



FOCUS

25th Annual Education Conference

Saturday, February 11, 2012 • 8 am – 3 pm

Dunwoody United Methodist Church
1548 Mt. Vernon Road, Dunwoody, GA

Conference Overview

After a child is diagnosed with a significant developmental or physical disability, families need resources and information. The annual FOCUS Education Conference invites professionals to speak on various topics to help parents (and other professionals) find the information they need! Representatives from community agencies exhibit so participants can learn about services, such as respite care, therapy groups, assistive technology, and adapted equipment. Parents enjoy a day of networking with professionals, community agencies, and other parents and learn valuable information to help their child ... and their family.

About FOCUS

FOCUS understands and supports the unique needs of families with children who are medically fragile or have significant developmental or physical disabilities. FOCUS offers comfort, hope and information to parents; accessible recreational and social programs for children and teens; and fun, inclusive activities for the entire family. A nonprofit founded by parents in 1983, FOCUS continues to embrace and strengthen metro Atlanta families.

Child Care Registration

– On-Site Child Care –

Childcare is available on-site by reservation only and on a first-come, first-serve basis. Childcare space is limited and fills up quickly. Caregiver to child ratio is 1:4. On-site childcare is \$10 per child. Payment for childcare must be made with a **separate** check but enclosed with the conference registration. (For example, for one parent to register for the conference with two children in childcare, you should include one check for \$25 for registration and one check for \$20 for child care.) Each child will need lunch, snacks, drinks, extra clothes, diapers, etc., in clearly labeled bags. Please attach a description of each child below, with details on their medical needs for the day.

– Off-Site Child Care –

FOCUS has a limited number of at-home respite stipends for families who have children who are medically fragile and cannot be cared for in a group setting. Parents need to find their own caregiver. FOCUS provides a stipend to help with the cost of the caregiver. Call FOCUS for more details.

In case of wintery weather on February 11, please call FOCUS at 770-234-9111 for a recorded message about any conference cancellations.



Conference Registration – Registration Fees

Parent \$25 Couple \$30 Professional \$50

If you have a Waiver that will pay registration fees, please list the provider below and include full payment with your registration. FOCUS will hold your check, email you an invoice to submit to your provider after the conference, and return your check to you once payment is received from the provider.

Nonprofit Exhibitor \$50 (one representative) Corporate Exhibitor \$100 (two representatives)

(All exhibitors receive a table and all conference privileges. Please note any special needs, such as access to electricity.)

Name: _____ E-mail: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip _____
Phone: Home () _____ Office () _____

Circle Tentative Workshop Choice (you may change your mind at conference):

10:50 am – Noon: A B C D 12:35 – 1:45 pm: A B C D 1:50 – 3 pm: A B C

Yes, I will need on-site child care for ____ children. I have included a separate check for \$ _____ (\$10 per child).

I am attaching information about my child/children and his/her/their care.

Yes, I am interested in a respite stipend. (Please attach a brief description of your child and his/her needs.)

Please register by February 2, 2012. Late registrations accepted, on a space-available basis.

To register, please send the completed form with a check payable to FOCUS – 3825 Presidential Parkway, Suite 103 – Atlanta, GA 30340

AGENDA

Registration & Exhibit Time 8:00 - 9:00 am

Keynote Address 9:00 - 10:10 am
The Love Chromosome Julie Tennant & Derrick Tennant
www.theLoveChromosome.com

Sister and brother team Julie and Derrick Tennant have faced many obstacles in their lives, but have learned to transform their obstacles into opportunities. Prepare to be inspired!

Derrick, an athlete, suffered a career-ending brain injury, and Julie (the REAL star, Derrick says) has Down Syndrome. Genetically, Down Syndrome is caused by an extra chromosome, but Julie's grandfather maintains that she does not have an extra chromosome, that everybody else is MISSING the "love chromosome." Julie's magnetic charm and positive outlook, combined with Derrick's story and his career as a nationally known stand-up comedian, will inspire everyone.

Exhibit Time 10:15 – 10:45 am

WORKSHOPS 10:50 am – noon

A. Managing Grief Janet Fluker

Having a child with special needs can be overwhelming and emotionally draining for the entire family. Discuss and learn some strategies for managing the long-term grief of having a child with special needs.

Janet Fluker, MEd, MS, LPC, is the Director of the Family Program at Metro Atlanta Recovery Residences (MARR). She has extensive training and experience in working with special needs families, couples and children, and leads workshops on topics related to family recovery.

B. "The Love Chromosome" Shares More! Julie & Derrick Tennant

Julie and Derrick will share more in a smaller group.

C. The IEP Cheatsheet Christy Calbos & Kristen Williams

Learn some important tips about the details that should be included in an IEP.

Christy Calbos, Esq specializes in litigation and counseling in special education law for students with disabilities. Kristen Williams, Esq gained legal experience as a special education attorney on behalf of school districts and uses this knowledge to work with families. Together, they help parents understand their child's IEP and navigate the special education system.

(Continued on reverse)

Conference Agenda (continued from front)

D. The 411 on SSI David Pollan

At age 18, a person with special needs might be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This workshop will discuss SSI: who is eligible, how to apply, and how to maintain SSI benefits.

David Pollan, Esq. is a principal of the Pollan Law Firm, focusing on a full range of legal issues affecting the elderly and disabled communities. Mr. Pollan practices exclusively in the areas of Elder and Special Needs Law, including all Aged, Blind and Disabled classes of Medicaid, including Long-Term Care Medicaid. Mr. Pollan authored Special Needs Trust and Protection of Medicaid and SSI Eligibility: Not All Trusts Should Be Created Equally, The Verdict, 2008.

Lunch (provided) & Exhibits Open Noon – 12:30 pm

WORKSHOPS 12:35 – 1:45 pm

A. Special Needs ... AND Strong-Willed? Kathleen Platzman

A child with special needs can also be strong-willed! Understanding behavior is the first step to managing it.

Kathleen Platzman is a Licensed Psychologist in private practice. She focuses on both assessment and treatment of infants and children with a wide range of developmental disabilities and specializes in working with individuals with autistic spectrum disorders and their families. She is a faculty member of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders.

B. Married ... with Children Janet Fluker

Janet Fluker will discuss ways in which you can help manage your marriage and still feel as though your child with special needs is getting the necessary attention he/she needs.

C. The IEP Cheatsheet Christy Calbos & Kristen Williams
Repeat of morning session.

D. Wills & Special Needs Trusts Mark Biernath

Wills must be carefully written for parents with children with special needs. Mark Biernath will make sure you have a good understanding of wills and trusts for your children, especially those with special needs. This workshop will inform parents of the importance of a will and of the need for careful planning.

Mark E. Biernath, Esq. practices primarily in estate planning and guardianship. Mr. Biernath is a charter member of the Academy of Special Needs Planners, an organization dedicated to quality estate planning for the unique needs of families with special needs. Mr. Biernath is also the author of a guide for parents in Georgia seeking guardianship for their adult children.

WORKSHOPS (please circle your choice) 1:50 – 3:00 pm

A. Fun, Quick & Healthy Meal Ideas Beci Falkenberg, Kristen Salome & Jane Keller

Beci, Kris and Jane will create some quick, healthy, and easy meals for those busy days. Get great ideas and enjoy delicious samples!!

Beci Falkenberg is a cooking instructor for wellness centers and writes the weekly Let's Eat! food column in the Sandy Springs Patch. Raised in the family Chinese restaurant business, she enjoys all styles of cooking but gravitates to the quick, healthy, and delicious. Beci and her husband are the parents of young adult twin daughters, one with mild cerebral palsy.

Kristen Salome, RN has over three decades of experience in health care and is a fitness professional at the YMCA. She has two adult age children, one who is an organic food movement advocate. Kristen is known as "the smoothie queen" from cooking demonstrations at Piedmont Hospital's Cancer Wellness Center!

Jane Keller is an active community volunteer, wife, and mother of three daughters. She doesn't consider herself a "cook," but, like many busy moms, relies on quick, healthy, family-friendly recipes. Jane's special interests are working with children and families in need, and she volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and is the Atlanta Chapter Director of Flashes of Hope.

B. Special Needs ... AND Strong-Willed? Kathleen Platzman
Repeat of 12:35 pm session.

C. Siblings Are Special, Too! Peggy Gallagher

This workshop is an overview of issues for siblings when there is a child with special needs in the family.

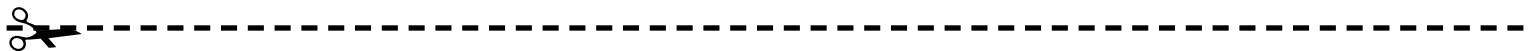
Peggy Gallagher, Ph.D. is a Professor of Early Childhood Special Education in the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education at Georgia State University where she has prepared teachers for over 18 years. She is co-author with Tom Powell and Cheryl Rhodes of a book on siblings of children with disabilities, now in its 3rd edition, from Brookes Publishing, Inc.



3825 Presidential Parkway, Suite 103
Atlanta, Georgia 30340

**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Decatur, GA
Permit No. 579



Childcare Information

Child's Name: _____ Birthday _____

Description of special needs _____

Child's Name: _____ Birthday _____

Description of special needs _____