



Charles County Parent Center

Newsletter

Spring 2022

Thanks for a Great Year!

We are approaching the end of the 2021-2022 school year. We have been glad to serve you this year in helping meet your family's needs through IEP support, workshops, and our annual Special Education Conference.

This is our last newsletter for the school year. You'll find flyers for upcoming events after the resources pages. Please keep up to date with us through our emails and website as we make announcements for the next year!

We hope that it's been a positive year for you and wish you a great summer, filled with rest and fun.

Upcoming Events

The Special Education Resource Center (SERC) of Baltimore County Public Schools is offering free online parent trainings. If you have any questions about any of the following, please email SERC@bcps.org.

Being a Social Media Liaison: Social Media Strategies for Parents, Guardians, and Caretakers of Individuals with I/DD—Wednesday, May 25, 2022 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Social media use has many benefits for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD), including maintaining connections with others, being included within the digital world/society, and having a way to contact others in case of an emergency. However, there are also dangers and risks that come with using social media. In this presentation, social media safety strategies and resources formed specifically for parents, guardians, and caretakers supporting positive and safe social media use for their family member with I/DD will be shared. At the closure of this webinar, opportunities to ask questions will be given. Presented by Dr. Mary Jo Krile, Assistant Professor, Eastern Kentucky University Register via Eventbrite: <https://sercsocialmedialiason.eventbrite.com>

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Upcoming Events (Cont'd)

Wonder Words: Using the Power of Language to Help Kids Learn and Thrive—

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 6:30 - 8:00 PM

The spoken word is the primary tool adults use to educate, motivate, and positively influence the social and emotional health of children and youth. In this workshop, parents and helping adults will learn the three pillars of "Wonder Words" to elevate the critical tool of verbally engaging with kids: 1) Word choice; 2) Delivery style and 3) Context. Strategies for building emotionally safe environments, boosting motivation, shaping behavior, developing effective academic habits, and promoting resilience will be shared and practiced. Participants will walk away from this learning experience with practices they can apply immediately to respond to the needs and opportunities children and youth bring to our ever-changing home and learning contexts. Presented by Frank Kros, MSW, JD, Kros Learning Group Register via Eventbrite: <https://serc wonder words.eventbrite.com>

10 Top Parenting Tools: Breaking Them Down and Putting Them into Action

Tuesday, June 7, 2022 12:00-1:30 PM <https://serc top parenting tools day.eventbrite.com>

OR

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 6:30-8:00 <https://serc top parenting tools night.eventbrite.com>

In "Home Behavior Management" or "Parenting" workshops we often learn only the basics about many parenting tools and strategies. This workshop aims to go beyond the basics and teach you the "how-to". We will delve specifically into steps required to effectively create and/or implement 10 common parenting tools. Tools and strategies broken down for immediate use include "Giving Good Directions, Creating Charts, Chore Charts, Choosing Effective Rewards, Giving Meaningful Consequences, Over Correction and Positive Practice, Setting up Homework Routines, Teaching Perspective Taking Skills, Managing Bedtime, and Being an Active Listener". Presented by Tana Hope, Ph.D. The Child and Family Therapy Clinic at Kennedy Krieger Institute

The Charles County Parent Center is a resource center for families with children with disabilities and is supported by the Maryland State Department of Education. The main purpose of the center is to provide the skills, resources, and knowledge that will enable families and professionals to partner in the educational decision-making process.

Our staff includes parents who have a child/children with disabilities and people who have worked closely to support those families. We are trained in the IEP process and understand the difficulties you may face. We are available to assist you with finding information and resources to help support you and your family's needs. We can set up one-to-one meetings and attend IEP meetings at your request.

The Parent Center is located in the F.B. Gwynn Center and provides newsletters, information, materials, lending library, computer stations, and a variety of free parent training workshops.

Contact us!

F.B. Gwynn Center
5998 Radio Station Road
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 934-7456
pfs@ccboe.com

Helpful Resources



The Charles County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) needs parent and community participation. This group enables the Director of Special Education to seek meaningful input from parents, community partners, service providers, and school administrators on local issues relative to the provision of a free and appropriate public education and the achievement of students with disabilities.

(301) 539-9102

charlescountyscac@gmail.com

www.charlescountyscac.com

SECAC typically meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. The meetings are currently being held virtually. Please visit the SECAC website to learn more.



The Parents' Place of Maryland began in 1990 as a grass-roots effort of families, professionals, and community leaders determined to provide resources, support, and information to parents of children with disabilities and special health care needs. Our philosophy of “families

helping families” reflects our commitment to supporting families of diverse backgrounds. Today, the Parents' Place offers a variety of programs and services that continue to support families of children with disabilities and special health care needs. Serving as Maryland's Parent Training and Information Center and Family-to-Family Health Information Center, Parents' Place supports thousands of Maryland families each year. Parents' Place, staffed primarily by parents who have faced these challenges, believes that experienced parents are a key source of knowledge and support to help other families become effective voices for their own children. Please explore the website to

802 Cromwell Park Dr. Ste. Q

Glen Burnie, MD 21061

1-800-394-5694



Maryland Learning Links is the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services' (DEI/SES) online portal providing educators and leaders with

the special education resources, guidance, and professional learning resources they need to improve outcomes and narrow the gap for students with disabilities.

Our mission is to close existing gaps between children with disabilities and their non-disabled peers by fine-tuning our key measures of success and key strategies for implementation and expanding our innovative tools, resources, and evidence-based practices.

200 W. Baltimore St.

Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: 410-767-0238

Fax: 410-767-2488

<https://marylandlearninglinks.org/>





The Charles County Autism & Developmental Disabilities Parent Support Group is a local community support group with the intention of providing a safe, supportive space for parents of autistic & developmentally disabled kids. Meetings are on the first of Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Come together monthly for mutual support, connection, & resource-sharing. You can also join their [private Facebook group](#) for ongoing community and support. If you have additional questions, feel free to connect with them via email at ccparentgroup@gmail.com.

Facebook Group URL: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/373251254508748>



Wrightslaw offers a variety of special education law and advocacy programs taught by nationally-recognized experts in the field of special education law and advocacy. Wrightslaw special education law and advocacy programs are designed to meet the needs of parents, advocates, educators, attorneys, and health care providers who represent children with disabilities.

Pete Wright is an attorney who represents children with special educational needs. His advocacy grew out of his personal educational experiences.

Learn More about Pete Wright, Esquire and Wrightslaw:

<https://www.wrightslaw.com/>



Since 2014, Understood has served millions of families of kids who learn and think differently.

145 Hudson Street, Suite 5B
New York, NY 10013–2150

<https://www.understood.org/en>

Our programs for Families, Educators, and Young Adults focus on empowering people who learn and think differently and those who support them, offering customized, accessible resources and a compassionate community. We work with educators, health care professionals, researchers, and human resource professionals to provide proven, vetted information.

Learn How to Tell If Your Child's Difficulties "are serious enough" For an Evaluation

It can be hard to know when to have your child evaluated. You may wonder if your child will outgrow difficulties, or if they're serious enough for you to take action. But just being concerned may be reason enough to look into it. Our friends at Understood.org have helpful tools to know when to ask for an evaluation, what happens in an evaluation and what the benefits of evaluations are. <https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/evaluations/evaluation-basics/deciding-on-an-evaluation>

5 Common Misconceptions About IEPs

We might know what an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is, but the details can sometimes be tricky. Myths and false assumptions about IEPs abound. Here are five common misconceptions—and the facts about each.

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/ieps/5-common-misconceptions-about-ieps#slide-1>

How to Organize Your Child's IEP Binder

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/ieps/how-to-organize-your-childs-iep-binder>

FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND PARENTS AND
CAREGIVERS WITH CHILDREN AGES 0-5

Purposeful Parenting Workshop & Book Discussion

Loving well begins with loving YOU! Caring for children from a place of genuine love, authenticity and compassion begins with loving yourself first. However, many of us tend to put self-love on the back burner. In this workshop you will explore the drawbacks of putting yourself last and will be equipped with practical strategies on how to make yourself a priority so that you are free to give children the love they need and deserve.

Each attendee will receive a copy of the book *Purposeful Parenting*. Breakfast is included.

Questions? Contact Angie McRae at 443-546-0617 or amcrae@mdcoalition.org

Register at: <https://sforce.co/3x9Z4jL>



Guest Speaker:
Tyra Lane-
Kingsland, Author



Saturday, May 21
10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Charlotte Hall Library
37600 New Market Rd, Charlotte
Hall, MD 20622

Maryland Coalition of Families Presents

FAMILY FUN DAY

Fun for all ages!

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND
BLUE CRABS**



**LONG ISLAND
DUCKS**

**SUNDAY, MAY 22
REGENCY FURNITURE STADIUM
WALDORF, MD
2:00 P.M.**

Hotdogs, burgers and drinks provided

Register at: <https://sforce.co/37BEH4f>



FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Toddler Playdate

at Imaginarium Indoor Playspace

Bring the kids out to play and enjoy some social time with other parents! Learn more about Maryland Coalition of Families and enjoy a free lunch.

For more information, contact **Angie McRae** at 443-546-0617 or amcrae@mdcoalition.org

Register at: <https://sforce.co/3Kf3x8B>

Tuesday, May 24
12:00 -1:30 PM

Imaginarium Indoor Playspace
13360 HG Truman Rd.
Solomons, MD 20688



FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND PARENTS AND
CAREGIVERS WITH CHILDREN AGES 0-5

May is for Moms Spa Basket Giveaway



Each day in May, one lucky mom will win a FREE spa basket! Winners will be announced on Mondays on the MCF Early Childhood Family Support Facebook page. Winners can pick up their basket at MCF's regional office on Thursdays from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

Here's how to enter:

Like the MCF Early Childhood Family Support for So. Maryland Facebook page Register on the May is for Moms event page: <https://mdcoalition.force.com/s/detail/7012M000002138f>

Questions? Contact Angie McRae at amcrae@mdcoalition.org or 443-546-0617

Your choice of three great baskets!



Basket Pickup Location:
MCF Regional Office
105 Paul Mellon Ct. #16,
Waldorf, MD 20602

What We Say Matters: Using Language to Boost Student Motivation, Engagement, and Success

Friday, May 27, 2022
9:00 am to 4:30

Bay District Volunteer Fire Department
46900 South Shangri-La Dr.
Lexington Park, MD 20653



Facilitator: Shauna F. King, Ed.S.
Educator, Author, Speaker
Twitter @shaunafking
www.shaunafking.com
shaunafking@gmail.com

Do you recall being told “sticks and stones will break your bones, but words will never hurt you?” We all know this is NOT TRUE! A teacher's words can be tools of torture *or vehicles of encouragement and hope*. Using positive language in the classroom can have an incredible impact on student learning and development. Through a review of evidence-based practices and neuroscience discoveries, participants will gain skills in boosting motivation, maximizing engagement, and building positive relationships with students. This highly engaging session will include short lectures, group discussions, and structured experiences to equip participants for using positive language to promote classroom and school success. Participants will leave the session reinvigorated and excited to use what they've learned.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Shauna F. King is a self-proclaimed “Yelling Teacher In Recovery” who helps teachers and other adults across the country (and internationally) do a better job of helping children learn and excel. She is a former principal, Positive Behavior Supports coordinator, published author, and classroom teacher with over 20 years of experience in public and non-public school settings. Shauna is currently adjunct faculty for LaSalle University and a school climate coach with The University of Maryland Positive Schools Center. She has presented her communication and teaching strategies both nationally and internationally.

This workshop is free to parents and teachers; however, registration is required.

Bring your own bagged lunch for a 60-minute lunch break

Please bring a mask

The deadline to register is Monday, May 23, 2022

**To register, please contact Robyn Roberts at
partnersforsuccess@smcps.org.**



PODD 2 Day Introductory Workshop
Multi-Modal Communication Strategies
for Children Who Have Complex Communication Needs
Carroll County Public Schools



Dates: June 16 & 17, 2022 (you must fully attend both days)
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day, Check in 8:00 a.m. on June 16, 2022
Location: Winter's Mill High School
560 Gorsuch Road, Westminster, MD 21157

Breakfast snacks and materials are included. Bring your own coffee and water. Lunch is on your own or you can pack. There is refrigeration and a microwave available.

Audience: *Speech and Language Pathologists, assistive technology specialists, special educators, related service personnel, parents and others working with children with limited speech.*

Presented by Carroll County Public Schools



Molly Riggs and Melissa Freeman, certified PODD presenters

Molly Riggs is a Speech Language Pathologist and Assistive Technology Practitioner with over 30 years of experience in the field of assistive technology and augmentative communication. She has trained extensively with Gayle Porter, the author of the PODD communication books, and is a certified PODD trainer.

Melissa Freeman is a Speech Language Pathologist and Assistive Technology Professional with 19 years of experience in the field of assistive technology and augmentative communication. She has trained with Gayle Porter and received her PODD trainer certification.

Children who have complex communication needs (little or no speech), often benefit from augmentative and alternative communication to support interaction. This may include children who have physical disabilities, multiple disabilities, sensory processing challenges, autism, and a range of other developmental challenges.

This two-day course will demonstrate the use of a Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) approach developed by Gayle Porter (Melbourne, Australia). PODD is a language organization system used in communication books and AAC devices. The PODD system focuses on providing language to support genuine communication for a variety of functions throughout the day. Generic templates are available for a range of language levels and access methods.

Come learn strategies for selecting and customizing PODD generic templates and creating multi-modal language learning environments. Learn strategies for teaching and using PODD with children and their communication partners. Videos and case examples will be shared. Participants will have an opportunity for hands-on practice with PODD Communication books.



Learning Outcomes:

- Describe the challenges faced by professionals creating communication systems in terms of vocabulary organization, layout, design, range of access strategies and customizing for individual requirements.
- Identify the key desirable outcomes for AAC intervention that guided development of and strategies selected to implement the PODD system
- Discuss the importance of receptive language input and creating a language learning environment
- Discuss the features of a PODD communication system in terms of vocabulary organization, layout, design, range of access strategies and customizing for individual requirements.
- Use PODD generic template resources to produce customized communication books.
- Identify and use strategies to build fluency using the PODD language organization to communicate
- Discuss the teaching and learning strategies for implementing PODD communication systems with students and team members.

This course has been approved for 13 contact hours/ 1.3 CEUs for SLPs via the Maryland Licensure Board. A certificate will be provided at the completion of the course. You must attend both days in full in order to earn the CEUs. CEUS pending.

Teachers may be able to earn 1 MSDE credit. If you are interested, please register at

<http://ccpsportal.ccps.wan/professionaldeve/class/3397>



PODD 2 Day Introductory Workshop
Multi-Modal Communication Strategies
for Children Who Have Complex Communication Needs
June 16 -17, 2022



Please complete and return via mail or email to the addresses below:

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

School/Agency _____ Position _____

Return completed registration:

Email to spwelsh@carrollk12.org or mail to Stacey Welsh, CCPS
Carroll Springs School
495 S Center St. Westminster, MD 21157

Registration is limited to the first 50 seats- please register early

Five-day Advanced PODD Course Registration Form

Name _____
Title/Position/Parent _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Alternative Phone (____) _____
Email _____

** Email required for registration confirmation, receipt, and additional information. Proof of registration and payment will be required to be admitted to the seminar

***Location and Date of previously attended Introductory PODD workshop:**

Payment Method: ☐ Check ☐ PO ☐ Credit Card

Early Bird \$ \$950 (received by July 18, 2022)
Full Registration \$ \$1,200 (received by July 18, 2022)
Parent/Caregiver \$950 (received by July 18, 2022)
Late registration \$1,400 (after July 18, 2020)
Note: There is a \$39 PO and Credit Card processing fee

Total _____

Card Type; (please circle)

Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Cardholder's Name _____
Credit Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____
Zip code of card holder _____

All PO's must be paid in full by July 7, 22

Checks should be made payable to:

Linda J. Burkhart

Cancellations must be in writing and received no later than July, 7, 2022

Please send completed registration to:

Linda J. Burkhart
400 Sparrow Branch Circle
Saint Johns, FL 32259

Email: training@Lburkhart.com

Phone: 410-627-6950

Location:

Best Western Inn
451 WMC Dr,
Westminster, MD 21158
Phone: (410) 857-1900

Hotel Accommodations: Please book directly with the hotel. Mention; PODD for discounted rate of \$110 + tax

Rooms discounted per night if booked by July 7, 2022

Date/Times: August 8-12, 2022
8:30-5:00

Registration at 8:00 on Monday Aug. 8th

Limited seats available, register early!

Early Bird \$950 (received by June 1, 2022)
Full Registration \$1,200
(received by July 18, 2022)

Parent/Caregiver \$950
(received by July 18, 2022)

Late registration \$1,400
(after July 18, 2022)

Note: There is a \$39 PO and Credit Card processing fee

***PLEASE NOTE: Previous attendance at an official Introductory PODD Training is required**

Lunch will be provided
CEUs Pending

Questions? Please contact:
training@Lburkhart.com Check for updates on www.Lburkhart.com



Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) Communication Systems 5 Day Advanced Course

Presented by:
Gayle Porter and
Linda Burkhart

August 8-12, 2022
8:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Westminster, Maryland



Five-day Advanced PODD Course*

This intensive advanced PODD course is for people who have completed at least a two day Official Introductory PODD workshop and are now seeking to further develop their knowledge and skills. (Note: Completion of an advanced PODD course is a prerequisite for people who are interested in applying for certification as a PODD presenter in the future.)

Course Description: This course aims to build on current knowledge and fluency using PODD communication books for individuals who have begun to implement these strategies with students. Focus will be on building fluency, refining observational assessment skills, implementation, planning, and strategies for training communication partners.

The course will also provide opportunities for problem-solving more complex challenges. Content will include case studies from participants.

Volunteer a case study: This is your opportunity to influence the content of the training and present issues and questions related to implementing PODD. Meet with your team and identify a student that will provide participants with opportunities to observe current communication and plan further assessment intervention.

Case studies will need to include:

Short video of the child interacting with a familiar partner; background information and previous communication learning opportunities/AAC systems. Due to limited time during the training, only a few case studies will be selected to represent a range of implementation issues, so please submit as soon as possible. All proposals for case studies must be received by July 18, 2022. Participants will be notified if their case study has been selected as soon as possible. For more information, email Linda Burkhart at training@Lburkhart.com

After this five-day workshop, participants will have developed their ability to:

- Explain the features of a range of PODD communication systems in terms of vocabulary organization, layout, design, range of access strategies, and customizing for individual requirements
- Describe the reasons for the similarities and differences between PODD page sets designed for communication books and speech generating devices.
- Develop fluency using PODD systems to model language during natural interactions.
- Communicate using PODD communication books with a range of different access methodologies
- Use a dynamic assessment process to identify individual communication requirements and teaching-learning strategies
- Describe different learning challenges for children who have severe physical, communication, and multiple needs (including CVI) and identify specific strategies to address these needs
- Discuss the application of PODD for individuals with ASD.
- Discuss the teaching and learning strategies for implementing PODD communication systems with students and team members
- Teach communication partners to provide receptive input using PODD communication books
- Teach children and partners to use PODD communication books in daily environments
- Identify strategies to combat the challenges faced by professionals creating an aided language learning environment for children with a wide range of complex communication needs.
- Answer frequently asked questions
- Develop IEP goals and tools to measure the development of autonomous communication
- Discuss strategies for developing communication accessible schools and communities.

*Previous attendance at an official 2 or 3 day Introductory PODD Training is required

Gayle Porter is a Speech Pathologist with 40 years hands-on experience working with people with complex communication needs. Gayle currently works at the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre in Melbourne, Australia. She also has a private practice working with both children and teenagers with complex communication needs in their schools. Gayle developed and has published resources on the Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) communication books and page sets for speech generating devices. In addition, she has authored articles, publications and chapters on Augmentative and Alternative Communication and cerebral palsy. Gayle is a highly sought after international presenter.

Linda Burkhart is an internationally known teacher and leader in the field of assistive technology and augmentative communication for children with severe challenges. She has developed numerous adapted materials and innovative strategies for using these devices with children. She is the author of a number of books and software titles on topics of assistive technology and augmentative communication. Linda was a classroom teacher for fifteen years. For eight years, she worked as an Augmentative Communication and Assistive Technology Specialist for the Center for Technology in Education - a joint project between Johns Hopkins University and the Maryland State Department of Education. Currently, Linda works as a private consultant and assistive technology integration specialist.

Disclosure Notice: the speakers receive speaking fees and royalties where applicable, and no relevant non-financial relationships exist.