

We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today. ~Stacia Tauscher

COWETA SPOTLIGHT

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Take a look at what's going on close to home next month:

[Coweta Supporters](#)— Organization designed to support families with emotional support and information. For more information, contact Linda Wilson at 770.463.1658.

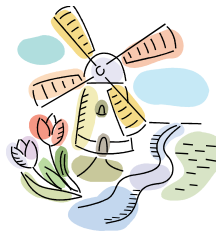
[Team Parent](#)—Local support group. Meets the last Wednesday of the month at InterActiv Children's Therapy Services. For more information, contact Shannon Hopkins at Hopkins@numail.org.

[Georgia Walk Now for Autism](#)—May 3, 2009 at Atlantic Station. For more information, go to www.walknowforautism.org/georgia

[Emory Autism Center Toilet Training Workshop](#)—Friday March 27. For more information, go to www.psychiatry.emory.edu/autism

RESOURCES

[Friends of Disabled Adults & Children](#)—provides equipment & services to the community at little or no cost. www.fodac.org



SUGGESTED BOOKS & OTHER MEDIA

[Parent to Parent of Georgia](#)—A first stop for families. www.parenttoparentofga.org

[Parenting Special Needs magazine](#)—A magazine raising awareness and sharing life's lessons. www.parentingspecialneeds.org

[Coweta County School System](#)—Under Programs & Projects, Click on Special Education. This is a great resources for families. www.cowetaschools.net

Inside this issue:

Calendar of Events	1
Books & Media	1
SI Dysfunction	2
Recreation Programs	2
Activities & Strategies	2
Kid's Section	3

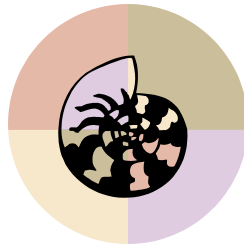
*And it is still
true, no matter
how old you are
- when you go
out into the
world, it is best
to hold hands
and stick to-*

Sensory Integration Dysfunction

Sensory integration is the ability to organize information from all of our senses and put it together for whole brain function. When the functions of the brain are whole and balanced, body movements are highly adaptive, learning is easy, and appropriate behavioral responses are natural outcomes.

Dysfunction in sensory integration happens when information from the senses gets jumbled, lost or processed incorrectly; the senses do not actively communicate with each other, leading to partial use of the brain and unbalanced outcomes (inattention, inability to sit still, poor coordination, motor delays, speech delays, etc). Integration dysfunction is to the brain what indigestion is to the stomach.

The Sensory Learning Program challenges the auditory, visual and vestibular (balance) systems to work together in



a non-threatening/non-demanding setting eliminating the 'fight or flight' factor. It is a 30-day intervention that serves as a foundation for overall sensory processing. It is a way to jump start multi-sensory processing and increase environmental perception and body awareness. The repetition of light, sound and motion challenges the sensory systems to work together and adapt to multi-sensory input. Functional improvements are often seen in areas such as speech, visual perception, understanding, social interaction, motor skills, coordination and learning readiness.

For more information on Sensory Integration Dysfunction, you can call Tara Mulvany at 770.683.0250. Tara is an Occupational Therapist with InterActiv Children's Therapy Center here in Newnan.

Spring Therapy Program

The following recreation therapy programs are provided through the Coweta County School System:

Hit the Trail Walking Club—Tuesdays March 3-31 from 4 - 5pm. Registration is required.

City of Homes Photo Contest—Deadline is April 17. Open to all ages. Submit your best photography work of photos taken in the City of Newnan.

Sailing Lessons—Every other Saturday at the SOG Sailing Center in Macon. The program is fee.

Country Western Dance—Thursday May 17 from 7-9pm at the Coweta Fair Grounds Main Bldg. Cost: A treat for the food table.

Bowling Fun—Thursdays (all year) from 4-5pm at Junction Lanes. Cost: \$3 a person. Let the front desk know you are with Special Olympics. You don't have to be an Olympian to play.

Co-Ed Cheerleading—Newnan School of Gymnastics

For more information or to register, please contact Kelly Abercrombie at 770.254.5546 ext. 203.

Activities & Strategies for development

Physical Development—Using safety scissors, ask your child to cut out coupons. Have your child sort the coupons based on food category. Maybe your child would like to write the shopping list—a great way to practice handwriting!

Emotional & Social Development—Keep a plastic bottle of lotion that smells good in the refrigerator. When your child is upset, invite them to sit with you and apply the cool lotion. Speak to your child in a soothing, calm voice.

Approaches to Learning—On a fall day, ask your child "What can we do with so many leaves?" Follow your child's lead and try out

some of the ideas.

Language & Literacy Development— Read, Read, Read!! Ask questions like Who, What, When, Where and Why.

Cognitive Development—Using stickers of 2 different colors, make a row of stickers in a specific pattern. Ask your child to copy your pattern. If your child does well with this, add a third color. Examples of patterns are: AB, AAB, ABB, ABC (letter represents color).



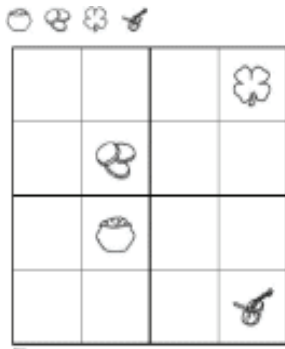
KIDS SECTION



I believe in you!

St. Patrick's Day Sudoku

Fill in the empty spaces using the pictures below. You can only use a picture once in each row and column. Good luck!



How many words can you make from

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

FABULOUS GREAT AMAZING
SWEET BEAUTIFUL
WONDERFUL CREATIVE LOVING

WORDS TO TELL YOUR CHILD DAILY

INCREDIBLE FANTASTIC
EXTRAORDINARY EXCELLENT
MARVELOUS SUPERB
BRILLANT

