

## Federal Adoption Tax Credit for Special Needs Adoptions



Good news for families who adopted children from the foster care system is that there is some tax relief called the Federal Adoption Tax Credit for Special Needs Adoption. This is a one-time paid credit for the year the adoption was finalized for each adopted child with special needs. For adoptions finalized in 2011, the adoption tax credit is \$13,360 for each adopted child. In 2010, the Adoption Tax Credit became refundable and families who finalized their adoption in 2010 or 2011 are able to use the full credit regardless of their tax liability. Families who adopted special needs children from 2005 to 2009 can carry the adoption tax credit forward into 2011, so they too can benefit from this refund (amount of the tax credit is based on the year the adoption finalized).

The IRS has released Form 8839 and its instructions which are necessary to claim the credit. The IRS has also created a special page for the adoption tax credit and plans to post more information as necessary at:

[www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=235825,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=235825,00.html)

We encourage families to consult with their tax preparer, contact ORPARC, or contact the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) with further questions. There is more information about the Adoption Tax Credit available at [www.orparc.org](http://www.orparc.org), "Announcements." NACAC has additional information available for download at [www.nacac.org](http://www.nacac.org). You may also call NACAC at 1-800-470-6665 or email [taxcredit@nacac.org](mailto:taxcredit@nacac.org) or. *NOTE: Neither ORPARC nor NACAC are tax professional organizations and information provided by them should not be considered to be legal or tax advice.*

## Possible extension of Adoption Assistance & Guardianship Assistance benefits past age 18 for children meeting specific criteria

As a result of legislation passed by the 2011 Oregon Legislative Assembly which went into effect October 1, 2011, children in one of the two following categories may be eligible to continue receiving adoption or guardianship assistance benefits, including subsidy payments and medical coverage, up to the age of 21.

- At the time of the child's 18th birthday, he or she qualified as an individual with developmental disabilities as determined by the *DHS Developmental Disabilities Services*, or if living in a state other than Oregon, is qualified by an equivalent program in that state; or the child qualifies for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) through the Social Security Administration, or
- The child's initial adoption assistance or guardianship assistance agreement went into effect on or after the child's 16th birthday and at the age of 18 the child is still completing secondary school; is enrolled in post-secondary or vocational school; is participating in a program or activity that promotes or removes barriers to employment; is employed for at least 80 hours per month; or is determined incapable of meeting the listed educational or employment requirements due to a documented medical condition, physical or mental disability.

Adoptive and guardian families will receive notification of the opportunity to apply for extended benefits from the DHS prior to their child's 18th birthday. **Documentation of the child's qualifying eligibility must be provided to the DHS, Adoption Assistance or Guardianship Assistance Program prior to the child's 18th birthday.** For more information, contact an Adoption or Guardianship Assistance Coordinator, according to the first letter of the family's last name:

### Adoption Assistance

### Guardian Assistance

A-C ..... Rebecca Luckman—503-945-6729..... A-G  
 D-G ..... Scott Wickline—503-947-5311..... H-P  
 H-L ..... Lorri Harris—503-945-6632 ..... Q-Z  
 M-R ..... Gayle Bien—503-947-5370  
 S-Z ..... Cathy Reeves—503-945-5685



# Grandparent Retreats & Resources



## Portland

### 6th Annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Retreat

Friday, May 11, 2011 ♦ 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
11560 SE Market Street, Portland, OR 97216

This **FREE** event provides educational workshops and a place for grandparents to gather together. The event is open to grandparents, and other relatives, age 55 and over, raising children age 18 and younger. The event is sponsored by Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services' Family Caregiver Support Program. Please note that due to budget cuts, we are unable to offer childcare this year. For additional information, call Loriann McNeill at 503-988-3620 ext. 26263 or email Cynthia Traylor at [cynthia.traylor@multco.us](mailto:cynthia.traylor@multco.us).

## Salem

### 9th Annual A Gift of Time Retreat

*A weekend retreat for family caregivers and grandparents as parents raising their children's children*

Friday thru Sunday, September 7-9, 2011

Macleay Christian Retreat, Salem, OR

**A Gift of Time** is a weekend retreat for those who have put their lives on hold to care for a loved one. Join others in similar situations for self-renewal, education and a break. Attendees have a chance to relax, meet new people and perhaps reconnect with old friends, attend educational seminars, listen to music, visit resource tables, receive a massage and enjoy wonderful meals all in a delightfully peaceful setting. Contact Janice Wolcot at 503-831-5593 or email [agiftoftimeoforegon@gmail.com](mailto:agiftoftimeoforegon@gmail.com).

## April is Autism Awareness Month

### 10th Annual

### Autism Walk-A-Thon

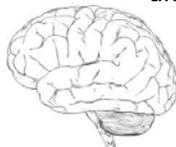
Sunday, April 15 ♦ Oaks Park, Portland

Visit [www.firstgiving.com/asoautism](http://www.firstgiving.com/asoautism) to register. New this year: You can purchase Discounted Ride Bracelets online with your registration. Visit the Autism Society of Oregon at [www.oregonautism.com](http://www.oregonautism.com) to see more activities.



### Autism and the Brain

*A collaborative presentation between the Autism Society of Oregon and the University of Washington Autism Center*



Saturday, April 21, 2012 ♦ Suggested donation: \$8.00  
Presentation: 1:00-3:15 p.m.; Q&A Panel: 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
Providence Cancer Center Amphitheater  
4805 NE Glisan Street, Portland, OR 97213

A group of scientists involved in cutting edge Autism research will present on the neuroscience of Autism. Topics include: *Brain development and function in Autistic children; Genetics; Behavior; Early identification; Current and future Autism research; and, General issues relating to the study and understanding of Autism.* The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion and question and answer session with the speakers. To RSVP, call the Autism Society of Oregon at 503-636-1676 or email [info@oregonautism.org](mailto:info@oregonautism.org).

### Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Resources

- Autism Society of Oregon, [www.oregonautism.com](http://www.oregonautism.com)
- Swindells Resource Center at Providence Child Center, [www.providence.org/childcenter](http://www.providence.org/childcenter)
- Schwallie Family Scholarship Program awards up to \$3,000, [www.researchautism.org/news/otherevents/scholarship.asp](http://www.researchautism.org/news/otherevents/scholarship.asp)
- Navigation Map to Services for Children with ASD, [www.oregonfamilytofamily.org/navigation.html](http://www.oregonfamilytofamily.org/navigation.html)
- [www.AutismLifespanCoach.com](http://www.AutismLifespanCoach.com) is an information and referral consultation business practiced by Genevieve Athens, former Director of the Autism Society of Oregon



### Emotional Availability Book Club for Adoptive Families

Dr. Zeynep Biringen, 970-491-7039, [emotional.availability@gmail.com](mailto:emotional.availability@gmail.com)  
[www.eabookclub-adoptivefamilies.com](http://www.eabookclub-adoptivefamilies.com)



Colorado State University is conducting an online study in the format of a book club with adoptive parents and their adopted children. The study seeks adoptive parents and their adopted children ages 1-5. Participants must have a high speed internet connection to view video. E-books and e-materials are provided and/or loaned. Participation may provide another avenue of post-adoption support for families. This book club is completely free and online.

# ORPARC Trainings

Visit [www.orparc.org](http://www.orparc.org) for updates

*Provided in collaboration with Providence Child Center and Cascadia Training*

ORPARC trainings are **free of charge** to DHS adoptive, foster and assisted guardianship families, and DHS/SNAC adoption professionals.

## Nature and Nurture of the Brain & Sleep and Brain Executive Function



*Presented by Dr. Julian Davies, The Center for Adoption Medicine, University of Washington*

Wednesday, **April 4, 2012** ♦ 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Department of Human Services  
4600 25th Avenue NE, **SALEM, OR 97301**

This training combines: brain development, sleep & executive brain functions. First, how nature and nurture interact to shape brain development, the neurobiology of relationships and behavior, and how brain plasticity imparts risk and resilience, with an emphasis on intervention. Next, sleep physiology, why sleep is important, and how many of the prenatal and environmental factors impacting children can interfere with sleep will be reviewed. Finally, how the brain functions, specifically higher order learning, referred to as "executive functioning." Dr. Davies, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Washington, co-directs the Center for Adoption Medicine.

- ✓ Register at [www.providence.org/classes](http://www.providence.org/classes). Call ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367 or [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org) for registration questions.
- ✓ Light snacks provided; Lunch is "on your own" from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.; a cafeteria is on-site.
- ✓ 5.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available at a cost of \$25.00 for professionals (see "Professionals" below).

## TWO-PART TRAINING SERIES IN REDMOND

*Parents are welcome to attend part 1 or part 2 of the training series or both trainings*

### Part 1: Navigating Family Connections

Friday, **April 13, 2012** ♦ 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

1135 SW Highland Avenue, **Redmond, OR 97756**

Adopted children need to know who they are and where they came from. At the same time, it is the role of adoptive parents to provide safety and protection for their children, especially when they may have had traumatic pasts. This training will offer ways to balance safety with a child's need to connect with their "first" family. The training will offer a summary of the common challenges and roadblocks involved, along with the potential impact of social media on these family connections.

### Part 2: Collaborative Problem Solving

Saturday, **April 14, 2012** ♦ 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

1135 SW Highland Avenue, **Redmond, OR 97756**

Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) alleviates meltdown behavior as adults and kids solve problems together in mutually satisfying ways that reduce conflict. Dr. Ross Greene, author of *The Explosive Child* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.) developed CPS specifically for children who are inflexible or intolerant, and prone to explosiveness. Join us as we explore reasons *why* children become easily frustrated; *how* to work through the frustrating moments; *when* to intervene; and *what* proactive approaches work in preventing explosive behavior.

**Register by contacting ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367 or email [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org)**



## The Misunderstood Child

### Understanding Sensory Processing Disorder

*Presented by Sharron Donnelly, MS, OTR/L*

Tuesday, **May 29, 2012** ♦ 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

St. Vincent Medical Center Auditorium  
9205 SW Barnes Road, **PORTLAND, OR 97225**

- ✓ Register at [www.providence.org/classes](http://www.providence.org/classes) a month prior
- ✓ 3.0 Continuing Education Credits are available at a cost of \$25.00 for professionals (see below)

Monday, **June 11, 2012** ♦ 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Columbia Gorge Community College  
Lecture Hall, 3rd Floor, Building #2  
400 East Scenic Drive, **THE DALLES, OR 97058**

Depending on the training, others may attend trainings for minimal charge or on a space available basis. Trainings are held in accessible locations. Auxiliary aids and alternative forms of written materials are available to persons with disabilities. Foreign language interpretation available upon request. Request these services two weeks in advance.

**Professionals:** Register at the Providence website for the 04/04, 05/29 and 06/11 trainings. Contact ORPARC at [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org) or 1-800-764-8367 to request Continuing Education Credits (\$25 fee collated at the training). *NWRA/Cascadia Training is a NBCC Approved Continuing Education Provider (Provider #: 6575). This workshop is approved by the NASW, Washington State Chapter (recognized by Oregon State Chapter) for Licensed Social Workers, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Mental Health Counselors. (Provider number #1975-118).*



# ADHD Research Study

## Longitudinal Brain Imaging & Sibling Study

1-877-678-ADHD

### Objectives for 7-11 year olds

- To learn about the different types of ADHD
- Combine existing ADHD assessments with newer measures to further understand and predict ADHD development
- Learn if size and activity of certain brain structures relates to ADHD
- Learn how full biological siblings compare
- Follow children for 3 years to see how the assessments measure up over time

### Study Information

- One screening visit at OHSU
- It may involve yearly visits comprised of a pre-scan and real scan
- Each visit lasts 2-3 hours
- Free clinical assessment and feedback
- Compensation to child, sibling, and parent(s).  
Your children will receive a picture of their brain!
- Information is kept strictly confidential
- Also available weekday evenings and Saturdays

### Participating child & sibling

- Ages 7 to 11
- In good health with or without ADHD
- Speak English as a first language
- If taking a stimulant medication for ADHD/ADD, they must be off that medication for the testing visits
- Must be right-handed and have no permanent metal in their bodies
- Single child or child with sibling accepted

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## 2012 Summer Camp Guide

ORPARC is currently composing our 2012 Summer Camp Guide which will be available for viewing/downloading at [www.orparc.org](http://www.orparc.org) in May 2012. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the guide, please contact us at 503-241-0799 (Portland metro), 1-800-764-8367 or e-mail ORPARC at [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org).



## Newsletter via email?

If you would like to receive our newsletter and mailings via email, please call us or email [orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org) with your name, address and email. Download the complete newsletter at [www.orparc.org](http://www.orparc.org).