

PRC News

Chesapeake Public Schools' Parent Resource Center
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“The nature of impending fatherhood is that you are doing something that you’re unqualified to do, and then you become qualified while doing it.”

-John Green

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The Role of Fathers in their Child’s Literacy Development K-3

Dads, did you know that reading with your child can lead to better school performance? Studies show that when fathers participate in learning, children receive higher marks, enjoy school more, and are less likely to repeat a grade. Reading time creates a bond between you and your child that will stay with both of you forever.

How should I start?

Stop by the children’s area at your local library, or check

out www.ReadingRockets.org/books.

Select books that interest you and your child—read about famous athletes, historical events, or how things work. You can read chapter books with older children (like *Lord of the Rings* or *Harry Potter*), reading a little bit each day. Be patient! If you haven’t read with your child before, he or she may need time to get accustomed to this activity.

What if I’m not with my child every day?

If you don’t see your child each day, try arranging a regular time to read books over the phone or create your own podcast! Your child will look forward to this individual time with you, and will also be modeling behavior that will keep your child on a path toward learning.

What if I don't like reading?

Even if you are not a reader yourself, your participation in literacy activities at home can have an impact on your child's academic achievement. You just have to send the message that reading is important!

- Tell stories about your own life or when you were young.
- Talk about the print that is in your environment. For example, read and talk about road signs or brand names on food containers.
- Check out books of photography or art and talk about the pictures.
- Involve your child in everyday writing tasks like shopping lists, and thank you notes.
- When you are doing household projects, describe what you are doing. Use interesting words!
- Ask your child about his or her day. Engage in conversation that extend simple sentences.

Conversation with adults helps children learn new words and practices telling a story—both linked to better reading skills.

Walk the walk

Your child learns from what you do. Make sure the messages you are sending about reading tell your child that knowledge and literacy are valuable, achievable, and powerful.

For more information on reading with your child visit:

www.ReadingRockets.org/articl/c442/

Special Education Services

Chesapeake Public Schools has an ongoing process for locating, identifying and evaluating children ages 2 to 21 years that are suspected of having a disability. Any child who is identified as having a disability and qualifies for special education is entitled to a free appropriate public education designed to meet his/her needs. For additional information about **2-4-year-old** children suspected of having a disability, contact the **Preschool Intake Team** at Edwards Wilson Center, 494-7600.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Chesapeake's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) advises the school board, administrators, parents and teachers of the educational needs for children with disabilities. The board consists of parents, guardians, family members of children with disabilities and representatives from public agencies. For more information about SEAC and when it meets, contact the Office of Special Education at the Edwards Wilson Center, 494-7600.

Special Education Transition Services

The goal of transition planning is to prepare students with disabilities for life after high school. All students receiving special education services, including speech services, need assistance in their transition to life after graduation. Transition planning begins no later than grade 9 or age 14; whichever comes first. For more information on transition and to identify the transition specialist for your child's school, contact the Parent Resource Center, 482-5923.

Starting a Successful School Year

All children have special needs and benefit from organization. September has come, and it is time for children to begin routines for being successful in school. Once they are habitual, routines have been found to produce positive academic results, and the beginning of each school year is the time to establish these procedures. Five important steps for establishing routines are listed below.

- Provide a notebook for keeping assignments.
- If possible, for studying every day, provide an area away from distractions. Encourage your child to keep the area neat and well supplied with materials for study.
- Set up a schedule for beginning and ending time of study. Start time should be adapted to when your child will produce his or her best work.
- When necessary, set up a plan for studying for tests and completing projects.
- Set reasonable long-term goals that you want reached within a given time. Examples are:
 - (1) Independently following set routines within a reasonable length of time.
 - (2) Remembering to keep supplies neat and organized in study area.

More information on homework and study skills is available at the Parent Resource Center.

Upcoming Workshops

Unless otherwise stated, all workshops will be held at the Parent Resource Center. Please call the Parent Resource Center, 482-5923, to register for these sessions. Registration assists us in planning for materials and refreshments. A minimum of 10 participants is required for workshops to take place. If schools are closed due to inclement weather or if there is low registration for workshops, the workshop will be cancelled and every effort will be made to reschedule it.

Brown Bag Video Series

You are invited to join us to watch videos each month. Bring your lunch or snack and join us for a video and discussion. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. The video viewing time is from 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m. on the following listed dates.

It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend September 26, 2018

This video explores the causes and consequences of “social incompetence.”

Drawing on research and experience, Richard Lavoie provides powerful strategies for teaching friendship skills in the classroom, on the home front, and in the community.

Misunderstood Minds October 31, 2018

This video is a deeply moving and personal look into the lives of five children and their families as they deal with the puzzling mysteries presented by their unique learning differences.

The Way They Learn November 28, 2018

In this video, author, speaker, and national education consultant, Cynthia Ulrich Tobias explains that people are complex—that we each follow our own course, according to our own unique *Learning Style*. Understanding those styles can be the key to easing some of the frustrations and conflicts in your families.



Sibshops

- **September 27, 2018**
- **October 25, 2018**
- **November 29, 2018**

Brothers and sisters of students with special needs have some individual challenges. These recreational workshops provide an opportunity for children 6 to 12 years to come together and share joys and challenges while playing games, cooking, eating and participating in enjoyable activities. All Sibshops will be held at the PRC from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.



Understanding Special Education (USE)

October 8, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This workshop is designed to help clarify special education procedures with topics focusing on rights and responsibilities under IDEIA and IEP development.

IEP Workshop

October 11, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Planning the Individual Education Plan (IEP) in partnership with your child's education team is a very important part of meeting your child's educational needs. Please join us to prepare for this year's annual review of your child's IEP

Let's Get Organized! Data Collection & Record Keeping

October 22, 2018

9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

What do you do with all the paperwork involved in Special Education? How can you best communicate your needs with your child's school? Bring your paperwork with you as we talk about effective record keeping and communication and begin to organize your files.



Tech Bytes

Use photo and video sharing by phone with care

Most mobile phones now have cameras and video capability, making it easy for teens to capture and share every moment on the go. These tools can foster creativity and fun, yet they also present issues related to personal reputation and safety. Encourage your teens to think about their privacy and that of others before they share photos and videos via cell phone. It's easy to post photos and videos online without knowledge—let alone the OK—of the photographer or the person in the shot. It could be embarrassing and even unsafe. It's easier to be smart up front about what media they share than to do damage control later on.

Excerpts from Net Cetera: Chatting with Kids About Being Online, pg. 29

If you would like a free copy of Net Cetera, please contact the Parent Resource Center, 482-5923

New Resources at PRC

Thanks to donations from community agencies and members, the PRC has been able to expand its selection of books. Special selections have been added to address the contributions of fathers in their child's education. Also included are resources for working with teens with autism in the area of social and organization skills. We encourage you to visit or call us to check-out these new arrivals. The following is a brief list of our new additions.

Books for Teachers & Parents

Kids in the Syndrome Mix of ADHD, LD, Asperger's, Tourette's, Bipolar, and More: The One Stop Guide for Parents, Teachers and Other Professionals

-Martin L. Kutscher, MD

Social Skills for Teenagers and Adults with Asperger Syndrome

-Nancy J. Patrick

The Autistic Brain: Helping Different Kinds of Minds Succeed

-Temple Grandin

Yes, Your Teen is Crazy! Loving Your Kid Without Losing Your Mind

-Michael J. Bradley, MD

Keep It Together Man: For Dads with a Special Kid

-Rick Daynes



Parent Resource Center

Hours of Operation

Monday & Tuesday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday thru Friday

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Evening and Saturday hours are available by appointment. Please feel free to stop by or call for an appointment. The PRC is occasionally closed due to staff attendance at meetings or conferences.

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