

The Parent Resource Center

January
Edition
2012

Fairfax County Public Schools

Department of Communications and Community Outreach

A Network of Support

Upcoming Workshops

Introduction to Special Education

Tuesday, January 17, from 11 – noon
Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services
Entrance 1, room 105

Career and Transition Services Night

Wednesday, January 18, from 7 – 8:30 pm
Woodson High School
Cafeteria A

Life Planning Tools

Proactive Steps on the Path to

Independence

Saturday, January 21, from 9:00 – 2:30
Chantilly High School
Lecture Hall

SAVE THE DATE

The 7th Annual Special Education Conference

Saturday, March 24, at Lake Braddock SS
Rick Lavoie - keynote speaker

For a complete list of all workshops and activities,
visit the PRC web site at

<http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/resources/events/index.shtml>

New to Special Education

Parents are frequently the first to suspect that their child is experiencing difficulty with learning. Parents may also believe that their child has a special need or a disability but understanding what is next, who to contact, where to go, and what questions to ask can be challenging. Parents new to the special education process can benefit from the support, experience, and knowledge of those who have already gone through the process.

The FCPS Parent Resource Center (PRC) offers parents the opportunity to consult confidentially with a Special Education Parent Liaison, ask questions, receive information, access an extensive lending library, attend workshops, and talk with parents and educators who have personal experience parenting and educating students with special needs and disabilities. Parents can contact the PRC with questions and attend workshops to learn more. The lending library contains over 4,000 resources including DVDs, books, and CD that can be checked out.

Introduction to Special Education is our focus workshop for parents new to the special education process. This workshop will help parents understand the special education process, build a network of support, and develop an understanding of how to help their child. Join us at the PRC on Tuesday, January 17, from 11:00 – noon for this upcoming workshop.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

The Virginia Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/seasonal/VDOE_Survey.shtml

The Special Education Handbook for Parents

<http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/Handbook/index.shtml>

Virginia's Medicaid Waivers for Persons With Disabilities, Their Parents, and Their Caregivers

http://www.thearcofnova.org/docs/medicaid_waiver_guide.pdf



DOES YOUR CHILD NEED A TUTOR?

Deciding to hire a tutor for your child can be a difficult decision for parents to make. You may not be sure if a tutor is the right choice and if this support will be beneficial. For many students, the support of a tutor gives them the opportunity to focus on specific skills and support the instruction they receive at school. If you decide that a tutor is right for your child consider the following tips:

1. **What does your child need help with?** Tutoring sessions are typically 30 – 45 minutes in length and a tutor will need to know what you want them to focus on or what the student is experiencing difficulty with. Be specific to get the most from the session.
2. **The tutor should not do your child’s homework.** Make sure your child understands that the goal is to build skill and understanding and support their learning. Reviewing homework assignments and explaining the process is often beneficial along with making corrections and suggestions when the child does not understand the assignment.
3. **Share with your child’s tutor.** Email, call, or schedule time to talk to your child’s tutor before the session. This will allow them to prepare and give you the best help they can offer. Confirm with your child’s tutor that emailing or texting a follow-up question after the session is okay.
4. **Don’t expect a miracle.** Tutoring works best when your child has developed a relationship with the tutor and does not feel uneasy about the tutor sessions. Plan a schedule that works for you and your child and ask about unscheduled sessions. There may be times when an unscheduled session could support learning.
5. **Prepare for the tutoring session.** Make sure your child understands that they need to prepare before the tutor arrives. All notes, lessons, papers, pens, calculator, books, computer, and other material should be at the desk and ready to go before the tutor arrives. Know where your child is most productive and ask the tutor to work with them there, if appropriate.
6. **Don’t feel defeated!** A lot of people approach a tutor already feeling frustrated. A positive attitude is the most important thing if you want to help your child. Help your child put their best effort into trying. You’ll be surprised how well they can do!



ASK THE PRC

Do you need resources or information or have a question? Contact the PRC by e-mail prc@fcps.edu or call 703-204-3941 (703-204-3955 Spanish). Visit the PRC web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/>.

Do you need a tutor? Visit the Tutor, Speech Pathologist list at <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/resources/tutors.shtml>.

Do you need books, DVDs, CDs, or videos?
Visit the library online:
<http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/resources/library.shtml>.



24-7 Book Return

PRC LENDING LIBRARY DROP BOX



Are you short on time but need to return resources to the PRC Lending Library? Did you know that the PRC has a **drop box** at the entrance to Dunn Loring?



Subscribe now!

STAY INFORMED! Sign up for **Keep in Touch Plus** e-mails <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/> and get all PRC and Department of Special Services news directly. Fill out the required information and check **Special Education Services**.