

# SPIN NEWS

*The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Special Needs*

**September 2011**  
**Volume XVIII, No. 1**

SPIN is co-sponsored by the Disability & Communication Access Board and the Special Education Section of the Department of Education. Services include a phone line for information referral and support, a quarterly newsletter, an annual conference and community workshops. SPIN is guided by an Advisory Committee made up of parents, teachers and people with disabilities.

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Kauai - **274-3141**  
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## TARGETING READING SUCCESS

It's no secret that many students with IEPs struggle with reading. Hawaii's most recent statewide test of reading ability highlighted the huge gap between students with disabilities and their non-disabled classmates in meeting grade level reading goals. 68% of all students tested demonstrated that they had achieved their reading targets compared to only 17% of students receiving special education services. The special education scores actually slipped a few percentage points from 2010, which may have been due in part to a new Alternate Assessment that resulted in much lower scores for a subgroup of students who have the most significant disabilities.

This achievement gap between regular education and special education is not unique to Hawaii. That's part of the bad news. The good news is that there has been

a big investment over the last ten years in researching the skills needed to become a successful reader and the most effective ways to provide reading instruction.

Teachers and parents now have many more resources available to help our struggling readers. SPIN wants to introduce parents to some of those resources and help them to better understand their child's

reading problems. By becoming a more informed parent, you can not only help your child at home, but you can also advocate for your child's instructional needs at school.

On the next few pages, we will introduce some practical, research-based information about the building blocks of reading put together by Reading Rockets, The Access Center and LD On-line. The links to these federally funded websites are on page 3.



### 2011 NCLB Reading Assessment



Almost 7 in 10 of all public school students met the target










Less than 2 in 10 students with disabilities met the target

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# TARGETING READING SUCCESS continued from page 1

The table below and on page 3 describes the five building blocks or components of reading, what you might see at home, if your child had a problem with this component, and what you can do to help. In our December SPIN News issue, we'll talk about some other sources of reading difficulties.

 <b>Reading Component</b>	 <b>What I see at home</b>	 <b>What I can do to help</b>
 <b>Phonemic Awareness</b> The ability to focus on and use individual sounds in spoken words (phonemes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ difficulty thinking of rhyming words for a simple word like cat (such as rat or bat),</li> <li>✓ little interest in language play, word games, or rhyming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems, and songs.</li> <li>✓ Use computer games designed to build your child's phonemes.</li> <li>✓ Do sound-related activities, like helping your child think of words that start with the /ch/ sound.</li> <li>✓ Make sure the school's reading program includes phonemic awareness.</li> </ul>
 <b>Word Decoding and Phonics</b> The ability to apply your knowledge of letter-sound relationships, including letter patterns, to correctly pronounce written words. Phonics is one approach that teaches students these relationships and how to sound out words.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ very slow reading due to spending lots of time figuring out words,</li> <li>✓ difficulty understanding what is read because of the effort to sound out the words,</li> <li>✓ guessing at words based on the first letter or two,</li> <li>✓ getting stuck on words when reading.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Encourage your child to write and spell notes, e-mails, and letters using what he knows about sounds and letters.</li> <li>✓ Use computer software that focuses on developing phonics.</li> <li>✓ Talk with your child about the "irregular" words such as 'said' and 'was' that he needs to recognize "at sight."</li> </ul>
 <b>Vocabulary</b> The ability to understand what words mean. A reader cannot understand a reading passage or communicate effectively without knowing what most of the words mean.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ inability to tell about one's day in a way that makes sense,</li> <li>✓ misusing common words,</li> <li>✓ difficulty linking words from a book to similar words from another book or from real life,</li> <li>✓ difficulty finding the right word to describe something.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Help build your child's understanding of language by playing verbal games and telling jokes and stories.</li> <li>✓ Encourage your child to read on his or her own. The more children read, the more words they encounter and learn.</li> <li>✓ Talk with your child every day and include new and interesting words in your conversation.</li> </ul>
 <b>Fluency</b> The ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ reading with no expression,</li> <li>✓ stumbling a lot and losing one's place when reading something aloud,</li> <li>✓ moving one's mouth when reading silently.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Read aloud and have your child match his or her voice to yours.</li> <li>✓ Use books on tapes; have your child follow along in the print copy.</li> <li>✓ Support and encourage your child. Realize that he or she is likely to be frustrated by reading.</li> </ul>

# TARGETING READING SUCCESS continued from pages 1 & 2

The table below includes the last of the five building blocks or components of reading, what you might see at home, if your child had a problem with this component, and what you can do to help.

 <b>Reading Component</b>	 <b>What I see at home</b>	 <b>What I can do to help</b>
 <b>Reading Comprehension</b> The ability to understand and interpret what is read. This involves 1) decoding what is read, 2) making connections between what is read and what one already knows, and 3) thinking deeply about what's been read.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Difficulty summarizing a passage or a book,</li> <li>✓ Inability to explain why events in a story went the way they did,</li> <li>✓ Inability to explain what a character's thoughts or feelings might have been,</li> <li>✓ Inability to link events in a book to real life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Talk with your child about what your child has read. Ask him or her questions about the book and connect the events to his/her own life.</li> <li>✓ Help your child monitor his/her understanding. Teach him/her to continually ask whether he or she understands what he or she is reading.</li> <li>✓ Help your child make connections between what he or she reads and similar experiences she or he has felt, seen in a movie, or read elsewhere.</li> </ul>

## RESOURCES

**LD Online**  
[www.ldonline.org](http://www.ldonline.org)

LD OnLine is a leading website on learning disabilities, learning disorders and differences. They seek to help both children and adults achieve reading success.

**Reading Rockets**  
[www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

Their reading resources assist parents, teachers & other educators in helping struggling readers build fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

**The Access Center**  
[www.k8accesscenter.org](http://www.k8accesscenter.org)

This resource is an online newsletter committed to improving access to the general education curriculum for students with disabilities.

## The International

**DYSLEXIA**

### Association - Hawaii Branch (HIDA)



### Community Events

Are you interested in getting the facts about dyslexia and how it impacts your child or student? Then make sure to attend these *free* upcoming workshops being sponsored by the Hawaii International Dyslexia Association (HIDA).

9/13/11 **Journey Into Dyslexia** - This publicly praised documentary examines the complexities of the dyslexic brain and includes interviews with students and adults living with dyslexia.

10/11/11 **Dyslexia Panel** - An overview of dyslexia will be presented followed by a panel presentation of individuals who are dyslexic.

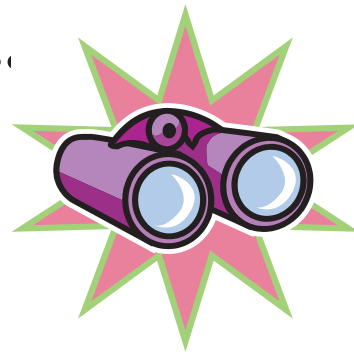
**Dyslexia Simulation Workshops** - Participate in hands-on awareness activities of what persons with dyslexia experience on a daily basis, including language related tasks followed by brief group discussion.

11/1 Honolulu

11/17 Big Island (site to be determined)

All events are held from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the HawaiiUSA Credit Union in Honolulu (unless otherwise noted).

# ZOOM IN ON THESE...



## UPCOMING MAUI EVENTS

Parents of children & youth with disabilities,  
Self-Advocates, Educators, Service Providers...

Don't miss out on the following events!

### **16th Annual Maui Disability Alliance Legislative Forum**

Thursday, October 20, 2011  
Wailuku Community Center  
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Meet state and county policymakers to discuss issues that include education, housing, transportation, health, family supports and more. There will be a resource fair and dinner will be provided.

### **Big MAC (Moving Across Community) High School Transition Event**

Thursday, February 9, 2012  
Wailuku Community Center  
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Maui Community Children's Councils (CCC), CCC Office, Department of Education, Very Special Arts Hawaii and the State Developmental Disabilities Council. It will feature a resource fair to help your child prepare for life after high school. There will be representatives from the community college, Social Security Administration, county transportation, health care programs, and other community agencies.

To find out more about both events, contact Mary Matsukawa at 984-8218, or email to [mary.matsukawa@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:mary.matsukawa@doh.hawaii.gov).

## **"ENGAGING IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN"**

The Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) will be hosting the 2011 Leadership Symposium and Early Childhood Conference, "*Engaging in the Lives of Children*" on October 7-8, 2011 at the Hawaii Convention Center.

Connect with other early childhood and pre-K to grade-3 educators from across the State to network and discuss cutting-edge research and teaching strategies and renew your professional commitment to early childhood education. Choose from over 100 workshops and seminars including health and nutrition, relationships and guidance, health and safety, teacher's curriculum, assessing your child's progress and much more. You'll also want to explore the popular Exhibit Hall.

The 2011 Conference has a tremendous variety of subjects to offer both seasoned professionals and future educators.

For a fee schedule and additional information, call 808-942-4708, or email to [haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org](mailto:haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org). Don't miss out on this exciting event!



\*\*\*\*\*

## **5th ANNUAL MAUI CHILDREN & YOUTH DAY**

Children and Youth Day comes to Maui with fun activities and entertainment for the whole family. The event runs from 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Kenolio Recreation Complex in North Kihei. For more details, contact Kihei Youth Center at 879-8698.



**CELEBRATE THE DAY!**  
**Sunday October 2, 2011**

**HO'OHANOHANO -**  
**HONOR OUR CHILDREN**

**CELEBRATE HAWAII'S KEIKI** Hawaii's Children and Youth Day is the first major event celebrating Children and Youth Month in October. This annual event is from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and will be held on the grounds of the State Capitol Building and extends to the adjacent government buildings in the surrounding area. Parking is free at all neighboring state and county public parking lots.

Enjoy a fun-filled day of free interactive, educational, and fun activities for the entire family. There will be non-stop entertainment, rides, guided tours, food and drink vendors, a robotics demonstration and competition and much more. You'll surely want to check out the "Teen Zone" and "Green Zone".

For more information about this exciting kick-off event and to learn about other activities in October celebrating Children and Youth Month, email Tyrell at [tmaae@thepaf.org](mailto:tmaae@thepaf.org) or call Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland's office at 586-6130. Celebrate the day with your keiki and family!



**HAWAII FAMILIES AS ALLIES**  
**Workshops**



Hawaii Families As Allies (HFAA) is offering the following workshops at the Mayor Wright Housing Community

- Hall (Oahu) from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon:
- 9/28/11 - Procedural Safeguards
- 10/26/11 - "When the Chips are down... Learning Disabilities and Discipline"
- 11/23/11 - "How Difficult Can This Be?"

- Additional sessions will be held at the Kaimuki Christian Church from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.:
- 10/10/11, 12/12/11 - Systems of Care
- 11/14/11 - Procedural Safeguards

For these workshops, RSVP only to Nette at (808) 487-8785 or (808) 723-4222 or [antonette.tulenkun@hfaa.net](mailto:antonette.tulenkun@hfaa.net). Dates and times are subject to change.

HFAA also hosts parents support groups and other workshops throughout the state and offers a 6-week Common Sense Parenting course.

Give HFAA a call at 487-8785 to learn more about other informational sessions and parent support meetings in your community.



**TALK STORY FESTIVAL**

The City & County of Honolulu Parks Department presents the 23rd Annual Talk Story Festival from October 7-8, 2011 at the McCoy Pavillion, Ala Moana Park.

This free festival features some of Hawaii's best storytellers and a few mainland guests. On Friday, October 7, you'll be entertained with the "SPOOKIES" and on Saturday you can participate in a Story Workshop (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) followed by more "True Life Tales" (6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.).

Contact Jeff Gere at [jgere@honolulu.gov](mailto:jgere@honolulu.gov) or call 768-3032 for more information.

\*\* A neighbor island touring will follow. Email to [jeffgere@lava.net](mailto:jeffgere@lava.net) for dates and location on your island.

## KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR...

Please help the Department of Education (DOE) improve educational services for children in our state.

Don't forget to complete the DOE Parent Survey that will be given out at your Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting.

For more information, contact Taren Taguchi at 203-5563.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMIT

If you are interested in children and youth issues and are willing to help develop priority actions to address them, then make sure to attend the 18th Annual Children and Youth Summit, on Thursday, October 13, 2011.

Sponsored by the Hawaii State Legislature's Keiki Caucus, the Summit will be held at the State Capitol Auditorium from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and will also include policymakers.

To request a registration form or to gain information about this event, contact Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland at 586-6130.

## CARE HAWAII TRAININGS

Care Hawaii will be offering the following *free* workshops:

9/16 - ***Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders***

presented by Martha White

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Maui Community College

9/27 - ***De-Escalation Strategies***

Trainer Jennifer Katres

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Oahu

10/6 - 5:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m. - Hilo

10/21 - ***Behavioral Interventions for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and/or Autism***

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cameron Center Auditorium - Maui

12/1 - ***Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) and Autism***

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Hilo

To learn more about these trainings and/or to register, contact Bianca at 791-6091 or email to bianca.mordasini@carehawaii.com.

## "BUDDY WALK" HAWAII

Get inspired and spend a fun day with your family at the Hawaii Down Syndrome Congress' 12th Annual "Buddy Walk" and first inaugural 5K Buddy Run on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the Kapiolani

Registration begins at 6:00 a.m. The starts at 8:00 a.m. Folks like to join asked to make pledge.



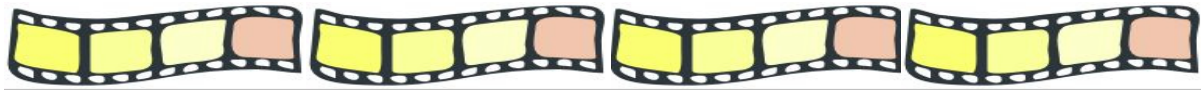
Bandstand. begins at 6:00 one mile walk a.m. and the 5k a start at 7:30 who would the walk are a donation

Enjoy a host of activities that include an informational resource fair, food booths, entertainment, special guest Frank DeLima, Ron Short "Elvis" impersonator and much more. Build team spirit and organize your group from work, school or community organization and make a pledge so you can be eligible to win a Best Buddy award.

Volunteers are always needed on the day of the event so consider taking advantage of this opportunity to get involved.

Call Cheryl at 672-6444 or 259-0351 or go to [www.hidownsyndrome.com](http://www.hidownsyndrome.com) for more information.

# FRIENDS IN FOCUS



Celebrating  
Children's Mental Health  
Awareness Day



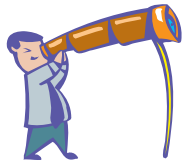
Photos taken by Ricky Li



Governor Abercrombie signs into law Act 220 which changes references in the Hawaii Revised Statutes to replace the term “mental retardation,” with “intellectual disabilities.”

“Big MAC” (Moving Across  
Community) team at  
2011 Pac Rim Conference





# LOOK OUT FOR THE DATES...

9/16 **Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii (LDAH) Traveling Mini-Conference**  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Tokai University  
Contact LDAH at 536-9684.

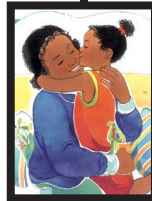
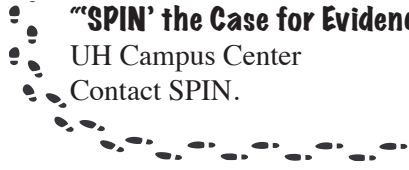
9/30 **Strengthening Families Affected by Incarceration Summit**  
Keynote: Maya Soetoro-Ng, Ph.D.  
Manoa Grand Ballroom (Oahu)  
Call for fee schedule and to register at 843-2502 or go to [www.keikiokaaina.org](http://www.keikiokaaina.org).

9/18 **Planning for the Future of Your Child:**  
10/12 **Financial Planning for Special Needs Families**  
Sponsored by Hawaii Financial Companies  
For times and locations, call Kirk at 258-3733.

10/4 **Mental Health America in Maui - Brown Bag "Co-Occurring Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Mental Illness"**  
Noon - 1:00 p.m., Cameron Center, Maui  
Call 242-6461.

12/16 **Future Horizons Autism Conference**  
Date is tentative. Call 1-817-277-0727 or go to <http://www.fhautism.com>.

4/21/12 **26th Annual SPIN Conference "SPIN' the Case for Evidence Based"**  
UH Campus Center  
Contact SPIN.



**October is Children & Youth Month...  
Have you hugged your keiki today?**



**Special Parent Information Network**  
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