



PARENT CONNECT

An Anchorage School District link to Special Education

Parent Connect is a bi-annual newsletter e-mailed each school semester to families of Anchorage School District Special Education students. It is produced by the ASD STEP Center (Student-Parent-Educator Center), a resource center for everyone. For more information regarding this newsletter: call 742-3872 or e-mail STEP@asdk12.org.

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Statement of non-discrimination:
The Anchorage School Board is committed to a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, national origin, economic status, handicap, and other human differences protected by law. No person shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of educational opportunities and services, academic or extracurricular, offered by the district.

Alaska Family Directory Southcentral Region



Where can I go to find out what's happening in Anchorage for children with special needs?

How do I know what agencies serve my community?

Where can I get information on disability topics?

THE ALASKA FAMILY DIRECTORY

www.asdk12.org/afd

907-742-3874

The Alaska Family Directory is a website funded by a grant from the Alaska Dept. of Education and Early Development and maintained by the Anchorage School District's STEP Center. Included on the website are event calendars and educational opportunities for parents, educators as well as community organizations that provide assistance to families of children with special needs in specific geographic regions of Alaska. A feature of the event calendar is a direct link to the activity sponsor along with contact information. The Alaska Family Directory is also the home of *AK Connect*, Alaska's statewide disability newsletter.

What activities & camps are happening this summer?

Visit the website to see a flyer on Summer activities for children with special needs. All of the contact information is included in the the flyer, and it is updated as more information is available. This flyer is posted at: www.asdk12.org/afd

Here are some of the activities that are listed on the flyer:

- Adam's Camp (for children with autism ages 4-12)
- Alaska Diabetes Camp
- Alpine Alternatives & Camp Abilities
- Benefe Equine Assisted Therapy Center (Chugiak)
- Equine Assisted Therapy Alaska (Anchorage)
- Hope Community Resources Discovery Center Camps
- Challenge Alaska (Adaptive Sports)
- Focus Inc. (Eagle River Day Camps)
- Stone Soup Group: Play Days & Wii Club
- TOPSoccer (Special needs-age 4 and up)



Resources at the STEP Center

Books and DVDs

Have fun this summer...get out and play!

Books and media may be checked out of the STEP Center.



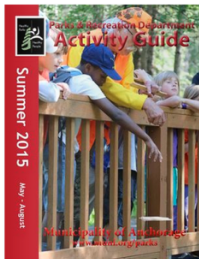
The STEP Center will be closed for the Summer Break. It will reopen when school resumes in August.

For more information contact the
STEP Center: 742-3872
or visit us:
ASD Education Center
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

We apologize for
any inconvenience.



Community Connections



The Municipality of Anchorage

Summer Activity Guide 2015 - Your guide to the Municipality of Anchorage Parks & Recreation programs, activities, and facility schedules from May to August 2015. To view this guide & register for activities go to:
www.muni.org/departments/parks/pages/activityguide.aspx

For families needing free access to computers & internet, visit the municipal public libraries.



Anchorage Youth Central
<http://www.anchorageyouthcentral.org/>

This website has links to local resources:

- **Employment:** Job Skills, Disability Support Service, etc.
- **Education:** Tutoring, GED, Postsecondary Education, Disability Support Services, Scholarships, etc.
- **Health and Wellness:** Mental Health & Counseling, Substance Abuse, Suicide Prevention, Reproductive Health/ STI & HIV Testing, etc.
- **Get Involved:** Que Pasa Anchorage Link, Summer Opportunities, Sports, Safe Hangouts, Culture, Technology, etc.
- **Crisis and Emergency:** 24 Hour Crisis Line/Suicide Prevention, Family Violence/Abuse/Bullying, Emergency/Transitional Housing, Food Assistance, Homelessness, etc.
- **Public Assistance:** Hunger/Food Assistance, SSI (Social Security Benefits), Medical, Housing and Utilities
- **Family Services:** Legal Services, Juvenile Justice, Family Counseling/Mediation, Emancipation, Disability Support Services, Parenting Support, Food Assistance, etc.
- **Other:** Volunteering, Mentorship, Transportation, Culture, etc.

Bits and Pieces

Bouncin' Bears:

Bouncin' Bears is Anchorage's largest inflatable playland. Special Needs Night at Bouncin' Bears is FREE to all special needs children. (Siblings- \$6). It is the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6-7:30pm. Tell your friends. If no one comes in the first 20 minutes they will close Special Needs Night early. They encourage everyone in the Special Needs community to come play and spread the word. If you want monthly reminders please let them know and you can be contacted by email.

Location: Bouncin' Bears, 501 W. International Airport Rd Suite 28, Anchorage, AK

Contact phone:
(907) 522-3277



Website:

www.bouncinbearsanchorage.com/index.html

Special Olympics Alaska Sports, Health and Wellness Center



Special Olympics State Games:
June 5-7, 2015

2015 Camp Shriver Alaska
July 13-24, 2015

Camp Shriver is a two-week summer sports camp for middle and high school students with and without intellectual disabilities. Camp Shriver provides participating campers an opportunity to realize their potential in sports, develop physical fitness and experience the joys and friendships that are an integral part of camp.

For more information:
Sarah Arts, Director of Sports & Programs
907-222-7625 ext 601
sarah@specialolympicsalaska.org

Alaska Center for Resource Families Needs Foster Parents!

The Alaska Center For Resource Families (ACRF) provides a continuum of services to Alaska foster parents, adoptive parents, relative caretakers and guardians. Their vision is that all resource families in Alaska have the information, training, support and skills to provide quality care to the children in their homes.

Pre- and post adoption and guardianship support services are available regardless of whether you adopted through the foster care system, internationally, tribally or privately. Services include an extensive resource library, adoption preparation training, case management, education through self-study courses or on-site and telephonic trainings, support, referrals and crisis management. Services are free.

For more information:

Phone: 279-1799

email: acrfs@nwresource.org

Address: 840 K St. Suite 101, Anchorage



Down Syndrome Connections

www.akdownsyndrome.org

The Alaska Chapter of the National Down Syndrome Congress (ACDSC) is reaching out in a variety of ways to connect with families and interested community members.

- **e-mail:** To get on the e-mail list, go to the ACDSC website Home Page and click on "Join Our Mailing List". Don't forget to check your inbox AND your "junk" folder for e-mail messages from "Alaska Down Syndrome Congress" (alaskads@gmail.com)
- **website:** The group website is www.akdownsyndrome.org and is regularly updated with current information. There are links to helpful information, lists of educational books and videos, and contact information for the group's board members.
- **Phone:** The group's message phone is: (907) 677-6677. Feel free to call with questions, support needs, or advocacy issues. Please leave a message so that someone can return your call as soon as possible.
- **Facebook:** Go to the ACDSC website Home Page and click on the button "Click Here to Join Us on Facebook"
 - Public Page ("Alaska Down Syndrome Congress"): "Like" the page to get automatic updates.
 - Private group ("Alaska Down Syndrome Group"): This is open to members only to discuss topics that are not shared with people outside the group. To join, contact Michelle Hofacker (polar_mom@hotmail.com) and give her your information.
 - Baby/Toddler Group: "AKDA Playgroup for Babies and Toddlers". To join, type the name of the group in Facebook & "join".

Looking Ahead: Please join the ACDSC group for some of their upcoming events:

- **Movie: "Menschen"** (<http://www.menschenthemovie.com/>):
Sunday, May 9th, 7:00pm at the Wilda Marston Theatre in the Loussac Library
- **Family Picnic:** Thursday, June 11th from 5:00-9:00pm at the Abbott Loop Community Park
- **Annual Meeting:** November (TBA) Includes 2-day workshop on "Teaching Reading", Speaker: Sue Buckley, London, England
- **Christmas Party:** Saturday, Dec. 5th at Changepoint Church (time: TBA)



Anchorage School District Dates to Remember

Second Semester of 2015-16 School Year

End of Fourth Quarter: May 21, 2015 (Last Day of school for students)

Teachers' Last Day: May 22, 2015

Memorial Day: May 25, 2015



Looking Ahead: Dates for the 2015-16 School Year

Classes Begin (except K-1): August 19, 2015

K-1 Classes Begin: August 26, 2015

Labor Day Holiday: Sept. 7, 2015 (no school)

End of First Quarter: Oct. 16, 2015 (State released grade reporting day-students do not attend school)

Parent Conference Days: Oct. 21, 22, 2015 (Check with your school for specific schedules, release times)

State Released Professional Development Day: Oct. 23, 2015 (no school for students)

Thanksgiving Holiday: Nov. 26, 27, 2015 (no school)

End of Second Quarter: Dec. 18, 2015 (State released grade reporting day-students do not attend school)