

## Board of Directors

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~Bayou Land is Going Green~

Please contact us to let us know if you would like the newsletter sent to you via email. We will continue to send newsletters by mail to families in the region 3 area upon request.

This newsletter is provided through funding from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, the State Department of Education, the Office of Mental Health, the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, Office of Public Health, Family to Family Health K p h q t o c v k q p " E g p v g t " c p f " E j k n f t g p ø u " Trust Fund.

# In Touch

*Bayou Land Families Helping Families*

October, November, & December 2009

## Bayou Land Families Helping Families *Presents*

### 16th Annual Office for Citizens With Developmental Disabilities Conference

#### *Transitioning Towards A Better Tomorrow*

This conference encompasses all aspects of the life of an individual with a developmental disability. There will be breakout sessions covering Early Childhood, Youth, Adults, & the Aging Population. The conference is open to all families and professionals. This will be a great opportunity for professionals new to the field of disability.

**DATE: November 10, 2009**

**TIME: 8:00 am-3:30 pm**

**LOCATION: Quality Inn  
210 South Hollywood Rd, Houma LA**

**Registration begins at 8:00 am**

**There is no cost for the conference & lunch will be served.**

**EW** will be available for *specific sessions* (Social Work & Psychology)  
*Please contact our office for more information regarding the sessions required to obtain CEU credits.*

To R.S.V.P. call Ragain M. Gray or Joyce Chiasson at 985-447-4461 or 1-800-331-5570.

For More Information About Our Organization Please Visit: [www.blfhf.org](http://www.blfhf.org)

Date/Time	Event	Location	Contact
October 6, 2009 10:00 am-12:00 pm <b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>Response to Intervention Professional and Parent Training</b> Educators, Advocates and Parents will receive training on the response to intervention services provided by the Lafourche Parish Pupil Appraisal office.	<b>Lafourche Parish</b> Lockport Branch library 720 Crescent Ave. Lockport, LA 73074	Shonna Riggs or Ragain Gray at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570, sriggs@bellsouth.net, or ragaingray@bellsouth.net
October 15, 2009 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Transition Planning: My child is graduating from High School and has a disability, where do we go from here?</b> This workshop will assist families in transition IEP planning, goal setting, and employment opportunities.	<b>ST. JOHN PARISH</b> St. John Parish Library 2920 Highway 51 Meeting Room B LaPlace, LA	Shonna Riggs at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or sriggs@bellsouth.net
October 15, 2009 5:45 pm-7:45 pm <b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Y j c v ø u " J g c n v j " I q v " V Goals for Greater Independence</b> Transition workshop on merging health goals & grade level expectations on IEPs to help youth maintain health and health skills for success at work and in life.	<b>ST. JOHN PARISH</b> Reserve Library 170 West 10th St. Reserve, LA	Karen Scallan at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or f2fhic@bellsouth.net
October 17, 2009 10:00 am-12:00pm <b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>What Does This Mean? IEP BASICS</b> Understanding the IEP form, what goes where, what should be there, breaking down the lingo so everyone can understand.	<b>LAFOURCHE PARISH</b> South Lafourche Library 16241 East Main Cut Off, LA	Karen Scallan at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or f2fhic@bellsouth.net
October 21, 2009 10:30 am ô 1:30 pm <b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>R c t g p v ø u " G f w e c v k q p c</b> This workshop will offer families the opportunity to connect with other families regarding educational services available. The v j g o g " y k n n " d g " c " r c t g p v ø u " r g t u r g e v k x g " q p " U r k p c " Bifida.	<b>ASSUMPTION PARISH</b> Napoleonville Library 293 Napoleon Ave Napoleonville, LA	Ragain or April at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or regaingray@bellsouth.net april_young2008@bellsouth.net
October 21, 2009 5:00 pm-7:00 pm <b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>What Does This Mean? IEP BASICS</b> Understanding the IEP form, what goes where, what should be there, breaking down the lingo so everyone can understand.	<b>ST. JOHN PARISH</b> Edgard Library 2979 Hwy 18 Edgard, LA	Karen Scallan at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or f2fhic@bellsouth.net
October 23, 2009 10:00 am-12:00 pm <b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>What Does This Mean? IEP BASICS</b> Understanding the IEP form, what goes where, what should be there, breaking down the lingo so everyone can understand.	<b>LAFOURCHE PARISH</b> Choctaw Library 1887 Choctaw Rd Thibodaux, LA	Karen Scallan or Chrissy Kraemer at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or f2fhic@bellsouth.net
October 23, 2009 11:00 am ô 2:00 pm <b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>J g n r k p i " G f w e c v q t u " W Attention Deficit Disorder</b> This workshop is designed to give basic information regarding the disorder and how we can help our children be successful in their learning environment. A focus discussion will be held for parents of children with ADD/ADHD.	<b>ST. MARV PARISH</b> o { " E j Bayou Vista Community Center 1333 Belleview Street Bayou Vista, LA	Ragain at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570, or ragaingray@bellsouth.net
October 29, 2009 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>My child has been diagnosed with a disability...What do I do next?</b> This workshop will assist families in learning the next steps to take immediately regarding the school setting when their child has been diagnosed with having a disability.	<b>ASSUMPTION PARISH</b> Napoleonville Branch Library 293 Napoleon Avenue Napoleonville, LA	Shonna Riggs at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or sriggs@bellsouth.net
November 3, 2009 5:00 pm-7:00 pm <b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>How Can I Help My Family?</b> Understanding how to get more from your doctor visits; how to get access to state programs; how to advocate and become a leader in your community.	<b>ASSUMPTION PARISH</b> Napoleonville Library 293 Napoleon Avenue Napoleonville, LA	Karen Scallan at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or f2fhic@bellsouth.net
November 7, 2009 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>What Does This Mean? IEP BASICS</b> Understanding the IEP form, what goes where, what should be there, breaking down the lingo so everyone can understand.	<b>ASSUMPTION PARISH</b> Napoleonville Library 293 Napoleon Avenue Napoleonville, LA	Karen Scallan at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or f2fhic@bellsouth.net

Date/Time	Event	Location	Contact
November 19, 2009 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Transition Planning: My child is graduating from High School and has a disability, where do we go from here?</b> This workshop will assist families in transition IEP planning, goal setting, and employment opportunities.	<b>ST. JAMES PARISH</b> St. James Parish Library 1879 West Main Street Lutcher, LA 70071	Shonna Riggs at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or sriggs@bellsouth.net
November 20, 2009 11:00 am - 2:00 pm <b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>J g n r k p i " G f w e c v q t u " W Attention Deficit Disorder</b> This workshop is designed to give basic information regarding the disorder and how we can help our children be successful in their learning environment. A focus discussion will be held for parents of Children with both ADD/ADHD.	<del>ST. JAMES PARISH</del> o { " E j St. James Parish Library <b>(Lutcher Branch)</b> 1879 West Main Street Lutcher, Louisiana 70071	Ragain at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570, or ragaingray@bellsouth.net
December 2, 2009 10:00 am-12:00 pm <b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>How Can I Help My Family?</b> Understanding how to get more from your doctor visits; how to get access to state programs; how to advocate and become a leader in your community.	<b>ST. MARY PARISH</b> Centerville Library 9340 hwy 182 Centerville, LA	Karen Scallan at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or f2fhic@bellsouth.net
December 2, 2009 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Help My Child is Being Bullied-Help My Child is a Bully</b> Dual workshop to help parents, educators and others to use positive intervention strategies to prevent bullying.	<b>TERREBONNE PARISH</b> Houma Library 151 Library Drive Houma, LA	Shonna Riggs at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or sriggs@bellsouth.net
December 5, 2009 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>What Does This Mean? IEP BASICS</b> Understanding the IEP form, what goes where, what should be there, breaking down the lingo so everyone can understand.	<b>ST. MARY</b> Centerville Library 9340 hwy 182 Centerville, LA	Karen Scallan or Chrissy Kramer at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or f2fhic@bellsouth.net
December 9, 2009 11:30 am-1:30 pm <b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>R c t g p v ø u " G f w e c v k q p c</b> This workshop will offer families the opportunity to connect with other families regarding educational services available. A <b>r c t g p v ø u " r g t u r g e v k x</b>	<del>ST. JAMES PARISH</del> " I t q w St. James Parish Library <b>(Lutcher Branch)</b> 1879 West Main Street Lutcher, Louisiana 70071 D k h k	Ragain or April at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or ragaingray@bellsouth.net april_young2008@bellsouth.net f c 0 "
December 19, 2009 9:30 am-11:30 am <b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>N g v ø u " I q " Q x g t " v j g " J</b> <b>look at procedural safeguards and the IEP!</b> Understanding and protecting your e j k n f ø u " g f w e c v k q p c n a Q & A session to ask questions concerning IEP and school issues as it relates to the education process.	<del>LAFOURGHE PARISH</del> e n q u Galliano Branch Library Highway 1 West 154th street Galliano, LA 70054 " R c t g p v u " y k n n " j c x g "	Shonna Riggs at 985-447-4461, 1-800-331-5570 or sriggs@bellsouth.net

**New Voting Laws for Individuals with Disabilities: Effective January 1, 2010**

Individuals with disabilities must provide proof of disability on election day; People in nursing homes who want to early vote must have a witness from the home to confirm disability; Persons living in nursing homes or veterans homes may register at that address; Persons who assist voters who fail to mark the ballot or vote in the manner dictated by the voter have committed an election offense

Previous Laws	New Laws
A Voter with a physical disability and the person assisting him/her will go to the front of the line during early voting.	A Voter with a physical disability or who shows a current mobility-impaired ID card and the person assisting him/her will go moved to the front of the line.
Absentee by mail or early voting ballot envelope flap will have lines for two witness signatures	Absentee by mail or early voting ballot envelope flap will require one witness signature
Parish governing authorities must certify that each polling place meets accessibility standards	Governing authorities will also complete a survey re: each polling place to ensure everything is acceptable.
Prohibits people entitled to assistance in voting and a person who is a candidate in the election from being election commissioners	Prohibits a person entitled to assistance, who needs an audio ballot, or a candidate from being a commissioner and would allow people entitled to assistance, but who do not require assistance in voting to be a commissioner



### Pre-Apply Now For Disaster Food Stamps

All low- to moderate-income Louisianians may be eligible for Disaster Food Stamp benefits in the event of a natural disaster and should pre-apply now for benefits online or by phone. Current Food Stamp recipients do not need to pre-apply and would receive disaster benefits automatically. Pre-applying will speed the issuance of benefits if a Disaster Food Stamp program is activated and the applicant meets eligibility requirements. After a disaster, applicants will need to visit a Disaster Food Stamp program site, show identification and provide or confirm application information. Applicants will have their eligibility determined at a Disaster Food Stamp program site, and will receive benefits if determined eligible. Pre-apply online at [www.dss.louisiana.gov](http://www.dss.louisiana.gov). Call 1-888-524-3578.

#### New Bayou Land Staff

My name is Chrissy Kraemer. I am a mother of a 3 year old daughter Caitlyn, who has seizure disorder. I am the new Community Outreach Specialist for EarlySteps and the Parent Facilitator for Early Childhood Supports & Services (ECSS). Bayou Land has the greatest team of people who are devoted to individuals with disabilities. I would like to thank the team Kim, Mary, Ragain, Joyce, Karen, Shonna and April for welcoming me with open arms and allowing me to advocate for not only my child but the children in Region 3.

December 3rd K p v g t p c v k q p c n " F c { " h q t

### Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) Board and Standing Committee Meetings

The Board usually meets on the third Thursday of each month, except when meetings are adjusted to accommodate the holidays. A simple majority of Board members may agree to meet on another day. Special meetings of the Board may be held upon call of the President. The President shall call a special meeting whenever requested to do so by a majority of the total members of the Board. Standing Committee meetings are held prior (Monday - Wednesday) to the monthly Board meeting (Thursday). Standing Committees are composed of not less than three members of the Board and are appointed by the President. Special meetings of a standing Committee may be held upon the call of the Committee Chairman. The Committee Chairman shall call a special meeting whenever requested to do so by a majority of the total named members of the Committee. All meetings of the Board and its Committees are conducted according to the provisions of the State's open meetings laws. The Board also complies with all provisions of the State's public records laws. All meetings are conducted in conformance with state law, Board policy (see Chapter 3 of the Louisiana Administrative Code Vol. 18, Title 28), and Roberts Rules of Order. By law, six members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and all official actions of the Board shall require the favorable vote of the majority of the total membership.



#### Upcoming BESE meetings October 2009 13-14 Committee Meetings 15 Full Board Meeting

There are no scheduled meetings for November and December 2009. There is always a chance that a special called meeting may arise. If one does come up LATEACH will send out a notice. For more about LATEACH membership call 537.436.2570 or 1.800.894.6558 [laeachinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:laeachinfo@yahoo.com)

### Q e v q d g t " k u " U r k p c " D k h k f c " O q p

My name is April Young. I have been with Bayou Land Families Helping Families since September 2008. I am a Parent Liaison for **Children Special Health Services (CSHS)**. I have a 2 year old daughter named O c f g n k p g . " O c f f k g ö . " y j q " j c u " U r k p c " D k h k f c " c p f " J precious day of our lives. Awaiting the birth of our child was so exciting. On September 25, 2006, at 12:00 pm she arrived filling the entire room with excitement and joy. Immediately the room became silent. The doctor e c o g " v q " o g " c p f " u c k f " ö [ q w t " e j k n f " y k n n " p g x g t " y c d k n c v g t c n " e n w d " h g g v " c p f " p g g f u " v q " d g " v t c p u h g t t u j g " y c u " v c m g p " c y c { " d { " c o d w n c p e g " v q " c " Y q o c p ø u " f g x c u v c v g f " c n n " K " e q w n f " v j k p m " y c u . " ö y j c v " j c x g " e c p " K " i q " j q o g " c p f " n g c x g " o { " p g y " d q t p " y k v j " v q v c and she underwent many surgeries and procedures. During this time the social worker advised me that there is help out there. She gave me information about the **EarlySteps Program , Spina Bifida clinics and Support Groups** . The social worker also gave me information on how Maddie can reach her goals with Physical, Q e e w r c v k q p c n . " c p f " U r g g e j " V j g t c r { " v q " j g n r " u v t g p i v j g p " surgeries and procedures, u e n g u but she has also developed neurogenic bladder, which is essentially a weak bladder. Due to this condition, Maddie has to be catheterized 2 to 4 times per day.



Through prayer, determination, extensive physical, occupational and speech therapy Maddie has achieved and accomplished walking with her walker and AFO braces. In April 2009, she began the transition process from EarlySeps into the school system, which is a long and vigorous process. As a mother of a e j k n f " y k v j " c " f k u c d k n k v { . " K " y k n n " c n y c { u " j c x g " v q " u v t w g u i d e n e i n p r e p a r a t i o n f o r " O c f the **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** process. I have learned that every child is entitled to a **Free Appropriate Public Education**. As Maddie r t g r c t g u " v q " n g c x g " G c t n { U v g r u . " y g " y k n walking q ü ß " q p g " q h " v j g " o q u v " k o r q t v c C u " K " t g h n g e v " w r q p " c n n " v j g " q d u v c e n g u " c p f " e j c n n g p i g u r a ' s p e c i a l . B e s i d e s i f i t w e r e t e q o g not for her I would not have the best job in the world at Bayou Land Families Helping Families. I can truly relate to my CSHS families because I know y j c v " k v ø u " t g c n n { " n k m g " v q " c v v g p f " q t v j q r g f k e . " c p f " p g i o n a n d r e s q u i c e s w i t h f a m i l i e s k p v o g that I encounter on a daily basis. **My final thoughts are:**

~~Please learn to be better advocates for your kids and stand up for what you believe in no matter how many walls you have to break through!~~

**April Hebert Young**

# ~2009 Fall Community Dance~



Stuck at home for Halloween?

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Bayou Land Families Helping Families

Presents

## ~Halloween Costume Dance~



October 31, 2009  
6:00 pm -9:00 pm  
Quality Inn Hotel  
210 South Hollywood Rd  
Houma, Louisiana 70360



Join us as we dance the night away and have fun. There will be a **costume contest** so dress your best. No alcohol will be served and the dance is open to anyone that is **18 yrs or older**.

**Space is limited**, so anyone that is interested in attending **must RSVP** by contacting Joyce at 1-800-331-5570 or 985-447-4461.

**Bayou Land  
Families Helping Families  
Staff**

Kim Detillier  
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Shonna Riggs  
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Chrissy Kraemer  
Community Outreach  
Specialist  
Chrissy.kraemer@la.gov



**Support Bayou Land Families Helping Families Just By Using The Internet!**

Every time you search the internet at GoodSearch.com or make a purchase through GoodShop.com, Bayou Land Families Helping Families can earn money! GoodSearch is powered by Yahoo! So you get the same great results while it donates about a penny per search. GoodShop.com is an online shopping mall which donates a percentage of each purchase. Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay and Office Depot have teamed with GoodShop.

Every time you search the internet using GoodSearch and GoodShop, we receive a direct donation! Enter Bayou Land Families Helping Families as the charity you want to support at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com).

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Louisiana State Autism Conference**

Î 6 ` i Y d f ] b h g ` Z c f ` u

November 6-7, 2009  
Holiday Inn Central Holidome  
2032 Evangeline Thruway  
Lafayette, LA 70501

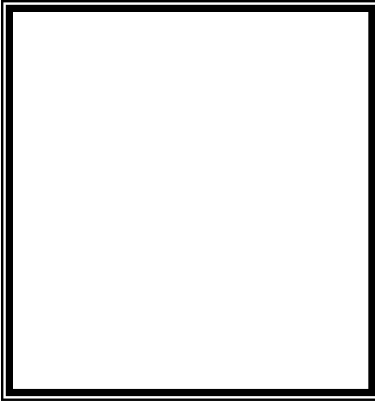
For hotel reservations call (337) 233-6815.

Stipends may be available for family members please check the website or contact LSAC. **Limited** stipends may also be available through your local Families Helping Families Resource Center, <http://www.blfhf.org/fhfcenters.php>. Certificates of attendance will be awarded at the end of the conference at the registration desk.

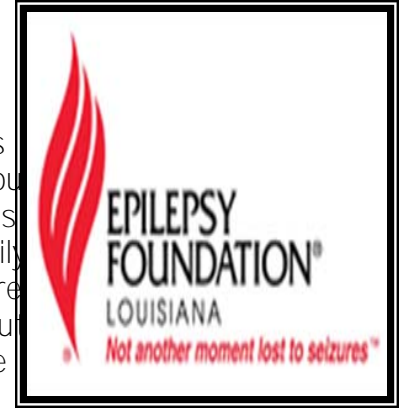
CEUs for **Physical Therapists, Speech/Language Therapist and Occupational Therapists** are approved for **11** clinical hrs.

For more information regarding registration call 1-800-955-3760, visit the LSAC website at [www.lastateautism.org](http://www.lastateautism.org), or email [pjmanco@cox.net](mailto:pjmanco@cox.net)





The LA Family to Family Health Information Center recognizes National Epilepsy Awareness Month in November with information on seizure first aid for all individuals touched by someone with epilepsy. If you or your child has epilepsy or a seizure disorder, print this page for seizure first aid and facts and ask family friends and teachers to read it and become more aware. For more resources and information about epilepsy or seizure disorders, please contact the Louisiana Family to Family Health Information Center at 18003315570.



### Seizure First Aid

**Above anything else, if you see a person having a seizure you should remain calm. Getting excited will not help you, nor will it help the person having a seizure. Otherwise, there are only a few things to remember:**

Check for medical identification, such as a necklace or bracelet. If none is present, and no one can affirm that the person has a seizure disorder, call for medical attention.

**For tonic clonic seizures:** loosen constrictive clothing such as neckties or scarves, and cushion the person's head with a pillow, blanket, jacket, towel, or any other soft object. Turn the person on one side to allow for excessive salivation to drain sufficiently, and for the tongue to remain clear of the person's airway. (Note: a person CANNOT swallow his/her tongue; please do NOT put anything in the person's mouth). Time the seizure, and if the seizure goes beyond five minutes, consciousness does not return soon afterward, or if further seizures follow, call for medical attention. The person may need to rest after the seizure. Do not allow food or drink until full consciousness has returned.

**For complex partial seizures:** do not yell or shout at the person having the seizure, nor should you expect verbal commands to be obeyed. Stay with the person, removing harmful object out of the way, gently guiding him/her away from hazards if the person becomes ambulatory. Do not restrain; the person may flail or lash out if you are perceived as a threat. Provide reassurance and support after the seizure.

If the person is pregnant, has diabetes, has the seizure in water, or has obviously sustained an injury, call for medical attention at once.

### DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- Most seizures are NOT medical emergencies
- People may NOT be aware they are having a seizure and may not remember what happened.
- Epilepsy is NOT contagious.
- Epilepsy is NOT a form of mental illness
- Epilepsy is NOT a form of mental retardation
- People almost never die or have brain damage during a seizure
- A person CAN NOT swallow his/her tongue during a seizure.

Epilepsy can develop at ANY age

20% of cases develop before the age of five

- 50% of cases develop before the age of twenty-five
- Epilepsy currently affects about 300,000 senior citizens nationwide.

By the age of 20, 1% of the population can be expected to develop epilepsy.

By the age of 75, 3% of population can be expected to have been diagnosed with epilepsy and 10% will have experienced some type of seizure.

### Common Causes

- For 70% of people with epilepsy the cause is unknown. For the remaining 30% common identifiable causes include:
- Brain Trauma
- Brain lesions (e.g. tumors)
- Poisoning (lead)
- Infections of the brain (e.g. meningitis, encephalitis)
- Brain Injury at birth
- Abnormal brain development

### Epilepsy Foundation of Louisiana Support Groups

#### Baton Rouge Support Group

Baton Rouge, LA  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Third Thursday of the month  
Meet at The Neuromedical Center  
10101 Park Rowe Avenue in Baton Rouge.  
All are welcome to attend.

#### New Orleans Support Group

Metairie, Louisiana  
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Third Thursday of the month  
Meet at East Jefferson General Hospital,  
4200 Houma Blvd. Metairie, LA  
In the Foundation Board Room  
(across from gift shop)

#### Shreveport Support Group

6:00 p.m.

2nd Tuesday every other month  
Meet at Christus Schumpert,  
One Saint Mary Place

#### Lafayette Support Group

1st Wednesday of every month  
4212 West Congress Street  
Meeting Room 1

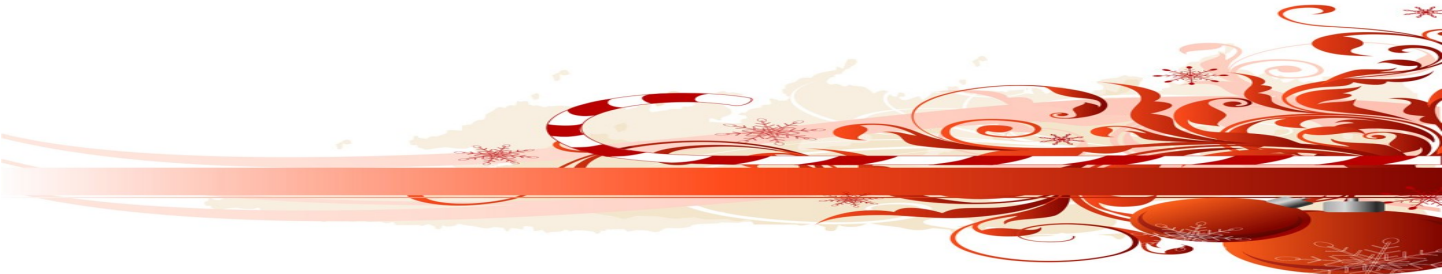


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When parents found the Bayou Land gang and dropped off their children  
(4 yrs and older) at Peltier Park v q " x k u k v " U c p v  
Play & Learn Workshop. Children will engage in **fun** and **educational**  
learning activities while parents are out completing their holiday  
shopping. We will have a very extra special visitor from the  
North Pole to give all the children that attend a holiday treat!

Any one interested in having their children attend **must RSVP** by  
**December 17, 2009**. Space is extremely limited so register early.

December 22, 2009  
1:00 pm-4:00 pm  
Peltier Park  
151 Peltier Park Dr.  
Thibodaux, LA 70301



# Christmas Pageant Brings Mom an Early Gift

By Karen Scallan

**Inclusive Education: The research-based practice of including children with disabilities and special needs in the same classes as typical children with supports and services that allow them to benefit fully from the same educational, social and recreational experiences as all other children.**

December 12, 2006

H c b [ \ h ' = [ c h ' c b Y ' c Z ' h \ Y ' [ f Y U h Y g h ' 7 \ f ] g h a U g ' [ ] Z h g ' U ' a c h \ Y f ' c y Z i r t U ' W \ ] ' X ' k ' 7 \ f ] g h a U g ' d U [ Y U b h " ' = ' k U g ' f Y U ' ' m ' k c f f ] Y X ' V Y W U i g Y ' \ Y ' h Y b X g ' h d o u d s p a k e r s V Y ] b [ ' and audio equipment. He has an auditory sensory problem and noise can be painful to him. He also has Down syndrome. I was full of angst and sure we had gone to all this preparation for nothing. I even considered not going. But Kevin loves music and loves to sing so I thought if nothing else, we can sit and watch the other kids if he feels up to it and its not too loud. When I got there, I told the teachers to be aware, he might balk or throw a fit at going in the cafeteria, going on the stage, seeing the crowd...any number of things. I warned the music teacher and the principal. I stood guard at the door where the kindergartners were going to enter to be sure that if he bolted I could catch him and try to coax him to go with the class. But the music teacher had it under control. She knew just the person to call upon in a situation like this-- ? Y j ] b D g ' \_ ] b X Y f [ U f h Y b ' W ' U g g a U h Y " " " 8 U b ] Y ' ' Y " ' A = ; < H M ' h i s U n d ' a n d ' Y ' ' 5 ' \ Y ' d ' \ ] a ' [ c ' i d ' c b ' g h U [ Y " ' @ ] h h ' Y ' X ] X ' = ' \_ b c k ' U g ' = ' k U ] h Y X ' U h ' h ' f o o f . W h e n f ' h \ U h ' ? Y j ] b D g ' W ' U g g ' Y b h Y f Y X ' h \ Y ' f c c a z ' 8 U b ] Y ' ' Y ' \ U X ' U ' [ f ] d ' c b ' \ ] a ' n g ' D a y s a l l e s a c h \ Y f ' at the mall. Nothing was breaking that grip. She guided him straight up the ramp to the top of the stage and right to his spot. < Y ' X ] X b D h ' \ U a i W \ ' a i W \ c ] W Y " ' 6 i h ' U g h c i b X ] b [ ' m z ' k \ Y b ' = ' c c \_ Y X ' U h ' \ ] a z ' k \ ] ' Y ' h e d y e ' o r ' h i s U g ' g c a teachers thousands of times before when we try to coax him in similar situations. I could see he was a concerned, but he wanted to go because Danielle was there. Danielle was going on the stage. The other kids were going on the stage. He wanted to be where they were. I k c f \_ Y X ' ' 6 i h ' ] h ' X ] X b D h ' Y b X ' h \ Y f Y " ' 5 Z h Y f ' g h U b X ] b [ ' ] b ' \ ] g ' s s ' a n d ' h e ' l e t i b g o . g h U [ Y z ' ? Y j ] b ' X ] X b D h ' a c j Y z ' V i h ' \ Y ' g h ] ' ' c c \_ Y X ' U ' ' ] h h ' Y ' Z Y U f Z i ' " ' H k e v ] h e D g ' ' k U b i X ' ' g ] f b and held it. I could see my son relax a bit. It was a beautiful thing. Two children, different races, one with a disability.. and there they stood ] b ' h \ Y ' 7 \ f ] g h a U g ' d U [ Y U b h ' \ c ' X ] b [ ' \ U b X g " ' H U ' \_ ' U V c i h ' h \ Y ' G d ] f ] h e d t e m 7 \ f ] g h a U Z h Y f ' g \ Y D X ' d Y f Z c f a Y X ' \ Y f ' d U f h ' ] b ' h \ Y ' d f c X i W h ] c b ' U b X ' h c c \_ ' c s a w f t o i t k t a y b ' 9 U f b Kevin left the stage appropriately and walked back to class. Kevin did it...! He'd gone through the whole production in a completely appropriate way and done just exactly what everyone else did without any coaxing, prodding, or pushing from me or any other adult. After the pageant, I made sure I thanked each of the children for helping Kevin. I told their mothers what each of the kids had done. And then I cried all the way home.

H c ' d U f Y b h g ' c Z ' W \ ] ' X f Y b ' k ] h \ ' g d Y W ] U ' ' b Y Y X g " " " b Y j Y f ' ' Y h ' U b m c u b W h o t h e D a n i e l l e , E r n e s t o t W a j m i e ] b W ' i g ] g ' ] b ' m c i f ' W \ ] ' X D g ' W ' U g g " ' H \ Y m D ' ' ' h U \_ Y ' ] h ' Z f c a ' h \ Y f Y " ' = ' X g i f t o n i g h t b Y Y X ' U b c h \ Y f ' h \ ] b [ ' Z

## ~Reason for The Season~

Well folks!!  
K v ø u " i g v v k p i " e n q u g " v q " v j c v " v k o g " c i c k p 0 " V j c v " u g p v h e d u g i n e x t r a o n d i h a y k o g " v j c ways. Most of you will ponder on what to cook, or whose house will everyone meet up at. Others will question what should they buy or in some e c u g u . " y j c v " y k n n " v j g { " o c m g 0 " " H q t " u q o g . " k v " e c p " d g " c " a r f a r a w a y ' a n d j g p " y g " communication is limited. But whatever the reason for their absence, consider the precious and joyous moments that are yours forever, **memories**. E j g t k u j " v j g o " f g c t n { " d w v " u j c t g " y k v j " q v j g t u " k p " { q w t " u t i m e . W h a g w i t h q a h " y j c v the hustle and bustle of shopping, planning and working puts us in overdrive! Yes, we want to work together to make our family and friends feel like they are loved and welcomed but it does becomes a tad bit overwhelming. But consider this, before you can be what others need you to be you h k t u v " j c x g " v q " d g " ð I Q Q F " V Q " [ Q W ö # " " V j c v " o g c p u " n g v v k p i ö v e r w i t h o u t t a " u j c t g " j k v e j 0 " " V j c v " c n u q " o g c p u " k v u " q m " v q " u c { " ð P Q ö . " g u r g e k a s k n T r u s t t h e y o u r p " { q w " mind, body and spirit will thank you for the break!!!  
H k p c n n { . " c n y c { u " t g o g o d g t . " v j q w i j " { q w " **ONE YOU**, for heve god to you and because you going p f u " c to need your strength and energy as you prepare for the **NEW YEAR!**  
~ Ragain M. Gray~

### The Developmental Disability Community Needs You!

Are you a parent of a child with a Developmental Disability?

Are you an individual with a Developmental Disability?

#### Do you feel the need to help those in need?

LaCAN will be sponsoring a Legislative Roundtable tentatively scheduled for late October. If you have a developmental disability or a child with a developmental disability and want your story heard, consider joining other LaCAN members at this annual g x g p v 0 " U g c v k p i " k u " n k o k v g f " u q " f q p o LaCAN g **Region 3 Leader Daniel Lirette at 985-447-4461, 985-720-6622, or request your reservation at [laCAN.region3@gmail.com](mailto:laCAN.region3@gmail.com)** 0 " F q p ø v " h q t i g v " v j g " C p p w c n " T c n n { " k u " e q o k p the Capitol, just sign up by contacting Daniel Lirette, LaCAN Leader-Region 3.



