



Family Connections

A Family Newsletter from OASIS
Oklahoma Areawide Services Information System



ON THE ROAD FAMILY PERSPECTIVE CONFERENCES

The next On the Road Family Perspective Conference will be held **Tuesday, September 30th, 2008 in Alva, Ok** and on **Tuesday, October 28th, 2008 in Poteau, Ok.**

For information if your community would like to host a one day conference—

Call Sally Selvidge at OASIS at (800) 426-2747 or email her at Sally-Selvidge@ouhsc.edu

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Joining Forces On the Road Family Perspective Conferences



Come put a name, face and phone number together. Come join us on the road at a location near you. We will be in Alva in September and Poteau in October. Let us know and we can come to your town.

As the song goes we've been to: Guymon, Altus, Ardmore, Vinita, Kingfisher, McAlester, Lawton, Bartlesville, Idabel, Woodward, Burns Flat, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Muskogee. We have NOT been everywhere yet. Our car is gassed up (believe it or not) and ready to go.

Come get information about special education, assistive technology, developmental disabilities, SSI, TEFRA, mentorship, mental health, parent matching, respite, and much more.

We will be partnering this year with the Oklahoma Parents Center and the Oklahoma Family Network to provide evening trainings the night before the Family Perspective Conferences. These evening trainings will provide an opportunity for families to learn more in depth information about mentorship and basic rights for special education. The discussion will be continued the next day when the state and local agency personnel for these services come together with the families for the question and answer panels.

We hope this will provide some much needed information to help families navigate the system maze and to help get the services they need for their child or family member with a disability.

So come join us in Alva or Poteau this fall and remember we have not been EVERYWHERE YET so let us know if you would like us to come to your town. The car will be ready to ROLL into town.



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On Going Events

Arthritis Community Education and Self Help Courses: Contact Marisa New, Oklahoma Arthritis Network for schedule - (405) 271-9444, ext. 56410 or by e-mail: marisan@health.state.ok.us

Statewide Training and Regional Supports (STARS) The mission of STARS is to support the provision of individualized, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, family-centered, community-based programs and services for people with disabilities through a coordinated training system. Staff and contractors of the SoonerStart program, local public schools, and DDS-Developmental Disabilities Services Division, as well as families accessing services from these agencies may attend STARS trainings at no charge. Others are welcome to register and attend STARS trainings on a “space available” basis for a charge of \$50.00 per person per workshop. A list of workshops and more information can be found at: http://www.ah.ouhsc.edu/tolbert/courses_workshops/

The Olmstead Strategic Planning Meetings. These meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the Oklahoma State Capitol in Room 419C from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. They are open to the public and anyone interested in having input on how to implement the Olmstead Strategic Plan for people who have a disability to live in the community is welcome to attend. Please call Rose Ann Percival at (405) 522-0600 for more information.



Upcoming Events, Conferences and Workshops

August 23 (Saturday): *Come Hear the Candidates Speak.* An opportunity for people with disabilities and those who work with them to learn about legislative candidates and their positions on the current issues. It is also an opportunity to educate candidates about the issues of concern for the disability community. Oklahoma History Center 2401 N Laird Ave., Oklahoma City, OK (Across from the Capitol). 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. Sponsored by Heartland Council of the Blind and the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council. Contact Theresa Hamrick (405) 951-3579 for additional information or accommodation requests and to let them know if you are coming. Forms will be available to register to vote.

September 30 (Tuesday): *On The Road Family Perspective Conference.* Alva, Oklahoma. Northwest Technology Center, 1801 11th St, Alva, OK, 73717. For more information call Sally Selvidge at OASIS, (800) 426-2747 or (405) 271-8001 ext. 47800.

October 28 (Tuesday): *On The Road Family Perspective Conference.* Poteau, OK, Kerr Mansion and Conference Center, 23009 Kerr Mansion Rd, Poteau, OK 74933. For more information call Sally Selvidge at OASIS, (800) 426-2747 or (405) 271-8001 ext. 47800.



Sooner SUCCESS

By Becky Reuter

Sooner SUCCESS saving time, energy, and frustration for families and providers

Sooner SUCCESS is a community-based program sponsored by the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Child Study Center that serves children birth to 21 with developmental disabilities, chronic health conditions, emotional/behavioral conditions, and those at risk due to abuse or neglect.

The Sooner SUCCESS mission is to identify what is working and more importantly to help fix what is not working for families as they raise a child with special healthcare needs in Oklahoma. A Sooner SUCCESS county coordinator is available in each participating county to help make this mission a reality.

Sooner SUCCESS coordinators offer 2 primary services:

1. They work one-on-one with individual families providing resource information, referrals to help them access services, and coordination to help eliminate service duplication.
2. They work with a coalition of local parents and providers to share information, identify areas of need, and explore ways to bring more services into their particular county.

Since 2004, Sooner SUCCESS has impacted families across the 9 counties currently being served through:

- Offering one on one support to help families find resources.
- Hosting local training workshops on IEPs, transition, and autism.
- Providing disability awareness training in local schools.
- Bringing in mobile dental care and health screenings.
- Coordinating projects to make homes and schools more accessible.
- Organizing a teen recreation center and a summer leadership academy.

Current counties include: Blaine, Canadian, Creek, Garfield, Kingfisher, Logan, Major, Rogers, and Tulsa. To connect with the county coordinator nearest you, go to <http://devbehavpeds.ouhsc.edu/ss.asp> or contact Louis Worley at 404-271-6824 extension 45131 or louis-worley@ouhsc.edu.

The goal of Sooner SUCCESS is to expand statewide, supporting families in all area areas of Oklahoma. If you would like to see Sooner SUCCESS



**Meets Every 2nd Wednesday at the Oklahoma Dental Association
317 NE 13th St.
Oklahoma City, OK
(405) 848-8873**

Everyone is Welcome who has an interest in Improving the Quality and Access to Oral Health Care for Children with & without a disability in Oklahoma.

For more information or questions , call Sally Selvidge at (800) 426-2747 or email her at Sally-Selvidge@ouhsc.edu



Children with Starving Brains: A Medical Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder.
By Jacquelyn McCandless.

Let's Dance , Little Pookie?
By Sandra Boyton.

Hooked on Phonics. Learn to Read Second Grade. By HOP LLC Staff.

OASIS/OUHSC does not endorse any program, product, or publication presented in this newsletter. Information is provided as a convenience to our readers and is for informational purposes only.

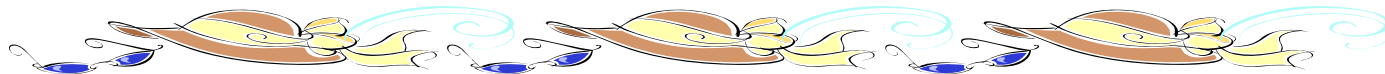
OASIS Information Specialist, Janice Winters, Retires

Last June, OASIS Information Specialist, Janice Winters, retired due to health issues. Janice joined the OASIS program in 1990, and for over eighteen years has been an important and vital member of the OASIS team. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have worked with Janice will truly miss her.

Over the years, when a parent or family member called OASIS it was often Janice they talked to. Being the parent of a daughter with a developmental disability, Janice was able to truly understand the issues families deal with every day. She was a great listener and was always willing to spend extra time with a parent to discuss their concerns. She always knew what to say and how to help parents as well as professionals working with families to find the services or information they needed.

Janice has also been a strong advocate and served on a number of committees including the Advisory Committee on Services to People with Developmental Disabilities and planning committees for conferences such as the annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference. Janice became a Certified Information & Referral Specialist (CIRS) with the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems in 2005.

All of us at OASIS will miss Janice and we know that those of you who know her will want to join us in wishing her all the best. If you would like to send regards or best wishes to her, you may send them in care of OASIS and we will see that she gets them.



Early Foundations Early Childhood Education Program For Children with Autism



Early Foundations is a unique, model program and outreach project serving very young children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their families in Oklahoma. The project focuses on the importance of early, intensive intervention as soon as a toddler is diagnosed with ASD. Services are provided in developmentally appropriate settings where there are typical childhood activities and contact with typical peers. In addition to developing an effective model, this project is intended to provide replication and outreach support to assist other communities in developing a program with the recommended components. Early Foundations began in October 2007 as a collaborative effort between the Oklahoma State Department of Education, SoonerStart and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Department of Pediatrics, Child Study Center. The program is housed at the Mayflower Congregational Church in Northwest Oklahoma City. For more information about how to start an Early Foundations in your area, call 405-842-9995.

Zacbrowser.com

Zone for Children with Autism

Can be downloaded FREE Available in [ENGLISH](#) | [ESPAÑOL](#) | [FRANÇAIS](#)

ZAC is the first web browser developed specifically for children with autism, and autism spectrum disorders such as Asperger syndrome, pervasive developmental disorders (PDD), and PDD-NOS. This browser is for the children - for their enjoyment, enrichment, and freedom. Children touch it, use it, play it, interact with it, and experience independence through ZAC.

ZAC is the zone that will permit your child to interact directly with games (a LOT of games) and activities that focus on MANY interests zac cater's specifically to kids who display the characteristics of autism spectrum disorders, like impairments in social interaction, impairments in communication, restricted interests and repetitive behavior. ZAC has been an effective tool for kids with low, medium and high functioning autism.

ZAC focuses on the children and their interaction - But it also provides an excellent forum for parents, caretakers, teachers, and others to share their experiences, tools and resources and to unite as a caring, compassionate, and extremely knowledgeable community. It is said that "it takes a village to raise a child", and that is exponentially true for raising a child with autistic spectrum disorders. The power of your experience yesterday is going to be instrumental in helping someone successfully tackle the circumstances of today.

Information taken from the Zacbrowser wesite



New Access Pass

Taken from Focus Facts— Center for Learning and Leadership/OUHSC



The New Access Pass is a free, lifetime admission pass for individuals who have a permanent disability to national parks and federal recreational lands. Individuals, regardless of age, qualify for the pass if they are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The New Access Pass admits the pass holder and any passengers in a private vehicle at National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Services sites that charge admission fees. At parks that charge individual fees, the pass holder and three adults will be admitted. The pass also provides a 50 percent discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such a camping, swimming, and parking. The New Access Pass must be obtained in person at a participating National Park Service site or office. For a list of National Park Service locations in Oklahoma, visit www.nps.gov/state/ok/ and for more information about the New Access Pass, visit http://www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm.

Special Needs Parent Tool Kit for Military Families

<http://www.militaryhomefront>

This tool kit is an excellent source for special education . It is simple, easy to read and follow. It can be used by all parents whether you are in the military or not. The website above is very hard to get to, but if you Google® Special Needs Parent Tool Kit for Military Families and then click on Military Homefront- Department of Defense, it should take you to the tool kit page.

It not only has some valuable special ed information, but also topics on medical, financial and legal issues, state resources for people who are relocating to another base or town, family support, and steps on how to plan your move so everyone in the families' needs are met.



What is a Medical Home?

A medical home is not a building, house, or hospital, but rather an approach to providing health care services in a high-quality and cost-effective manner. Children and their families who have a medical home receive the care that they need from a pediatrician or physician whom they trust. The pediatric health care professionals and parents act as partners in a medical home to identify and access all the medical and non-medical services needed to help children and their families achieve their maximum potential. The American Academy of Pediatrics believes that all children should have a medical home where care is accessible, family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective. The ideal source of a child's medical home is a primary care pediatrician working in partnership with the child's parents. For children with special needs, it may be best for a pediatric sub specialist to coordinate care with the child's primary care pediatrician and parents to provide a medical home. For children who live in areas where it is not possible to meet with a pediatrician directly, the optimal medical home is provided by another pediatric health care professional who consults with a pediatrician as needed.

ACCESSIBLE

- Care is provided in the child's community
- All insurance, including Medicaid, is accepted and changes are accommodated

FAMILY-CENTERED

- Recognition that the family is the principal caregiver and the center of strength and support for children
- Unbiased and complete information is shared on an ongoing basis

CONTINUOUS

- Same primary pediatric health care professionals are available from infancy through adolescence
- Assistance with transitions (to school, home, adult services) is provided

COMPREHENSIVE

- Health care is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Preventive, primary, and tertiary care needs are addressed

COORDINATED

- Families are linked to support, educational, and community-based services
- Information is centralized

COMPASSIONATE

- Concern for well-being of child and family is expressed and demonstrated

CULTURALLY EFFECTIVE

- Family's cultural background is recognized, valued, and respected

Reprinted from www.medicalhomeinfo.org Oklahoma Contact: **Name:** Dee Kessler, Medical Home Program Coordinator, OU Child Study Center, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center **Contact:** Phone: 405-271-5700, #45112 | Email: dee-kessler@ouhsc.edu or Louis Worley at Louis-Worley@ouhsc.edu



Medical Home Checklist

Your child's pediatrician or family physician may not have all the following pieces of Medical Home in their practice, but it will help to know what to ask for and what you can work on together. You can use the list below when choosing a new physician for your child, or as a way to start a conversation with your child's doctor about a Medical Home.

Your Child's Primary care doctor and their office is accessible

- Available after hours, on weekends and holidays
- Accepts your child's health insurance
- Office and equipment physically accessible to your child

Staff within your child's primary care office know you and help you

- Know you and your child when you call
- Recognize and accommodate your child's special needs
- Responds to requests for prior approvals, letters of medical necessity for your child's insurance, or documentation for other programs and servc.
- Provide written materials in a language you understand

Your child's primary care doctor and office staff help you to coordinate your child's care

- Follow up with difficult referrals and encourage communication between all persons
- Help you to find—durable medical equipment, home care and ways to pay for them
- Reach out to school or day care to explain your child's medical condition
- Attend or contribute to team meetings about your child's plan of care that include you and other providers.

Your child's primary care doctor respects you and listens to your observations about your child.

- Asks you to share your knowledge about your child
- Seeks your opinion when decisions are needed
- Talks to you about how your child's condition affects your family (members, child care, expenses, work, sleep.....)
- Respects your families cultural values and religious beliefs.

Provides interpreter services if needed

Your Child's Primary care doctor and office staff work with you to plan you child's care

- Help you set short term and long term goals for your child
- Give you important information in writing Recommendations or new treatments.
- Review your child's medical records with you when needed
- Help you consider new and emerging treatment choices for your child's condition

Your child's primary care doctor and office staff support you as a caregiver

- Help you connect with support groups and other parents in your area and help you advocate.
- Find and share new information, research or materials that will help care for your child
- Plan for adult health care services if appropriate for your child's age

Taken from A New Way.. A Better Way. New England SERVE. http://www.neserve.org/neserve/med_hm.html



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To receive the OASIS Newsletter or become an OASIS Parent Contact
Email Sally-Selvidge@ouhsc.edu or fax this form to 405-271-6305
Or mail to OASIS/OUHSC, PO BOX 26901, OKC, OK 73126.

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I want to: _____ be an OASIS Parent Contact.

_____ receive the Newsletter

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