



Down Syndrome Development Council

FORUM-April 2008 volume 19



APRIL MONTHLY MEETING APRIL 10, 2008 PUNS REGISTRATION

Time: 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

Location: Pediatric Interactions, 15 Commerce Dr. Ste. 116, Grayslake, IL

Bring: Your child with Ds, a photocopy of their social security card and medical letter stating that the person has Down syndrome (Trisomy 21)

The process takes about 30 minutes. . Why should a family with person with Down syndrome do the PUNS survey? Your loved one with Down syndrome must be on the PUNS database in order to be considered for any new services. All future recipients of services will be selected from the PUNS database. If your loved one is not listed in the PUNS database, your need does not exist in the eyes of IL legislators. When funding and policy decisions are made, inaccurate low numbers may result in lower funding and limited service availability. In order to get services and funding to meet our needs, our needs must be recognized and counted in PUNS. Your willingness to complete the survey will support advocacy efforts. Without a need demonstrated by PUNS, the legislature might not increase funding, create new programs, or modify existing programs. **Call Mary Lou Paff at 847-548-4852 (mlpaff@aol.com)**

Please contact us at:

DDC
PO Box 906
Mundelein, IL
60060

Our Meeting Place:
Community Protestant Church
418N. Prairie
Mundelein,
Second
Thursday of the month.

Our Mission:
To promote a greater acceptance and understanding of Down syndrome, by enlightening the broader community to recognize the individuality, uniqueness and capabilities of individuals with DS.

Saturday May 10th, 2008

Mother's Day Weekend



It's a cocktail party, it's a trunk show, it's a fundraiser!

This bash, hosted by the Collins', is for **adults only** (please) so get a sitter and come join the fun. Besides the cocktails, great company, and fabulous treats we will also have *Mommy Needs a Cocktail* merchandise available and 10% of the proceeds will go to DDC. Perhaps *Mommy Needs a Vacation*, or a Nanny, or a Latte, or a glass of wine, or Chocolate, or for Daddy to do the dishes... well I know *this* Mommy Needs it All and if Mommy ain't happy, ain't nobody happy! Please check future newsletters for more information.

If you have any questions or to RSVP please contact RaeAnn Collins at 847.265.8482 or rjohncol@comcast.net

UPCOMING DDC EVENTS:

4/ 10 Monthly meeting: PUNS registration 6-10pm (notice the location is changed for this meeting)

4/17 Thurs. playgroup, 5:30-7:30pm

5/8 DDC Board Elections, 7pm

5/10 Cocktail party

For a current listing of the books available in the DDC

library, go to our website:

www.TheDDC.org Our library is located at the Center for Independent Living. If you are interested in checking out a book please call Pam at 949-4440, ext.15. The office is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00pm.

Want to smile? Simply go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_0K-gPlyb0 and then send it on to the rest of the world. Let's see what will happen.



DDC NEEDS YOU!

During the May 8th board meeting, **DDC members will elect the new board of directors** for the upcoming year (July 2008 through June 2009). Participation on the DDC board is an exciting and very rewarding opportunity to work with others to continue to accomplish the mission of the DDC: *To promote a greater acceptance and understanding of Down syndrome, by enlightening the broader community to recognize the individuality, uniqueness and capabilities of individuals with Down syndrome.*

The future of our group depends on parents getting involved! Please consider joining the DDC board, and making a difference in the lives of children with Down syndrome. If you are interested in participating on the DDC board, please call Patrick Collins, DDC President, at 847-265-8482, or e-mail him at rjohncol@comcast.net.

DDC New Baby Social 2007-8 Schedule

Socials occur every other month, on a Saturday,
from 9:30-11:30 am,
at the Fremont Public Library in Mundelein
(1170 Midlothian Road, between Winchester and Route 176).

Our next socials will be:

April 19

June 21

Please RSVP to Jennifer Jenkins (847/970-6797 OR only_connect@msn.com) no later than 1 week prior to that month's social – it helps us to arrange food and hosts. Looking forward to seeing you there!

For more info on the DDC's activities, visit our website: www.theddc.org

Playgroups

Our monthly playgroups meet on two different days each month, one on Saturday morning, the other on Thursday evening. In each case, families are encouraged to bring all of their children for an interactive group play therapy session, led by our developmental therapist Kris Murray and hosted by various DDC parents. The Thursday evening group meets in early evening (the third Thursday of the month) and includes dinner. Spanish language interpreters are available with advance notice. These playgroups are completely free of charge and open to all DDC member families! For more information about the upcoming playgroup schedule and locations, please contact Kris Murray (847-630-4991) or Belinda Hidalgo (hidalgob@comcast.net). **If you would be interested in attending a Saturday morning playgroup, please contact Belinda.**

Dear Parents:



Guess what? It's registration time (again!). Our current tutoring session will come to a close on May 3. The summer session will run from May 4 through August 30, 2008. Individual/group tutoring sessions will continue to be scheduled every other week for 45 minutes.

I have enclosed a somewhat *revised* form. It continues to be a two-sided form with our "**Parents are Important**" Statement on the reverse. This Statement *must* be completed by a parent acknowledging your commitment to our home-based Literacy program. When completing the form, please print clearly and be sure to fill out all the contact information. It will be appreciated!

Location Selection: The registration form will now capture your location preference for the tutoring sessions. Our four locations are: Hoffman Estates, Plainfield (10052 S. Bode Road, Unit D), McHenry (1720 Richmond Road) and Westmont (Bethel Lutheran Church, N Grant and Irving). Please rank them 1-4, with "1" being your first choice. We will do our best to accommodate you!

*****Important Note***** For your child to be considered for a summer tutoring session, this registration form must be *completed and returned by April 7*. If you choose not to participate in this session, please just update the contact information and return the form indicating such. Priority will be given to those who ***did not*** attend the winter semester. Available sessions will be offered in the following order: those on our current consult list, last fall's participants, newcomers and then those participating in our winter session. If we are unable to schedule a tutoring session for your child during the summer session, please remember that the following resources are available to you: 1) consulting with a tutor, 2) Literacy night with bookmaking and 3) books as needed.

Please return (mail or fax) both forms to the Hoffman Estates Playhouse by April 7. Subject to the above changes, openings will be filled on a first come, first served basis and will begin the week of May 5. We hope to finalize the scheduling by April 25. Please continue to attend your regularly scheduled sessions through May 3, unless your tutor advises you differently.

After reviewing this information, if you have questions, please feel free to call me at 1-847-885-PLAY (7529).

Sincerely,
Susan Doody, Literacy Program Coordinator
GiGi's Playhouse

PARENTS ARE IMPORTANT

GiGi's "Learn to Read" (LTR) literacy program is a *free* program staffed by numerous volunteers. This program was designed as a home-based program. We all know how important repetition is to learning! As a parent of a GiGi student, you are the key player in your student's learning.

As a parent, I will actively participate in my student's LTR sessions at GiGi's;

As a parent, I will practice daily with my student the skills learned at our LTR session. Repetition is the key to success;

As a parent, I understand how valuable and sought after the LTR sessions are and will notify our tutor, in advance, if we cannot make a session;

As a parent, I understand that I am responsible for ensuring that if siblings accompany us, they are to stay in the background so as to not distract the tutor and student. All toys *must be put away* before leaving the Playhouse;

As a parent, I understand that the last Wednesday of every month is "**give back**" time to GiGi's *free* literacy program. This volunteer effort will help make sure we never run out of our specialized books, the cornerstone for at-home learning.

Together with the efforts of GiGi's volunteers, I (we) are committed to our student's success!

Signature: _____ Date: _____

LITERACY PROGRAM – REGISTRATION FORM

Parent's Full Name _____ Phone Number _____
Child's Full Name _____ DOB _____
Address _____ City _____ ZipCode _____
Email Address _____
Other Contact Phone _____

My child has been through at least one literacy tutoring session at GiGi's: Yes _____ No _____

Are you interested in:

- Consulting only (for those unable to come or are on the waiting list)
 Individual Tutoring Sessions
 Group Tutoring Sessions

Please circle the days your child attends school and include the hours in school:

Mon _____ Tues _____ Wed _____ Thu _____ Fri _____
Times: _____

Indicate a day/time range that you would prefer for tutoring (we will do our best to accommodate, but cannot guarantee a time.) Ex: Mon - noon - 2; Wed 4 -6; Fri anytime. Provide all possibilities.

Mon _____ Tues _____ Wed _____

Thur _____ Fri _____ Sat _____

Select location (rank 1-4): Hoffman Est _____ Westmont _____ Plainfield _____ McHenry _____

Please list your child's strengths and any concerns regarding literacy skills.

Please mail to: GiGi's Playhouse, 1069 W. Golf Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169; fax to 847-885-4903
Thank you for your interest in our program. We will contact you when we have an opening.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date recd: _____ Tutor: _____ Schedule: Wk1 ___ Day ___ Time ___

Wk2 ___ Day ___ Time ___

Waiting list: Yes _____ No _____ Reason: _____

Website Resources:

<http://members.aol.com/jamiedoc/index.htm> ADHD and teens
<http://inclusion.org/inc/index-graphic.asp>
<http://www.transcen.org/newpubs.html> Transition to Work
<http://www.nextup.com/?source=Overture> Talking Software
http://www.snapinfo.org/our_onlineform.html
<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/ped/tsal/tsal.html>
<http://www.pacer.org/swift/index.htm>
<http://www.pacer.org/tatra/summerEmp.htm>
<http://www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=423>
<http://ericec.org/faq/sch2wrk.html>
<http://www.thearc.org/faqs/qa-idea-transition.html>
http://www.education-world.com/special_ed/iep/transition.shtml Great site!!
<http://aolsearch.aol.com/aol/search?query=Transition+to+Adulthood+for+Students+with+a+Disability&page=3&userid=43d3f368-0037d-0401a-e4960c40&invocationType=spelling&clickstreamid=-3414119327984268530>
<http://www.nichcy.org/parents.asp> (Parent Guides)
<http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/ieps.tactics.session.htm> (Wrightslaw- IEP Strategies)
<http://specialed.about.com/>
<http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/general/famous.html> Famous People w/Disabilities

Here are some
helpful websites
recommended by
Pam Labellarte

Donate to DDC!

The Down Syndrome Development Council (DDC) provides support, educational programs, social events and monthly newsletters to families of individuals with Down syndrome as well as Down syndrome awareness in our communities. The DDC no longer charges membership dues, or fees for most of our programs. Our costs are covered entirely by donations and various fund raising events. If you would like to contribute to DDC to help us cover the costs of our programs and newsletters, please complete the following form and mail it, along with your check (payable to Down Syndrome Development Council) to: DDC, P.O. Box 906, Mundelein, IL 60060

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ e-mail address _____

Amount: \$ _____

I would like my donation to be acknowledged in the next newsletter (no amounts will be published)

_____yes _____no

My donation is in honor of: _____

or in memory of: _____

If you have any questions, please contact any of the board members by phone or e-mail.

Need help teaching your child to ride a bike?

People call Richard Klein The Bike Doctor for his work in teaching special-needs children to ride their bikes. During the process, Klein replaces bike tires with a series of eight custom-built rollers. His process usually takes four to five days.

Easter Seals has offered camps featuring Mr. Klein and his "Lose The Training Wheels" program. For more information visit www.losethetrainingwheels.org.

Dominick's "eScrip" Fundraising

Dominick's has an exciting new fund raising program called **eScrip**. Once an individual enrolls, up to 4% of your qualifying purchases are credited to our group every time you shop with your Dominick's Fresh Values Card. I shop all the time at Dominick's and just my grocery bill alone should generate a nice donation to DDC. The advantage of this program over some of the previous "grocery store" type fundraisers is that once you enroll, you do not have to do anything different or special when you shop and use your Fresh Values Card. It does not involve a credit card, or remembering any coupons or receipts. Once enrolled with DDC as your recipient organization, you just shop! The eScrip program automatically tallies all benefits and forwards the funds to DDC. Just think how much income this program could generate for DDC if all of our DDC members signed up!

All you have to do is go to escrip.com to register. It takes less than 5 minutes. All you will need is your Dominick's' Fresh Values card. When asked to select the organization that you will donate to, you can search by zip code, or by name. We are listed as Down Syndrome Development Council, Mundelein, IL, 60060. Thank you for your participation. The income from this program will allow DDC to continue to offer quality programs and social events! If you have any questions, please contact Janis Kern, DDC Treasurer, at (847) 548-4417.

Extend Starz Elite



Got hip hop?



Forever friends!



Champions!



2008 SPECIAL NEEDS CHEERLEADING TEAM!

Extend will be offering our first special needs cheerleading program in 2008.

If you are interested in being part of this program please sign-up for our mailing list and we will send you more information.



Check us out!

- ★ Guys & girls welcome
- ★ Award winning teams and staff
- ★ Most affordable program around
- ★ Ages 5-18

1320 Chase St #7, Algonquin 847-458-8257
www.extendcheerleading.com

This was on the NADS website and thought this may be of interest. If you read the book, and loved it as I did, you may want to catch the movie, "The Memory Keeper's Daughter," premieres Saturday, April 12 at 9pm ET/PT on Lifetime Television. For more info go to www.nads.org <<http://www.nads.org/>>

There is also info on the NADS website about a series of workshops put on by the Chicago Public schools for parents.

Linda Picchi, NADS

DDC Board Members 2007-2008

President	Patrick Collins	847-265-8482	rjohncol@comcast.net
Vice Pres	Mary Lou Paff	847-548-4852	mlpaff@aol.com
Secretary	Jennifer Jenkins	847-970-6797	only_connect@msn.com
Treasurer	Janis Kern	847-548-4417	Janiskern@comcast.net
Past Pres	Andrea O'Donnell	847-949-1975	odonna@sbcglobal.net
Playgroups	Belinda Hidalgo	847-838-4398	Hidalgob@comcast.net
Board	RaeAnn Collins	847-265-8482	rjohncol@comcast.net
Newsletter	Terri Christolini	847-267-1169	Christolin@aol.com

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!!!

Faith Brown	2002
Julianna Cerda	2001
Jeremiah Hendricks	1994
Kevin Kinder	1993
Anthony Lopez	2001
Serenity Parker	2005
Alexandra Rodriguez	2002
Megan Witt	1994

