

# CHOICE CHOICES

By Tanni L. Anthony

Editor:

Tanni L. Anthony, Ph.D.  
State Consultant on  
Blindness/Low Vision

Colorado Department of Education  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1175  
Denver, CO 80202

(303) 866-6681 (voice)

(303) 866-6767 (fax)

E-mail: anthony\_t@cde.state.co.us

# WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers  
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired

March—April 2011

Our choices define our lives. Every day we determine choices for what we wear, eat, the work and home chores we select to complete (or ignore)... the list is endless for what we choose.

After completing the finishing touches on this newsletter, the word **CHOICES** became loud and clear. There is a lot happening in Colorado in terms of possible student activities, parent training, and professional development.

There are some great choices for summer training. June is turning into the premier training month of the year with a host of summer conferences and institutes. You will find that some of these events will be competing with one another. There is just not simply enough days in the month of June to get it all in without some cross-over. So the choices will be yours to make. The good news is that there are choice choices to choose!

In this edition, please find **for students**: a host of activities with the Colorado Center for the Blind and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, and a technology symposium open to students.

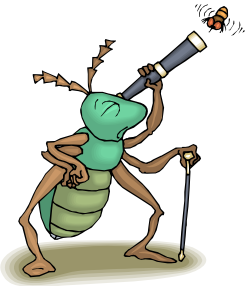
**For parents**: The April 16th training on the Syndrome of Optic Nerve Hypoplasia, Technology Symposium, the June 4th Family Learning Retreat in Colorado Springs and Montrose, and the Western Region Early Intervention Conference (WREIC) in Utah that CO is co-sponsoring.

**For professionals**: Syndrome of ONH training, Technology Symposium, Annual O&M Conference, many trainings and a summer conference with our good friends at the CO Assistive Technology Project, the 2011 Summer Institute on Deafblindness and Significant Support Needs, and the WREIC.

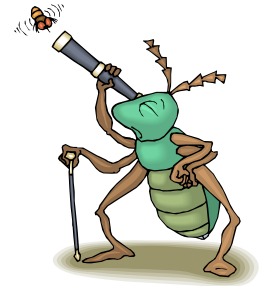
I would encourage you to take advantage of these events as your calendar will allow. Choices are a good thing and Colorado is offering a real menu in the next few months. Enjoy!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Choice Choices	1	Ooey Goey	11	Dots of Interest	21
Low Vision Clinics	2	Transition Info	12	Calendar of Events	23
Bits from Bonnie	3	Literacy Conference	13	Just for Parents	27
O&M News	4	Jobs in CO	14	CSDB Events	35
Snow Shoe Report	5	AT Trainings	15	CO Connections	37
Spotlight on CMV	6	CCB Youth Programs	16	Thanking Lou	38
Resources & Materials	8	WREIC	20	Tribute to Karen	39



## LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



### **2011-12 Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Schedule - Great News!**

The Low Vision Clinics for the next school year have been approved in the CDE Exceptional Student Leadership Unit budget! We are currently working with the identified site coordinators for school year 2011-12 on dates and locations.

### **Northern and Southern LVE Clinics**

By Debbie Haberkorn

The Northern Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic (LVE) held on February 17, 2011 went very smoothly. This full day clinic provided evaluations for six students from three school districts (Larimer County, Larimer County Thompson R-2J and Brush Re-2J). Five sets of parents and three TVIs from 2 Administrative Units (Larimer County and Centennial BOCES) attended the evaluations with their students. Susan Stokes, NMSBVI Low Vision Services Consultant from the New Mexico Low Vision Clinic observed. The team would like to thank Wendy Stoltman and Adams County District 27J (Brighton) for hosting and coordinating the clinic.

The final Colorado LVE Clinic of the school year occurred Friday, March 4, 2011 in low vision room of the School for the Blind. Six students from five school districts (CSDB, El Paso #49-Falcon, Lewis Palmer District #38, Fremont County RE-1-Canon City, El Paso County District #11) received hour and a half exams. Five sets of parents, and five TVIs from three Administrative Units (CSDB, Pikes Peak BOCES, El Paso County District 11) attended the evaluations with their students.

*Editors' Note: Thanks to our wonderful LVE Team (Dr. Tom Theune, Jim Olson, & Debbie Haberkorn) for their expertise. Thanks also to our site coordinators / hosts (Sarah Sonnier, Angela Sims, Judy Mumford, Nancy Knight, and Wendy Stoltman) for all of their time and assistance in the local clinic arrangements. Also a big thank you to all the students, parents, and TVIs who attended and participated. Follow-up evaluations will be mailed within the next few weeks to gather "application data" on this year's clinics. Please take a moment to complete any survey(s) sent to you!*

### **Save the Date: June 6-10, 2011**

For the **Summer Institute on Deafblindness and Significant Support Needs**. We are thrilled (beyond measure) to announce that Drs. Karen Erickson and Penny Hatch will be teaching a five-day course on *Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities*. For course details and electronic registration information, please go to: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Deafblind.asp>

Registration is limited—so do not delay, if you are interested.



# Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder  
BonnieLS21@gmail.com

## GMI Crossover Symposium on Technology

**Q:** What is special about Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>?

**A:** It is the date of the second GMI Crossover Symposium on Technology for Persons who are Blind and Visually Impaired.

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) will be hosting the symposium again this year and I wish to thank Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak, Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science (EAS), Dr. Ramaswami Dandapani, Director of the GMI Program, Dr. Sudhanshu Semwal and Director of Disability Services, Mrs. Ida Dilwood, for their support in allowing this symposium to exist and expand.

This year the Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Gary Bishop, a professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research centers on the use of commodity computer technology to enable people with disabilities. Additionally, we will have a presentation by Mr. Pedro Milliet, Software Architect for the Dorina Nowill Foundation for the Blind in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

We will have presentations on a variety of technology, many of which will be given by consumers of this technology. And this year, due to the proliferation of iDevices, we will have several presentations focusing on Apple products.

I have already sent out emails to members of the TVI community to give a preliminary announcement of the symposium and to get a feel for interests in technology for the blind, technology for the visually impaired, or both.

Also, I would very much like to encourage parents and their children who are blind/visually impaired to take part in this event. I am looking forward to seeing you at the symposium!

# ORIENTATION & MOBILITY ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

## O&M Study Guide on Street Crossing

This NEW Self-Study Guide: Preparing Visually Impaired Students to Assess and Cross Streets with No Stop Sign or Traffic Signal starts at:

<http://www.sauerburger.org/dona/crosscredit0.html>

Author Dona Sauerburger notes that she is very excited about this Self-Study Guide because it reflects what she learned from doing more than a dozen street-crossing workshops over the last year or two. Dona was the key presenter of the Annual Colorado O&M Conference held at the Anchor Center for Blind Children in May of 2010.

## Annual Orientation and Mobility Workshop

Have Wheels—WILL Travel!

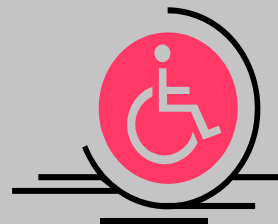
### Have you Registered?

The Annual Colorado Department of Education and CO AER Chapter Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Conference will be held **May 5-7, 2011** on the campus of the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB). We will kick-off the training with hands-on activities in the gym (focusing on sports, recreation, and leisure activities with onsite facilitators Mark Lucas, Donna Keale, Mike Plansker, and David Gooldy. Scott Crawford will be the featured speaker on Friday and Saturday. His two-day presentation will be on the topic of orientation and mobility for students who are blind/visually impaired and wheelchair users.

The training is reserved for Colorado O&M specialists working in schools and/or rehabilitation agencies.

The registration link can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/COAnnualOMWorkshopReg11/registration.asp>

For more information, contact Tanni at (303) 866-6681 or [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)



# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Snowshoe Weekend at the YMCA of the Rockies!!

We were greeted this year with ten inches of fresh snow on the ground and more falling upon arrival. What a great way to start our winter weekend. We are very glad that not only everyone arrived, but were even early amidst the snow covered roads. This year we had 29 kids and 14 fantastic volunteers for a total of 43 participants. Rocky Mountain National Park was closed on



Participants of the February 2011 Snow Shoe Weekend!

Saturday and Sunday due to poor road conditions, but that did not stop our fun. Thanks to the bountiful snow and willingness to adapt, we were able to snowshoe and sled on the YMCA grounds and explore areas we had never previously explored. Everyone enjoyed the music, games, cupcakes (homemade by Kaitlin), punch, and fantastic costumes at this year's costume party. We were able to give out 12 prizes (provided by Pat Lewis) in various categories for our participants clever costumes. We also had a great time experiencing sledding, skating, snowshoeing, wonderful food, and friendships old and new.



Sled fun with Kaitlin Lombardi and  
Jenny Rameriz .... Hang On!

Special thanks to those who planned the event: Deb Andrews, Kaitlin Lombardi, Mike Plansker, and Elaine Karns and to all our wonderful volunteers who make the event a success: Cheryl Leidich, Barb Galgano, Trina Boyd-Pratt, David Gooldy, Pat Lewis, Dannyel Adams, Lorraine Estrada, Jessica Rawlins, Jamie Lugo, Tyrone Threats, Dan Spigarelli. Also thanks to Elsa D'Angelo for coming up on the day of the snowshoeing.

Next year will mark the Tenth Annual Snowshoe Weekend and a start at a new location. We will be heading to the other side of the divide to YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch. The snowshoe planning committee is already busy planning for next year and can't wait to expose the kids to new winter play activities.



Deya Villa and Alma Rodriguez sharing a sled.



## Spotlight on Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

Information Compiled by Tanni Anthony

**What is Cytomegalovirus (CMV)?** CMV is a common virus that infects most people at some time during their lives, but rarely causes an obvious illness. CMV is a member of the herpes virus family. CMV infection can become dormant for a while and then may reactivate at a later time. The virus is carried by people and is not associated with food, water, or animals.

**Who gets CMV?** Anyone can become infected with CMV. Almost all people have been exposed to CMV by the time they reach adulthood.

**How is CMV Spread?** Although the virus is not highly communicable, it can be spread from person-to-person by direct contact. The virus is primarily shed in the urine, saliva, semen and, to a lesser extent, in other body fluids. Transmission can also occur from an infected mother to her fetus or newborn and by blood transfusion and/or organ transplants.

**What are the Symptoms of CMV Infection?** Most children and adults who are infected with CMV do not develop symptoms. Those who develop symptoms may experience an illness resembling infectious mononucleosis and have fever, swollen glands and feel tired. People with a compromised immune system may experience more serious illness involving fever, pneumonia and other symptoms.

**How Soon After Exposure do Symptoms Appear?** Although most people never develop symptoms after exposure, the incubation period appears to be between three and 12 weeks.

**How Long can an Infected Person Carry CMV?** CMV remains in the body throughout a lifetime. Infected people may occasionally shed the virus in urine or saliva. Research studies have found that from three to 11 percent of normal adults and up to 50 percent of healthy children shed the virus in either urine or saliva. The virus rapidly dies once outside the body.

**How is CMV Diagnosed?** There are special laboratory tests to culture the virus, but such testing is difficult, expensive, and not widely available. Specific blood tests can be helpful to the physician in making a diagnosis or determining if a person has been exposed but the results are sometimes inaccurate.

**What Is The Treatment For CMV Infection?** In most cases, there is no treatment. An effective vaccine has not yet been developed.

**Is CMV Infection Very Serious in Infants?** If a mother gets a CMV infection for the first time in her life while pregnant, it can be passed to the fetus during birth. Most pregnant women will not have any symptoms, and those that do have symptoms experience something similar to mononucleosis. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), only a small percentage (1% to 4%) of uninfected pregnant women will become infected with CMV.

CMV is the most common viral infection that infants are born with in the United States. About one in 150 children are born with congenital (present at birth) CMV infection. In the United States, about 30,000 children are born with congenital CMV infection each year. About ten percent of congenitally infected babies will have symptoms at birth (symptomatic) and ninety percent will be "silently" infected, without symptoms (asymptomatic). If there are symptoms, they usually include jaundice or an enlarged liver or spleen.

Children born with either type of congenital CMV infection may have long-term problems, including hearing loss, developmental and motor disabilities, and eye disease. In the United States, more than 5,000 children each year have permanent problems caused by CMV infection. As the baby grows, the damage caused by the CMV becomes evident – learning and physical disabilities (including sensory loss) appear.

**What Types of Vision Problems Are Associated with Children Born with a CMV Infection?** Eye involvement occurs in only 10 to 20 percent of symptomatic infants and in one to two percent of asymptomatic infants. In one study, the cause of the vision loss included retinitis (inflammation on the back of the eye or retina) with macular scars (scars on the vision portion of the back of the eye), cortical vision loss (inability of the brain to decode or interpret vision signs received from the eyes), optic atrophy (abnormal optic nerve in the back of the eye), and/or strabismus (eyes turn in or turn out).

**What Types of Hearing Problems Are Associated with Children Born with a CMV Infection?** A substantial percentage of symptomatic newborns and a smaller percentage of nonsymptomatic newborns will develop a sensorineural hearing loss, which usually is progressive hearing loss. The child may present with either a unilateral (one ear) or bilateral (both ears) hearing loss.

**What Types of Medical Treatment Is Important for a Child Born with a CMV Infection?**

All children born with congenital CMV infection should have a comprehensive eye examination in the newborn period. Careful follow-up is recommended for all those who have abnormalities as infants, or at any time the child experiences symptoms of concern, such as inability to move the eyes in all directions, vision loss, eye pain, or other concerns about vision or the eye that may occur.

Due to the high risk for progressive hearing loss, an annual audiology evaluation is recommended annually is recommended to monitor changes in hearing. Early detection of hearing loss and proper intervention improves a child's ability to keep pace with developmental milestones, especially language development. Children with a significant hearing loss may benefit from hearing aids or other listening devices.

**Should an Infected Child Be Excluded from School or Daycare?** Experts note there is no reason to exclude children who have CMV.

What precautions should pregnant women take when performing patient care or child care? Pregnant women should practice good hygiene and carefully wash their hands after caring for patients or children. This is particularly important when handling diapers or having contact with the child's urine or saliva. Pregnant women working in child care facilities should minimize direct exposure to saliva and avoid kissing babies or young children on the mouth. Hugging is fine and is not a risk factor.

**What can be done to prevent the spread of CMV?** Good hand washing is the best preventive measure. Plastic disposable gloves should be worn when handling linen or underclothes soiled with feces or urine.

## Resources

**National Congenital CMV Disease Registry - Parent-to-Parent Support Network:** The National Congenital CMV Disease Registry assists families affected by CMV by providing a way to exchange information and by offering help and support to one another

[http://www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/index.cfm?Realm=99991126&This\\_Template=p-to-p](http://www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/index.cfm?Realm=99991126&This_Template=p-to-p)

## References:

Congenital CMV Disease: Effects on Vision, Vol. 8, No. 1 – Retrieved at:  
<http://www.congenitalcmv.org/ffectsvision.pdf>

CMV Fact Sheet – Retrieved from:

[http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/cytomegalovirus/fact\\_sheet.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/cytomegalovirus/fact_sheet.htm)

# Resources and Materials

## Sense of Science: Astronomy

This is the third module in this tactile/visual science series from the American Printing House for the Blind. Unlike previous modules of this series, this set of materials is appropriate for a broader range of ages and grade levels of students with visual impairments and blindness. Activities incorporate a learning objective, a list of vocabulary and needed materials, a step-by-step procedure, extended activities, visual adaptations, math and language connections, and science tidbits. Activities are complemented by the included visual/tactile overlays and fold-out 2-dimensional displays. For more information, contact [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)



## Child and Family Outcomes Measurements Resources

The following two resources are now available on the Early Intervention Colorado website at [www.eicolorado.org](http://www.eicolorado.org)

*Early Intervention Colorado Child and Family Outcomes Measurements* - an educational flier for family members and other caregivers of eligible children receiving early intervention services. This document is also available in Spanish: *Intervención Temprana Colorado Medidas de Resultados Infantiles y Familiares*. Both versions of this resource is posted in the Family Section/Child and Family Outcomes link, in the Training Section/Child and Family Outcomes link and as relevant documents in the Policies and Procedures Section, Child and Family Outcomes link.

*Family Outcomes Survey Guide FY 2010 - 11* includes Early Intervention Colorado Family Outcomes Survey schedule, considerations for local programs and providers to encourage family awareness and involvement, and key talking points for the family outcomes survey. This resource is posted in the Training Section/Child and Family Outcomes/Family Outcomes Measurements link and as a relevant document in the Policies and Procedures Section/Child and Family Outcomes link.



## Reclaiming Independence: Staying in the Driver's Seat When You No Longer Drive

is a product developed by Penny Rosenblum, Ph.D. and Terrie Terlau, Ph.D., released in 2007. This kit includes a large print resource guide, a cassette recording of the resource guide, and a DVD or VHS video. The 45-minute video follows six older persons, who stopped driving because of vision loss, as they continue to lead active, independent lives. These individuals discuss issues such as dealing with loss, and finding low vision, rehabilitation, and transportation resources that allow them to become successful non-drivers. The accompanying resource guide provides information about understanding visual impairment, services for adults with vision loss, transportation options and strategies for using them successfully, and finding resources that work. This product can offer people with low vision and their families validation, role models, information, examples of positive outcomes, and hope. The link below will allow you to watch an 8-minute complimentary preview trailer of the video. <http://www.aphmedia.org/video/ReclaimingIndependence.wmv>



# Resources and Materials

## Moving Ahead - Tactile Graphic Storybooks:

***The Boy and the Wolf*: [6-77900-00](tel:6-77900-00) -- \$50.00**

Moving Ahead: Tactile Graphic Storybooks are designed to be the next step for preschool and kindergarten students who have had some experience with simple tactile representations, such as those in APH's On the Way to Literacy series. Three Moving Ahead books are now available: *The Boy and the Wolf*, *Spish the Fish*, and *Goin' on a Bear Hunt*.

While On the Way to Literacy storybooks use real objects, molded images, and simple raised outlines, Moving Ahead storybooks introduce symbolic representation, more complex illustrations, and an increased emphasis on text by combining tactile pictures, print/braille text, and a fun story. Each read-aloud book invites the child to have fun while listening to the story and exploring its tactile pictures and print/braille text.

With Moving Ahead, students will:

- Explore tactile illustrations with varying levels of detail
- Track varying types of lines and intersecting lines
- Encounter tactile symbols, simple keys, and maps
- Discover braille words embedded in the graphics and locate the same word in the text
- Increase comprehension by using the fold-out map/storyboard to retell the story and create their own tactile displays

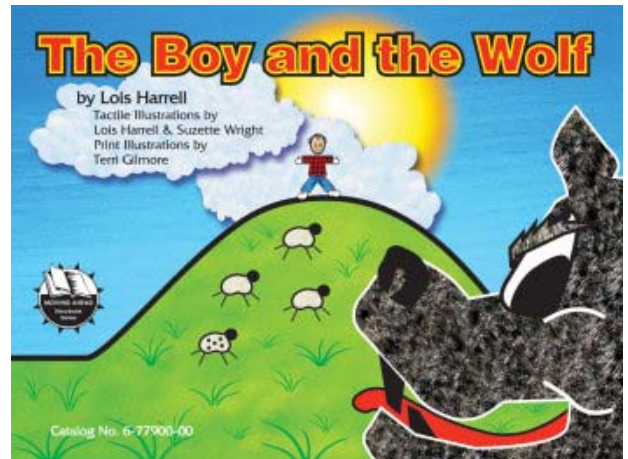
Each storybook includes a Large Print Reader's Guide (braille edition sold separately) that contains general information, tips on using the storybook, and additional resources. Also included are braille words on customer-applied labels, allowing the reader to choose contracted or uncontracted braille.

### **NEW! *The Boy and the Wolf***

This rhyming story features a twist on the classic tale of the boy who cried wolf. Simple raised line symbols represent the Wolf, the Boy, and his small flock of sheep. As the story is read, the child is invited to tactually search the page for these characters, to count and compare like and different pairs of sheep, and notice differing orientations. The story and its graphics introduce a variety of concepts: left, right, top, bottom, near, far, first, last. A simple key presents the symbols used in the book. Includes a storyboard and symbols for the story's characters, which permit the child to create his own tactile displays. As the child retells the story using the storyboard, he gains understanding of how tactile graphics can be used to symbolize objects and show spatial position.

**Recommended ages:** Preschool through 2nd grade

For more information, please go to [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)



# Resources and Materials



## Announcing New Online Professional Research Journal

The National Federation of the Blind has launched a new publication—the first international, interdisciplinary open-access journal created by blind people, parents, teachers, administrators, and academic researchers designed to further efforts to address the real problems of blindness. It is called the Journal of Blindness Innovation and Research (JBIR) and is available at [www.nfb-jbir.org](http://www.nfb-jbir.org) at no charge.

JBIR is a multidisciplinary publication presenting primary research, scholarly reviews, and reports of innovative information and research related to the blind. Relevant topics may include but are not limited to: the education/rehabilitation of the blind, innovations related to Braille and the use of Braille, techniques and tools for independent movement and travel by the blind, development of innovative technological approaches, findings that can affect advocacy-related efforts, analysis of data sets providing descriptive information about the blind, and innovative practices in preparing professionals and paraprofessionals to work with the blind.

Interested individuals are encouraged to visit the journal and sign up to be readers, authors, peer-reviewers, or all of the above. Your active participation in this dynamic publication will help advance knowledge in the field of blindness.

---

## Tangible Symbols Webcast from Perkins



Elizabeth Torrey is a Speech and Language Pathologist in the Early Learning Center at Perkins School for the Blind. She has extensive experience working with children with visual impairments who are at the early stages of language development. In this webcast, Elizabeth talks about the use of tangible symbols to support the development of communication with children who are visually impaired. Ch. 1: Introduction, Ch. 2: What Are Tangible Symbols, Ch. 3: How Tangible Symbols Should Be Presented, Ch. 4: The Benefits of Using Tangible Symbols, Ch. 5: Considerations When Developing Tangible Symbols, Ch. 6: Behavioral Benefits.

Watch the webcast:

[http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts\\_Tangible\\_Symbols](http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts_Tangible_Symbols)

## Flashlight Brush

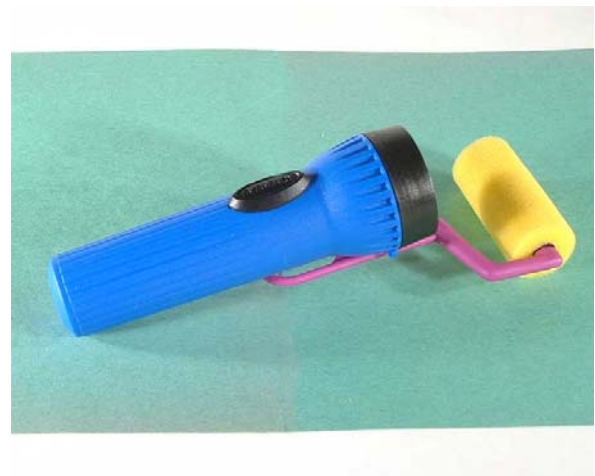
### You Need:

- Plastic Flashlight
- Roller Brush
- Mounting Screws
- Drill
- Screw Driver
- You Do:
- Unscrew light fixture end from flashlight.

### You Do:

1. Unscrew light fixture end from flashlight.
2. Place roller brush against flashlight so that roller end will extend beyond flashlight by a couple of inches.
3. Drill  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch hole into roller brush and flashlight at the same time.
4. Attach roller brush to flashlight with  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch bolt, nut and lock washer.
5. Hand tighten with screwdriver.
6. Add Batteries.
7. Screw light fixture on flashlight.
8. Turn out the lights and let them chase the light. See what they paint that way!

[www.ooeygooey.com](http://www.ooeygooey.com)





## TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

### 2011 Scholarship Awards Program

Building Opportunities for the Blind  
in Education and Beyond



This year the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado will be awarding up to \$15,000 in scholarship funds for deserving students. If know a legally blind student from Colorado, **PLEASE APPLY IMMEDIATELY!** [www.nfbco.org](http://www.nfbco.org)

**DEADLINE: April 15, 2011**

For more information please contact:

Buna Dahal, Chairperson, Scholarship Committee, NFB of Colorado  
303-758-1232 or [bunadahal@dynamicbuna.com](mailto:bunadahal@dynamicbuna.com)

**AFB** American Foundation<sup>®</sup>  
for the Blind

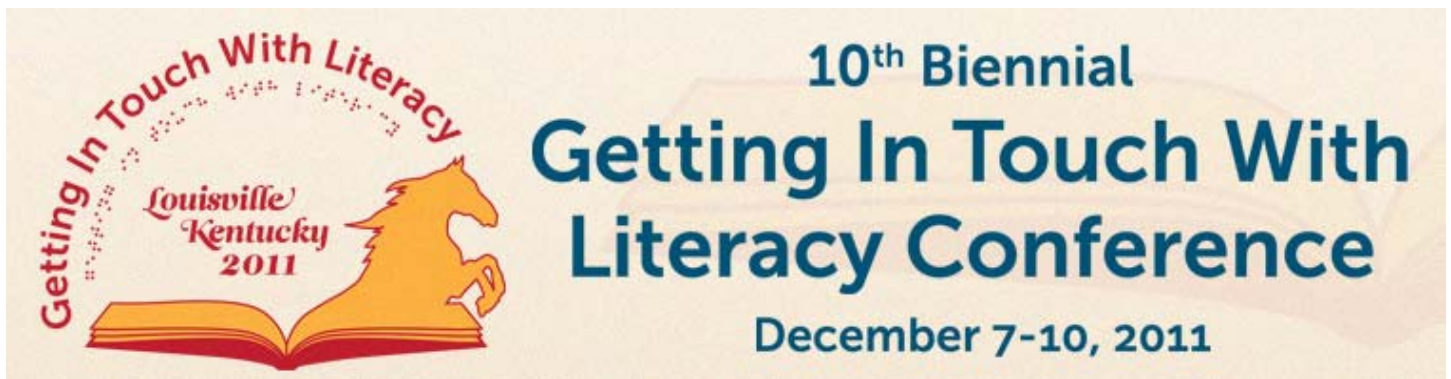
Expanding possibilities for people with vision loss

### American Foundation for the Blind Scholarships

The American Foundation for the Blind has seven post-secondary education scholarships for up to 11 students who are legally blind. This is for the 2011-2012 academic year (the application deadline is **April 30, 2011**). Information about the scholarships and an online application can be found at [www.afb.org/scholarships.asp](http://www.afb.org/scholarships.asp).

---

**There will be a College Seminar in Greeley on April 9, 2011. For more information, contact: Brent Batron—303-778-1130 x 222 or [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)**



The Tenth Biennial Getting in Touch With Literacy will take place in Louisville, December 7-10, 2011. You are sure to find the same great presentations, exhibits, opportunities to network, special activities and more that you've come to expect from this outstanding conference. The 2011 event will also herald the return of the celebrity auction, so you'll want to be here to bid on autographed items from your favorite celebs!

CO TVIs—please consider submitting a paper and presenting at this important training! We've got a lot of great stuff to share!

## Getting In Touch With Literacy Call for Papers!

This grass roots conference is looking for workshops from professionals just like you, filled with practical solutions, cutting edge information and research, and the tricks, tips and techniques you use every day! Presentations are 60 - 90 minutes in length.

A call for papers for presentations and poster sessions is available on the GITWL website: [www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org](http://www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org)

Presentations should focus on all areas of literacy including braille, print, the use of assistive technology and other literacy tools, research, and practice. A range of age levels and all ability levels should be addressed. Presentations are encouraged that deal with topics related to infants and toddlers, school aged students, and adults.



## IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for this school year. Please keep in touch with Tanni about your job openings. If you know of an anticipated opening in your part of the state, please begin working to recruit someone into our field by ensuring he or she has an opportunity to learn about being a TVI and/or an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. This may be a paraeducator, a brailist, and/or a colleague already in the teaching profession. Please work with Dr. Paula Conroy to learn more about the UNC distance education / graduate program to prepare TVIs and O&M Specialists in Colorado!

TVI = teacher certified in the area of visual impairment.  
COMS = certified orientation and mobility specialist

### Metro Region Jobs

- ✓ **Vocation Rehabilitation Counselor / O&M Specialist** (1 FTE): Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. For more information, please contact Lindsey Pacheco at (303) 866.3319 or [Lindsey.Pacheco@state.co.us](mailto:Lindsey.Pacheco@state.co.us)
- ✓ **TVI** (limited contract work): Vanguard Charter School. For additional information, please contact Christie McGovern at [cmcgovern@vcsk8.org](mailto:cmcgovern@vcsk8.org) or (303) 691-2384.

### Southern Region Jobs

- ✓ **TVI - Preschool / Early Intervention Services** (SY 2011-12; 1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org) for more information
- ✓ **TVI - Elementary Education** (SY 2011-12; 1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org) for more information
- ✓ **TVI - English / Language Arts; Science; Mathematics; Social Studies** (SY 2011-12; 1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org) for more information
- ✓ **Program Coordinator**, School for the Blind, (SY 2011-12, 1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org)
- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (.4 FTE for temporary substitute work): Position needed for Extended School Year this summer and during Fall Maternity Leave in Cheyenne Mountain School District. For more information, contact Deb Carlisle at [carlisle@cmsd.12.org](mailto:carlisle@cmsd.12.org) or (303) 916-1457.

### Statewide

- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (hourly contract work): Colorado Virtual Academy position. Flexible to your schedule. Contact Stacy Altman at 720-379-3985 or [saltman@covcs.org](mailto:saltman@covcs.org)



## **Discover How to Make Your PC Easier to See, Hear, and Use With Accessibility Solutions from Microsoft**

**Presented by Jim Sandstrum, MA, CCC-SLP, Senior Instructor**

**Monday, April 25th from 9:00 - 10:00 AM  
Assistive Technology Partners, Classroom One  
601 E. 18th Avenue Suite 130  
Denver, CO 80203**

**Description:** As a Microsoft Accessibility Resource Center, Assistive Technology Partners is providing a one hour overview and demonstration on the Accessibility features available in Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system and Office 2010 suite of applications.

**Cost: Free**

**Please RSVP as our space is limited. Call Christina at 303 315-1280 or email us at [christina.wessling@ucdenver.edu](mailto:christina.wessling@ucdenver.edu).**



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**Assistive Technology Partners**

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



## Make & Take Training

Register Early! Space is limited

April 29, 2011 from 9:00-3:00 (Registration begins at 8:30)

This video conference training will be held at a number of distance locations throughout Colorado. Materials will be sent to distance sites ahead of time. See the attached registration form for more details regarding training locations.

Participate in the following hands-on projects:

- **Making an Interactive Adapted Book** - Learn strategies for adapting curriculum and creating access to literacy materials. Walk away with an adapted book and related activities focusing on CDE science standards.
- **Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display** is a method of organizing vocabulary in a communication book or speech generating device. This project will provide you with a glimpse at this innovative communication system and provide opportunity to construct one of the many PODD templates available on the 3 disc set.
- **Mouse House** - activate and control special software when a computer mouse is placed inside this modified photo album.
- **Keyboard House** - activate and control special software when a computer keyboard is placed inside this housing unit.

**\$65 Registration Fee includes the training and materials.**



<http://AssistiveTechnologyPartners.org>  
Pearl Plaza 601 E 18th Ave, Suite 103 Denver, CO 80302  
Phone: 303.315.1280 Email: [GeneralInfo@AT-Partners.org](mailto:GeneralInfo@AT-Partners.org)





# Make & Take Training

Register Early! Space is limited.

Make and Take Training, April 29, 2011 from 9:00 – 3:00pm. Registration begins at 8:30am. Training will be held at a number of distance locations throughout Colorado.

Registration Fee: **\$65** Total cost covers the training and materials. **Lunch is not included.**

**Activity 1: Making an Interactive Adapted Book** - Learn strategies for adapting curriculum and creating access to literacy materials. Walk away with an adapted book and related activities focusing on CDE science standards.

**Activity 2: Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display** is a method of organizing vocabulary in a communication book or speech generating device. This project will provide you with a glimpse at this innovative communication system and provide opportunity to construct one of the many PODD templates available on the 3 disc set.

**Activity 3: Mouse House** - activate and control special software when a computer mouse is placed inside this modified photo album.

**Activity 4: Keyboard House** - activate and control special software when a computer keyboard is placed inside this housing unit.

**Participants are advised to bring (label with your name) scissors, black permanent marker, pencil, ruler, bottle of glue, computer mouse and keyboard.**

**Please note: \$65 Registration and payment must be received by April 5, 2011.**

**All cancellations and refund requests must be made by April 5, 2011. Refunds will be subject to a \$25 handling fee. If you need to cancel, we encourage you to send someone in your place.**

**Please complete the below information. RETURN REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a SWAAAC Member? Yes  No

Telephone (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/District \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate which location you would like to attend:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado Springs, UCCS                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeley, location not confirmed (North CO Med. Center) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cortez, SW Memorial Hospital           | <input type="checkbox"/> Haxtun, NE BOCES                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus        | <input type="checkbox"/> Lamar, SE BOCES  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Durango, San Juan BOCES                | <input type="checkbox"/> Limon, EC BOCES  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Junction, Basil T. Knight Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Pueblo, Corwin Magnet School                           |

**Payment Methods:** \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ American Express

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on the credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number of purchasing agent if different than registrant \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**If paying by check, please make check payable to UCDenver/ATP & mail to:**

SWAAAC/Make & Take Training  
601 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 130  
Denver, CO 80203-1492

**Or, fax registrations to SWAAAC at 303-837-1208**



## **2011 Summer Youth Programs**

### **Summer for Success College Prep Program**

Ages: High school graduates and older

Program dates: Friday, June 10, 2011 - Friday, August 5, 2011, 8-week residential program

### **Earn and Learn High School Program**

Ages: 14 years and older

Program dates: Friday, June 10, 2011 - Friday, August 5, 2011, 8-week residential program

### **Initiation to Independence Middle School Program**

Ages: 11-14

Program dates: Monday, July 18, 2011 – Friday, August 5, 2011, 3 week residential program

At the Colorado Center for the Blind we offer three summer residential programs for students in middle school, high school and college. The students live with counselors in two bedroom, two bath apartments located near the Center and will work on all aspects of managing an apartment. Students are well supervised by their counselors at a ratio of 3:1. They will also use public transportation to travel to and from the Center each day. There are usually 2-3 students per apartment and they will work together on such things as cleaning, cooking, food storage, grocery shopping using shopper assistants, budgeting money, and sharing common household chores.

We place a big emphasis on challenge recreation activities such as white water rafting, rock climbing and a variety of other events like major league baseball games or trips to amusement parks. The students always have a great time tackling these challenges that are generally perceived as inaccessible to blind kids.

All students participate in discussion groups where they talk about what it's like to be a blind teenager. Topics of discussion may include dating, dealing with parents and teachers, ways to integrate effectively into all school activities, and various social situations. Students learn how to problem solve, self advocate and take control of their lives.

All programs share the core classes of Braille, cane travel, home management, technology and philosophy of blindness. As an integral part of our programs, students with residual vision are required to wear sleepshades during the day and during other center activities. This provides for all students to focus their attention on learning the non-visual techniques that we teach at the Colorado Center for the Blind. Confidence and self-belief is developed at a quicker rate and students can fully realize that it is okay to be blind and that their worth is not based upon the amount of usable vision but instead on their ability with or without vision.

One of the high points of the high school and college summer programs is traveling to the National Federation of the Blind Annual Convention. This is the largest gathering of blind people in the world and the students get the chance to meet many successful blind adults and other kids from all around the country. At this convention, they learn about the newest technology and adaptive devices and experience some of the details of staying in a world-class hotel. We will travel by plane giving them a good experience in independently trav-

eling through unfamiliar airports, packing and checking luggage, etc. They will attend a formal banquet at the end of the convention and appropriate dress clothing is the norm at this event.

### **Summer for Success College Prep Program**

This comprehensive eight-week residential program for high school graduates will prepare each student to handle all aspects of a university or vocational program. Participants will have instruction on using readers and Disabled Students Services, applying for scholarships and meeting and talking with blind adults who have gone through the college experience. Local college instructors will work with students on developing alternative techniques in order to take courses including math, statistics, and sciences. Students will learn to take effective notes as well as to manage time. They will also learn to navigate different college campuses by utilizing the structured discovery techniques that they will learn in their cane travel class.

### **Earn and Learn High School Program**

This eight-week residential program serves students aged 14-18. Not only do these students take the core classes, but they have the opportunity to participate in exciting, paid work experiences. We work to match students with jobs they find both interesting and challenging. It is exhilarating for the students to get their first paycheck.

### **Initiation to Independence Middle School Program**

This is a three-week residential program for students aged 12-14. In addition to the core classes, this is an opportunity for this age group to live in apartments with other students and a counselor, getting real world experiences in their home away from home. Students will meet successful, working adults in order to learn about various professions.

### **For more information and applications please contact:**

Brent Batron, Youth Services Coordinator, [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)

Colorado Center for the Blind

2233 West Shepperd Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120

(303) 778-1130 1-800-401-4632

Email: [ccb@cocenter.org](mailto:ccb@cocenter.org)

Website: [www.cocenter.org](http://www.cocenter.org)





Western Regional Early Intervention Conference  
Arizona Colorado Idaho Nevada  
New Mexico Utah Wyoming

*This conference is designed to support professionals working with children, newborn to five years of age, who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired or deafblind, and their families.* This year's WREIC Conference will be held at **Weber State University in Ogden, UT**. All participants are welcome to attend events and workshops on **June 22nd and 23rd**. Additionally, there will be a day specifically targeted towards the needs of administrators before the conference opens to all participants on **June 21st**.

Early Intervention programs and Deafblind Projects in the following states are co-sponsoring this conference: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. **The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project will offer scholarships to selected CO attendees. For scholarship selection criteria and the application, please go to: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Deafblind.asp> or contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)**

Some of the presentations will include:

- Mark Borchert M.D.: *The ABC's of ONH (Optic Nerve Hypoplasia)*
- MaryAnn Demchak PhD: *Let's Play: Selecting Toys for Children with Disabilities*
- Julia Kleinschmidt PhD, LCSW: *Playing Cards & Life: Resilience in Us & Those We Serve*
- Terese Pawletko PhD: *Autism and Visual Impairment/ Deafblindness: Considerations in Diagnosis/Misdiagnosis and Working with Young Children with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia: Considerations and Strategies*
- Kat Stremel-Thomas: *Cochlear Implants in Young Children with Multiple Disabilities/ Deafblindness: Intervention Strategies*

To learn more about the WREIC and/to register for this year's conference, please go to:

<http://wreic2011.org/>

# DOTS OF INTEREST



## BANA Announces Results of NUBS Evaluation

The Braille Authority of North America, (BANA) has concluded a two-year evaluation study of the Nemeth Uniform Braille System (NUBS). BANA will soon publish the complete results of the study on its website. NUBS is an outgrowth of the Nemeth Braille Code of Mathematics and Science Notation, which was first published in 1965. Its developer, Dr. Abraham Nemeth, reports that this new system has been in development for ten years and is capable of rendering both literary and technical texts. Positive comments about NUBS included: reference to the concept of a single code rather than three separate ones; ease of learning due to familiarity with Nemeth; preference for dropped numbers; and potential for increasing the accuracy of transcription into braille. Negative comments included the increased bulk of NUBS compared to the current code; lack of necessity for changes since the current code works well; dislike for certain symbols of NUBS such as the modes; cumbersomeness of NUBS for writing; and concern about needing to show all the print indicators.

When the complete evaluation report is posted on its website, BANA will send a notification to the subscribers of the BANA-Announce e-mail list that disseminates official BANA information. To join this one-way e-mail list, send a blank email message to [bana-announce-subscribe@brailleauthority.org](mailto:bana-announce-subscribe@brailleauthority.org) and follow the directions in the confirmation email that will be sent in response. For additional resource information, visit [www.brailleauthority.org](http://www.brailleauthority.org)

## New Braille+ Video!

Student Chase Crispin writes to tell us some exciting news: "We just posted a new video about setting up email accounts on the Braille+. You can view it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZYSvbUfD4Y>"



## FREE Braille Book Bags!



For any family with a blind child, birth to age 7! Just call 800-548-7323 ext. BELL: A Summer Braille Camp for Kids!

## Summer Braille Camp

The BELL Program, a project of the NFB Jernigan Institute, is a two week day camp experience for blind and visually impaired children ages 4-12. Officially the letters B.E.L.L. stand for "Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning", but for the kids the letters stand for F.U.N. Both beginners and more accomplished Braille readers will gain confidence in reading and writing while engaged in games, crafts and exciting outdoor activities. The BELL program is being held in the Denver metro area from July 25 to August 5, 2011, Monday through Friday (exact location to be determined). The program will be led by certified Braille teachers and others who love Braille and use it every day. There is no cost to attend, but families will be encouraged to volunteer at least one day during the program. Cash donations will also be appreciated. Transportation to and from the camp will be the family's responsibility. Space is limited, so call soon to request an application. For more information contact program coordinator, Diane McGeorge, at [303-321-4268](tel:303-321-4268) or e-mail [rmcgeorge@comcast.net](mailto:rmcgeorge@comcast.net).

# DOTS OF INTEREST



## 2010 Braille Challenge Report

By Bertha Guerrero

On February 4, 2011 The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) hosted the 8th annual Colorado Regional Braille Challenge. More than sixty students from across the state of Colorado participated in competitions designed to test Speed, Accuracy, Comprehension, Spelling, Proofreading, and Charts and Graphs. Colorado TVIs accompanied their students and proctored sessions. CSDB has traditionally hosted a Rookie event for students who are not yet ready for competition. These students are all ages and are just beginning their Braille literacy adventure. The 2011

Colorado Braille Challenge hosted a Parent Seminar and a Technology Expo for parents. The Parent Seminar consisted of a panel discussion and mini presentations. The panel was comprised of five adults who happen to be blind or visually impaired. The topic for discussion was “What I would have liked my parents to have known”. The mini presentations were conducted by CSDB TVIs and O & M faculty, and vendors representing Humanware and Freedom Scientific. Their topics included Self Help Skills, Orientation and Mobility, Literacy, and Technology.

The Technology Expo consisted of eleven vendors including Humanware, Freedom Scientific, and G. W. Micro. Parents had the opportunity to speak with vendors along with service providers such as Audio Information Network of Colorado and Colorado Talking Book Library. Service organizations were represented by American Council for the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind.

In spite of inclement weather, all who participated had a positive experience and enjoyed our Celebration of Braille. The day concluded with an enthusiastic Awards Assembly followed by a performance by the Bad News Bulldog Band.

We would like to thank everyone who participated and helped make the 2011 Colorado Regional Braille Challenge a success. CSDB faculty and staff were phenomenal in their tireless work before, during and after February 4th. Special thanks go out to all the TVIs who came and helped proctor and participated in the Parent Seminar. The Braille Instructor at CSDB would also like to thank Mr. Lou Tutt, without his abundant energy and support the 8th Annual Colorado Regional Braille Challenge would not have happened.

*Editor’s Note: A very special thank you also to Bertha Guerrero for all of her work to organize and host her first Colorado Braille Challenge ... and to all of the CSDB staff who contributed to its success. Congratulations to all of the participants for their hard work—we are proud of our Colorado braille readers!*



# Calendar of Events

2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011

- April 1 - 29**                      **11th Grade Alternate Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Assessment Window**  
 Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSAPA.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSAPA.asp)
- April 7 - 9**                        **Career Day / Independent Living Skills Short Course - CSDB CO Springs**  
 Contact: Donna Keale - [dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org)
- April 8**                            **WizKidz Science & Technology Robotics Seminar—CO Center for the Blind—Denver**  
 Contact: Brent Batron—303-778-1130 x 222 [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)
- April 8 - 9**                        **CSDB Short Course: Career Fair & Independent Living Skills for HS Students**  
 Contact: Donna Keale at (719) 578-2251 or [dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org)
- April 11**                            **Southern Region TVI Meeting: TBD - CSDB, CO Springs**  
 Contact: Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- April 14**                            **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting - CSDB, CO Springs**  
 Contact: Sue Pfaffenhauser [spfaffenhauser@csdb.org](mailto:spfaffenhauser@csdb.org)
- April 16**                            **Training on Syndrome of Optic Nerve Hypoplasia - Denver area**  
 Contact: Tanni Anthony - [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6681
- April 20**                            **Vision Coalition - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Office on Evans, Denver**  
 Contact: Tanni Anthony - [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)
- April 22**                            **Northern TVI Regional Meeting**  
 Contact: Teresa Barone at [baronet@thompson.k12.co.us](mailto:baronet@thompson.k12.co.us) or (970) 613-5564
- April 25 - 28**                        **Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, National Harbor, MD**  
 Contact: [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)
- April 27**                            **Colorado ACT**  
 Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- April 30**                            **CSDB "Sensory Safari" - Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, CO Springs**  
 Contact: Donna Keale at 719-578-2251 or [dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org)
- May 2**                                **Southern Region TVI Meeting: New APH Products - CSDB, CO Springs**  
 Contact: Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- May 5 - 7**                            **Annual Orientation & Mobility Conference - CSDB, CO Springs**  
 Contact: Tanni Anthony at [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)

## More Calendar of Events

2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011

- May 14** **UCCS GMI Crossover Technology Symposium** - CO Springs, CO  
Contact: Bonnie Snyder at [BonnieLS21@gmail.com](mailto:BonnieLS21@gmail.com)
- May 16 - 19** **O&M Curriculum Made Accessible for Travelers Who Are Deafblind**  
Visit: [www.HKNC.org](http://www.HKNC.org) or call (516) 944-8900
- June 4** **CSDB Family Learning Retreat** - Two locations: CO Springs and Montrose, CO  
Contact: Diane Covington at (719) 578-2225 or [dcovington@csdb.org](mailto:dcovington@csdb.org)
- June 6 - 10** **CSDB Colorado Sports Education Camp** - CO Springs, CO  
Contact: Donna Keale at 719-578-2251 or [dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org)
- June 6 - 10** **Summer Institute on Deafblindness and SSN** - CO  
Contact: Tanni Anthony at 303-866-6681 or [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)
- June 9** **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting** - CO Springs, CO  
Contact: Sue Pfaffenhauser [spfaffenhauser@csdb.org](mailto:spfaffenhauser@csdb.org)
- June 10 - Aug 5** **Summer for Success College Prep Program** - Colorado Center for the Blind  
Contact: Brent Batron [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)
- June 10 - Aug 5** **Initiation to Independence Middle School Program** - Colorado Center for the Blind  
Contact: Brent Batron [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)
- June 12 - 17** **CSDB Independent Living Skills Camp for Middle School** - CO Springs, CO  
Contact: Donna Keale at 719-578-2251 or [dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org)
- June 22 - 23** **Western Region Early Intervention Conference** - Ogden, UT  
Visit: <http://wreic2011.org/>
- July 3 - 8** **National Convention of the National Federation of the Blind** - Towson, MD  
Visit: [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)
- July 17 - 23** **National Federation of the Blind Youth Slam** - Orlando, FL  
Contact: Mary Jo Hartle at 410-659-9314 or [youthslam@nfb.org](mailto:youthslam@nfb.org)
- June 18 - Aug 5** **Initiation to Independence Middle School Program** - Colorado Center for the Blind  
Contact: Brent Batron [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)
- July 21 - 23** **Wheelchair Seating for Postural Control and Function** - Denver, CO  
Contact: [GeneralInfo@AT-Partners.org](mailto:GeneralInfo@AT-Partners.org)
- August 12-14** **AER Regional Conference 2011** - Boston, MA  
Visit: [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)
- July 8 - 16** **American Council of the Blind 50th Anniversary Convention** - Reno, NV  
Visit: [www.acb.org/conference/info2011.html](http://www.acb.org/conference/info2011.html)



## More Calendar of Events

2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011

- October 13 - 15**      **143rd Annual American Printing House for the Blind Meeting** - Louisville, KY  
Visit: [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org) or contact [info@aph.org](mailto:info@aph.org)
- October 28 - 30**      **AER Regional Conference 2011** - Cleveland, OH  
Contact: [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)
- December 7 - 10**      **2011 Getting In Touch With Literacy Conference** - Louisville, KY  
Contact: Janie Blome [jblome@aph.org](mailto:jblome@aph.org) or Jane Thompson [jthompson@aph.org](mailto:jthompson@aph.org)

2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012

- April 11-14**      **National Council of Exceptional Children** - Denver, CO  
Visit: [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)
- July 17 - 22**      **AER 2012 International Conference** - Bellevue, WA  
Visit: [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)



## National CEC in Denver

Please consider submitting a call for papers to present at this great conference. It is a fabulous opportunity to showcase all of the wonderful things happening in Colorado for Students with Exceptionalities!!

**Submit a Proposal for the CEC 2012 Convention & Expo**

**Denver, CO**

**DEADLINE: May 25, 2011**

**Convention will take place April 11-14, 2012, in Denver**

Douglas Cheney, Program Chair, cordially invites all interested parties to submit presentation proposals for the CEC 2012 Convention & Expo. Session presentations occur Thursday through Saturday of convention week and are selected from this call.

**BE PREPARED!** Before proceeding with the online submission process, please **read the official call document** for important information, including selection criteria, submission instructions, and FAQs. We encourage you to compose the title, abstract, and long description before you log on. Please be sure to **read the list of required fields, descriptions, and word length limitations** (pages 3-5 of the official call document).

[http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ConventionExpo/Presenters/2011\\_Call\\_for\\_Papers.htm](http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ConventionExpo/Presenters/2011_Call_for_Papers.htm)



## AFB & NAPVI Announce Breakthrough Social Network for Parents of Visually Impaired Children

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) today announced the launch of an innovative social network for parents and caregivers of visually impaired children. FamilyFriends is the latest extension of AFB's web community, FamilyConnect. For the last three years, visitors to [www.familyconnect.org](http://www.familyconnect.org) have connected with other families through message boards and have explored resources related to raising children with visual impairments.

Now, FamilyFriends provides registered FamilyConnect users with new networking features and options to further customize and personalize their online experience. Users can create and post profiles that can be found by other parents based on such shared criteria as geographic location, a child's eye condition or a child's age.

"With only 94,000 visually impaired school-aged children in the U.S., over half of whom have additional disabilities, it's easy for families facing vision loss to feel alone," said Susan LaVenture, Executive Director of NAPVI. "FamilyConnect and its new social networking component, FamilyFriends, gives busy parents, grandparents and other caretakers an easy way to connect with each other and find support 24 hours a day."

"One of the most common questions I hear from families is 'how do I find other parents with a child who is coping with this diagnosis?'" said Scott Truax, FamilyConnect Program Manager. "The feeling of isolation can be very strong and there is a real need to talk with other parents about the unique aspects of raising a child with special needs. FamilyFriends now provides a quick way to fill those needs."

The FamilyFriends social networking features allow people experiencing vision loss in their families to come together in ways that are affirming and helpful. Users can also log into FamilyFriends for the same reason people go to other social networking sites—it gives people a real sense of community and connection. Registered members can send friendship requests, update their pages with news and photos, share links they like and follow their friends via e-mail alerts.

FamilyFriends adds a new dimension to FamilyConnect, the original web portal designed by experts at AFB and NAPVI for parents and caregivers of children with visual impairments. FamilyConnect gives parents access to message boards where they can talk to other parents, compelling videos featuring real-life families, parenting articles, a mom-authored blog, a glossary of more than 30 eye conditions and links to local resources. The site also features sections dedicated to multiple disabilities, technology, education and every age group from infants to teens.

FamilyConnect also serves Spanish-speaking families. Visitors to the FamilyConnect homepage can now choose the "Read this article in English" link or the "Leer este artículo en español" link and access more than 300 articles in Spanish. Spanish-speaking families can access the site's Spanish language content by logging in directly to [www.familyconnect.org/Spanish](http://www.familyconnect.org/Spanish). In addition, screen reader users can hear text pronounced correctly in both languages.

FamilyFriends was developed under a grant from the Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc., which was a lead sponsor for the FamilyConnect web site. The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was also a lead sponsor for FamilyConnect and, additionally, funded development of the Spanish-language version of the site.

FamilyConnect®

For parents of children with visual impairments



National Center *for* Learning Disabilities  
*The power to hope, to learn, and to succeed*

## Organizing Your Concerns about School-Related Problems Worksheet

By Candace Cortiella, Director, The Advocacy Institute

Use this handy chart to describe specific concerns about your child's problems in school. Organizing your concerns in this way will help you to be more effective in your communications with school personnel as you work together to support your child's academic progress.

A guide to using the worksheet:

- Column 1: List your concern briefly.
- Column 2: What data can you provide to support your concern?
- Column 3: If you think your concern may be related to any disability or condition, identify that in 3. If you're not sure what is causing a problem, leave this column blank.
- Column 4: If you want the school to evaluate or test your child, describe the type of testing that is needed to provide information that addresses your concern. You do not need to know the names of specific tests.
- Column 5: List the services you think your child needs using the terms described below.

Accommodations — Changes in presentation (e.g., repeat directions, read aloud, use of larger bubbles on answer sheets, etc.), response (e.g., mark answers in book, use reference aids, point, use of computer etc.), timing/scheduling (e.g., extended time, frequent breaks, etc.) or setting (e.g., study carrel, special lighting, separate room, etc.).

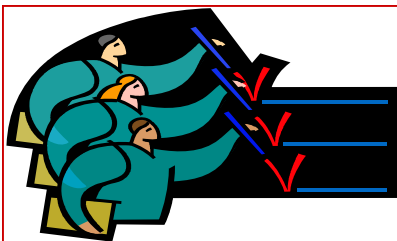
Instructional Intervention — Change in instruction that attempts to improve student learning in area of difficulty.

Remedial services — Supplemental instruction available through programs such as Title I, IDEA.

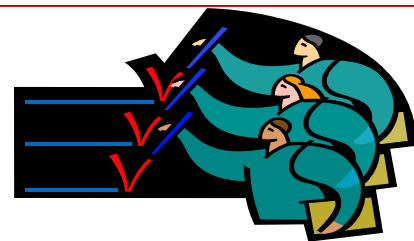
Column 6: When you meet with school personnel, note any agreements you have reached with them, who made the agreement and when.

Download the chart:

<http://www.ncl.org/publications-a-more/checklists-worksheets-a-forms/organizing-your-concerns-about-school-related-problems-worksheet>



# CHECK IT OUT!



## AAP Culturally Effective Care Toolkit

Learning to deliver culturally effective care is considered by many to be a lifelong journey. The new *AAP Culturally Effective Care Toolkit* is a practical, hands-on resource to help practicing pediatricians and their office staff provide culturally effective care to their patients and families.

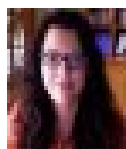
<http://practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=2990>  
<<http://practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=2990>>

## Product Feedback Survey

Textured Sorting Circles and Shapes was first introduced by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) as a new product in January 2010. Karen Poppe, the project leader, is seeking product feedback from teachers who regularly use this product with their students. The survey will ask about the product's usefulness, various uses, and ideas for improvements/related materials, etc. If you would like to receive and complete this survey, please email Karen at [kpoppe@aph.org](mailto:kpoppe@aph.org)



## Complete Guide to Special Needs / Educational Apps



by [Dawn Villarreal](#) January 31st, 2011

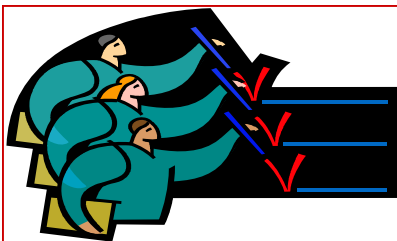
With over 300,000 apps it's easy to become overwhelmed by the number of app choices. It's also easy to spend a small fortune on a lot of useless apps. This guide breaks down the best of the apps by skill to help easily find and buy apps that most benefit your child. Included are apps for iPad, iPhone, iPod touch and some Android apps. For more information, go to:

<http://blog.easystand.com/2011/01/complete-guide-to-special-needseducational-apps/>

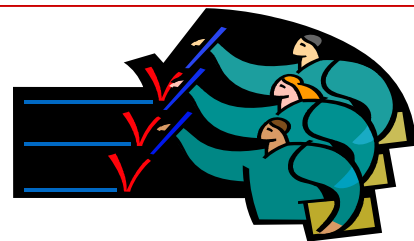
## Wall of Tribute: Support the Hall of Fame for the Blindness Field

The Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field honors those whose work profoundly changed the lives of thousands of blind people. The Hall, a project of the entire field of vision, is housed at APH.

The Wall of Tribute columns are located in the Hall of Fame. You can honor a significant person or organization in your life and support the Hall of Fame by placing an engraved stone in one of these columns. Visit our website [www.aph.org/hall\\_fame](http://www.aph.org/hall_fame) or contact Kristin Binkowski at 800/223-1839, ext. 351 or [kbinkowski@aph.org](mailto:kbinkowski@aph.org).



**CHECK IT OUT!**



## Free New Videos to Support Your Work

Over the past few years, the Colorado Department of Education's Results Matter Program has been building a Video Library to provide illustrations of children participating in typical activities that can be used for practicing observation, documentation, and assessment skills in professional development programs. More than 20 new videos have recently been added. You can watch the videos online or download the free clips for use in educational and professional development activities. The clips are available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/resultsmatter/RMVideoSeries.htm>

New additions to the library include:

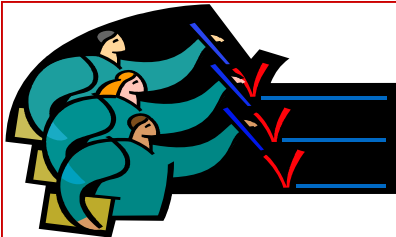
**Watching Video Documentation with Children** This video illustrates how watching video documentation with children can be used a strategy for assessment and can enhance children's engagement in activities and choice-making. (Runtime: 3:49)

**Finley's Parent-Teacher Conference** This video shows highlights of a parent-teacher conference. The meeting occurred during the half hour before school began and the parent brought two of her children, her preschooler and infant, along with her. The video illustrates a variety of practices, including using engaging open-ended questions, active listening, positive ways to share information with families, having strengths-based discussions, and sharing photo and video documentation with families. (Runtime: 11:03)

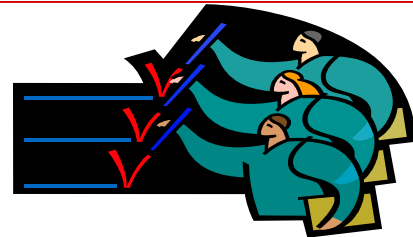
**Documentation as a Habit** This video illustrates the exemplary documentation practices of Kim Moroze and her staff at Emerald Preschool, Boulder Valley School District. The teaching team and parents discuss and illustrate uses of observation notes, photography, and video. (Runtime: 8:03)

**27 New Clips for Practicing Observation, Documentation, and Assessment Skills in Preschool Settings** These clips were developed to be used in professional development activities to give early care and education providers an opportunity to practice observation and documentation skills. (Runtime: various)





# CHECK IT OUT!



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Assistive Technology Partners

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

## Save the Date!

### Wheelchair Seating for Postural Control and Function

Presented by Kelly Waugh, PT, MAPT, ATP

July 21, 22 & 23, 2011, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

A unique, intensive 2 day course emphasizing client centered assessment and problem solving, with optional third day hands-on practicum. Who Should Attend:

- PTs, OTs, PTAs or COTAs involved in wheelchair seating and positioning intervention
- Rehab Technology Suppliers involved in complex rehab equipment provision
- Seating and Mobility equipment manufacturer representatives

For further information on this continuing education opportunity email [GeneralInfo@AT-Partners.org](mailto:GeneralInfo@AT-Partners.org)

**Sponsored by Assistive Technology Partners  
University of Colorado Denver, School of Medicine**

## BLINDSPOT

This production is a documentary about friendship, love, adventure and discovery. It's an intimate portrait of two young blind New Yorkers who daily embrace this city.

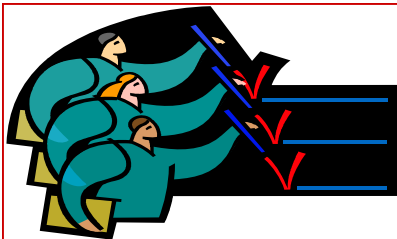


This new video production is a documentary about friendship, love, adventure, and discovery. Blindspot is an intimate portrait of two young blind New Yorkers who daily embrace their city.....NYC. Jamil (26) and Tamesha (24), met in fourth grade. Aided by Jamil's guide dog, they demonstrate everyday courage in a city that often doesn't "see" them.

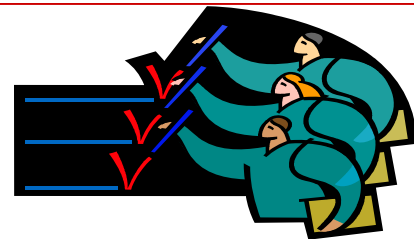
**The video is being released this week along with a lesson guide which is aimed toward at children in the regular classroom.**

Link to the web page: [www.dcmp.org/blindspot](http://www.dcmp.org/blindspot)

To receive their monthly newsletter, go to [www.dcmp.org](http://www.dcmp.org). Link to the newsletters at the public relations tab at the top. Look on the left side where it reads "newsletters." You may register to receive them by email. The NEW March newsletter is available. Go to <http://conta.cc/hxLAc0>



# CHECK IT OUT!



## ***CDE Launches New Educator Effectiveness Web Site***

The Educator Effectiveness Office at CDE has launched a web site devoted to the state's efforts to attract, prepare and support effective educators.

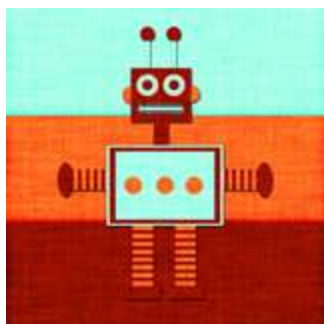


Available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/>, the new site provides information and resources designed to support educators throughout their career. The site includes information regarding the state's recruitment, preparation, licensure, induction, evaluation and professional development activities. Information on statewide councils and commissions is also available.

Of particular interest, the *Evaluation and Support* page provides the latest information on implementation of the state's new educator evaluation system pursuant to Senate Bill 10-191. A companion to this Web page, the *State Council for Educator Effectiveness Web* page contains current information on the State Council's meetings and working documents.

CDE encourages educators to visit the new educator effectiveness Web site. Please share your feedback on the site with Toby [King, King\\_T@cde.state.co.us](mailto:King_King_T@cde.state.co.us).

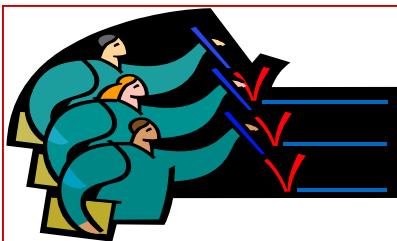
## **ARoPability- Robotics and Computing Workshop**



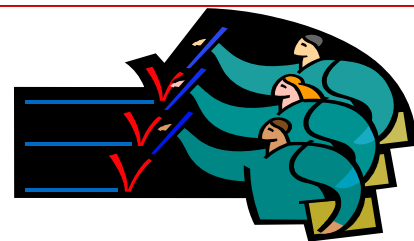
The Colorado Center for the Blind, the WizKidz Science and Technology Centers, and the Georgia Institute of Technology School of Electrical and Computer Engineering are pleased to host this Robot and Computing workshop on **Friday April 8, 2011** 8am-3pm at the Colorado Center for the Blind (2233 West Sheppard Ave. Littleton). This seminar is geared towards blind and low vision students in middle and high school (grades 6 – 12)

The ARoPability project is designed to identify means for increasing the computing pipeline by tapping into non-traditional populations. The initiative targets disabled middle and high school students in order to engage during the critical years and leverages support from the Center for the Visually Impaired, the National Federation of the Blind, and the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The ARoPability initiative is funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation. Workshop Activities include: (a) robot building; (b) robot programming; and (c) robot maze solving competition.

**For more information please contact Brent Batron of the Colorado Center for the Blind at email [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org) or by calling 303-778-1130**



**CHECK IT OUT!**



## **Accessible Textbook Webcasts Coming this Spring**

The Accessible Textbook Department at the American Printing House for the Blind will be offering several webcasts in April. The webcasts will be posted for three weeks for transcribers, teachers, paraprofessionals, prison braille programs and others to view at their convenience. In May we will present a live webcast to answer any questions you may have from the posted webcasts. Presentations will vary from 30-60 minutes and will include the following topics:

Important Tactile Skills for Literacy, by Karen Poppe, APH Tactile Graphics Project Leader. Karen will discuss teaching methods, skills and products used to teach tactile reading literacy.

Teachers and Transcribers Speak Out on Consumable Materials: APH Survey Results Revealed, by Jayma Hawkins, Accessible Media Editor. Jayma will share the results of a survey posted by APH on consumable textbooks and materials. She will also share techniques that will enhance teachers' and transcribers' ability to present this challenging text.

Techniques for Designing Meaningful Tactile Graphics, by Yan Zhang, Tactile Graphics Designer. This presentation will take you through the basics of designing meaningful graphics for textbooks.

APH Tactile Graphic Library + Graphic Freeware= Meaningful Cost Efficient Graphics, by Anthony Slowinski, Tactile Graphic Designer. Not everyone has Adobe Illustrator or Corel Draw software to manipulate electronic graphics. Anthony will demonstrate shortcuts to use the TGIL with graphic freeware.

More information on these webcasts and how to register for them will be in the April issue of the APH News and posted on the APH website at [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)

## **ISAVE Webcast Archives Now Available**

The archived ISAVE training, conducted by APH Field Services Representative Monica Turner, January 28th, is available to view in the APH webcast archive page at: [www.aph.org/webcast](http://www.aph.org/webcast)





## UPCOMING CSDB EVENTS

**Colorado Sports Education Camp for ages 10-16** will be held June 6-10th. This camp is divided into two camps, Junior Camp which includes 10-12 year olds takes place June 6-8th, the Senior Camp 13-16 year olds is June 6-10th. Junior Camp Athletes will be allowed to stay the entire week IF they were able to handle all the activities. Students who are past the age of 16, but are still under 18 will be accepted on a space-available basis. This is a sports camp not a recreation and leisure camp, so students must be willing to participate in all the activities at a developmental level. Activities include: Swimming, Judo, Wrestling, Tandem Cycling, Goalball, and Track and Field Activities.

**Independent Living Skills Camp for Middle School** is June 12-17th. This camp is for students attending middle school grades 6th, 7th, or 8th. If you have a 9th grader who would like to attend, CSDB will take them on a space-available wait list.

The cost of the programs above is \$80 each this year and there are a limited number of scholarships available to help those who need help in paying. Adams 12 families have already started requesting information - way to go TVIs! For more information please contact Donna Keale at 719-578-2251 or [dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org)

### Save the Date for the Family Learning Retreat

CSDB will host a one-day event on **June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011** for families of children with a sensory loss between the ages of birth through eight years. Topics of interest to parents of young children with vision and/or hearing loss will be presented for parents, while the children are engaged in recreational activities. There will be two concurrent day sessions; one at CSDB in Colorado Springs and one in Montrose. Please find the flyers and registration form on the next pages of this newsletter and on the CSDB website. The web address is [www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.org)

**Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind**  
**33 N. Institute Street**  
**Colorado Springs CO 80903**  
**719-578-2100**  
**719-578-2239 FAX**



# Family Learning Retreat 2011

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

33 North Institute Street

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

719-578-2100; [www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.org)

June 4, 2011

The Family Learning Retreat (FLR) will be returning to the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind June 4, 2011. This year, the FLR will be a one-day retreat focused on families with a child between the ages of 0-8 years, who is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind. This is an opportunity for families to meet other families while networking, learning and having fun together.

Parents /adults will attend training during the day, while children participate in supervised recreational activities within the youth program.

- 9:00 a.m. Check-in begins
- 9:30 a.m. Encouraging Your Child's Literacy Development
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch provided
- 1:00-4:00 p.m. IEP vs IFSP; Part B & Part C Process

The cost of the FLR is only \$5.00 per person over the age of one year. Spanish and sign language interpreters will be provided upon request.

Parents will be responsible for providing any assisted feeding or medical procedure their child requires. A nurse will not be available during the Family Learning Retreat.

Come and relax. Make new friends. Experience a valuable learning opportunity.

**Questions?** Contact Diane Covington at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind at (719) 578-2225. For Spanish speaking participants, contact Gloria Romero (719)-578-2288.





# 2011 Family Learning Retreat

Pomona Elementary School  
1045 S. Cascade Avenue  
Montrose, Colorado  
June 4, 2011

The Family Learning Retreat (FLR) will be coming to the Western Slope on June 4, 2011. The FLR will be a one-day retreat focused on families with a child between the ages of 0-8 years, who is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind. This is an opportunity for families to meet other families while networking, learning and having fun together.

Parents /adults will attend training during the day, while children participate in supervised recreational activities within the youth program.

- 9:00 a.m. Check-in begins
- 9:30 a.m. Encouraging Your Child's Literacy Development
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch provided
- 1:00-4:00 p.m. IEP vs IFSP; Part C & Part B Process, "What's in a Label?"

The cost of the FLR is only \$5.00 per person over the age of one year. Spanish and sign language interpreters will be provided upon request.

Parents will be responsible for providing any assisted feeding or medical procedure their child requires. A nurse will not be available during the Family Learning Retreat.

Come and relax. Make new friends. Experience a valuable learning opportunity.

**Questions?** Contact Lou Jankowsky, [ljankowsky@mcsd.k12.co.us](mailto:ljankowsky@mcsd.k12.co.us), 970-240-1709 or Ginny Hall, [yhall@mcsd.k12.co.us](mailto:yhall@mcsd.k12.co.us)

cde



## Stay in Montrose!

Friendly service and exceptional amenities  
Indoor pool, Whirlpool and Fitness Center  
Free Express Start Breakfast Bar  
Relax by the copper and rock fireplace  
970-240-1800 for reservations  
Mention "Family Learning Retreat" to receive  
special room rate of \$93.00/night



# Family Learning Retreat

**When: June 04, 2011**



*Please indicate location below!*

\_\_\_\_\_ CSDB  
 33 NORTH INSTITUTE ST  
 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

\_\_\_\_\_ POMONA  
 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
 1045 S. CASCADE AVENUE  
 MONTROSE, CO

**Check/purchase order must accompany registration**

**Make checks payable to: CSDB**

**Mail to: CSDB**  
**Attention: Diane Covington**  
 33 North Institute Street  
 Colorado Springs, CO  
 80903

**Registration Deadline  
 May 24, 2011**

Colorado families with a child who is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind attend to network, learn and have fun together. Parents/adults will attend training during the day, while children participate in supervised recreational activities within the youth program.

- **Mom's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name
- **Dad's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name
- **Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Phone(h)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
1st Child's Name Age Deaf, Blind, Deafblind, Other, None
- \_\_\_\_\_  
2nd Child's Name Age Deaf, Blind, Deafblind, Other, None
- \_\_\_\_\_  
3rd Child's Name Age Deaf, Blind, Deafblind, Other, None
- **Additional Adult** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Additional Adult** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Previously Attended? (Circle) Yes No**
- **Accommodations:** \_\_\_\_\_ Sign Language Interpreter  
Specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other (such as Braille or Spanish Language)  
Specify \_\_\_\_\_

**FEES**

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Registration - **\$5.00/Adult**  
 # Total Adult \$  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Child Registration - **\$5.00/Child**  
 # Total Child \$  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Totals  
 Total # Total \$\$

**Scholarships may be available for travel/lodging. If a family is in need of scholarship assistance, please contact Tanni Anthony, [Anthony\\_T@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_T@cde.state.co.us) or 303-866-6681.**

For additional information or if you need to cancel PRIOR to the close of business May 26, 2011, please contact . No reimbursements for cancellations made after May 26, 2011. Please request ADA accommodations at time of registration.



# colorado connections

- 🔊 Congrats to **Marty Rahn** and **Bertha Guerrero** for earning their CDE Certificates of Braille Competency. Congrats to **Melissa Shular** for earning her CDE Renewal Certificate of Braille Competency. Hats off to **Mary Chambers, Alex Bradstreet, Judy Wiepert, Deb Carlisle,** and **Angela Sims** for earning braille renewal clock hours. Thanks to proctors **Lucia Hasty, Sarah Sonnier,** and **Brenda Shepard!**
- 🔊 For the spring semester, **Dr. Kay A. Ferrell**, of the University of Northern Colorado, will be at the American Printing House for the Blind as their Executive in Residence. Dr. Ferrell is on sabbatical from UNC.
- 🔊 We are thrilled to announce that our very own **Gina Quintana** has been appointed as Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) for CEC's 2012 Convention & Expo, which will be held in Denver on April 11-14, 2012. The Local Arrangements Committee is important to the success of the Annual Convention & Expo. If you are interested in being on the local arrangements committee for this conference, please be in touch with Gina at (303) 866-6605 or [quintana\\_g@cde.state.co.us](mailto:quintana_g@cde.state.co.us). The subcommittees include: (1) Volunteers, (2) Program Hosts, (3) Accessibility Assistance, (4) Diversity, (5) Educational Site Visits, (6) Headquarters Office, (7) Registration, (8) Promotions / Publicity, (9) Special Events, (10) Student Activities, (11) Technology, and (12) Yes I Can! (reception)
- 🔊 Congratulations to **Lisa Brocard** on becoming a Certified Literary Braille Transcriber. Lisa will be awarded a Certification in Literary Braille from the Library of Congress. A special thanks to her mentor **Sharon Benn** in Littleton School District.
- 🔊 Wow, Wow, Wow: The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) is pleased to announce that **Louis M. Tutt**, M.S., M.Ed., has been named as the association's new executive director. Lou will begin in the position April 1, 2011, and will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the 4,600-member association which supports professionals who provide education and rehabilitation services to people with visual impairments. As we all know, Lou comes to AER from the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind where he was principal. He served as president and CEO of the Maryland School for the Blind from 1990 to 2003 and was also affiliated with the Michigan School for the Blind and Missouri School for the Blind. With degrees from Norfolk State University and Michigan State University. "Lou brings to AER a solid background in leadership, communication and organization," said Patricia Leader, president of the AER Board of Directors. "His long-time membership and involvement in AER and past leadership roles with the Council of Schools for the Blind and Council for Exceptional Children bring a strong knowledge of our field to the position," she said.

On the next page, please find a special page thanking Lou for his time in Colorado—we are all going to miss you, Lou, but it is wonderful to know that you will be our National AER leader.



# colorado connections

"When I think of Lou it makes me smile. I want to thank Lou for his constant encouragement. Lou Tutt is my hero!"

- Jamie Lugo

"I want to thank Lou for helping me to recognize that every day is an opportunity to brighten someone else's!"

- Gina Stephenson

Thank you so much for sharing part of your life with our state (extra kudos for extending that time longer than originally planned). Your dedication to the field is to be commended, and your ability to honor the thoughts, opinions, and comments of all individuals to be lauded.

- Julie Wetzstein

What a privilege to work with you on various committees over the years in our great State. Your sense of humor, hard work, positive energy and great talents will definitely be missed.

- Wendy Stoltman

Lou, thank you for your time, honesty, and compassion. I will miss you. See you at Derby!

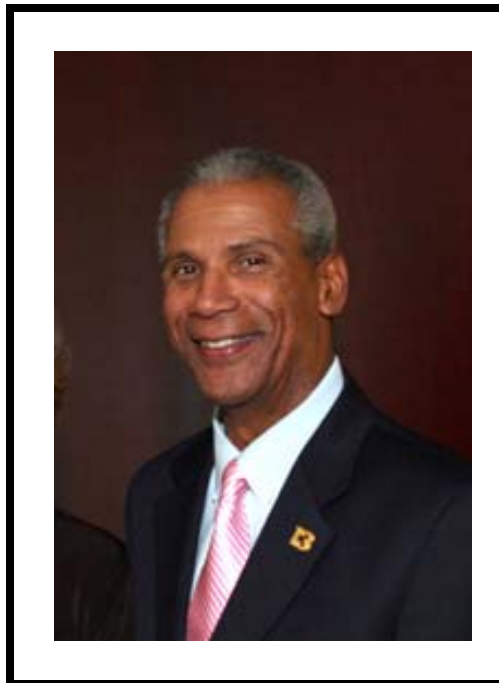
- Barb Galgano

Lou is a very dynamic, passionate, inspiring and energetic person who is a natural leader. He has the ability to really bring people together.....and people want to listen.

-Kathy Leveille

"Lou is a delightful man, positive and full of vim and vigor."

- Lorraine Hutchenson



"You come to each event with such enthusiasm! Whether it is with the kids at CSDB or at a Vision Coalition meeting, your positive energy is felt in any room you are in. It will be missed here in Colorado!"

- Nancy Cozart

What a joy it has been getting to know you. You have brought so much to CO and CSDB. Our state will definitely miss you, but we wish you the best of luck on your new journey.

- Shelley Moats

"Thank you, Mr. Tutt, for introducing me to the famous Louisville "Brown" sandwich and "vinegar pie"!"

- Donice Fennimore

"I want to thank Lou for all he has given to Colorado. He is a world-class advocate for our field. I am proud to call him my colleague and my friend."

- Tanni Anthony

"I want to thank Lou for his leadership, his faith in me, for always supporting me while also challenging me to be more than I am, and for his love, respect and friendship. I am a better teacher and a better person because of him. Lou Tutt is larger than life with a heart to match!"

- Robin Theryoung

"Teenage boys who don't have strong males in their lives who are in the health office with vague pains I am unable to help heal who get to see Mr. Tutt and then all the pain goes away. And later, I see these boys standing tall in the hall with a smile on their face and they speak to others in a gentleman-like way."

- DeAnn Bettermann

When I think of Lou, I think of what a distinguished man he is. He always made me feel welcomed and "at home" on the CSDB campus. I often thought that if I was a student attending CSDB, I would have loved having him as my principal.

- Amber Rundle Kahn

"When I think of Lou, I think of generosity, humbleness, a smile when you need it, levelheadedness, sincerity, fair, his love of children and for others."

- Alexandra Bradstreet



On Friday, February 18, 2011, **Ms. Karen Ortega-Sedlar**, math teacher at CSDB, School for the Blind, passed away after a lengthy illness. Ms. Karen, as she was known to the students, was a source of inspiration and a role model of independence for our blind/low vision students.

Karen was hired just before the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year. From the start, her enthusiasm for the students was remarkable. She pushed the students to excel, to fight for what they wanted, but she was always ready with a snack for the ones who missed breakfast, or extra help for the ones who didn't understand. She supported every fundraiser on campus, even if she didn't need what was being sold. Her favorite activities, though, were goalball and the Bad News Bulldog Band. Karen was always the first to ask when the annual goalball tournament between parents, students and staff would be held. She attended every practice and every game and played her heart out. When the band played, they could count on Karen being in the back of the room, yelling "Rock and Roll".

Karen's independence was the stuff of legend. Her long cane heralded her arrival, tapping out a fast tempo in the hallway. Karen walked everywhere at top speed, as if she were trying to live as fast as she could to get everything accomplished that she wanted to do. We used to joke about how dangerous Karen's speed could be to the unsuspecting, christening her cane the "Kamikaze Cane".

Ms. Karen often referred to what students would need in the "real world", insisting that they practice their orientation and mobility skills, as well as the skills needed for daily life. Karen's enthusiasm will long be remembered in our school, but her lessons about independence and tenacity will influence our students their entire lives.

**State of Colorado Department of Education**

**Colorado State Board of Education**

Marcia Neal  
3rd Congressional District

Deborah Scheffel  
6th Congressional District

Angelika Schroeder  
2nd Congressional District

Paul Lundeen  
5th Congressional District

Elaine Gantz Berman  
1st Congressional District

Jane Goff  
7th Congressional District

Bob Schaffer  
4th Congressional District

Robert K. Hammond  
Commissioner of Education



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Exceptional Student Leadership Unit  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1175  
Denver, CO 80202

**25-23B-3401**

**MAIL TO:**