

WWVDN 10-Year Anniversary - 2024



February 2024 News



Nonprofit Leader of the Year

Cyndy Knight, former WWVDN Executive Director, will be recognized for her [Exceptional Nonprofit Service](#) on March 1, 2024 at the Blue Mountain Celebration of Giving. Cyndy's leadership, dedication, and unwavering advocacy has made a huge difference in the lives of countless families. We are so proud of her! Celebration of Giving Tickets can be purchased [here](#) for those wishing to attend.

Discover the Difference WWVDN Made for the Hawkins Family



A Note From Parent to Parent...

Parent to Parent is a program of the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network. At its core Parent to Parent provides a safe place for families to land. When you get a diagnosis that your child has a disability or a special need, your world view changes in an instant. And then comes all the paperwork, therapies, acronyms, doctor's appointments and many other things that may have one feeling overwhelmed and exhausted. One thing you should know about Parent to Parent is that we are parents first. We have been exactly where you are and understand how you feel. Our job and passion are to help you through this journey and make it a little easier perhaps than our journey years before. We do not know it all, far from it, but we can match you with another parent with a similar diagnosis, help fill out paperwork, help find resources, provide a listening ear and a shoulder. Plus we throw fun parties and celebrate the milestones with you. We are here for you. You are not alone!

Angie and Ysabel, Your Parent to Parent Coordinators

Transition Workshops



Transition Workshop Series

6:30 pm - Center for Children & Families, 1150 W. Chestnut St, Walla Walla

Do you have a student age 13-21 years old? Are you wondering about their future once they graduate and complete the Transition Program? There are many agencies involved so we will be hosting a free Transition Workshop Series featuring the different services and resources available and help give you a better understanding of each of the pieces involved in adult services. These workshops are in person and on zoom for your convenience. Please RSVP at wwvdn.org

**Wednesday, February 7th
DDA, DVR, and
Job Foundations**

**Wednesday, February 21st
Employment and Benefit
Planning with Goodwill**

**Wednesday, March 6th
Guardianship
with Mona Giedl
and BMAC Pro-Bono
program**

Transition Expo

**Wednesday,
March 27th
6:00 PM**

Wednesday, Feb 7 at 6:30 pm

DDA, DVR, and Job Foundations. Representatives from these agencies will join us to talk about the world of employment supports.

[RSVP for DDA, DVR, & Job Foundations Workshop](#)

Wednesday, Feb 21 at 6:30 pm

Employment & Benefit Planning with Goodwill. Join us to learn about how to insure you don't lose your benefits once you start working.

[RSVP for Benefit Planning Workshop](#)



SOAR Events - For age 13 and over

February events open for registration:

Wednesday, February 7 - Valentines Baking & Craft Party

Friday, February 16 - Bowling Night

Thursday, February 22 - Karaoke Night

[Visit the SOAR Events Page](#)

[Check your inbox for a reminder email with dates, times, and locations after you register.](#)

SOAR is planning 2024 activities and events and we want to hear from YOU! This is YOUR program and we want to know what you like and what you don't like. Please choose the appropriate link below and share your thoughts with us:

[I'm a SOAR Participant](#)

[I'm a SOAR Parent or Caregiver](#)

Sign Up is Open for those age 18 and over who wish to join the Whitman Buddy Program. Activities will resume in February.

[Whitman Buddy Program](#)

February Kids Playgroup

Tuesday, February 13 at 4:00 pm



Join us at the Walla Walla Center for Children & Families for painting with Madi Long (or Legos and other activities for those who don't want to paint). See you there!

RSVP for February Kids Playgroup

Papás y Mamás Especiales

Miercoles 14 de febrero, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Martes 20 de febrero, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Reunión de apoyo solo para personas que hablan español.

Save the Dates

We have many exciting events taking place in 2024, so mark your calendar!

March 27 - Transition Expo

April 20 - Ability Walk & Roll

July 14 - WWVDN 10 Year Birthday Party

September 26 - WWVDN 10 Year Fundraiser Dinner



Monthly Activities & Events

February

Papás y Mamás Especiales

- Feb 14, Centro para niños y familias - 5:00 pm
- Feb 20, Centro para niños y familias - 5:00 pm

Parent to Parent Walla Walla

- Feb 28, P2P No Host Dinner - 6:00 pm
- Feb 29, Autism Support

Parent to Parent Columbia County

- Feb 16, Potluck - 5:00 pm

[See Calendar of Events](#)

Community News & Activities

Adult Day Center

At the Walla Walla Senior Center

Our mission is to enhance the physical, cognitive and social experience of adults so that they can remain independent as long as possible. The program is open to all adults 18+ with any physical or mental impairments including dementia, Alzheimer's, depression, and loneliness. We create a safe environment for participants to find community and support. The ADC also offers respite (rest) to caregivers.

The ADC is a program of the Walla Walla Senior Center.

[Learn More](#)

Child Care Accessibility Surveys



FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Take part in a survey about child care accessibility!

The Government Accountability Office—a nonpartisan agency that conducts research for the U.S. Congress—has been asked to conduct a survey on child care accessibility.

If you would like to share your experience accessing child care, please take a few minutes to complete one of the following surveys:

Are you a parent or guardian of a
child with a disability?

Are you a person with a disability
who is a parent or guardian?*

Share your experiences regarding child care

**You can take both surveys if both apply to you! If you need assistance with the online form, there is a phone number included at the beginning of the questionnaire for help with the survey.*

Take one or both surveys here

Bill to discontinue use of IQ criteria

2nd Substitute House Bill 2008 Listening and Learning Sessions

Department of Social and Health Service's Developmental Disabilities Administration sent this bulletin at 01/18/2024 10:11 AM PST



Developmental Disabilities Administration

January 18, 2024

2nd Substitute House Bill 2008 Listening and Learning Sessions

During the 2022 Washington State Legislative Session, 2nd Substitute House Bill 2008 was passed. It directs DDA to discontinue the use of IQ criteria, for purposes of enrollment, by July 1, 2025. We would like to listen and learn from you regarding this legislation.

Listening Sessions on Zoom

Feb. 13, 10 to 11 am

Feb. 15, 1:30 to 2:30 pm

[More Information & Zoom Links](#)

Family ECHO: Autism

Project ECHO Family Series Offerings - 2024 Quarter 1

Family ECHO: Autism is a virtual learning program for families and caregivers, regardless of geographic location, who are raising children with autism. The sessions are designed to shift medical and behavioral information into the hands of parents and caregivers so they can learn to better support and care for their autistic children.

Nationwide Children's Hospital offers Family ECHO: Autism groups covering a range of topics. See what sessions are coming up during the first quarter of 2024.

Feb 7 - "Sleep in Autism"

Feb 28 - "Challenging Behavior and Autism"

Babble Boot Camp for Infants with Down Syndrome



100% ONLINE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE INTERVENTION

Babble Boot Camp for infants with Down Syndrome

We are looking for infants with Down Syndrome and their primary caregivers to participate in a research study on a proactive speech and language intervention.

For more information, contact Linda Eng at babblebootcamp@gmail.com or Dr. Beate Peter at babblebootcamp@asu.edu. (206) 713-5839



10 months of
intervention

Free to participate

Completely over
Zoom!



To participate in this
study, children must
meet these criteria:

- ✓ Full trisomy 21
- ✓ Birth to 12 months of
age
- ✓ Born no earlier than 37
weeks gestational age
- ✓ Not awaiting heart
surgery



ASU IRB IRB # STUDY00018407 | Approval Period 8/26/2023

ARC 2024 Advocacy Days



Advocacy Days, part of The Arc's Advocacy Partnership Project, are held during each legislative session to involve individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD), their families and their service providers in the legislative process, giving them opportunities to make their voices heard by their legislators and to have

an impact on policy and budget legislation that affects the services and supports available to them. To make the meetings more accessible to people all around the state, we have moved to a virtual platform on Zoom.

February Advocacy Days Include:

February 7 – [What is Needed to Ensure Every Student has an Inclusive Education?](#)

February 14 – [Engaging in Our Communities – How Do We Make Our Communities Welcoming?](#)

February 21 – [Why are so Many People in Crisis?](#)

February 28 – [What Can You Do Now?](#)

[Sign Up Here to Join on Zoom](#)

Blue Zones Project

February Events

February events include: Winter Walking Group, Free Laughter Yoga Classes, Volunteer with BMAC Food Distribution.

[Details & Registration for Events](#)



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