

E-CONNECTOR

News from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)

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Editor's Note: Please feel free to contact us if you have an announcement you would like included in the newsletter or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: copobc@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor

CO-POBC Family Bowling



April 21st

**See the calendar
for details!**



WHEN STRANGERS STEP OVER THE LINE

(Excerpted from "The Cruelty of Strangers" by Mary McDonach, on the website <http://www.wonderbaby.org/>)

Why are so many people so rude when it comes to disabled children? Being seen as different is a very hard thing to come to terms with about anyone you love; and when it comes to your child it is so much more difficult to rationalize. I think it may have to do with the fact that current climate of "inclusion". Children with disabilities are now a part of the community, whereas in times past they were kept at home or sent to special schools or institutions. Circumstances have changed, but as a society people are still catching up. There is no excuse for rude, intrusive behavior, but here is my advice when encountering those nosey questions or

uninvited comments from the public.

1. Let them say what they want to say.
2. If you think they are wrong DO NOT AGREE WITH THEM.
3. If you genuinely feel like it, explain what the causes or reasons are within your own comfort level, but it's really none of their business.
4. Always remember your child can hear you.
5. Use words that will work for your child too. Your child will be dealing with this long after you've finished escorting them on every journey.
6. Be reasonable with children. I'm always happy to give them an explanation, but I try to tailor it to their understanding.
7. In the last resort, defend your ground. If you feel that someone has been too rude, too forceful with their opinions, or discriminating towards your child, do not tolerate it.

If you do, in twenty years time you will still be castigating yourself, so cut yourself some slack and say what you think. You'll feel the better for it.



PARENTS ARE A CHILD'S FIRST TRAVEL TEACHER

Parents may be at a loss when it comes to developing strategies that encourage their blind and visually impaired children to move and explore their environment. In order to help give parents the tools they need to be good travel teachers, the National Federation of the Blind has introduced the "Early Explorers Program". Participating families will receive a welcome packet containing an informational DVD, a child-sized white cane, a copy of *Cane Travel and Independence*, and Joe Cutter's *Independent Movement and Travel in Blind Children: A Promotion Model*. In addition an e-newsletter, *Travel Tales*, will arrive in you in-box every quarter. *Travel Tales* will be filled with practical tips and information, such as how to turn a trip to the grocery store into a teachable

moment, or how to travel through snow with a cane. For more information on how to get involved in the Early Explorer's Program go to www.nfb.org/earlyexplorers. Or call 410-659-9314. The program is designed for children infant to seven years of age.



A LIBRARY OF AUDIO DESCRIBED MOVIES

The Texas Center for the Visually Challenged (TCVC) circulates descriptive movies to blind/low vision persons in the United States.

Descriptive movies are standard movies that have an audio narration inserted on the sound track. The audio narration describes the scene, action, and activities between gaps in the dialog. Of the 200 videos and DVD's available, many are appropriate for children, such as "Toy Story", "Up", and "Wizard of Oz".

A one-time subscription fee of \$25 is charged. This fee is the "insurance" that movies are returned. You will be asked to make a list of the videos you are interested in. Videos will

be mailed to you one at a time. To see the list of movies available, go to <http://computersfortheblind.net/movie-list.html>. For more information call 972-530-2949 or e-mail info@computersfortheblind.net. To subscribe you can mail your check to:

The Texas Center for the Visually Challenged
3101 High Plateau
Garland, Texas 75044



LAST CALL FOR BRAILLE ESSAY CONTEST

April 30, 2012 is the deadline for submissions to the Onkyo Braille Essay Contest. Those competing in the Junior Group...ages 25 and under...will compete for prizes ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. Essays must be written in Braille, must be from 800 to 1,000 words in length and must be completely original. There are three possible essay topics:

1. How do you acquire knowledge and information through Braille or audio devices?
2. How can blind persons become independent by learning Braille or music?

3. Concept of world peace from the viewpoint of persons with disabilities.

For more information visit <http://www.nfb.org/onkyo-braille-essay-contest>



SUMMER FUN AND LEARNING FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

The end of the school year is in sight and it's time to line up summer activities for the kids. Don't delay...space will be limited.

BELL: A Summer Braille Camp for Kids

Ages 4 – 12
July 16-27 (Colorado Springs)
July 23-Aug. 3 (Westminster)

The BELL Program, a project of the NFB Jernigan Institute, is a two week day camp. The letters B.E.L.L. stand for "Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning". Children will gain confidence in reading and writing while engaged in games, crafts and exciting outdoor activities.

Register by going to the [NFB website](#). For more information contact program coordinator, Diane McGeorge, at 303-321-4268 or e-mail rmcgeorge@comcast.net, or

Michelle Chacon at mchacon@adams50.org or phone 303-456-9000.

*The following programs are projects of the Colorado Center for the Blind. Contact Brent Batron, Youth Services Coordinator, for information and application-- 303-778-1130, ext. 222 or by e-mail at bbatron@cocenter.org.

CONFIDENCE CAMP FOR KIDS

Ages 5-11
June 11 – 22

Confidence Camp is day program for Denver area kids designed to reinforce and build the adaptive skills of blindness while having fun. The children will prepare their own lunch each day and practice household chores. Braille and cane travel will be incorporated into the many exciting activities. The children gain confidence as they go on outings to swim, hike, and visit an amusement park.

INITIATION TO INDEPENDENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Ages 11 – 14
July 16 – August 3

This is a three-week residential program where the students live in apartments with a counselor and other students. Core classes in Braille, travel, home management and

computer technology will be combined with recreational experiences, and career exploration.

EARN AND LEARN HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Ages 14-18
June 8 – August 3

This is an eight-week residential program where the students live in apartments with a counselor and other students. Core classes in Braille, travel, home management and computer technology will be combined with the opportunity to participate in part time paid work experiences. Recreational activities and a trip to the National Federation of the Blind national convention in Dallas, Texas are highlights of this program.

SUMMER FOR SUCCESS COLLEGE PROGRAM

High School Graduates planning to further their education.

June 8 – August 3

This is an eight-week residential program designed to prepare students to handle all aspects of a university or vocational program. Recreational activities and a trip to the National Federation of the Blind national convention in Dallas, Texas are highlights of this program.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5th

ROBOTICS SEMINAR with
WizKidz Science and
Technology Centers

Middle School and High
School students are invited to
build robots which will
compete against robots built by
other blind students.

When: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Where: The Colorado Center
for the Blind
2233 W. Sheppard Ave
Littleton, CO 80120

(Limited to 16 participants.)
NO cost for this event. RSVP to
Brent at 303-778-1130, ext. 222
or bbatron@cocenter.org.

April 11 & 18

LIZARDS AND SNAKES
Denver Museum of Nature &
Science
2001 Colorado Blvd.
Denver, CO 80205

Middle School and High School
students and their parents are
invited to the museum to
explore the evolution,
movement, and feeding habits

of snakes and lizards. Our
guides will discuss the exhibits
and how they get to the
museum.

Space is limited to 6 students.
There is NO cost for this event.

RSVP by April 6 to Brent at 303-
778-1130 ext. 222 or
bbatron@cocenter.org.

April 14 -May 5 (4 consecutive
Saturdays)

SWIM LESSONS with NSCD
(National Sports Center for the
Disabled)

Swimming is great exercise and
loads of fun! All levels of
swimmers are invited to
participate in lessons with the
helpful instructors from the
National Sports Center for the
Disabled.

Where:
Easter Seals Swimming Pool
5755 W Alameda Ave.
Lakewood, CO

Time: 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Fee: \$40. Space is limited to 5
kids. RSVP to Brent at
303-778-1130 ext. 222 or
bbatron@cocenter.org

April 21

FAMILY BOWLING

Join the Colorado Parents of
Blind Children at the Spring
Bowling Event! Two games of

bowling, shoe rental, pizza or
hot dog, chips and drink for
only \$5.00 per person.

Where:
Crown Lanes
2325 South Federal
Denver, CO 80219

Time: 1:30 p.m.

RSVP: 303-778-1130 ext. 305
by April 14. (This is a voicemail
box.) Leave your name, the
number of people attending
and your phone number in case
of changes.

April 28, May 5, 12 & 19

ROCK CLIMBING AND HIKING

Where: Eldorado and Clear
Creek Canyons

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. each day

In conjunction with the
National Sports Center for the
Disabled (NSCD), the Colorado
Center for the Blind invites kids
of all ages and their families for
the fun and challenge of
climbing the rocks in the
morning, lunch by the creek,
and hiking in the afternoon.

Sign up for all 4 climbs or select
the days that you want to
participate. There is NO cost
for this event.

Space is limited to 16 each day.
RSVP to Brent at 303-778-1130
ext. 222 or
bbatron@cocenter.org