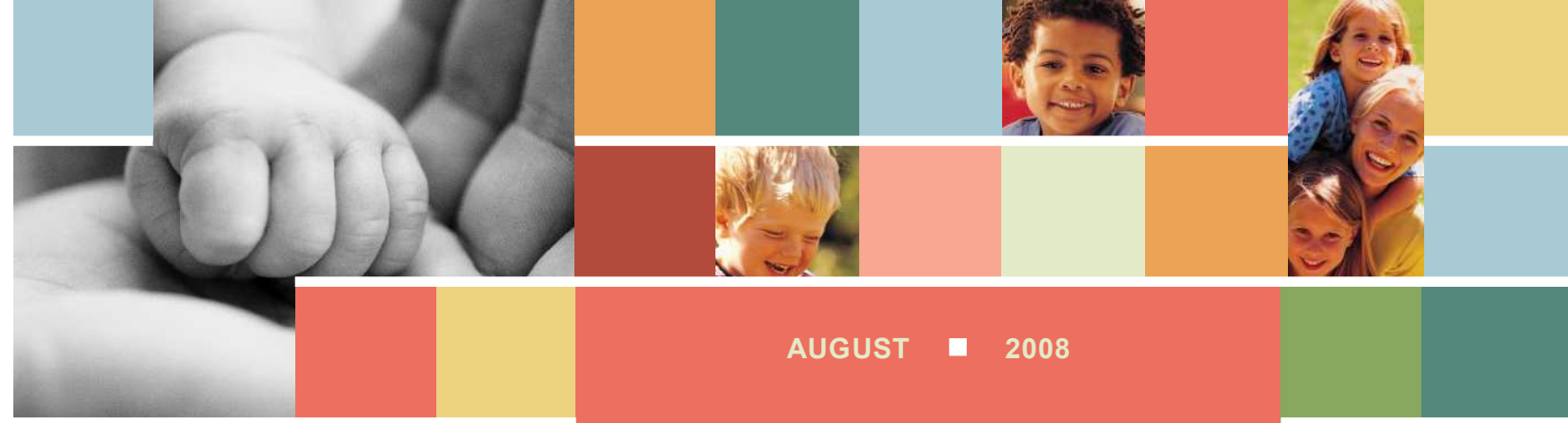


935 S. COLLEGIATE DRIVE, PARIS, TX 75460



AUGUST 2008

Down Syndrome Digest

Play 2 Learn Opens Fall Enrollment

THE LEARNING PROGRAM WHICH STARTED AS A PILOT PROGRAM IN MARCH 2008 WILL HOLD FALL ENROLLMENT AUGUST 1- 31, 2008—ADDING NEW ASPECTS AND INSTRUCTION.

The Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society is excited to begin the fall term of Play 2 Learn with classes now on Thursday evenings as well as on Saturdays. Registration will be open to children with Down syndrome as well as those who do not have DS. The program is aimed at children who learn differently and benefit from specific teaching strategies...and this may fit other children with or without cognitive disabilities. If you feel that your child might benefit from supplemental instruction, we invite you to contact us for further information.

New policies for the 2008 Fall Term will include not only the option of students attending up to two classes per month (a Thursday evening and Saturday morning), but also the addition of parental instruction during class time. Parents will be given opportunities to see the hand-out materials and learn strategies to use at home with those materials. It is a large part of the vision of P2L—teaching parents how to teach their children so the learning process continues at home.

There will be three classes offered: Mommy & Me (2-3 year olds), Pre-Kindergarten (4-5 year olds), and Elementary I (6-10 year olds). Class size is limited to 6 students. Registration will be first-come, first-served, with priority given to returning students. Students missing two months of classes without prior approval of the P2L coordinator will lose their place in their program.

The program remains at no charge, but registration and membership in RRVDS is necessary. (Membership in our organization is also free.) To register online, please go to our website at www.redriverdss.org and click on the Play 2 Learn logo on the main page. If you would like to register in paper form, call 903-783-1922 to have a form mailed to you or to make arrangements to pick one up at our resource center in Paris. To donate your time or money to this program, contact RRVDS today!



What's Inside:

FALL ENROLLMENT OF PLAY 2 LEARN PAGE 1

FALL WORKSHOP SERIES PAGE 2

SPEAKER AND TOPIC IDEAS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE PAGE 2

HOW TO RAISE \$500 IN 7 DAYS FOR A SUCCESSFUL BUDDY WALK TEAM PAGE 3

Next Issue:

GUEST ARTICLE BY A SIBLING OF A PERSON WITH DOWN SYNDROME

BUDDY WALK UPDATE

NDSC NATIONAL CONVENTION WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

UPDATE ON NEW PROGRAMS FOR RRVDS

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

The 2008 Red River Valley Buddy Walk is just a couple of months away and already plans are underway to make it the biggest and best ever. But we need your help! Putting on a

WE LISTEN. WE ACT. WE CARE. successful awareness and fundraising event

takes the energy of lots of wonderful volunteers and donors. If you are interested in volunteering on the day of the walk, please contact Buddy Walk Volunteer Co-Chair Tiffany Phillips at (903) 982-7547 or by e-mail at buddywalk@rrvdss.org. If you wish to help by finding sponsors to help fund the walk, please contact Deanna Tharpe at RRVDS at (903) 783-1922 or again, by e-mailing buddywalk@rrvdss.org. It's a fun ride—and we'd love to have you!!!



PLEASE CONTACT RRVDS AT 903.783.1922 OR VISIT WWW.REDRIVERDSS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society

IT'S A FACT:

5,000 babies with Down syndrome are born each year in the United States.

FALL WORKSHOP SERIES



It will soon be "Back to School" for everyone, and so it is a fitting time for RRVDS to hold our first Fall Workshop Series. One Saturday morning during the months of September, October, and November, the society will present a workshop on a topic relating to Down syndrome or other disability-related issue. Each workshop will be free but we request that you do register for the workshop in advance so that we can provide adequate seating.

September's workshop will be on "The Research of Sue Buckley: Teaching Persons with Down Syndrome with Promising Results." The workshop will cover the successful work of Dr. Buckley, the programs available free online and how to use them, the success of a learning program in California and how RRVDS is using that program's success and Sue Buckley's research in our very own Play 2 Learn program. The workshop is scheduled for September 20, 2008 beginning at 10 am at the DS Resource Center in the Village Shopping Center in Paris. Registration is available online at www.redriverdss.org or by phone at (903) 783-1922.

Two other workshops on Behavior and Sibling Issues will be held in October and November with exact dates to be announced later. Childcare will be available for the workshops if needed, but registration will be required ONE WEEK prior to the workshop. If you have not pre-registered with your childcare requirements, we cannot guarantee to have childcare available.

THE BATTLE CONTINUES

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN FROM THE NDSC/NDSS GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DEPT.

By a vote of 52-40, the Senate voted on Monday, July 28, against proceeding to debate of S. 3297, the Advancing America's Priorities act, which bundled together the Prenatal and Postnatal Diagnosis Conditions Awareness Act (known as the Kennedy-Brownback Bill) and many other bills into one piece of legislation. Unfortunately, we fell eight votes short of the 60 that were required for the Senate to begin consideration of S. 3297.

This does not mean that the bill is dead. We need you to remain

vigilant and hopeful. This session of Congress is not over. We still have an opportunity to pass S.

3297 this year, so it's absolutely critical that yesterday's disappointment not deter us from our goal. Our work will continue when Congress returns from its summer recess in September. Yesterday's vote was not a reflection of lack of support for the Kennedy-Brownback legislation. Indeed, the bill was reported out favorably in a bipartisan vote by the Senate Health Education Labor Pensions

(HELP) Committee. Unfortunately, S. 3297 and the Kennedy-Brownback legislation be-

"Election year politics are having an impact on every issues debated by the Senate."

came caught up in a broader disagreement between political parties about out matter not related to Kennedy-Brownback. Election year politics are having an impact on every issue debated by the Senate.

Our efforts will continue. We all agree about the importance of this legislation and will let you know when your advocacy ef-

forts will be the most timely and effective. If you have questions, contact Madeleine Will at mwill@ndss.org or Susan Goodman at Susang1961@aol.com.

Wondering why the small newsletter this month?

Computer problems have impacted RRVDS this past week and a wonderful, informative, much longer newsletter is alive inside a crashed hard drive.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: What Topics Interest You?

THIS YEAR, AS OUR ORGANIZATION STARTS TO PLAN OUR 2009 CONFERENCE, WE WANT TO MAKE A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ASK OUR MEMBERS FOR SUGGESTIONS.

Each year, RRVDS hosts an educational conference for those families or professionals interested in learning more about Down syndrome and issues affecting them. In 2009, our focus will expand to include not only the topic of Down syndrome, but developmental delays and cognitive disabilities as well. As our organization sees a need in the community, we try to do our best to help

in any way we can. Although we cannot address all the needs of parents of children of different disabilities, we do want to offer what we can. The conference will remain at no charge with registration necessary to attend. Information will be available on our website and in our upcoming newsletters as more planning is completed. So, as parents and professionals, we ask your opinion: What type of information would you like to see presented at next year's conference? In the past, we have offered breakout sessions on medical issues like General Health Concerns in

Children with DS, Ear, Nose and Throat Issues, and so on. We have brought in therapists to speak on issues...do you have a specific issue in mind? Often, education is of great interest to our members. We have offered workshops on inclusion, differentiated instruction, Touch Math, Teaching Reading to Children with Down syndrome and other Children who are Visual Learners. And parenting concerns in general

are always included in our conference including workshops given by parents on raising a child with a disability.

Now, your turn! E-mail us at info@rrvdss.org with your suggestions or call us at (903) 783-1922. Tell us what topic you'd like to see at our conference and why. Or if you are



familiar with a speaker, give us a heads up! Remember, our speakers are all donating their time. To offer the conference at no charge to attendees, we cannot pay speaker fees.

How To Raise \$500 in 7 Days

WONDERING HOW TO BUILD A SUCCESSFUL BUDDY WALK TEAM FOR THE 2008 WALK? NOW IS THE TIME TO START AND WE'RE GIVING YOU EASY WAYS TO DO IT WITH LITTLE EFFORT.



Ask your friends, neighbors, co-workers, family members, and others you do business with to support you and our organization by sponsoring your team for \$5, \$10, \$20 or more! Bring your family and friends to the walk to advocate on behalf of all people with Down syndrome. We encourage walkers to collect their donations prior to the walk. Remember, money raised will benefit the Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society and this community. Only 25% of our net proceeds is sent to the national organization to further research and advocacy efforts.

Remember...register your team online or by phone early so that we can help you with your fundraising efforts, have your team sign made and order your walker's t-shirts prior to the cut-off date of September 12, 2008. Go online or call us today!

How to Raise \$500 in 7 Days:

- Day 1: Start by sponsoring yourself for \$25
- Day 2: Ask 3 family members to sponsor you for \$25
- Day 3: Ask 5 friends to donate \$15
- Day 4: Ask 5 co-workers to sponsor you for \$10
- Day 5: E-mail 15 people and ask for a \$10 donation
- Day 6: Ask your company for a \$75 contribution
- Day 7: Ask 2 businesses you frequent for \$25

There you are: \$500 in just 7 days!