



Post Adoption Resource Center

What is a Sensory Disability?

A sensory disability is a disability of the senses: sight, hearing, smell, touch and/or taste. It can affect how a person gathers information from the world around them, as most of the information comes from our senses. These may include but are not limited to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), blindness and low vision, hearing loss, and sensory processing disorder.

Sensory processing disorder is a condition that causes difficulties receiving and responding to information from the senses. Sensory information is sensed by the person; however, the brain perceives and analyses the information in an unusual way. It may affect one sense alone, or it may affect multiple senses. Someone with sensory processing disorder may have heightened or lowered sensitivity to stimuli such as tolerating light, being touched, sound, eye contact and pain. Sensory processing disorder can be a disorder on its own; however, it can also be a common characteristic of other disabilities including Autism Spectrum Disorders, Dyslexia, Multiple Sclerosis and Tourette Syndrome.

According to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, even when sensory disorders are temporary or mild, such disorders can affect physical and mental health. An impaired ability to communicate with others or maintain good balance can lead many people to feel socially isolated, have unmet health needs, and/or have limited success in school or on the job. An impaired sense of smell or taste can lead to poor nutrition or the inability to detect smoke, gas leaks or foods that are unsafe to eat.

To find sensory strategies to help children regulate, visit:

<https://funandfunction.com/solutions-center.html>

For fun sensory activities, visit:

<http://www.hwns.com.au/Resource-centre/sensory-activities>

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www.upkids.com

**Contact a PARC
Specialist**

Houghton 906-487-9832

Iron Mt. 906-281-3440

Marquette 906-281-3420

Sault 906-281-3276



Thinking of Camp this Summer?

Well, it is an idea to help those young ones become more independent, make new friends, discover new talents, learn new skills and have some fun. It is also a way to get a little much needed respite for parents!

Camps come in many sizes. Find one that's right for your camper by checking with your local MSU Extension office, universities, churches or schools. Don't forget that the U.P. KIDS Post Adoption Resource Center can help out with information, and in some cases, funding.



Marquette County Adoptive Parent Support Group

Adoption is a unique experience and the Post Adoption Resource Center would like to provide an opportunity for prospective and current adoptive parents to come together, meet each other, discuss common concerns, build a network of support and have fun.

This group will be open for all who are in the adoption process or have adopted children through the foster care system, a private adoption, and/or international adoption as well as, permanent guardians of children placed through Michigan child welfare system.

We will build a community of support and strengthen parenting skills through a Nurturing Parenting approach. The philosophy of Nurturing Parenting emphasizes the importance of raising children in a warm, trusting and caring household. It is founded on the belief that children who are cared for develop the capacity to trust, care for and respect themselves, other people and living creatures and the environment. The philosophy is founded on seven principles: Feelings of Attachment, Empathy, Nurturing Oneself, Gentle Touch, Discipline, Expressing Feelings, Expectations and Self-Worth.

All information shared will be kept confidential. The group will be facilitated by Jessica Glomp, Post Adoption Specialist with U.P. KIDS starting this fall.

Compassion Cases

Compassion Cases are coordinated by Marquette Area MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) as a community challenge to provide comfort to local children in foster care. For children in foster care, transition is inevitable and sometimes quick. Unfortunately, at times, trash bags are still used to transfer their belongings. The goal for Marquette County is to eliminate the need for trash bags and instead, send local children in foster care a message of love, support, and hope.

Join Marquette Area MOPS and Foster Closet of Michigan as they raise 150 companion cases: diaper bags, duffle bags, and suitcases filled with basic items for local children in foster care.



How can you get involved?

Email compassioncases906@gmail.com to register your group, organization, or church into the 2017 Compassion Cases drive.

Set your launch date, collection timeframe, and determine how you will collect the items needed. Encourage coworkers, friends, and neighbors to participate as well! Additional items needed will be listed in the participant packet.

Have your business, group, or church location sign up to be a Compassion Cases drop-off location for others.

Request a Compassion Case Foster Care Presentation for your group to help launch the drive at your location and to provide more information about foster care to your participants.

Challenge other businesses or community groups to participate!

Tell others about Foster Closet of Michigan and connect with them on Facebook.

We provide the comfort and love that children need, when they need it. The Compassion Cases service project is a way to provide the same comfort and love to children in the community who need it as well. Compassion Cases is comfort in action to children in foster care when they need it most. It is a hug and a kiss wrapped up in a teddy bear, pajamas, and a duffle bag. Through this project we will challenge others and ourselves to spread a dose of love to kids in our community as if they were our own because they are.

Introducing Reba Miller, PARC Specialist in Sault Sainte Marie

Reba joined the U.P. KIDS' PARC team in February 2017. She works part-time and also helps with transporting foster children who are in the Eastern end of the U.P. Reba worked for over two years in the foster care field downstate and feels that working for U.P. KIDS has been a great fit for her. She has a B.A. in social science with a concentration in psychology from University of Michigan-Flint and is currently working on her Master's Thesis.



Reba is passionately interested in social justice, which is what led to her field of study and her thesis on "The Criminalization of the Poor." She and her family have been visiting the beautiful U.P. for years and fell in love with the area. The decision to move mid-school year was a difficult one, but after much deliberation, they decided it was best that Reba blaze the trail by moving up here first and finding a job. Reba admits it is difficult living so far from her husband and children (ages 13 and 14) who still live in the Port Huron area, but as soon as school lets out, they will join her here.

Let's Take A Coffee Break! Join us For a Re-charge!



Come and meet other local foster, adoptive, guardianship and kinship parents for casual conversation and a cup of coffee/tea/soft drink.

Every third Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Wendy's Restaurant on the I-75 Business Spur in Sault Ste. Marie

RSVP to Linda Forgrave, adoptive parent, linda_deesmith@hotmail.com



Free Training Opportunity

"Parenting Youth Who Have Been Sexually Abused and Have Experienced Other Trauma" will be presented Thursday, September 21, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Houghton/Keweenaw Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 47420 State Highway M-26, Suite 62, Houghton, Michigan 49931.

Presenter Cheryl Williams-Hecksel, LMSW, has 20 years of clinical and administrative experience in public and private child welfare and mental health agencies. She has been on the faculty of the MSU School of Social Work since 2006.

To register, visit 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 the MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education Program, you will be asked to create one. The Houghton course is #609-17.

If you are unable to register online, call one of the Post Adoption Specialists phone numbers on page 1 of this newsletter for a paper copy of the training brochure and registration form.