

Special Education Parent Group

9/27/17 Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Guest Speaker, Dr. Jill Forte, Board Certified Behavior Analyst “The Principles and Applications of Applied Behavior Analysis”

- Dr. Forte from the Children's Autism Center presented information about Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) principles including ABC - antecedent, behavior, and consequence. In their program they look at reinforcement and punishment both positive and negative. They do assessment and treatment with a lot of data collection. Parents are involved and are the most important team members. Parents are involved in writing goals for their child. The Center also works with teachers, especially with long-term clients so they can make recommendations on classroom supports, classroom materials, and more.
- The Children’s Autism Center currently has two locations in Fort Wayne, one in Angola, and one in Columbia City. The Center currently has clients from age 2 - 29 years old. In the state of Indiana Medicaid does pay for ABA for children with an autism diagnosis. The Center holds free parent training every Thursday at 6:30 PM in the conference room on the third floor of Lutheran Hospital.
- This fall the Children’s Autism Center is starting a new social skills group for clients ages 11 – 17 years old. The Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS) is a 16-week program. Participants do not have to have a diagnosis of autism. If you would like more information call the Children's Autism Center at 459-6040.

Special Education Director Roxanne May, Legislative Updates:

- The national healthcare reform discussions could lead to cuts in Medicaid. The district does bill some services through Medicaid, but no staff are hired with that money. There are some concerns about loss of that funding, but more concern is for the impact on families.
- There is a statewide commission reviewing seclusion and restraint. They are reviewing the role of the School Resource Officer, as well as how to define and report restraint. Our district does a lot of training on strategies and tools for teachers and staff to de-escalate situations that arise.
- Another commission is looking at diploma options for Indiana students. They are holding meetings and taking testimony and will then make recommendations to the State Board of Education. There are some requirement changes beginning Fall 2018 for students in the Certificate of Completion program, but will not change our district’s approach.
- There is more partnership with Vocational Rehab and the ARC on pre-employment transition services for eligible students to learn skills and to get paid. This has been a very positive collaboration.

- The state of Indiana expanded the age that students can receive special education services under the “developmentally delayed” classification to match the federal eligibility criteria of 3 - 9 years old. It was 3-5 years old in Indiana previously. This change goes into effect 7/1/18.

Coming up:

- 10/13/17 - Fun Friday at Sweetwater Sound, 5:00-7:00 PM, Middle School and High School students and families. RSVP: specialedparentgroup@gmail.com
- 10/26/17 - “Planning for Your Dependent with Special Needs” by Gordon Homes, Certified Financial Planner, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Homestead High School, Ninth Grade Academy (Door 26), Room 950. RSVP: mgossett@sacs.k12.in.us
- 1/25/18 – Special Education Parent Group meeting, 12:30 – 2:00 PM
- 4/27/18 – Special Education Parent Group meeting, 12:30 – 2:00 PM, “Puberty and Sexual Health” presented by Melissa Dubie, Educational Consultant, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, IU - Bloomington