



FDLRS/Westgate Associate Center THE PARENT PAGE

A BI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE FDLRS/WESTGATE ASSOCIATE CENTER, FOR PARENTS OF GIFTED AND EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS IN ESCAMBIA, SANTA ROSA, AND OKALOOSA COUNTIES

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Message from the Coordinator

Happy New Year!

I encourage every parent of a middle and high school student to attend Thursday, January 26th's *Life After High School: What Every Parent Needs to Know*. Agency representatives will attend, including Dr. Lori Garcia from *Project 10*. *Project 10* is a transition education network in Florida that assists school districts and communities to provide secondary transition services for students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post school outcomes. More details are in the article below. Please join us!

Another reading workshop of particular interest is *Parents as Reading Tutors*; this workshop was offered in December, and well received; so much so that we have scheduled a second offering on January 11! Please see the article below for details.

In preparation for writing the grant, our annual *FDLRS Parent Needs Assessment* is now online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/ParentNeeds. Please provide feedback to help us design next year's workshop offerings and supports for families of exceptional and gifted students!



**For Your Info: The FDLRS Center is located at 30 East Texar Drive, Pensacola, FL 32503
1-888-445-9662 or (850) 469-5423**

The Gifted Corner

Differentiating between a bright child and a gifted learner is often a difficult task. Below is a list of characteristics developed by Janice Szabos to help decipher the differences between the two individuals.

A Bright Child

knows the answers.....	asks the questions
is interested.....	is highly curious
has good ideas.....	has wild, silly ideas
works hard.....	plays around yet tests well
answers the questions.....	discusses in detail, elaborates
top group.....	beyond the group
listens with interest.....	shows strong feeling/opinion
learns with ease.....	already knows
understands ideas.....	constructs abstractions
enjoys peers.....	prefers adults
grasps the meaning.....	draws inferences
completes assignments.....	initiates projects
copies accurately.....	creates a new design
enjoys school.....	enjoys learning

A Gifted Learner

For more information about gifted topics, visit the following website: www.hoagiesgiftededucation.org

Life After High School: What Every Parent Needs to Know

Thursday, January 26th
8:30 A.M.—11:00 A.M.
J.E. Hall Center, room 152
30 E. Texar Drive
Pensacola, FL 32503

**ALL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE
A FREE
TRANSITION PLANNING
GUIDE FOR FAMILIES!**

Meet with agency reps and other professionals who can assist you in helping transition your child to college or work.

**CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR
SPOT: 850-469-5545**



My Child has a Learning Disability? What does that Mean?

Even though students identified with learning disabilities make up about 50% of students receiving exceptional student education services in the United States, *many* myths about learning disabilities still exist. A poll conducted in 2010 showed that parents, educators and others still confuse learning disabilities with other disorders including mental retardation and sensory impairments, such as blindness and deafness. They also contribute learning disabilities to lack of motivation and laziness.

All of these are misconceptions!

As one researcher noted, learning disabilities are islands of weaknesses in a sea of strength. Having a learning disability is **NOT** a prescription for failure. Rather it is a set of challenges that, once understood by the individual, his parents and teachers, can be worked around with targeted instruction, meaningful accommodations, high expectations and a network of support.

Sheldon Horowitz, of the National Center for Learning Disabilities, notes that the one factor that most contributes to the success of an individual with a learning disability is the person's understanding of the nature of his specific challenges and what he needs to be successful. Successful individuals with LD don't give up! As they mature, they learn to advocate for themselves and contribute to decisions made about their future. **Helping students to remain positive and motivated is critical.**

Dr. Horowitz discusses more about understanding learning disabilities in a podcast entitled: **Learning Disabilities: Sorting Fact from Fiction**. This podcast and others relating to students with learning disabilities can be accessed at The National Center for Learning Disabilities website www.ncl.org.



PART: Parents as Reading Tutors

Parents as Reading Tutors (PART) is an easily learned, scientifically developed program that parents can use to help children who have difficulty reading. The program provides parents (or other adults) with step-by-step procedures to provide

reading practice for students. The program is designed to increase fluency and comprehension with just 10-15 minutes of daily tutoring. **Students need to be reading at the sentence level in order to benefit from this training.**

On **January 11, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**, in room 152 at FDLRS, FDLRS/Westgate and FIN (Florida Inclusion Network) will present a training on PART to parents or other interested adults.

ALL MATERIALS are FREE!

Space is Limited; pre-registration is REQUIRED.

To reserve your seat in the training, please call Sandy Uher at 469-5423 or 1-888-445-9662.



Looking for Great Educational Apps?

Below are apps which can be downloaded on **Apple** devices such as iPhones and iPads. These apps can reinforce concepts learned in school, discover new information, or simply have fun!

Pattern Recognition: Based upon grade level and a fun way to expose students to the skill of deciphering patterns. Research studies show the act of looking for patterns can be an effective method to help teach problem solving techniques.

Toontastic: Appropriate for ages 4-10 years of age, kids create their own cartoons! While learning important literary terms, students use their imaginations to create stories about anything! The sky is the limit when it comes to having fun and being creative!

Dinosaurs: The American Museum of Natural History Collections: A great way to explore the world of dinosaurs! One thousand pictures are available for viewing. A story section allows you to read about the stories behind the discovery of the museum's extensive fossil collection.

In Class: Great for use with older students; provides help with organization. Keeping up with schedules, homework, tests and extracurricular activities is made simpler!

Quiz your Lizard: The true power of this app is the ability to create your own quizzes, whether it be for a class, learning a foreign language, or for fun.

Songify: Become a music producer with this fun app that allows you to easily record original songs with ease. The simplicity of this app makes it a great way for people of all ages to make music!



"The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System is funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Division of Public Schools and Community Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B; IDEA Part B, Preschool; and State General Revenue Funds."

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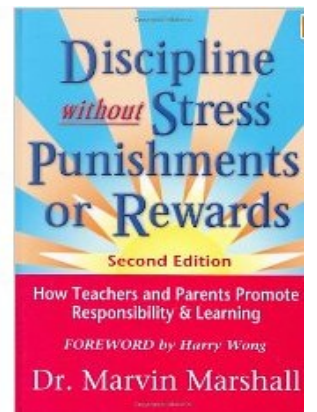
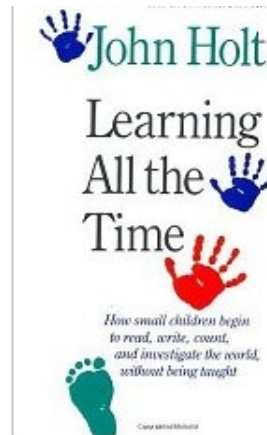
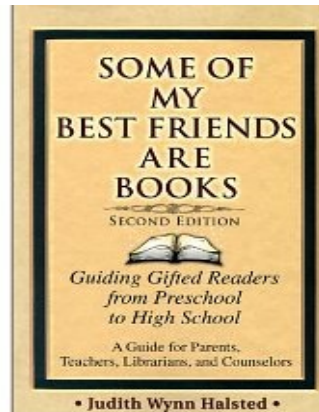
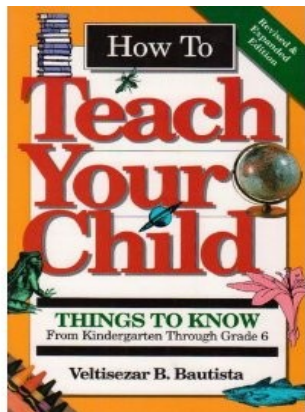
Make Everyday Routines into Learning Activities for Young Children

from the Polk/Hardee County FDLRS Child Find brochure

As a Child Find Specialist, I am often asked what parents can do at home to help their children learn. Establishing regular activities for your child to do at home facilitates improved learning:

- **While dressing**, discuss what clothes are appropriate for the weather and occasion. Identify the names of the clothes. Identify body parts covered by the clothing. Sequence the order in which the clothes are placed on the body. Allow your child choices about what clothes he will wear. Provide your child with the opportunity to practice zipping, buttoning, and snapping.
- **At meal times**, have your child set the table. Count the plates, silverware, and napkins and match them one-to-one. Describe the foods being served by texture, temperature, color or taste. Categorize foods by fruits, vegetables, meats, etc. Have your child help with meal preparation while discussing what you are doing and when you will be doing it.
- **During bath time**, name the body parts as you wash them. Talk about water temperature. Play a sink/float game with household objects/toys. Discuss the function of soap, shampoo, washcloths and towels.
- **As you do household chores**, have your child sort the laundry by type (pants, shirts) or color. Allow your child to wash the non-breakable cups and bowls or place them in the dishwasher. Help your child sort the silverware as they put it away. Help your child fold clean washcloths and towels or allow them to match socks.

Be patient and try to make the experience fun!
Encourage your child's participation by praising them and thanking them for helping.



FDLRS' Library Resources

These books (and many more!) are available for checkout. See all library holdings at www.fdlrswestgate.org.

Title:	How to Teach your Child-Things to Know from Kindergarten through Grade 6 Author: <i>Veltisezar B. Bautista</i>
Description:	<i>How to Teach Your Child</i> is a parent's curriculum guide, textbook, and teaching aid combined into one. Compact, authoritative and charmingly illustrated, this book is full of information on how you can teach your child at home. You will be amazed at what this book can do for you and your family. Shelf Code PAR LEA 9
Title:	Some of My Best Friends are Books-Second Edition Author: <i>Judith Wynn Halsted</i>
Description:	This book describes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -background information on the emotional and intellectual needs of children of high ability -typical reading patterns, the need for reading guidance, and how to discuss books with young readers -an annotated bibliography of almost three hundred books selected to promote intellectual and emotional development of high ability youngsters from preschool through grade twelve A <i>great</i> resource for every parent and teacher working with bright & creative children! Shelf Code PAR READ 30
Title:	Learning All the Time: How small children begin to write, count and investigate the world without being taught Author: <i>John Holt</i>
Description:	This book shows how children learn to read, write, and count in everyday life and how adults can respect and encourage this wonderful process. John Holt's wit, gentle wisdom, and infectious love of little children brings joy to parents and teachers alike. Shelf Code PAR PRESC 15
Title:	Discipline without Stress, Punishments or Rewards Author: <i>Marvin Marshall, Ed.D</i>
Description:	This book shows how internal motivation is far more powerful and effective in changing behavior than are punishments and rewards. You will learn how to discipline without stress, improve relationships, raise responsibility and promote learning. These strategies for humane, responsive, and responsible classrooms are grounded in research and good practice. Widely used from small childcare

Please contact Sandy Uher at 850-469-5445 or toll free 1-888-445-9662 for information about checking out library materials.