

Parent Driven Approved Resources

All the organizations on this list have been reviewed for quality information and ease of use. If you know of a site that can be a great resource to our parents or have a particular need and can't find resources, e-mail us at awoodrow@ieminc.org . Keep checking back, we are always searching for sites to add to update the list.

Area of Focus

Career Focus

Career Reality Check

After high school you will need to pay for housing, transportation, clothes...You will need money. You will need a career. This site is very hands on and helps parents and youth to get a 'grip' on what the real working world costs of living and earning are. Want to be a basketball star, nurse, lawyer, or hairdresser? Find out the demand for the job you want in the economy right now, the likelihood of getting the job, and what you need to do in order to prepare yourself to qualify for that job. After filling out the quick questionnaire this site shows you what the entry level pay is and how you will live on it. It lets you choose your own budget and expenses to see how far a paycheck really goes—talk about a REALITY CHECK! The website was created by the Texas Workforce Commission. This is a GREAT example of our tax dollars at work.

Want to know more? Contact your local workforce commission – they help youth get ready for the world of work while still in high school. Every county in the nation has at least one office. Check your yellow pages under workforce commission

www.cdr.state.tx.us/realitycheck

Gifted Children

Open Spaces Communications, LLC is a Colorado-based company serving those who live and work with Gifted Children

<http://www.openspaces.com>

1.800.494.6178

Government Agencies

The Department of Education

Promotes educational excellence for all Americans.

Home page gives an overview of all that's current on a national level. Every parent should glance at this page at least once a school year. The parent tab takes you straight to the resources that help you get the most out of the educational system for your child.

<http://www.ed.gov>

The Department of Labor

<http://www.dol.gov>

General Education Information

One Tough Job

This website presented by the Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund is geared for parents. General information on how to care for your child—plus features that coincide with the topical events on a regular school calendar year. *This site is a 2007 National Parenting Publication award winner—and here is why:* Access a fun and easy-to-use tool which spotlights age development issues in one click. The page opens to a short summary of growth and development of the selected age phase and then great articles (20 plus articles in each listing that address specific issues), books to read, and quick reference tabs for hot topic parenting issues like—stress, discipline, and safety.

<http://www.onetoughjob.org>

Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund

1.888.775.4KIDS

Parenting Teens Online

An information resource for parents of teenagers.

The home page has a topical feature as well as clear and easy to use navigation buttons.

Two favorites: *Ask the Expert*—you can ask the panel of experts a question. They will respond to you and if your question is picked it is added to the ongoing dialog page.

Book Excerpts—what busy parent/person wouldn't like to have a summary of a great book to read? Includes great blogs, which you must sign up to join, of course; general information arranged according to a teen's point of view; information relating to what teens and parents are talking about; and of course all the essential and hot topics that you would want while parenting a teen. You can sign up for a free on-line magazine.

<http://www.parentingteensonline.com>

1.609.336.0323

info@ParentingTeensOnline.com

Service Learning

Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Learn and Serve, America's National Service-Learning Clearinghouse (NSLC), operates America's premier website supporting the service-learning efforts of schools, higher education institutions, communities, and tribal nations. They offer timely information and relevant resources, thousands of free online resources, the nation's largest library of service-learning materials, national service-learning email discussion lists, and reference and technical assistance services.

On the home page click-- "Instant facts and info" --and it will lead you to a parents' page that is jammed packed with resources and ideas to get connected to service learning in your area—or to start your own project. Great tool for those who are working with an Individual Learning Plan.

<http://www.servicelearning.org>

1-866-245-SERV (7378)

info@servicelearning.org

PBS KIDS Sprout

PBS has a parent information page full of ideas, video clips from Sesame Street, and articles from a panel of experts that help you and inform you about various topics pertaining to infant – grade school. For a commercial-based site, this is not bad. The advertisements are not overtly 'in your face' and the site is easy to use. When you enter your zip code, the site provides information regarding how to contact your local television/web provider to get local information and support. You can even order Sprout Direct and have information and educational programming on your computer or TV with just one click.

<http://www.sproutforparents.com>

Parent Involvement

Parents Reaching Out

Parents Reaching Out is a network of programs woven together to meet the ever-changing needs of New Mexico families. Information and resources abound for workshops and printed materials designed for families. The main focus is to provide opportunities for connecting with other parents and resources in communities across the state of New Mexico. The mission is to enhance outcomes for children and their families and build strong partnerships with the systems that touch their lives. The information and ideas are applicable to all parents and can be modified to meet individual needs. This is a very approachable website with helpful information.

<http://www.parentsreachingout.org>

1.800.524.5176

National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education

At NCPPIE the mission is simple: to advocate the involvement of parents and families in their children's education and to foster relationships between home, school, and community to enhance the education of our entire nation's young people. This website is comprised of an extensive and well laid out resource data base that navigates you to all the family, community, and school organizations at a state and national level. The database is comprised of their partner/members. Many of the items that are listed here can be requested for free or are downloadable upon entering your email and/or signing up for a newsletter. Each category has over 50 listings.

<http://www.ncpie.org>

1.202.289.6790

Ready by 21

The Ready by 21™ Challenge calls on states and communities to change the odds for children and youth by changing the way they do business. Working in partnership with national organizations representing the business, government, education and nonprofit sectors, the Forum for Youth Investment provides frameworks, coaching, and tools to help leaders think differently, act differently, and act together. The Ready by 21 Big Picture Approach helps leaders – from young people to parents, program directors to policy makers – bring precision to their passion, ensuring that all young people are ready by 21 – ready for college, world, and life.

Rigorous research and data to support a movement that is a collaboration between business, non-profits, government and, of course, schools and communities. Plenty of current articles and information about events happening all over the nation.

<http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.com>

1.202.207.3333

Mental Health Concerns

National Mental Health Information Center

Listing of National toll free help lines with a drop-down menu that covers a wealth of topics. Special feature: under the resource menu there is a comprehensive dictionary which lists hundreds of terms regarding mental health, services, and the various acronyms that are found on all these types of websites. Very helpful and easy to navigate.

<http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/hotlines>

<http://www.samhsa.gov/shin>

Tough Issues

Talking with Kids

Raising a child is probably the most gratifying job any of us will ever have -- and one of the toughest. We live in an increasingly complex world that challenges us every day with a wide range of disturbing issues that are difficult for children to understand and for adults to explain. This website can help by offering practical, concrete tips, and techniques for talking easily and openly with young children ages 8 to 12 about some very tough issues: sex, HIV/AIDS, violence, drugs and alcohol. The website is a collaborative effort between Children Now, Kaiser Family foundation and several media companies like Nickelodeon and CNBC. Great PDF, top 10 list for talking points and suggestions on how to use current television shows to help you and your kids have those tough conversations.

<http://www.talkingwithkids.org>

Parenting is Prevention

Parenting is Prevention offers a link from the SAMHSA's website to a page that offers good guidance on how to talk to your children about all kinds of tough issues. Side tabs that link to a wealth of resources.

<http://www.parentingisprevention.org>

Homework Help

NPIN

Main target audience: autism and learning disabilities

NPIN has great links to homework help lines—two are free, the rest are fee-based. A clean site, each page contains a list of resources. Mostly commercial. The main purpose is to get you connected to information about disabilities and the laws governing this area, homework help, and behavioral issues.

<http://www.npin.org>

Math Focus

College Work Ready

Great 30 and 60 second interviews from all walks of work on why math matters. Having trouble getting your student to sit down and finish the math assignment? Having trouble getting your student to show up for math class?-- Watch these quick and to-the-point videos that will inspire you both to brush up on your math together. Also a great resource on how to make sure you are taking classes that get you ready to go to work and college...we love this site!

<http://www.collegeworkready.org>

1-800-550-5437

info@collegeworkready.org