic, and Destiny Lawson won our raffle prizes of talking watches, calculators, and clocks. Amanda Hampe won \$90 in the split the pot raffle. Amanda then donated the monies back to IPVI. (Thanks, again!)

All in all, the day was a great time and very enjoyable. Thanks to all the volunteers from the Chicago Lighthouse, including Mary Zabelski, who continually give their support so as to make this outing our most successful year after year.



See you next year!

GOING FOR THE GOLD IN 2011!!

By Terri Smolka

Our daughter, Samantha Smolka, who is 16 years old, gets ready to depart from Chicago to Colorado Springs, Colorado to participate in her first competition for 2011, the IBSA (International Blind Sports Association) World Youth Track and Field Championships to start on July 7 through July 12, 2011. She realizes, as she sits down in her seat on the plane, there are other blind athletes boarding the flight from the Middle East. Reality sets in as Samantha realizes she will be representing the United States of America for the first time! Samantha was the unknown athlete at the competition. The other US female athletes, however, embraced her as a long time friend. Samantha made herself known to the other athletes at the first day of competition by taking a bronze medal in the javelin, Team USA's first medal of the games. The next day, Samantha once again made herself well known by taking a second bronze medal in the shot put. Samantha stated that it was exciting and fun to compete against these other athletes. During the last couple days, Samantha ran the 100 meter and 200 meter sprints. She just missed taking two more bronze medals by only milliseconds.

On July 18 through July 25, 2011, approximately 300 disabled youths embarked in Saginaw, Michigan to win gold at the National Junior Disability Championships! The events were swimming, track, field, wheelchair basketball, ping pong and archery.

Samantha came into these events as a veteran to NJDC. As she stretched prior to her 100 meter freestyle, her coach was giving words of encouragement. "Sam, believe in yourself" and "just swim hard." As the event started, Sam took off and swam like a "shark." After

she finished this event, Sam won gold for the 100 meter freestyle, 100 meter backstroke, 50 meter freestyle and 50 meter backstroke! Her parents and friends were beaming!

The other events during the week that Sam participated in were track and field. Sam, once again, set records in the field events! In the javelin, she threw 17.45 meters, in the long jump, she sprung 2.82 meters, and in the shot put, she threw about 5.75 meters. Once again, winning gold for visually impaired girls in her age group.

The last event Sam participated in was track. This was tough! Sam had loads of competition in the visually impaired category. It was fingernail biting time for her parents. As the pistol shot for the 100 meter and 200 meter sprints, Sam ran as fast and hard as possible. Sam crossed the line in 17 seconds for the 100 meter sprint and 37 seconds for the 200 meter sprint! Smashed more records!!



Sam is on the right.



Stay in the Game—Protect Your Eyes While Playing Sports

Prevent Blindness America Urges Athletes of Any Age to Care for Their Eyes by Wearing Proper Eye Protection -

CHICAGO (Aug. 23, 2011) – Every year, more than 40,000 athletes suffer an eye injury while playing sports. And, every 13 minutes, an emergency room in the United States treats a sports-related eye injury. Adults and children can protect their vision while playing sports by wearing the proper eye protection. Prevent Blindness America has dedicated September as Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month to encourage everyone to make eye safety part of the game plan.

Polycarbonate lenses must be used with protectors that meet or exceed the requirements of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). Each sport has a specific ASTM code. Polycarbonate eyewear is 10 times more impact resistant than other plastics, according to the National Eye Institute. There is no evidence that wearing eye protection hampers athletic performance. Eye injuries can include painful corneal abrasions, blunt trauma and penetrating injuries, inflamed iris, fracture of the eye socket, swollen or detached retinas, traumatic cataract and blood spilling into the eye's anterior chamber. The consequences of eye injury can range from temporary to permanent vision loss and even blindness.

Any athletes who have poor vision or blindness in one eye should take particular care to protect their remaining vision. Yet, many forgo eye protection. According to a recent survey conducted by researchers at the Ohio State University, only 21 percent of college football programs required the use of a face shield in players with poor vision in one eye, while a mere 20 percent recommended face shields.



“Whether it be goggles for basketball or face shields for football players, everyone must make eye protection part of their uniform,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness America. “And we can’t stress enough how important it is for those who have diminished or no vision in one eye to protect their healthy eye while playing sports. An eye accident can happen in a split second yet impact the rest of your life.”



Prevent Blindness America provides the following guidelines for purchasing the best eye protection:

- If you wear prescription glasses, ask your eye doctor to fit you for prescription protective sports eyewear.
- If you're a monocular athlete, ask your eye doctor what sports you can safely participate in. Monocular athletes should **always** wear sports eye protectors.

- Fogging of the lenses can be a problem. Some eye protectors are available with anti-fog coating. Others have side vents for additional ventilation. Try on different types to determine which is most comfortable.
- Check the packaging to see if the eye protector has been tested for sports use. Also check to see that the eye protector is made of polycarbonate material. Polycarbonate eye guards are the most impact resistant.
- Sports eye protectors should be padded or cushioned along the brow and bridge of the nose. Padding will prevent them from cutting the skin.
- Try on the eye protector to determine if it's the right size. Adjust the strap and make sure it's not too tight or too loose.
- For outdoor sports, look for eye protection that blocks harmful UV rays.

In an ongoing effort to educate children and their parents on the importance of sports eye injury protection, Prevent Blindness America, The Coalition to Prevent Sports Eye Injuries and Liberty Sport, Inc., have embarked on the second year of the "September is Sports Eye Injury Prevention Awareness Month" campaign. The program provides free educational materials to eye care professionals, specifically those who are Sports Eye Injury Prevention Centers.

For more information on sports eye injury prevention and information on sport-specific eye protection recommendations, please call Prevent Blindness America at (800) 331-2020, or visit preventblindness.org/sports-eye-safety.

Best regards,
Sarah Hecker
Director, Media Relations
Prevent Blindness America
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www.preventblindness.org



(Continued from page 6) - Oldies but Goodies....

the smaller steps that make up the experience. Because visual impairment results in a deficit of learning through visual observations and it is necessary to use a multisensory approach that takes advantage of the child's remaining senses. Activities may need to be broken into smaller segments and repeated multiple times.

Examples of some of the everyday experiences that are included in this calendar are:

- "What is a salad? Help make one for dinner."
- "Use an alarm clock to wake up."
- "Pick all the nickels from a pile of coins and buy something with them."
- "Find pairs of things, like shoes, socks, and dishes."

- "Visit a vegetable garden. What's growing there?"

It is not required that every activity in the calendar be completed, but rather, the calendar is meant to be a compilation of ideas from which to draw inspiration and expand upon. The calendar is designed so that the user may begin at any point and choose activities appropriate for the child, the occasion, and the lifestyle of the family. Cross-environmental teaching is encouraged and activities may be taught by a variety of different "teachers" and in a variety of locations.

If you have any suggestions for other products you would like to see highlighted in this monthly feature, please send your comments to Monica Turner at mmturner@aph.org.

chicago park district

*Davis Square Special Recreation
Fall Programming
-programming for individuals with visual and physical
disabilities*

4430 S. Marshfield
Chicago Illinois 60609

Adaptive Sports Training:

Team and individual training for seasonal adaptive sports
Wednesdays, 5-8pm and Saturdays, 2-4pm \$5

Judo

Learn the Martial Art of Judo
Saturdays, 12-2pm, \$10

Social Club and Music:

Homework help, group outings, musical training, and more!
Social Club, *Fridays, 3-5pm, \$5*
Music, *Fridays 5-7pm, Free*

Bowling:

Tuesdays, 3-7pm, Free (participants will have to pay for 2 games and shoe rental)
@ Lawn Lanes 6750 S. Pulaski Rd. bus provided

Learn to Swim:

Thursdays, 4-5pm @ McGuane Park pool, 2901 S. Poplar Ave., \$5

Daily Living Skills

Learn everyday living skills
Thursdays, 5-8pm at McGuane Park, 2901 S. Poplar Ave., \$5

Leisure Sports and Recreation

Learn and explore adaptive sports and games
Wednesdays, 3-5pm, Free

**Fall Registration,
Happening now**

Cash or Money Order
Fee must be paid upon Registering

Activities are for all individuals with visual
or physical disabilities
Ages 8 and up,
And will run **Sept 19 thru Dec 4, 2011**



For registration and questions contact:
Luis Fuentes, Special Recreation Instructor
(312) 745-3424
davisspecialrec@yahoo.com
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com
(312) 742-PLAY (312) 747-2001 (TTY)

CONVENTION

**2011 National Federation of the Blind
Illinois Convention
October, 7, 8, and 9, 2011**

Holiday Inn Rock Island — Quad Cities
226 17th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

This year's convention will be the largest gathering in Illinois of the blind speaking for ourselves.

The winners of the Braille Reader's are Leaders contest plus featured youth who attended "Youth Slam" will be welcomed.

The convention will also feature a variety of other guests talking about topics from recreation to education, and, of course, the need for Braille literacy and the use of adaptive techniques to retain independence. Exhibitors of the latest technology will be present throughout the convention.

For more information about this year's convention, contact Patti Gregory-Chang at 773-307-6440 or president@nfbfillinois.org.

For more information on the National Federation of the Blind or its Illinois affiliate, please visit www.nfb.org.



CONFERENCE

Announcing the First Annual

enLIGHTen
LOW VISION CONFERENCE

"About Low Vision Today – the U.S. and Around the World"

November 2nd - 4th, 2011

held at the ATIA 2011 Chicago Conference*
Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, Schaumburg, IL

For more information please contact: Leah A. Gerlach
Rehabilitation Counselor - Adaptive Technology Specialist
at Deicke House





12th Early Childhood
Sharing A Vision Conference: "Children, Families and Professionals Together."

Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, Illinois, **September 26-28, 2011.**

To review the whole brochure on this conference, please go to the website at: <http://www.sharingavision.org/conf/2011/brochure.pdf>.



Chicago November 2-5, 2011

Annual conference takes place in Chicago at the Renaissance in Schaumburg. There will be 175+ educational sessions to choose from, plus an exhibit hall of over 100 leading manufacturers, service providers, and non-profit agencies showcasing their products and services. For more information go to www.atia.org.



Illinois AER Vision Conference
February 16-17, 2012
Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, IL

The planning for the 2012 Annual Illinois AER Vision Conference is underway! Our theme this year is "United in Vision". As a professional community we are "United in Vision" to provide services to our students and clients that are cutting edge, researched based, and of premium quality. Amy Lund and the Program Committee will be meeting in September to develop this year's program. We invite you to share your vision, knowledge, expertise and research with all of us by submitting a proposal. "Call for Papers" will be accepted until September 9, 2011.

Registration for exhibitors is now being accepted. If you did not receive the registration form in the mail you may access the information on the website.

Conference registration for attendees will be on our website at the end of September.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at dfinn@thenia.org.

See you in February!
Diane Finn
Illinois AER Conference Chair

PARENT MEETING

**Start the School Year off Right
Learn to be an Advocate for your Child!**

The Family Resource Center on Disabilities will provide information on ways to support your child both in the community and in the school system.

Tuesday, September 13, 2011
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

The Chicago Lighthouse
1850 W Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL 60608

Please RSVP to Mary Zabelski at
(312) 997-3675 by
Friday, September 9, 2011

Dinner and child care are provided!

Co-Sponsored by the Illinois Association for
Parents of Children with Visual
Impairments (IPVI)



TRAINING SESSIONS

FRCD AUGUST 2011 TRAININGS

Saturday Summer Sessions
(10:00 AM-1:00 PM)
20 E. Jackson Blvd. Room 300
Chicago, IL 60604

- 9/10 **Six Principles of IDEA**
- 9/13 **Special Education Rights Training**
- 9/17 **RTI (Response to Intervention) Workshop**
- 9/20 **Deaf Health Fair**
- 9/21 **Spanish IEP Training**
- 9/29 **Transition Phone Training Part 2
Phone Trainings**

(For your convenience we are holding 1 hour
training sessions over the phone)
(12:00 Noon-1:00 PM)

- 9/14 **Skill for Effective Parent Advocacy**

- 9/19 **Working for change: using the
Power of a Personal Story**
- 9/20 **Procedural Safeguards**
- 9/22 **Dispute Resolution**

You must register in advance in order to get
your materials in the mail.

Please call us at **312-939-3513**

or

You may register online at:

www.frcd.org

To view the training calendar go to
www.frdc.org and click on Events/Training-
Upcoming Events. To register for FRCD's Up-
coming Trainings, contact us by phone at 312-
939-3513, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, or drop
us an email at info@frcd.org.

GUILD FOR THE BLIND

Internet Access Using Your Phone: Net
Echo is a subscription service allowing you to
access the Internet without a computer. Using
simple voice commands, you can read emails
or surf the web. Recent software updates to
this program have made this service more us-
er friendly. Try out the demo at
www.internetspeech.com or call 408-532-
8460.

Seminars at Hadley: Did you miss a seminar
from Hadley you really wanted to hear? All
seminars can easily be downloaded to your
computer by visiting the seminar archive on
Hadley's website. From technology to aca-
demics to sports and recreation, there's a top-
ic for everyone. Visit **www.hadley.edu** and
click on past seminars.

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Ave., Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60601-7463,
312-236-8569, www.guildfortheblind.org.



IPVI

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**THIS PUBLICATION IS SUPPORTED
(IN PART) BY THE NATIONAL
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PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH
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HILTON/PERKINS
PROGRAM AND (IN PART) FROM A
GRANT FROM THE FAMILY RE-
SOURCE CENTER ON DISABILITIES**



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: \$15 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 \$15/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 2947 • Naperville, IL 60567-2947

Have questions or need more information?

**Call us at
1-877-411-IPVI (4784)**

**Illinois Association for Parents of
Children with Visual Impairments**
P. O. Box 2947
Naperville, IL 60567-2947

**FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND
or PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**THE TOP LINE... of your address
label indicates whether your dues
are "Paid" or if they are "Due."
Please send your annual dues in
each year.**

IPVI CALENDAR

- | | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------|
| ▶ Sept. 13 | Learn to be an Advocate for your Child | Chicago |
| ▶ Sept. 26-28 | Sharing a Vision Conference | Springfield |
| ▶ Oct. 7-9 | 2011 NFB Illinois Conference | Rock Island |
| ▶ Nov. 2-4 | enLIGHTen Low Vision Conference | Chicago |
| ▶ Nov. 2-5 | ATIA 2011 Chicago | Chicago |
| ▶ Feb. 16-17 | Illinois AER Vision Conference 2012 | Schaumburg |

Please call
1-877-411-IPVI
for any questions, concerns,
or comments that IPVI can
help you with.

**Newsletter Deadline for
OCT./ NOV. is OCTOBER 1st**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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