



Advocating Daily

June/July/August

2015

Director's Corner

Jamal's Journey with FHF SELA

Back in 2010, Maragrite Riley called Families helping Families SELA to get help advocating for her son Jamal who has an Intellectual disability. She stated that Jamal was over age in a class of younger children. He was bullied, and he was unenthused about school.

Ms. Riley and I began to not only work on her advocacy skills, but I attended every meeting with her regarding Jamal and his educational journey. In working with mom, I got to spend time with Jamal and speak with him about advocating for himself and speaking up. Now, Jamal is very shy and doesn't make eye contact most of the time, but I saw hope in Jamal. The same hope I see in my boys every day. Through the years, Ms. Riley and I were able to advocate for pupil progression, where we were able to get Jamal in his age appropriate grade. Jamal became ecstatic as he began to see what advocating can do. When Jamal started his high school career he insisted that I attend every IEP and ITP meeting with his mom. I was happy to oblige as this was his right to have his favorite advocate present to help him and his mom understand what was happening and what Jamal deserved.

In August 2015 Jamal entered 12th grade and was assigned a project that needed a mentor, and who do you think he chose? That's right, me. How exciting! Jamal came in and worked at FHF on our Career Symposium Program. He was able to identify companies and organizations that should be a part of our job fair. He loved it and we loved him.

A letter from our new Early Steps Coordinator Fay Daspit!



Dear Early Steps Families,
My Name is Fay Daspit, and I am the Community Outreach Specialist for Early Steps Regions I (1) & X (10) which include: Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes. I am the proud parent of three and the grandparent of eight. My grandson, Jace was born prematurely weighing just 1.5lbs.'and we are caring for him daily.

[Continue Reading....](#)

Early Steps will be holding an informational meeting on June 11th, [click here](#) for the flyer.

It's time for summer fun!

Are your kids home for the summer? Do you need some help coming up with sensory friendly activities to do with them? Check out this article from Ability Path!

[View Article](#)

***How about some fun activities at Louisiana Children's Museum presented by Autism Speaks?! [Click Here](#)**

***Sensory friendly movies at AMC theaters! [Click Here](#)**

Mental Health First Aid Certified!

The staff at FHF SELA completed an 8 hour training course and have become certified Mental Health First Aid Responders! The certification lasts three years.
Go team!

Early Head Start Programs

Are you considering an Early Head Start for your child age 0-2? While many facilities offer this service, here is some information from Boys Town Louisiana to get you started.

[Click Here](#)

That's a Wrap! The Prism Project of Greater New Orleans 2015 season comes to a close!

SCENE: Backstage

Excited performers move around. Costumes and props are gathered. Lines are given last minute run-throughs and dance moves are practiced...

Such a very typical behind the scenes experience for a program that is anything but typical. The Prism Project of Greater New Orleans, a program modeled after the Prism Project at Ball State University in Muncie Indiana, was created to bring an extra-curricular, creative arts program to children who were not finding it elsewhere. As such, this program was founded on a few simple, but perhaps exceptional beliefs. [Continue Reading...](#)

The Prism Project is now accepting applications for next year's show! Please call the office for more information [504-943-0343](tel:504-943-0343).

[Congressional Updates](#)

**Want to know what is going on in Louisiana Disability Law news?
Check out the latest LACAN action alert! [HERE!](#)**

Healthy and Positive Caregiving Workshop!

**Join us for a caregiver support workshop.
Tuesday June 30th 9-1pm**

[View Flyer Here!](#)

Donation Received

One of our wonderful parents has donated a toddler sized wheelchair, bath chair, and feeding pump. If you are anyone you know could benefit from these items, please call the office at [504-943-0343](tel:504-943-0343)

Ask the Advocate

Dear Advocate,
My child's school has not evaluated him in what seems like a long time. Do I need to ask for a reevaluation?

Answer: It is very important to have an up to date evaluation to ensure your child is receiving the proper supports through his IEP. By law, the school must perform an evaluation every three years. On occasion the school may ask you to waive your right to this reevaluation. Only you can decide whether waiting an additional three years is appropriate. Click [here](#) for more information on reevaluations.

Dear Advocate,
Can you record an IEP meeting?

Answer: Yes. Look [here](#) for an article from Wright's Law.

Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana wishes you and your family a happy and relaxing summer!!!!