



Utah PTA

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Mark Your Calendar!

Parent to Parent



News for Special Education Parents in Granite School District!

ISSUE # 1

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER



Halloween Tips for Special Needs Children



Halloween is creeping up on us! While most kids can't wait to dress up and prowl the neighborhood for candy, Halloween can cause a lot of stress and anxiety for kids with special needs. All the lights, masks, crowds, and costumes can be overwhelming. Here are some tips to help your child have a positive Halloween experience:

- **Talk About It**

Most children benefit from knowing what's going to happen when they are about to participate in an unfamiliar activity. Walk your child through the entire process from wearing their costume to politely asking for treats. Whether it's a written schedule or one with pictures, your child will feel calmer and safer

knowing what is coming next.

- **Practice Makes Perfect**

Children with sensory issues should practice wearing their costumes before an event. This will allow you to get rid of itchy tags or fabric ahead of time. It may be a good idea to bring a soft Halloween-themed outfit for your child to wear in case he or she can no longer tolerate the costume.

- **Plan your Route**

Generally, quiet side streets will be more successful than main streets. If your child has motor issues or is in a wheelchair, try to find a street where the sidewalks aren't cracked and where most of the houses don't have stairs leading up to the front door.

- **Plan for Complications**

Is your child non-verbal or is his or her speech difficult to understand? Make "trick-or-treat" and "thank you" signs that your child can hold up that also explain that he or she has speaking challenges.

- **At Home Alternatives**

Trick or treating may still be too much for your child. Instead, try inviting some neighbors over and ask them to stand with a bowl of treats in different rooms around the house. This way, the kids can knock on the doors and trick or treat in their own home.

Read the full article at: <http://www.napacenter.org/category/halloween-tips-for-parents-of-special-needs>

Upcoming Events!

Executive Functioning

This presentation will provide parents practical information regarding Executive Functioning Skills. Participants will (1) learn what Executive Functioning Skills are and their importance, (2) learn how to identify Executive Functioning Skills deficits, (3) learn how to modify the environment and instruction for children and (4) learn how to teach specific Executive Functioning Skills

October 26th 6:30PM-8:30PM
Granite Education Center Room D-220
2500 S. State Street, South Salt Lake

Online Registration: <http://conta.cc/2d4TrMi>

Parents as Partners in the IEP

Parents are important members of the IEP team. They can and want to be effective partners with other members of the team in developing and delivering special education programs for their student with disabilities. However, they often lack information. This workshop will help parents understand their role, rights and responsibilities in the IEP process. Parents will also learn how to effectively prepare for, participate in and follow-up on IEP meetings held on behalf of their student.

Thursday, November 3rd 7:00-9:00 PM
Granite Education Center, D-220
2500 S. State Street, South Salt Lake

Online Registration: <http://conta.cc/2culj4a>



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www.utahparentcenter.org 1-800-468-1160



Practical Magic for Families: Effective Behavior Management Strategies

SPEAKER: MELISA GENAUX

Date: Saturday, November 12th, 2016

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Scenic View Academy

5455 Heritage School Dr.

Provo, UT 84604

In this presentation geared towards parents of kids with autism, Melisa Genaux M.Ed. will provide strategies for preventing behavior escalation, for getting kids to follow directions, for improving behavior with siblings, for increasing other desired behavior (homework completion, social skills), and for decreasing severe misbehavior, such as meltdowns and aggression. In addition, she will cover easy methods for creating reinforcement systems and for correcting the common errors that sabotage their effectiveness. She will discuss many practical methods for behavior change, that can be adapted to any age or cognitive level, and that can be implemented immediately at home. Parents of children with other disabilities and/or behavior challenges are also welcome.

Pre-registration for this event is requested, spaces are limited.

Register online at: <http://conta.cc/2duFOnu>

If you have questions about this workshop, please contact the Utah Parent Center at 801-272-1051



Join FARE's Teal Pumpkin Project™ to help us create a safer, happier Halloween for all!

Launched as a national campaign by Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) in 2014, the Teal Pumpkin Project™ raises awareness of food allergies and promotes inclusion of all trick-or-treaters throughout the Halloween season.

Last year, households from 50 states and 7 countries participated in the Teal Pumpkin Project™. This year, you can be part of an even bigger movement by joining 100,000 households pledging to participate in the Teal Pumpkin Project™!

Participating is simple – **sign our pledge**, pick up some inexpensive toys, and place a teal pumpkin and/or a **free printable sign** from FARE outside your home to show that you have non-food treats to hand out. Supporting the Teal Pumpkin Project™ is a simple gesture that can have a big impact.

For more information and to download materials go to <http://www.foodallergy.org/teal-pumpkin-project>



Find Us on Facebook!

Stay up to date on upcoming events, and meet other parents in Granite with special needs kids! Look for “Granite Parents of Special Needs Students”