

E-CONNECTOR



BULLETIN BOARD

Notes and Notices from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)



Dear Reader:

Please contact us if you have an announcement you would like to tack up on our bulletin board, or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: copobc.newsletter@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor.



IEP'S...TEN MISTAKES & TEN TIPS FOR PARENTS

(Taken from "Kids Together, Inc." (website: kidstogether.org)

TEN MISTAKES PARENTS MAKE AT IEP MEETINGS:

1. Believing the professionals are the only experts.
2. Not making requests in writing.
3. Not being familiar with Prior Notice of the Procedural Safeguards (34 CFR 300.503)
4. Requesting a related service instead of an assessment that supports the need for a related service.
5. Accepting assessment results that do not recommend the services you think your child needs.

6. Allowing the assessment information to be presented for the first time at the IEP meeting.
 7. Accepting goals and objectives that are not measurable.
 8. Allowing placement decisions to be made before IEP goals and objectives are written.
 9. Allowing your child's IEP meeting to be rushed so that the school staff can begin the next child's IEP meeting.
 10. Not asking a lot of questions.
- See complete details by [clicking here](#).

TEN TIPS FOR PARENTS:

1. Bring food.
2. Don't be completely negative...acknowledge what is being done doing right.
3. Don't be afraid to take a leadership role in the meeting.
4. Don't sit next to your spouse or IEP partner since it can create an "us against them"

atmosphere. If you are across from one another there is an opportunity for communication through eye-contact.

5. Bring notes and take notes. Write out your own long and short term goals and objectives beforehand.
6. Build a strong base of Information by visiting the school and observing your student in class.
7. Know how to say "No". Be willing to compromise and choose your battles carefully. When you say the words, "That is unacceptable" have your argument ready.
8. Keep Records . . . put it on paper. Make every IEP request in writing and ask for a written response.
9. Know Your Rights . . . Public Law has given all parents rights and defines the school's legal responsibilities. How can you advocate for important issues if you're not sure you are right?
10. Keep your cool!



PLAY BALL AND TEACH SOUND LOCALIZATION TO BLIND STUDENTS

Liz Wisecarver, MA, NOMC

(Taken from the Louisiana Tech University Institute on Blindness newsletter.)

"Blind people and those who teach cane travel must learn to pay attention to the

environment beyond the tips of their canes. We must listen to traffic, people around us, music from nearby shops, echoes caused by our tapping, and sometimes even a GPS. Sound localization is the ability to identify the location of a sound and determine its distance in space. Students can improve their localization with practice. There are several ways to help students develop sound localization. The cane travel instructor may have the student stand near a busy street, point toward approaching vehicles and answer questions about the location of sounds in the environment. But children—especially younger, active children—may get bored with this sort of top-down approach to learning.

In my years of teaching, I have found that children learn more easily by playing a game. Many important cane travel concepts, including sound localization, can be taught using accessible athletic balls with bells or rattles inside.

Take the student to a quiet, open area such as the gym or empty hallway. It's most fun when all players wear sleep shades and use canes. Start by asking the student to clap or speak so you can hear where he is located, then, roll the ball to him. He should hear the ball and stop it from rolling away. Encourage him to find the ball with his cane. If the ball rolls away, teach him how to find it

by sweeping the cane in a wide arc and walking in a grid pattern to make certain the entire area has been searched. Clap or speak so he can tell where to roll the ball as well. Once the student rolls and catches the ball a few times, have him kick the ball on the floor and follow it. The idea is to keep the ball rolling without letting it stop. Let him practice tossing or punting the ball. If you have a basketball, he can find the net with his cane and practice shooting a basket. You will be surprised how well most kids respond to playing simple games with the noisy balls."



BLIND KIDS ON SKATEBOARDS

In the year 2015 there are very few sports which are out of reach for a blind/visually impaired child. There was a day when blind children were relegated to the sidelines when other kids were joining the soccer team or playing baseball. Now with beeping balls and other

accommodations, blind kids have more opportunities than ever. "Where there's a will there's a way" has never rung more true. Here's a case in point: Whoever thought a totally blind teen could skateboard independently at a skateboard park. Well, take a look at these two inspiring videos. The first video demonstrates how an eager beginner is being taught the basics. In the second video you will see a blind skateboarder "rocking it"!

[Click here](#) to view a video showing a blind teen learning how to skateboard.

[Click here](#) to view a video of a teenager skateboarding independently at a skateboard park.



BULLYING GUIDE

[Bullying 101: Guide for Middle and High School Students](#)

This highly visual, age-appropriate guide provides students with the basics for talking with other students about what bullying is and isn't, the roles of students, and tips on what students can do to address bullying situations. Published by PACER'S National Bullying Prevention Center, this

14-page guide is available online as a free [download](#).



SEEDLINGS BOOK ANGEL PROGRAM

If you live in the US or Canada, you can register your VI child for two free braille books per year in Seedlings Braille Books for Children "Book Angel Program!" Visit the Seedlings' website to register: <http://www.seedlings.org/bkangel2009.php>.



AUGUST CALENDAR

****SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

BEACH PARTY BARBECUE

WHAT: Families are invited to an afternoon of fun on the beach. Swim, play in the sand, and enjoy a picnic on the beach. Bring your favorite

beverage. Side dishes are welcomed.

WHERE: 3170 West 63rd Avenue; Denver, CO

WHEN: Saturday, August 8th; 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: Drive west on 63rd to 11th house on the left (blue house).

RSVP: Please reply to trunfiostudios@gmail.com by August 5th.

For further information call 303-378-5193.

****SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

LITTLETON WESTERN WELCOME WEEK PARADE

TIME: Parade is 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Join the Colorado Center for the Blind as they march in the parade. For more information on where to meet, call Robert at the Colorado Center for the Blind: 303-778-1130.

CANES ARE TAPPING!!

