

Oklahoma Parents Center

Spring 2014



Mission Statement

Oklahoma Parents Center is dedicated to the inclusion and equality of children and adults with disabilities. Our mission is to train, inform, educate, and support parents, families, professionals and consumers in building partnerships that meet the needs of children and youth with the full range of disabilities ages birth through twenty-six.

“Building Relationships...Creating Successful Change” 8th Annual Statewide Conference Friday, May 30, 2014

The Oklahoma Parents Center would like to announce our upcoming 8th Annual Statewide Conference **“Building Relationships...Creating Successful Change”** on **Friday, May 30, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** The conference will be held at the **Sheraton Hotel at the Reed Conference Center**, located at 5750 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City, OK 73110, 405-455-1800. The general session will be held on the second floor. Both an escalator and an elevator are available.



This conference is designed to educate parents, families and professionals in building partnerships that meet the needs of children and youth with the full range of disabilities ages' birth to 26. As with every statewide conference, there will be great speakers, much information shared, lunch, and plenty of door prizes!!! See the last page for registration form.

Disability expert **Art Cernosia** will be the featured speaker at this year's event!

“Building Relationships...Creating Successful Change”
8th Annual Statewide Conference
Friday, May 30, 2014

How Can You Register?

The conference is limited to the first 300 people that register. All others will be placed on a waiting list. **There is no fee for this year’s conference; however, you must register in one of the following three ways.**

1. Complete the Registration Form below and mail to:
OPC – Annual Conference
P.O. Box 512
Holdenville, OK 74848
2. Complete the Registration Form below and fax to: 405-379-2106
3. Submit your Registration online: www.OklahomaParentsCenter.org/registration-2/

2014 STATEWIDE CONFERENCE - REGISTRATION FORM

First name:_____ Last name:_____

Address:_____

Telephone:_____ Mobile:_____

Email:_____

Parents/Family Members:

Child’s name:_____ Age:_____

Disability:_____ Grade:_____

School:_____ Gender:_____

Professionals:

Employer:_____

Job Title:_____ Phone:_____

Special Accommodations:

Please list any special accommodations, if any:_____

Registration Fees:

This is a FREE Conference – however, you MUST register to attend!

Registration must be received before May 16th, 2014!

ASK THE ADVOCATE

Q: A frequent question we hear from parents is, what is Extended School Year (ESY)?

A. It's that time of year. Extended School Year or ESY is not summer school, but rather it is for children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) who need additional school days to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and prolonged periods of time off will have a negative impact on them. For many students who receive special education services, the regular school year is enough to make sure they get a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). But that is not the case for all students. Some students may need more. Students learn at different rates and retain what they learned at different levels. Extended School Year (ESY) is special education and/or related services that are provided beyond the normal school year. ESY is a required part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and is provided according to a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) at no cost to the family. ESY can include academics, related services and extracurricular activities. *All public schools, including charter schools and alternative schools, must provide ESY when it is needed.*

Facts You Should Know:

Each child's IEP team decides if a child needs ESY to receive FAPE, and, if so, what services he or she will get. A school district may not unilaterally limit the type, amount, or duration of ESY. When the IEP team agrees that a student needs ESY, they must also decide:

- What services will be provided
- When and where services will be provided
- How often (frequency) services will be provided
- How long (duration) services will be provided
- The IEP team must consider ESY for each student at least once per year.



Tips for Families:

Remember, the decision about ESY is an IEP decision. **You are part of the IEP team.**

- Attend IEP meetings and other school-based meetings where your child's IEP goals will be discussed.
- Take written notes with you to all meetings so that you can remember what you want to talk about.
- Review data about your child's performance and progress toward IEP goals.
- Share your own data, documentation, and information about your child's progress.
- Document any changes in your child's behavior when there is a break in services, such as holidays and summer break.
- Offer ideas about community programs and services that might be options for your child's ESY. ESY can be provided at home, in a community setting, or in a school setting.
- Talk with your IEP team about any behaviors that may interfere with your child learning new skills.
- If your child is in high school, talk about ESY and how it can help with his or her goals related to transition, employment, community participation and independent living.

You can read the IDEA regulation about ESY at 34 CFR § Section 300.106

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/idea/law/idea.regs.subpartb.pdf>

Both the Oklahoma State Department of Education and Wrightslaw are references for the above information.

Oklahoma Deaf ■ Blind Technical Assistance Project

The Oklahoma Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project (OKDBTAP) provides technical assistance and training to children (birth to 21) who have both a hearing and vision impairment. Services are offered at no cost to families, educators, administrators, related service providers, and early intervention providers. This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Who can refer a child to the project?

Any parent or guardian of a child with deaf-blindness, ages birth-21 years, may request technical assistance from the project. In addition, educational personnel and service providers from Oklahoma's Sooner Start Program, Oklahoma School Districts or other agency personnel serving students with deaf-blindness may request services. Referral forms are available at the Oklahoma Deaf Blind Technical Assistance Project website: www.ou.edu/okdbp/

Who is eligible for services?

Children who qualify for services must have a loss in both vision and hearing. Very few children who qualify for the census are totally deaf or blind. Qualified individuals may have additional disabilities, such as: intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, or medical conditions.

What services are available?

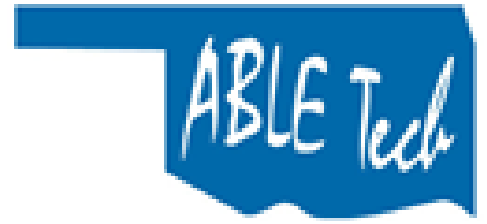
Oklahoma Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project provides technical assistance to children, families, SoonerStart, Oklahoma Public Schools, or other agencies serving students with deaf-blindness. Types of Technical Assistance (TA) Available include: Web conferencing, site visits, classroom observation, telephone TA, research/evidence based materials, in-service workshops, and statewide training.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Lisa Lawter is the Project Coordinator for the Oklahoma Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project. Their office is located at 820 Van Vleet Oval, Room 321, Norman, OK 73019.

You can reach Lisa by phone at 405-325-0441, fax at 405-325-6655 or email at okdeafblind@ou.edu. She can answer any questions that you may have about this wonderful program!!!

Accessible Digital Books



Oklahoma ABLE Tech services for teachers, administrators, and families help students through technology and textbook accommodation ideas including free to fee solutions. Schools around the country are beginning to buy digital books as the only textbook for the classroom while others are purchasing both printed textbooks and a digital version. Digital books can be a wonderful learning tool for students in a variety of ways as well as provide opportunities to use technologies that will help prepare them for future jobs. However, it is very important for schools to make sure they purchase accessible digital books which will be usable to all students especially for those who use accessible instructional materials (AIM) and technology to read AIM.



ABLE Tech and the State Department of Education guide Oklahoma schools with the correct purchasing language or statement to help assure the purchase of accessible digital books. Textbooks on the Oklahoma state adoption list already have a requirement listed that the accessible NIMAS

version be placed in the National Instructional Materials Access Center. However, schools purchase directly from that list and need to verify that the purchasing language in the contract contains direction to the publisher to place the NIMAS version in the NIMAC (at no additional charge to the school).

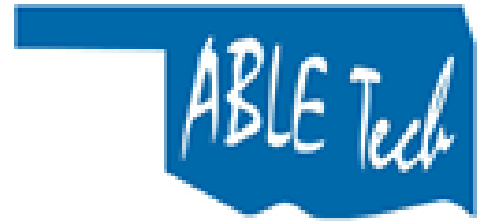
Accessible instructional materials aid students who may have a learning disability such as dyslexia, or students with low vision, blindness, or a physical impairment which prevents a student from carrying and manipulating standard textbooks. Students who use AIM read textbooks in a variety of ways such as listening to the audio version on a device or listening while also following along with the digital print on a tablet, or reading a braille paper copy or refreshable braille through a device and computer. If a textbook is not made accessible by the publisher then it is not possible for the student to have access to the book at the same time as other peers.

A “digital” book is not always accessible to a student who uses assistive technology. But an “accessible digital book” is key to benefitting all students. Textbooks and other materials are accessible when all students can access them.

**Call
Oklahoma ABLE
Tech at
800-257-1705
for any questions
or assistance.**

Continued on next page...

Accessible Digital Books (cont.)



The National AIM Center guides schools to include language in the purchasing contract that the 1) publisher or a vendor places a NIMAS version of the textbook in the National Instructional Materials Access Center and they recommend 2) the school request an accessible digital version to be delivered to the school for students with disabilities. Schools can work with the publisher on licensing the number of accessible digital versions needed. The good news about steps 1 and 2 is that once the publisher places the textbook in the NIMAC, the school then has access to the digital file which will work in a variety of ways from braille, to large print, digital, and/or audio.

As parents, you can ask your school about accessible textbooks and materials and/or recommend they try AIM with your student to determine if he/she will benefit. You can also let your school know about the purchasing process. This is a required purchasing step that will help multiple students over many years. Statistics indicate that approximately 40% of students on IEPs may need AIM.

OK ABLE Tech is a terrific source of help for schools, parents, and students. We provide book downloads and a variety of device loans for a student to try which can also help determine if the type of AIM will indeed help the student with improved educational outcomes. ABLE Tech is the Assistive Technology Act Program serving all of Oklahoma. The staff is skilled in the use of assistive technology to help students succeed academically and assist teachers, special education directors, and administrators. Most of ABLE Tech's services are free from technology consultations and device loans, to training and guidance on topics that benefit a broad range of teachers and students. ABLE Tech considers the student, the environment, and educational tasks, and proposes accommodation ideas to help students learn without barriers. Discover what ABLE Tech can provide teachers, students, administrators, and families.



**Call Oklahoma ABLE Tech at
800-257-1705
for any questions or assistance.**

PARENT SURVEY BROCHURES

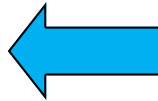
The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), Special Education Services (SES), in collaboration with the Oklahoma Parents Center, Inc. (OPC) annually collect information regarding SoonerStart/Early Intervention and schools' efforts to partner with parents for the provision of special education and related services. To do this, the OSDE-SES and OPC would like to invite you to complete the Parent Survey!

Answer: Take the Survey Online



Visit our website
and follow the
Survey Link at

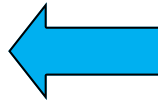
www.OklahomaParentsCenter.org



Answer: Have a copy mailed



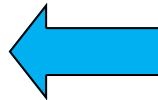
Call toll-free at
877-553-4332
and request a copy
be mailed to you.



Answer: Over the telephone



Call toll-free at
877-553-4332
to answer the
survey to the staff
at the **OPC**.



How
can
YOU
take
the
Survey?



Adapted from: <http://www.learnplayimagine.com>

What You Need

- School Glue
- Salt
- Liquid Water Colors or Food Coloring
- Pipettes
- Cardstock
- Small Containers for Watercolors
- Cookie Sheets to contain liquid
- Drop Cloth for the work surface

What You Do

1. Squirt the liquid watercolors into the containers. We only used a small amount of watercolors then filled the containers with water.
2. Cut out white cardstock into egg shapes so that the final product looks like decorated Easter eggs.
3. Begin making glue designs on the eggs. Encourage kids to use a decent amount of glue, so more salt sticks and the color spreads farther.
4. Dump salt on the eggs and shake off any excess salt.

5. Drop colored water onto the glue and salt mixture. Using pipettes or eye droppers is a great exercise for developing fine motor skills. *(The idea is to drop the colored water right onto the salt covered glue and watch it absorb and "run" through the salt).*
6. For best results allow the paper to dry. Using a cooling rack works best, so the paper doesn't sit in excess watercolors and smudge the colors.



TEST TAKING TIPS

- ♦ Provide a quiet and comfortable place for your child to study in.
- ♦ Praise your child for the things he/she does well.
- ♦ Discourage your child from "cramming" the night before the test.
- ♦ Make sure your child is well-rested and eats well before the test.
- ♦ Remind your child to read the directions carefully before beginning the test.
- ♦ Encourage your child to ask the teacher to explain something they do not understand.
- ♦ Remind child to skip the questions he/she doesn't know and come back to them at the end of the test if there is time left.

March

- 3/4/14 On The Road, Shawnee, 8 a
3/4/14 Basic Rights/OPC Overview, Ada, 6:30 p
3/10/14 OTISS Parent Meeting, Owasso, 5p
3/11/14 OTISS Parent Meeting, Ponca City, 6 p
3/11/14 OTISS Parent Meeting, Shawnee, 7 p
3/13/14 Autism Center of Tulsa, Tulsa, 10 a
3/13/14 OTISS Parent Meeting, Pawhuska, 7p
3/18/14 Community Partner Program, Seminole, 8:30 a
3/24/14 OTISS Parent Meeting, Sallisaw, 6 p
3/25/14 Transition to Adulthood, Anadarko, 1p
3/25/14 OTISS Parent Meeting, Edmond, 5 p
3/27/14 OTISS Parent Meeting, Bridgestone, 5:30 p
3/29/14 IEP Workshop, Oklahoma City, 9:30 a
3/31/14 Effective Communication, Tulsa, 6 p



April

- 4/15/14 OPC Regional Conference, Okmulgee, 8:30 a
4/16/14 OPC Regional Conference, Shawnee, 8:30 a
4/17/14 Autism Center of Tulsa, Tulsa, 10 a
4/17/14 Basic Rights, Stigler, 6:30 p
4/24/14 Transition to Adulthood, Poteau, 6:30 p
4/30/14 On The Road, Tulsa, 1 p

May

- 5/6/14 On The Road, Shawnee, 8 a
5/8/14 Autism Center of Tulsa, Tulsa, 10a
5/30/14 OPC Statewide Conference, Midwest City, 8 a

Other trainings will be added as entities set meeting dates and times.

Toll Free: 877-553-4332 * Phone: 405-379-6015 * Fax: 405-379-2106

Main office hours are:
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Monday – Friday



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