



Post Adoption Resource Center Newsletter

Info from Special Education Training held in South Central U.P.

Kris Keranen, of Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, spoke on Individualized Education Plans, Section 504 Plans and related subjects at a recent training for adoptive parents in Kingsford. The school has a legal obligation to give each child a Free and Appropriate Public Education and meet the Child Find Mandate. If a child is struggling in school or has been diagnosed with a learning disability or mental health diagnosis, parents can request the school to evaluate their child. PARC Specialists at the phone numbers below can help adoptive parents with information, coordination of services, and advocacy.

Keranen stressed putting everything in writing. This avoids misunderstanding and provides documentation including specific dates. Schools have timelines they must meet once a request is made. The school will schedule a Review of Existing Evaluation Data (REED) meeting to review concerns and obtain consent. After the REED takes place, the school has 30 school days to conduct evaluations, arrange an Individualized Education Plan Team (IEPT) meeting, decide on eligibility, and offer appropriate services. Once the child has been evaluated and is found to be eligible for Special Education Services, then an IEPT meeting is held with the Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team (MET). Parents are major players on this team as parents child know their child best! The meeting takes place at a time as convenient as possible for all team members. Preparation is key to a successful meeting. This means obtaining and reading the child's evaluations and assessments, progress reports and grades, discipline and attendance records, outside evaluations, and any other pertinent information. Identifying your top two or three concerns, putting them in writing, and sharing your concerns clearly, gives the other members of the IEP team a chance to think about your concerns and possible solutions, and it ensures the team stays focused and productive.

The Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP) will be the foundation of the IEP, which includes strengths and weaknesses based on current information. The PLAAFP covers all areas of need, provides clear and objective, data-based description of performance, describes what helps the child learn and what interferes with the child's learning, and describes how the child's disability impacts his or her ability to be involved and progress in the general education curriculum. An annual goal is developed for each need which best describes what the child is expected to be able to do a
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www.upkids.com

To contact a PARC
Specialist by phone,
call...

- Houghton 906-487-9832
- Iron Mt. 906-281-3440
- Marquette 906-281-3420
- Sault 906-281-3276



The Post Adoption Resource Center is a program of U.P. KIDS and is funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

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Upcoming FAMILY FUN Activities in Central U.P.

The Holidays are approaching, and that means family friendly events. Here are a few that seem especially fun!

Peter White Library Prime Time Family Reading Time

Learn new ways to improve your child's reading skills through wonderful stories. Meet for six consecutive Saturdays, October 8-November 12 and listen to a professional storyteller and participate in a group discussion with your child and other families. Round out each session a healthy free lunch. Preschool services are provided for younger siblings. Transportation is available. Families with children ages 6-10 are invited to register online.



Deer Day Get-Away

11/15/2016 - Starts: 6:00 PM

Escanaba Public Library 400 Ludington Street Escanaba, MI

Make it take it craft for teens and adults. Make a "no sew" fleece scarf and headband. All materials supplied. Registration required. Hot cider and seasonal refreshments will be served. Popcorn and Movie for the kids. A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving will be shown at 6:00 pm.

906-789-7323 www.escanabalibrary.org



Public Ice Skating at Lakeview Arena

Lakeview Arena's public skating hours are as follows:

Drop-In Figure Skating Monday-Friday 9 - 9:50 a.m.

Preschool/Parent & Senior Citizens Monday-Friday 10 - 11:20 a.m.

Drop-In Hockey Monday-Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

Public Skate (all ages) Monday-Sunday 1 - 2:50 p.m.

Senior/Adult Skate (18 & older) Mondays 7:30 - 9:20 p.m.

(Free to Marquette City Senior Residents with ID)



Marquette Winter Snow Fun Holiday Parade & City Tree Lighting

December 2nd from 6pm-9pm

Celebrate the magic of the holiday season at the 6th Annual 'Winter Snow Fun' Holiday Parade and 41th Annual City of Marquette Tree Lighting. Bundle up with friends and family as illuminated floats, tinsel-strewn trucks and colorful carolers transform Third Street into a magical scene from the North Pole. After the parade, spectators are welcomed to the Marquette Commons where Santa Claus and friends will light up Downtown at the annual City of Marquette Tree Lighting. Festivities include a performance by the Marquette Senior High School Redmen Chorale, pony rides, hot chocolate and photos with Santa Claus. The Marquette Post Office staff lends a helping hand to Santa's elves by collecting children's letters to Santa along the parade route. The parade begins at the corner of North Third Street and Fair Avenue and ends at the Marquette Commons (112 South Third Street). After the parade, spectators are welcomed to the Marquette Commons where Santa Claus and friends will light up Downtown at the 41th Annual City of Marquette Tree Lighting.

Visits with Santa to follow.

Negaunee

December 3rd Parade, tree lighting , and of course Santa!

Saturday, December 10th from 3-9pm in Downtown Negaunee

Crafts, performances, special treats, and photos with Santa are some of the fun events that will be taking place!



(Special Education continued from page one)

year from now which they cannot currently do. Keranen stated, "A well-written goal is positive, measurable, and objective-the law requires that it be measurable." To help the child progress towards these goals, accommodations, services, modifications and supplementary aid and services may need to be provided. This is written and documented in the IEP. An annual IEP is a minimum requirement by law. Keranen explained, "The school has seven school days from the date of the IEPT meeting to notify the parent in writing that services will be offered, where they will be provided, and when they will begin. Often this notice is provided directly to the parent at the end of the IEPT meeting." If you disagree with the result of the evaluations or the IEP, you have the right to request mediation, an (Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE), file a dissenting report, or file for a due process hearing. An IEE is conducted by someone outside of the school upon your request, but the school is responsible for the cost of these evaluations. If requested, your PARC specialist can support you throughout any of these processes.

Information on the IEP process and other Special Education accommodations and services can be found of the Michigan Protection and Advocacy website at <http://www.mpas.org/resources/special-education-manual>

U.P. KIDS thanks Kris Keranen and Judy Lindstrom from MPAS for educating service providers and parents on this important information and for providing help and advocacy on many occasions throughout the U.P.



We are approaching that time of year again when we will have to bundle up and try to stay warm in the great U.P. for those long winter months. Rather than thinking of winter as many months without sufficient sunlight; think of it as more quality time to spend with your family and friends! Here are some fun activities to do as a family, whether indoors or outdoors during winter. For more activities check out: <http://www.todaysparent.com/family/>

Outdoor Activities:

- Build a snowman or snow fort
- Go sledding or tobogganing or snowboarding or tubing
- Go skiing or skating or play hockey
- Warm up around a warm winter camp fire
- Go for a snowmobile ride or a brisk winter hike
- Play snow soccer or set up a scavenger hunt
- Do a good deed (walk around your neighborhood with trash bags and pick up litter, volunteer to walk dogs at your local animal shelter, or shovel an elderly neighbor's front walk)
- Draw pictures in the snow or make snow angels
- Catch snowflakes or feed the birds
- Try ice fishing or snowshoeing
- Take a horse-drawn carriage ride
- Take a ride to look at Holiday decorations
- See the Northern Lights

Indoor Activities:

- Decorate your home or bake holiday cookies
- Make a puzzle or learn to sew or knit
- Draw or color a picture or make paper snowflakes
- Host a hot chocolate tasting party or make hot chocolate or have a movie marathon with popcorn and hot cocoa
- Make your own puppet theatre
- Have a fort building contest or start an air band or karaoke
- Play board games
- Make a short movie or act out a scene from your favorite movie
- Throw a dance party
- Have a backward day
- Make a winter wreath
- Make a family time capsule



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Free Training Opportunities

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the MSU School of Social Work have partnered to bring adoptive parents and other caregivers in the Michigan child welfare system free training opportunities. If you are on PARC email lists, you likely received the brochure of fall and winter courses. A webinar on ***Becoming Trauma Informed Parents*** scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2017 may be of particular interest, as it is online—training you can take without driving the many miles downstate and back! To take this webinar visit <https://socialwork.msu.edu/ceu/catalog.php>. Under Topics of Interest, click “Webinars” or search course #200-17.

For those of you able and willing to make the drive, an in-person training still yet to come this fall is ***Raising Traumatized Children***, a workshop presented by Jonathon Albert, BS, CTS and T.C. Lopez, LLMSW to be held Saturday, November 12, 2016 in Okemos—just outside of Lansing. To register or to obtain more information about course content and time and site specifics, visit <https://socialwork.msu.edu/ceu/catalog.php>. Under Topics of Interest, click “Child Welfare In-Service Trainings”. If you do not already have an online account with MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education Program, you will be asked to create one.

Other Upcoming Events

U.P. KIDS PARC will be bringing Annie Lange, who will be presenting ***The Nurtured Heart Approach***, to the Central U.P. some Friday between April and July 2017. Look for more info to come, and do let us know your preferences for date, site, and other topics and/or presenters.

U.P. KIDS PARC celebrations of Michigan Adoption Day, November 22, 2016, are set for Sault Sainte Marie, Saint Ignace, Newberry, Marquette, and Iron Mountain. Some courts and other agencies and communities are also hosting events. These will be added to the PARC online calendar as we become certain of specifics.

November is National Adoption Month, and November 22, 2016 is Michigan Adoption Day!

Thank YOU for all you do , Adoptive Parents, from all of us at U.P. KIDS.

Contact the PARC Specialist in your area to find out about celebrations in your communities. Check the calendar at <http://www.upkids.com/post-adoption-resource-center/calendar/>



UP Kids staff attended the Michigan Adoption Workers' Conference in Traverse City on September 19 and 20. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet other workers and acquire new and fresh ideas to bring home! Some of the topics included: Working with children with complex trauma, LGBTQ children and families, safety plans, and making adoptions last.