



Circuit

SOUTH DAKOTA PARENT CONNECTION

Fall 2022



What's New?

New to South Dakota Parent Connection this year are our Family Advisory Committees, FAC. Parents from the Aberdeen and Rapid City areas were invited to participate in supporting South Dakota Parent Connection through membership in these committees. Led by South Dakota Parent Connection Outreach Staff and Board Members in Aberdeen and Rapid City, the FACs provide a way for South Dakota Parent Connection to hear directly from parents about the needs of families in the area. The Aberdeen FAC hosted several learning opportunities for families based specifically on the information shared by FAC members.

For more information on the committees' activities or how you could become involved in the South Dakota Parent Connection FAC in your area please contact:

- Tina Kenser, Aberdeen Outreach Specialist (605) 626.8333
- Lisa Merchen, Rapid City Outreach Specialist (605) 348.0305

SOUTH DAKOTA PARENT CONNECTION INVITES YOU TO



Cookies & Cocoa

DECEMBER 3, 2022
10:30 - 1:00 PM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
MUSIC, GAMES AND ACTIVITIES
PICTURES WITH SANTA
COOKIES & COCOA
RAFFLE



MUSEUM OF VISUAL MATERIALS
500 N MAIN AVE, SIOUX FALLS
(800) 640.4553



South Dakota Parent Connection Staff

Dr Carla Miller, **Executive Director**

Lisa Sanderson, **Grants Coordinator**

Dr Barb Avery-Sterud, **Navigator Coordinator**

Kris Sellers, **Outreach Specialist**

Betsy Drew, **Outreach Specialist**

Tina Kenser, **Outreach Specialist**

Lisa Merchen, **Outreach Specialist**

Ken Randall, **Operations Manager**

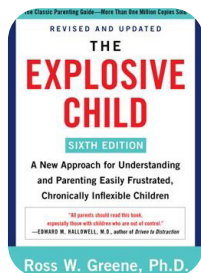
Jennifer Wentzel, **Program Support Specialist**



FROM DR CARLA MILLER *Executive Director*

South Dakota Parent Connection has been very busy. In the past year we have worked hard to update our website, added new Parent Briefs, Quick Guides and virtual trainings based on the concerns and interests we hear about as we work with families. We have strengthened ongoing relationships with other programs across our state and started new ones. These collaborations help us assist families throughout the state to find the resources they need. I am excited to share more about all that we have been up to as you read through this edition of the *Circuit*.

In February and March we hosted a virtual book study for a statewide *Sibshop* opportunity. Sibshops provide an opportunity for children who have a sibling with a disability to meet, relate to, and learn more about each other. The book they studied is called *Rules* by Cynthia Lord. *Rules* is the story of a 12-year-old girl whose brother has autism and the friends they made one summer.



We also hosted a book study for parents using Ross Greene's book *The Explosive Child*. This book describes a groundbreaking, research-based approach to understanding and parenting children who frequently exhibit challenging behaviors.

Staff Presentations at State Conferences

Dr Carla Miller, Executive Director, presented at the South Dakota Special Education Conference, offering a session on executive functions and behaviors. Lisa Merchen, from our Rapid City office provided a training on Autism to parents in Eagle Butte. Lisa Sanderson and Carla Miller presented at the South Dakota Early Childhood Education Conference and Family Childcare Professionals Conferences. Staff also conducted monthly training to parents and professionals at St Francis Indian School at Rosebud covering topics related to special education eligibility and process.

South Dakota Parent Connection once again co-hosted the annual *Lighting the Way Conference*. The theme of the conference this year was advocacy. More than 150 participants came from all over the state and neighboring states of Minnesota and Iowa. The conference team welcomed the Sioux Falls School District as a returning member and thank them for hosting the event at Memorial Middle School. Save the date for next year's conference June 7 - 8, 2023.



READ
TO SUCCEED

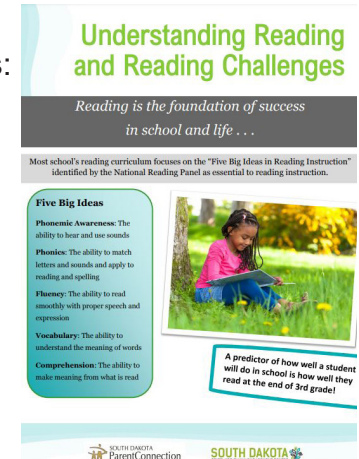


Read to Succeed!

Reading to children is a great way to help them do well in school. Reading helps students develop new skills and/or maintain the skills they have obtained. South Dakota Parent Connection partnered with the State of South Dakota through their State Personnel Development Grant to create resources for parents of grade school age students. The Read to Succeed tool kit offers parents a variety of fun, informative activities they can do with their children at home to support reading development. Access the tool kit here: <https://express.adobe.com/page/DqtwFpAAGsy1m/>.

Other resources related to understanding reading and reading challenges:

- [Understanding Reading and Reading Challenges Parent Brief](#)
- [Understanding Reading and Reading Challenges webinar](#)



Lunch & Learn Series

Our Lunch & Learn series wrapped up the school year in May. Once every month during the school year, South Dakota Parent Connections hosts a presentation based on arising concerns. We partner with several organizations to provide this information to parents and professionals. Topics for this year included information about:



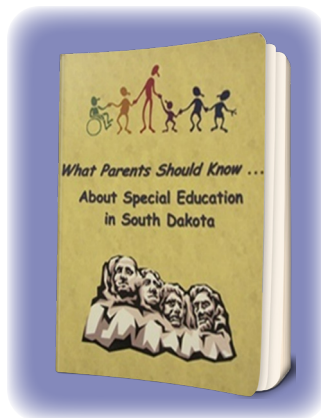
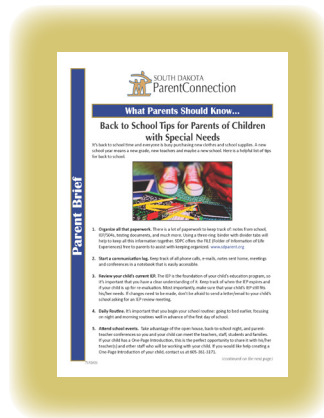
- Telehealth
- Assistive Technology
- AAC and the IEP
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- When Behavior is a Concern in School
- 504 Plans and Diabetes
- Guardianship
- Stress
- Mental Health
- Coping Strategies
- Oceans of Possibilities for Summer Learning

If you missed any sessions and would like to watch them on demand, visit our website at www.sdparent.org/online-training/lunch-and-learn-education-sessions and watch our website for future sessions starting this fall.

Resources For You!

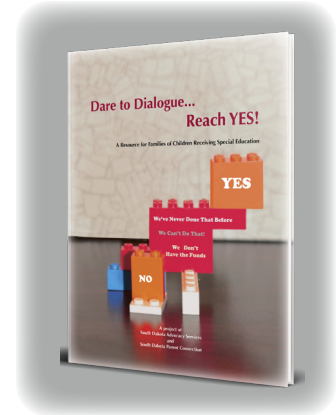
[Back to School Tips for Parents of Children with Special Needs](#)

Frequently asked questions with guidance on how to respond in each situation



[Dare to Dialogue...Reach YES!](#)

Helpful list of tips when working with your school



[What Parents Should Know About Special Education in South Dakota](#)

A parent friendly guide to your rights under IDEA

Other Resources

- [What Parents Should Know About Parents Rights and Responsibilities in Special Education](#)
- [Accommodations & Modifications: What Do They Mean?](#)
- [What Parents Should Know About Reaching Age 18](#)
- [Section 504: What You Should Know](#)

Social Emotional Development and Behaviors

- [What Parent Should Know About the Importance of Social Competence](#)
- [When Behavior is a Concern . . .](#)
- [What Parents Should Know About Bullying](#)

Early Childhood

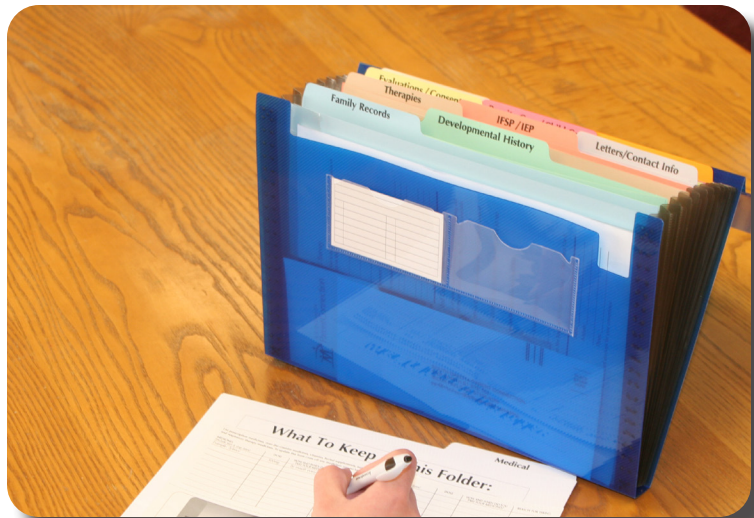
- [What Parents Should Know About Early Childhood Development](#)
- [What Parents Should Know About Sensory Processing](#)
- [What Parents Should Know About Handwriting](#)
- [What Parents Should Know About Social Emotional Development](#)
- [Understanding Red Flags of Concern For Your Child's Behavior](#) – on line recorded training

If you would like South Dakota Parent Connection to provide training on any of these resources or topics, please call us at (605) 361.3171 or email at sdpc@sdparent.org.

Let's Get Organized!

Keeping records is essential for families of children with special needs. Keeping organized records will pay dividends in navigating systems and empowering you to advocate for your child. The *Folder of Information of Life Experiences (FILE)* was developed through a collaborative effort to assist families in organizing information when working with professionals who serve your child. The FILE is a compact, portable storage for your records provided to families at no cost. The record keeping system helps sort and retrieve information related to:

Family Records, Developmental History, Medical Therapies, IFSP/IEP, Letters/Contact Information, Evaluation/Consents, Respite Care/Child Care, Transition and Legal and Life Planning.



To receive a copy of the
FILE or MyFILE system,
please visit our website at
www.sdparent.org.

Take Charge. Be Prepared. Develop Independence.

The *MyFILE* system was developed to help young adults organize their important information. Eighteen separate folders have a suggested list of papers, copies, and records that may be kept in each folder. We recognize those youth who use MyFILE may need assistance and support learning self-advocacy and independence. Once a routine is established, the ease and accessibility of having MyFILE available will assist youth to take initiative to add necessary information.

Questions to ask your kids after school instead of "How was your day?"

- What made you smile today?
- What was the hardest rule to follow today?
- If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?

Our Impact

2,374

Provided individualized assistance to families and professionals

5,000+

Resources provided to families and professionals

1,250

Families and professionals attended trainings

14,340

Web users learned more about resources to help them

56,749

Webpage views for information on demand 24/7

85,797

People read about South Dakota Parent Connection and events in online articles and on social media

93%




of families surveyed reported they feel better able to support their child and work with those serving their child

100%

of families surveyed indicated they will make more informed decisions to help their child and recommend South Dakota Parent Connection to other families

How You Can Help

What makes South Dakota Parent Connection unique?

-  connecting families of children with disabilities or special health needs to information and resources in an environment of support, hope and respect is at the heart of our work
-  knowledgeable staff with personal experience supporting children with exceptional needs who support self-advocacy and are prepared to provide timely accurate information when you call
-  state-wide resources and learning opportunities provided on our website available when you need them from anywhere

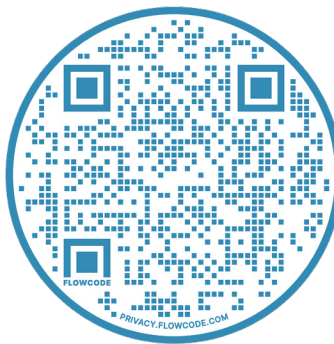
You can make a difference with your gift

We need your help to continue to serve the growing number of families that need assistance. Here are just a few examples of how you can help:

- Continue to provide materials on topics like behavior concerns and understanding rights and responsibilities at no cost.
- Offer in person and virtual learning opportunities for parents and professionals.
- Provide timely information to parents and professionals in person, on our website or social media.

Does your employer have a Matching Gift Program? Ask them to include South Dakota Parent Connection among the programs they support.

To donate scan the QR code or visit our [website](#)
-Thank you!



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