



Independence

A Newsletter for Transitioning Teens

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UPCOMING TRANSITION FAIRS

Location: South Ripley High School
1589 South Benham Road
Versailles, Indiana

Date: October 12, 2006
Time: 6:00p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Location: Batesville High School
One Bulldog Blvd.
Batesville, Indiana

Date: November 16, 2006
Time: 5:30-p.m.-7:30 p.m.



The R-O-D Transition Council will also be participating in the College Night at South Dearborn High School.

Location: South Dearborn High School
5770 Highlander Place
Aurora, Indiana

Date: October 11, 2006
Time: 7:00p.m.-8:30p.m.

COME JOIN US THERE!

APPLY FOR A MEDICAID WAIVER TODAY!

DON'T DELAY

MEDICAID WAIVERS CAN HELP YOU:

Develop Skills

Form Relationships

Become More Independent

Become More Involved

CALL THE R-O-D OFFICE AT 812-623-2212 or
e-mail your request to

lpeck@rodspecial.ed.org TO GET A

BOOKLET THAT TELLS YOU HOW TO APPLY!

MEDICAID WAIVERS HAVE LONG WAITING LISTS
SO REMEMBER

"THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM!"



What is a Transition Fair?

Ripley-Ohio-Dearborn (R-O-D) Special Education Cooperative has a Transition Council made up of high school teachers, R-O-D staff, parents, representatives from Vocational Rehabilitation, New Horizons, IVY Tech, DSI, and Achieva. Our Transition Council will be sponsoring several **Transition Fairs** throughout the school year. Keep reading to learn more!!

What is a Transition Fair, you say? A Transition Fair is a gathering of adult agencies that can tell you about services you can get from them after leaving high school.

Who should come to a Transition Fair, you say? Any student with a disability who might need a little or a lot of help getting a job, getting training for a job, or finding a place to live. There are many ways agencies can help.

Where are these Transition Fairs, you say? Our Transition Fairs are usually held at the different high schools throughout the counties of Ripley, Ohio, and Dearborn.

How do I find out about when and where Transition Fairs are happening, you say? Ask your special education teachers. R-O-D sends flyers to your teachers to share with you that give all the details about Transition Fairs. You can also call the R-O-D office at 812-623-2212 and ask to speak to Lisa Beneker or just read about it in future Independence Newsletters.!

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HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS?

Special Olympics offers many kinds of sports for athletes. Sports are free to athletes. Athletes can compete and win medals. Wow! If that is not enough athletes make new friends. If you don't know how to play a sport. Don't worry, Special Olympics can help you learn. Fall sports include: Bowling, Golf, Basketball, and Swimming. If you are person with a disability who is at least 8 years old, then you can be a part of Special Olympics!

PLAY IT SAFE ON THE INTERNET!

*** Keep your personal information private.** Do not give out your address, telephone number, social security number, bank account numbers, or e-mail address unless you know who is getting the information, why they want the information, and how they will use your information.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS?

Go to their website at:

www.home.earthlink.net/~special_olympics_rod

or contact:

**Steve Sassman, Sports Coordinator at
812-926-2954.**

*** Check the website's privacy policy.** What security is offered to protect your personal information, if any?

*** Make sure websites you visit are owned by reliable business that you know and trust.** The Better Business Bureau can tell you if businesses meet personal safety standards. You can visit the Better Business Bureau online at: www.bbbonline.org

PARENTS: PREPARE FOR YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE TODAY!

Income from SSI and Medicaid may not be enough for your loved one with a disability. Right now you might supplement your child's income with those things he/she needs in life. But, what will happen when you are gone? If this is your worry? Maybe The Arc of Indiana can help you.

*** Keep records of your online transactions.** Know how much you spend and know the business where you spend money.

*** Read your e-mails.** Businesses may send you important information about your purchases.

HOW? The Arc of Indiana has a program, The Arc of Indiana Master Trust.

WHAT IS THE ARC MASTER TRUST? The Arc Master Trust has been around since 1988. The purpose of the trust is to help parents or family to leave money for their loved ones with disability without changing their eligibility for Medicaid, SSI, and other federally funded programs.

*** Review your bank and credit card statements every month.** Your bank will send you a monthly statement showing all your expenses. Look to make sure that all purchases/withdrawals were made by you. If you use a credit card, you will also get a monthly statement and you should read it carefully too.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

Call The Arc of Indiana Master Trust
Toll Free at: [877-589-8848](tel:877-589-8848)
or send a written request to:
The Arc of Indiana Master Trust
P.O. Box 80033
Indianapolis, Indiana 46280





THE CLASSROOM CORNER

KUDOS TO MRS. TAYLOR'S CLASS!

Mrs. Taylor's students at South Dearborn High School worked hard to fold our Independence Newsletters for this issue. We send a big thank you to Mrs. Taylor and her students for their hard work.

It seems Mrs. Taylor's class is always very busy. Students work every morning on functional english and math skills. They learn daily living skills each day. Every Monday the class plans a meal. On Wednesdays the class travels to the local grocery store to purchase items needs for their meal. Friday is a big day for everyone because students get to prepare the meal they planned.

Mrs. Taylor's students have pen pals from the Iowa School for the Deaf. Students write letters regularly to their friends in Iowa. Wow! How cool is that?

Wait a Minute! That's not all! Mrs. Taylor and her students also take monthly community-based outings. This month students practiced skills at the local Walmart and ordered from the delicious menu at the local McDonalds. Sometimes their class is joined by Mrs. Abel's class from South Dearborn Middle School. Mrs. Taylor's students also attended the homecoming dance and had a great time. Mrs. Taylor has many exciting outings planned this school year! Kudos to Mrs. Taylor and her students for their hard work. A special thank you to Mrs. Taylor in her efforts to make learning fun!

EARN YOUR DIPLOMA!

1. Pass the Graduation Qualifying Examination, also called the GQE
 2. Meet the Core 40 Graduation Requirements.
- or
3. Demonstrate mastery of 9th grade academic standards and meet other state and local graduation requirements through a waiver. Remember these things if a Graduation Waiver may be what you need in order to get your diploma, start planning now! In order to qualify for the Graduation Waiver you must:



- * Maintain at least a "C" average in core academics subjects
- * Participate in all remediation opportunities
- * Maintain 95% attendance rate

WHAT IS A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION?

A Certificate of Completion is a certificate earned by a student who is successfully working toward his/her IEP goals. There are no academic course or grade requirements to earn a certificate of completion.

HOW IS A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION HELPFUL?

A Certificate of Completion gives you the opportunity to participate in the graduation ceremonies. No one knows that you are receiving a certificate instead of a diploma except for your teachers, principal, or others you may tell. The Certificate of Completion symbolizes the hard work and effort that students put forth in high school.

WHAT DOES A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION LOOK LIKE?

Each high school designs their own Certificate of Completion. Usually, it will look similar to a diploma.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE

323 North Meridian Street

P.O. Box 238

Sunman, Indiana 47041



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WEBSITES FOR INFORMATION

www.ldonline.com

www.bestbuddiesindiana.org

CareerBuilder.com

www.home.earthlink.net/~special_olympics_rod/

rodspeciald.org



Contact Information

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
455 Central Avenue
Suite 1300
Columbus, Indiana
877-396-3271

New Horizons Rehabilitation, Inc.
P.O. Box 98
Batesville, Indiana 47006
812-934-4528

