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Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern California, Inc.

Online Newsletter

Go to → EmpowerYourFamily.org

GENERAL NEWS: Applicable to all in Far Northern California.



Job Opening at RFENC in Redding.

We're looking for a Spanish Bi-lingual Parent Liaison to join our team! For more info, including a job description, go to our homepage and click 'Job Opportunities' above the blue puzzle piece. You'll find all the info you need!

A Note from the RFENC Director.

Summer is fast approaching and although many of our children will be attending an extended school year program most will have extra time on their hands! I remember always creating a summer program for my son during these weeks. I read an article and thought about the importance of increasing literacy skills in our children. Children with diverse abilities need all the tools we can provide them and at BookShare.org there are 69,000+ accessible books online to choose from! Why choose books online? Well, for children who have sight issues or who have reading challenges this offers a wonderful opportunity to use the technology support to get valuable books for their pleasure! Literacy skills are something that becomes more and more important as children age and we must provide them with any and all tools that will assist them. So, if your child or student has used technology to help increase their literacy skills or would like to learn more about this program please check it out and see if it would assist you in any way! Plus, RFENC hopes to have some fun activities for children this summer! Please check the local offices or just stay posted and look as news comes available! We look forward to assisting you any way we can!

Our Website is Now Mobile!

With an increasing number of people owning and using web-capable handheld devices, such as mobile phones, we have developed a mobile version of our website that is optimized for such devices. Why have a mobile site? This page on MobiForge.com does a good job of explaining some of the advantages. But the bottom line is; accessibility to the information you need when you need it! To view our mobile website just visit RFENC.org from a mobile device and you'll be automatically redirected to our mobile site.



Join Us for an Early Childhood SpecialQuest.

There are free curricula available for anyone interested in inclusive practices for children ages birth-5 and their families. The SQ approach applies ideas using our head, hearts and hands to make positive differences in the lives of young children with diverse abilities and their families. This wonderful site SpecialQuest.org is full of wonderful information for professionals and families. If you are interested in knowing more about SpecialQuest please e-mail Kat at sklowrance@aol.com and she will be delighted to discuss all the ideas and questions you might have!

Epilepsy Foundation's Family Retreat - June 25.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Northern California is happy to announce their first ever Family Retreat beginning Friday, June 25 and going through Sunday June 27. If your family has kids with a primary diagnosis of epilepsy this retreat is for you. It will take place at the Taylor Family Foundation's Camp Arroyo in Livermore, CA. For more details and to download an application visit EpilepsyNorCal.org. Questions? Call Stephanie Eistetter at (925) 224-7760.



Camp Grizzly - Aug 1.

Deaf, hard of hearing, or KODA (Kids of Deaf Adults) youth between ages 7 and 14 will have a wonderful time and every camper will be challenged to achieve. Applications and more info can be had at [NorCal's website](#).

CAHSEE Exemption Applies Retroactively.

Act now. Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans of Accommodation who completed all graduation requirements, except passing the CA High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), and received a Certificate of Completion rather than a full High School Diploma in 2008 or 2009, are retroactively eligible for the CAHSEE exemption. [Read the full article from DREDF...](#)

Live Seizure Management Series Webinars - May 11 and July 20.

May 11 will feature John M. Pellock, MD and Kathy O'Hara, RN on the topic of 'What Families & Caregivers Need to Know About Managing Seizures.' July 20 will feature Steven M. Wolf, MD & Patricia E. McGoldrick, CPNP on the topic of 'DIASAT as Treatment for Acute Seizures.' Register here at [WebEx.com](#).

Disability Capitol Action Day - Sacramento - May 25 & 26.

Tuesday May 25th from 10am-3pm CICA presents: Legislative & IHSS Issues Training and then on Wednesday May 26th from 10am-3pm is the main event on the West steps of the capitol. For additional info go to [DisabilityActionCoalition.org](#) or contact Christina Mills at (916) 325-1690 ext. 333.

Community Events:

Medical Diagnosis & Treatment of Autism - Yuba City - May 6.

Dr. Keith McAfee, M.D. will be the presenter from 6:30-8:30pm at the Yuba City Fire Administration Building Training Room, 824 Clark Avenue in Yuba City. Spanish interpreter services will be provided. To register or for more info call Mary Pickering at (530) 751-1925x107.

Respite is Expanding!

Rowell Family Empowerment's Respite Program has been expanded to serve children, youth and adults with Developmental Disabilities in many of our far northern communities. This is great news! Want to learn more about our respite program and how it help you? Go to [EmpowerYourFamily.org](#) and look for the picture of Terin holding up his yellow ribbon. Beneath him, and above the little blue puzzle piece, click on 'Respite Program'.

Minds Matter! - Redding - May 12.

The Mental Wellness Resource Fair is happening from 11am-2pm at the Shasta County Veterans Hall at 1605 Yuba Street in Redding. Free admission and there will be food, raffle prizes, information booths and more! For more info call (530) 225-5985 or visit [ShastaHHSA.net](#).

RFENC Going Green Efforts.

Thanks to all of you that have contributed old cell phones. These contributions are greatly appreciated! It helps us raise some extra funds to support families and helps to keep the planet green! Well, now we are adding to the green box anything made from gold! If you have old gold jewelry that you have no use for or any other product made of gold that is not of any value to you please bring it by either of our offices in Redding or Chico.



We're Headed to Siskiyou County!

We are in the process of planning on coming up to Siskiyou County to do some training for families. If you live in Siskiyou, we would like your input on which trainings we should focus on. The trainings we offer are, Medical binder training, IEP prep (age 2-5 & 6-21), 504 training, Leadership training, IFSP training (age 0-2), and Positive Behavior Training. We are planning on coming up for two days so we can do AM and PM classes. We also want to find out what your needs are to be able to attend. Please call Wendy at RFENC's Redding office or [send her an email](#).

Award Luncheon in Red Bluff - May 15.

The Sixth Annual Circle of Champions Award Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the Elk's Club in Red Bluff. The luncheon will honor members of the Tehama County community who have made a positive impact on the lives of people with Developmental Disabilities.

DownStream Fly Fishing Day - Browns Valley - May 22.

Students with Down Syndrome ages 7-35 who live in Yuba County can come out and have fun learning to fly fish at Splat Hill, 851 Marysville Road, in Browns Valley. Try your hand at activities such as casting, fly tying, fishing, and even get served lunch. There will be 2 volunteers for every student and no experience is necessary. For more info on volunteering, participating, or donating please contact Ryan Miller at (530) 913-8312 or rhmillier@gmail.com.



Autism Workshop with Patty Schetter, M.A. - Redding - May 25.

This workshop, entitled "An Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders: Early Indicators, Diagnosis, Interventions and Support", will be from 9am-4pm at the Shasta Builder's Exchange Training Center in Redding. This one day overview will provide participants with an understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Topics will include identifying the early signs and symptoms, how ASD is diagnosed, the interventions that can result in the best outcomes, and types of services and supports that may be accessible to an individual affected by ASD. [For more info go here.](#)



iPhone/iPod Apps Presentation - Redding - May 25.

An iPod may be exactly what your child needs! They do a lot more than just music and video. For example, a non-verbal child may require a Dynavox which can cost thousands of dollars. An iPod Touch and a small app can do the same thing for a few hundred dollars! There are many apps (aka applications or programs) for the Apple devices that can help children with disabilities. Come see a fun and exciting presentation about them *and even use many of them first hand*. The presentation will be at RFENC in Redding from 5:30-6:15. Call 226-5129 to RSVP. Parents & professionals are invited!

Facilitated IEP Process - Redding - June 10.

Jane Plocher, Assistant Superintendent of Colusa County SELPA/Special Education, will give an overview of the IEP process to parents of special education children. Learn more to contribute and participate in the IEP team process and make informed/appropriate/active decisions about your child's education. 5:30-8:30pm at CR Gibb's, 2399 Hilltop Drive in Redding. Register online at ShastaCOE.org or call 225-0100. Primary care givers only. No drop-ins.

C.A.S.T. for Kids - Shasta Lake - June 19 - Oroville - Sept 11.

Join the Catch A Special Thrill Foundation for a memorable day of fishing, pairing Bass Fishermen with children with disabilities. It will be a fantastic day of boating, games, BBQ, and plenty of fun! The CAST Foundation will be at Packers Bay Marina on Shasta Lake June 19 and at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area Sept 11. To sign up for CAST at Shasta Lake call (530) 276-2030. To sign up for CAST at Lake Oroville call (530) 538-2222.

Don't Forget About RFENC's Event Calendar.

Find dates and times of our recurring training and support groups by going to our Online Calendar, available on [RFENC's website](#). We routinely offer training on topics such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Medical Information Binder, and IEP Preparation, to name a few. There is a special IEP Preparation Training for parents of children birth-5! And we offer several ongoing support groups. Need info about what exactly the training entails? See the Workshops page on our website.

Make a Donation!

[Go to → Donations](#)

RFENC is able to provide services to children with disabilities and their families because of State & Federal grants and private donations from people just like yourself. Won't you help us? You can make a donation with your credit card securely through PayPal (via our website) or make checks payable to *RFENC, 962 Maraglia Street, Redding, CA 96002*