



Department of Job and
Family Services
Children Services Division

CONTENTS

Issues Relating To Special Education	2
PASSS Program	3
Information & Resources	3
Featured Children Waiting for Adoption	4

ADOPTION ADVOCATE MISSION STATEMENT

To Educate and Inform
Our Community on Issues
Related to Adoption.

Published by:
Montgomery County
Job and Family Services
Children Services Division
Haines Children's Center
3304 N. Main Street
Dayton, Ohio 45405
(937) 224-KIDS (5437)

Editorial contributions,
calendar of events, and
comments can be directed to
Adoption Advocate Editor,
Janice E. White
(937) 279-6670
www.montcsb.org

Adoption Advocate

ISSUE 4

APRIL-JUNE 2007

Tips for the First Years of Adoptive Placement

NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR

Be gentle, but be consistently and predictably competent in stopping negative behaviors. Do not use over-the-shoulder commands or across-the-room reminders. Stay within arm's reach of the child, moving their hands, bodies, and feet, to where you want them to go. Never tolerate hitting, kicking, or hurting someone. Gently move their bodies to where you want them to be. For example, if your little one is reaching for an item, move the child or the item. Use the voice for a back up. Do not remind or repeat several times. Instead, describe in a pleasant manner how precious or pretty the item appears to you-as you move your child.

Teach boundaries of respect from the beginning. Obviously,

Tip #4



most parents will not be getting much done except parenting

when their child is awake. Remind yourself that your primary job is parenting when your child is awake.

Get enough sleep, good food, and exercise to stay in a good mood. Little ones who have been moved and/or neglected tend to be irritable, fussy, and hard to soothe. Parents use their own positive, well-regulated moods to help calm and engage these little ones. Your own emotional stability will help to steady your child's moods.

A depressed parent struggles to form a positive, secure attachment with their baby or child. Depression makes the parent emotionally less available. The parent who is tired, eating junk food, and sluggish by day's end does not give a child a competent source of emotional regulation. Parents who find that their moods are slipping, even with good self-care, should consider counseling and/or an antidepressant. It is simply too hard to do this essential, nurturing parenting while being depressed.

Model respect for yourself by taking time for showers, good meals, and sleep.



Adoption Success Story

When Meredith and Phillip, along with their young son and daughter, made a family decision to become a foster family, they had no idea it would lead to adoption.

Meredith says after the sisters were in the home for a while her family embraced them – "We all got to know each other very well and they became so much a part of our family that me and Phillip just were not comfortable with the idea of them ever moving to live with someone else. We cannot imagine the girls not being a part of our family" she said emphatically.

An active and socially out-going family, Meredith laughs and says she now has a husband and four children who are all artistic, athletic and sports fanatics.



BASIC SPECIAL EDUCATION PROCESS

1. Child is identified as possibly needing special education and related services.
2. Child is evaluated.
3. Eligibility is decided.
4. Child is found eligible for services.
5. IEP meeting is scheduled.
6. IEP meeting is held and the IEP is written.
7. Services are provided.
8. Progress is measured and reported to parents.
9. IEP is reviewed.
10. Child is reevaluated.

Adoption and School Issues



May is National Foster Care month. It provides an opportunity for people nationwide to get involved as foster parents, volunteers, mentors, employers, or in other ways. It's also an opportunity to show our appreciation for the dedication of the foster families who care for these children and youth, and the social workers who support them.

Foster Care Month originated in 1988 when the National Foster Parent Association persuaded then-Senator Strom Thurmond to introduce a resolution to proclaim May as National Foster Care Month. The first President Bush issued an annual proclamation during each year of his presidency, providing an impetus for state, county, and city proclamations. The main focus of the early efforts was appreciation and recognition of the tremendous contributions of foster parents nationwide.

LEARNING LAG, LEARNING PROBLEM, OR LEARNING DISABILITY?

For a child to have a "learning disability," specific criteria have to be met. Tests have to be administered and results examined to determine this. Not every learning problem or learning lag is a learning disability. Poor school performance certainly is not always due to a learning disability. First, it is normal for children to have a bad day once in a while. Second, there could be many reasons for poor school performance. Maybe your child needs glasses and is not able to see the blackboard. Perhaps he

is worrying about an adoption issue or a personal or family problem. In this case, psychotherapy with an adoption-knowledgeable therapist may help to resolve it in his mind so he can settle down to learn. Or your child may have a true attention deficit disorder that can be treated with medication and helped with some extra structure that a knowledgeable teacher provides. Your child may be able to stay in a regular classroom but in a lower grade.

"Special ed" is not always needed. If your child does not qualify for special educational services, you may still want him placed in the setting most conducive to meeting

his needs. The best setting may be a smaller class, a class where the teacher is more knowledgeable about your child's particular needs, or a different school. A tutor may need to be involved, or a speech therapist, or a combination of helpers. The most important thing is to get everyone involved to work together to help the child succeed. Remember that just because your child was adopted it does not mean that he will have problems at school. And if your child does have learning problems, they may have nothing to do with his being adopted. In either case, it helps to be informed and ready to act if problems do arise.

Identifying Learning Issues

A learning disability (LD) is a disorder that affects people's ability to either interpret what they see and hear or to link information from different parts of the brain. These limitations can show up in many ways as specific difficulties with spoken and written language, coordination, self-control, or attention. LD can be a lifelong condition that, in some cases, affects many parts of a person's life: school or work, daily routines, family life, and sometimes even friendships and play.

Learning disabilities can be divided into three broad categories:

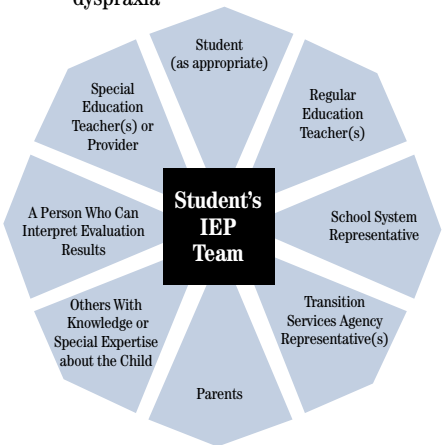
Developmental articulation disorder - Children with this disorder may have trouble controlling their rate of speech.

Developmental expressive language disorder - Some children with language impairments have problems expressing themselves in speech.

Academic skills disorders - The child has difficulties with reading, writing, and arithmetic:

- Developmental reading disorder = dyslexia
- Developmental writing disorder = dysgraphia
- Developmental arithmetic disorder = dyscalculia

- "Other" learning disabilities include motor skills disorders and also coordination disorders = dyspraxia



UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 11, 2007
 Time: 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.
 Where: EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY
 25 THORPE DRIVE
 DAYTON, OH
 Topic: EVALUATION PROCESS
 Presenter: ROBIN BRYANT
 Attendees: PARENTS/ PROFESSIONALS

May 9, 2007
 Time: 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.
 Where: EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY
 25 THORPE DRIVE
 DAYTON, OH
 Topic: F.U.N. - PARENT'S RIGHTS
 Presenter: COLLEEN MILLER
 Attendees: PARENTS/ PROFESSIONALS

May 17, 2007
 Time: 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.
 Where: CLARK CO. BD. OF MR/DD, CLARK COUNTY
 2430 VAN BUREN AVE.
 SPRINGFIELD, OH
 Topic: A FORMULA/PARENT'S RIGHTS
 Presenter: COLLEEN MILLER
 Contact: BECKY KETRON
 - 937-328-2729
 Attendees: PARENTS/ PROFESSIONALS

Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS)

The PASSS program was designed by the State of Ohio to meet the special needs of adoptive children when they are not covered by any other subsidy or funding source.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- (1) A child must have a physical/developmental handicap or mental/emotional condition that either:
 - (a) Existed before the adoption petition was filed;
 - (b) Developed after the adoption petition was filed and can be directly attributed to factors in the child's pre-adoption background.
- (2) The child must also meet one of the following requirements:
 - (a) The child is under the age of eighteen; or
 - (b) The child is less than twenty-one years of age and is mentally or physically handicapped.
- (3) Other financial sources are inadequate to meet the child's immediate needs.
- (4) A child that resides in the county in which the application is made.
- (5) A child that has been adopted by someone other than a stepparent.

MAXIMUM FUNDING

A maximum of \$10,000 shall be encumbered for any one child in one year. The adoptive parent or parents who receive PASSS funds shall pay at least 5% of the total cost of all services provided to the child. The PCSA may waive the 5% requirement if the gross income of the child's adoptive family is not more than 200% the federal poverty guideline.

SERVICES FUNDED

- (1) Medical and surgical services, which may include respite care if determined to be medically necessary by a qualified professional.
- (2) Psychiatric, psychological, and counseling services, if required by psychiatric, psychological or counseling needs.
- (3) Residential treatment services if required by psychiatric, psychological or counseling needs and approved by a qualified professional.

SERVICES NOT FUNDED

Educational services such as tuition and tutoring; dental and orthodontia services; medical-psychological co-payments, prescriptions or insurance deductibles; camp and any recreational services; travel-related expenses; computer equipment, including software; childcare services. Services to a child for whom a parent-child relationship does not exist.

WHERE TO APPLY:

Applications may be made through the public children services agency in the county in which you reside.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Kathy Richardson
(937) 276-6536

PASSS UPDATES

- Attach a copy of your 1040 to your application
- Recipients of Adoption Assistance will be required to pay all but \$250 of their monthly award to help cover placement costs when their child is placed in out-of-home care.

RESOURCES

Ohio Department of Education (ODE)
<http://www.ode.state.oh.us>
Responsible for overseeing all local, public and private schools in Ohio. ODE administers all funding for federally-funded education programs.

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD)
<http://www.odmrrdd.state.oh.us/>
Responsible for supporting and overseeing services and supports for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities through 88 county board programs.

Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (ORSC)
<http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/>
RSC is Ohio's state agency that provides vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to help people with disabilities become employed and independent.

Bureau of Services for Children with Medical Handicaps
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/cmh/cwmh/bcmh1.aspx>
Responsible for overseeing and supporting high quality, coordinated care systems for children with special health care needs and their families. It can fund diagnostic services to identify special health care needs.

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
<http://www.ddc.ohio.gov/>
Responsible for planning and advocating for change that improves independence, productivity and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities and their families in community life.

Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS)
<http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/>
Responsible for overseeing foster care, child care, child support, protective services, financial assistance, health care, food stamps, and links to other sites for information on food banks, clothing, shelter and transportation for all Ohioans.

NAMI of Ohio
<http://www.autismohio.org/>
A grassroots organization that advocates for the mental health services for children, youth and adults. Autism Society of Ohio

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Financial Assistance	www.finaid.com
College Money	www.fastweb.com
www.statevoucher.org	www.geoscholarships.com
800-950-4673	www.orphan.org

EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES

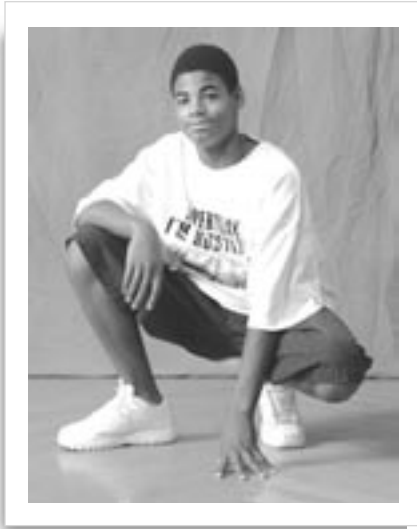
www.careerkey.org/english/you
www.how-to-study.com
www.iss.stthomas.edu/studyguides
www.howtostudy.org

RESOURCES

Education Opportunity Center & College Bound
Financial Aid Assistance
Scholarship Searches
Admissions Application Assistance
Career Planning and Testing
Loan Default Assistance

for an appointment call
(937) 223-5074
or visit us at:
333 W. First St., Suite 170
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Children Looking For Loving Parents



DEANGELO 8/18/90

DeAngelo is a friendly, active, outgoing young man who is helpful and he has a great sense of humor. He enjoys marital Arts, basketball, football, puzzles, funny movies and video games. He likes to attend Church. His favorite television program is The Family Guy. He is an average. DeAngelo's favorite subject is Math and least favorite is Science. DeAngelo's future career goals are to become a professional basketball or football player and a doctor. DeAngelo needs a loving, caring, active adoptive family with older children.

To learn more about DeAngelo, contact June Davis-Milum, Montgomery County Department Job and Family Services, Children Services Division (937) 276-1831 or JMilum@montcsb.org

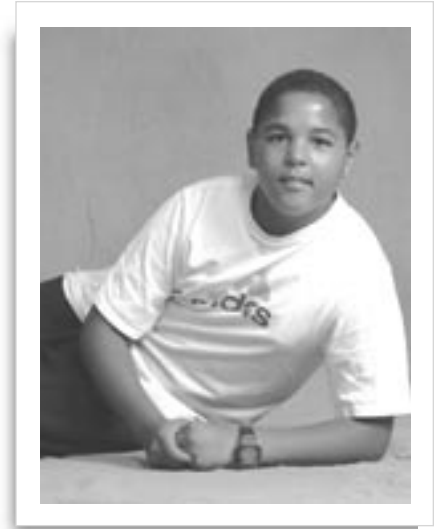


TYKNEESHA 10/27/91

Tykneesha is a friendly, attractive, young lady who enjoys track, basketball, football and outdoor activities. She likes to attend Church and also Amusement parks and musicals. Tykneesha likes animals especially puppies...her career goal is to become a veterinarian.

She is an average student. Tykneesha's favorite subject is gym and least favorite is social studies. Tykneesha would like to have an active two-parent family that she can share with her other children.

To learn more about Tykneesha, contact Sonia Tillman, Montgomery County Department Job and Family Services, Children Services Division (937) 276-1659 or STillman@montcsb.org



TYLER 2/5/94

Tyler is a handsome, friendly young man who is shy until he gets to know you. He enjoys playing cards, watching television and movies and going out to eat...especially pizza. He does not like peas. His favorite television programming is the Christian Channel. An average student Tyler favorite subject is science and least favorite is social studies. Tyler's future goals include singing in the choir and going to the Outer Banks. Tyler needs a loving, supportive adoptive family who can provide unconditional love and guidance.

To learn more about Tyler, contact Sheila Crowe, Montgomery County Department Job and Family Services, Children Services Division (937) 276-6644 or SCrowe@montcsb.org

ADOPTION ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER



Department of Job and
Family Services
Children Services Division
Haines Children's Center
3304 N. Main Street
Dayton, Ohio 45405
(937) 224-KIDS (5437)

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dayton, Ohio
Permit No. 548

