

Oklahoma Parents Center

Summer 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.

8th Annual Statewide Conference... A HUGE SUCCESS!!!

The Oklahoma Parents Center (OPC) hosted their 8th annual statewide conference on Friday, May 30, 2014 at the Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center! The day began with a wonderful welcome by Sharon Coppedge-House, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Parents Center followed by presentations by the Dr. Rene Axtell and Todd Loftin, Allyson Robinson, Lisa Lawter, Andrea Kunkel, Kay Sandschaper, Sherri Coats, Ellen Kimbrell, and our main speaker, Art Cernosia!!!

The OPC wants to thank all that participated to make this year such a success! We look forward to seeing you again next year!



Congratulations to the winner of the final drawing of the day
- **Michele Robinson** -
we here at the OPC hope that you love your new iPad!!!

2014 Parents of the Year

The OPC believes it a worthwhile event to honor a parent that has shown great leadership, collaboration and parental involvement with their local school and community.

The 2014 “Parent of the Year” award was given to a husband and wife:

Tannen and Jennifer Turman.



Sharon Coppedge-House, Executive Director, Oklahoma Parents Center;

Jennifer and Tannen Turman, 2014 Parents of the Year;

and Dr. Rene Axtell, Assistant State Superintendent,
Oklahoma State Department of Education

Congratulations!



2014 Educator of the Year

Congratulations to Christina Kasper from the Oklahoma Virtual Charter Academy! Christina has gone above and beyond her duties as a high school Special Education teacher. She always goes the extra mile and spends time with all families! Along with her role as a teacher, she is the testing coordinator and after-school tutor.



Ellen Kimbrell, Associate Director, Oklahoma Parents Center; Sharon Coppedge-House, Executive Director, Oklahoma Parents Center;

Christina Kasper, 2014 Educator of the Year;

and Dr. Rene Axtell, Assistant State Superintendent,
Oklahoma State Department of Education

Congratulations!

2013 - 2014

PARENT SURVEY

The deadline to complete the 2013-2014 Parent/Family Survey is approaching fast - **June 30th is the final day** to have your opinion heard regarding your child's 2013-2014 Special Education/Early Intervention services. **Your opinion matters!!!** The OSDE-SES and OPC would like to invite you to complete the Parent/Family Survey today!

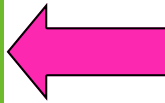
Answer: Take the Survey Online



Visit our
website
and follow

the Survey

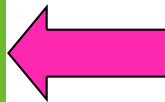
Link



Answer: Have a copy mailed



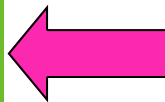
Call toll-free at
877-553-4332
and request a copy
be mailed to you.



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?

Summer is a Great Time for Assistive Technology Trial and Fun

Does your child use assistive technology (AT) at school? Have you considered trying a device at home? If your child doesn't have access to AT during the summer, you might want to borrow a device from Oklahoma ABLE Tech as a short-term accommodation. ABLE Tech has an extensive inventory of devices for communication, hearing, learning, and many other needs. The loans are free, including shipping, and last up to six-weeks... which could go a long way to beating summer boredom! For example, parents are welcome to borrow an iPad with apps for communication, literacy, math, social or skills.



iRewardChart



Visual Scheduler



Cloud Math



Bookshare's summer reading contest is a great way to get students with print disabilities interested in reading with free digital books. For more information and to sign up, visit <http://communications.bookshare.org/summercontest2014/>.

Do you need help assessing and selecting the right AT device or apps for your child?

Oklahoma ABLE Tech can help! Contact us for an [AT Consultation](#) and [Short-Term Device Loan](#). ABLE Tech supports students with disabilities in finding new ways to access their environment and curriculum. For more information on how ABLE Tech can assist you, call 800.257.1705 or visit us online at okabletech.okstate.edu.

ABLE Tech provides an Assistive Technology and Information Services Program to Oklahoma Public Schools through a contract with the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Oklahoma ABLE Tech AT News



[Click here to read the May 2014 Edition](#)

[Click here to read the June 2014 Edition](#)

Writing a Positive Feedback Letter to Your Teacher

Once you've begun to write letters, be sure to write when things are going well, too! If a teacher, therapist, or other staff member has made good things happen for your child, let them and their supervisors know. Everyone likes and needs compliments and encouragement from time to time. Positive feedback is what keeps good

schools running well. Just as you want to know "how it's going," so does the school staff. Good communication, teamwork, and effective schools take a lot of hard work. There's an old saying that goes, "Things can go wrong all by themselves, but you have to work hard to make things go right." This statement applies doubly to maintaining a successful parent-professional working relationship. Be sure your child's teacher(s), principal, and superintendent also hear from you when things are going right.

Credits to:

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY)

P.O. Box 1492

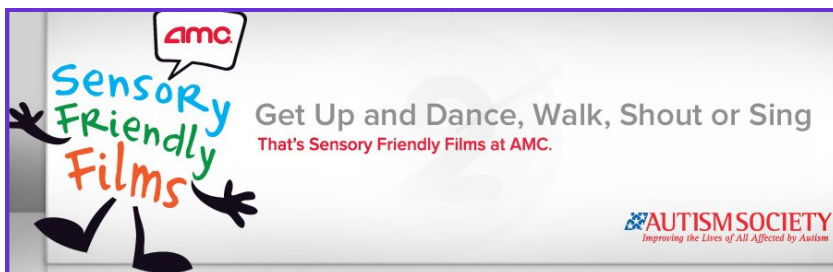
Washington, DC 20013-1492

800.695.0285 (V/TTY)

202.884.8200 (V/TTY)

E-mail: nichcy@aed.org

Web: www.nichcy.org



AMC Theatres (AMC) and the **Autism Society** have teamed up to bring families

affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis with the **"Sensory Friendly Films"** program. The movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing - in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden[®]" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned.

For more information, you can visit:

www.autism-society.org/get-involved/events/sensory-friendly-films/
<https://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films>

June 21, 2014
How to Train Your Dragon 2

July 26, 2014
Planes: Fire & Rescue

September 27, 2014
Dolphin Tale 2

October 25, 2014
Book of Life

November 29, 2014
Home

AMC Crossroads 16
1211 E I-240 Service Road
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73149

AMC Quail Springs 24
2501 W Memorial Rd—Ste E
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73134

All shows are at
10:00 am local time

Tickets are \$4-6
depending on location and
can be purchased on the day of the event
****Please note all dates and films
are subject to change****



DIY SPRINKLER PROJECT



Step One: Go Shopping!

Here is what you need to have the coolest sprinkler on the block! You can use any size PVC pipe that you choose, just make sure that you use the same size pipe and fittings.

- 2 - 10 (ten) foot lengths of PVC
- 3 - End caps
- 1 - Threaded hose connector
- 2 - Elbow joints (90 degree)
- 2 - T connections
- PVC Cement and Primer

Step Three: Use those Tools!

You will need to cut your 2 - 10 foot pieces of PVC into the following sizes:

- 2 pieces - 5 foot each (upright sides)
- 1 piece - 4 foot (top)
- 4 pieces - 18 inches each (feet)

Step Two: Gather Tools!

Here is what tools you will need to make the coolest sprinkler EVER!

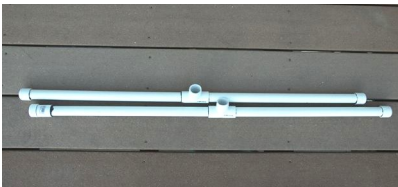
- Drill
- Drill bit (any size will work - I used a 3/32 bit)
- Saw (any saw will work - hacksaw, handsaw, reciprocating saw, etc.)
- Measuring tape
- Pen

Step Four: Assemble!

Here's where it can get tricky. You will need to do this one piece at a time - the glue dries fast.

To make the feet:

- Take 3 of the 18 inch pieces and glue an End cap on one end of each.
- Take the other 18 inch piece and glue on the Threaded hose connector.
- Take 2 of the 18 inch pieces and glue a T connector on the end.
- Take the other 2 18 inch pieces using the glue and connect them together to make the 2 feet of your sprinkler.



To add the legs:

- Take the 5 foot pieces of PVC and attach them to the feet using the glue. You can drill holes in these legs if you want.
- Glue the Elbow joints onto each of the legs - make sure they are perpendicular to the feet.



To add the top:

- Take your drill using the drill bit and drill as many holes as you like into the 4 foot section of PVC that is remaining.
- Take your glue and attach the legs to the top section.

Donations Appreciated

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (hm) (____) (wk) (____) (cell) (____)

E-mail: _____

PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY:

Parent

Relative

Foster Parent

Special Educator

Service Provider

Other

Birthdate/Sex of Child: _____ Primary Disability of Child: _____

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation of:

_____ \$5.00 _____ \$10.00 _____ \$20.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ Other: \$ _____

Your donation of any amount to the OPC is greatly appreciated!

You can also visit www.OklahomaParentsCenter.org to donate online!

Also please send me more information on the following: (Check all that apply)

_____ I would like to schedule a workshop.

_____ I would like individual assistance and information.

_____ I would like more information about the parent training and information center.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!!

Contact Us:

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