

MARCH 2007

SNOHOMISH COUNTY CHILD HEALTH NOTES

Promoting early identification and partnerships between families, primary health care providers & the community.

Distributed by: Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program and Children with Special Health Care Needs
Contributors: Washington State Department of Health and UW – Center on Human Development & Disability



"For many dads, it's the first time they've experienced this kind of support, and the effect can be powerful and immediate. I've seen dads change right before my eyes the moment after they tell their story."

-- Volunteer facilitator,
The Fathers Network

www.fathersnetwork.org

THE FATHERS NETWORK

Support for Fathers of Children with Special Needs

Fathers of children with special health care needs have special needs of their own. They may need to grieve the loss of a typically-developing child. They may have been expecting to have a child with whom they could share particular hobbies or sports. These hopes may have been dashed. In the case of a male child, they may have entertained dreams of a father-son relationship which they now fear may not be realized. The father of a child with special needs may be looking for information and support to care for himself, his child, and his family.

Although fathers were once thought to have a limited role in parenting, we now know that fathers are vital to the well-being of the family. Fathers of children with special needs, however, report often feeling left out of their child's care, left out because they cannot be present for all of their child's appointments, left out because the focus is placed on the mother and on making sure her needs are met. Care providers may look to the mother when setting goals for the child. Fathers of children with special needs deserve to be recognized, included and supported, as much as mothers do.

One of the best ways a medical home provider can support a child is to support the child's whole family. The **Washington State Fathers Network** is a resource you can offer to fathers of children with special health care needs.

WASHINGTON STATE FATHERS NETWORK*

A network of 15 chapters providing support, mentoring programs and fellowship to fathers of children with special needs, and offering resources which include:

- Events specifically designed for fathers, uncles, brothers and other men who provide care for a child with special needs
- A web site with personal stories from fathers of diverse backgrounds (www.fathersnetwork.org)
- Informational materials on fathers' issues, in print and web formats, in English and Spanish (and other languages when possible)
- A statewide newsletter and an e-newsletter
- Monographs and videos for sale which were designed to enhance the involvement of fathers in the home, health care settings and schools
- Opportunities for fathers to be involved in improving systems of care for children with special needs (in collaboration with the WA State Department of Health)

*A program of the Kinderling Center, funded by the Washington State Department of Health/Children with Special Health Care Needs Program, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Washington Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (WCPCAN), and private donations.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

For children under age three:

Contact: Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (FRC), 425-339-1965
Children with Special Health Care Needs, 425-339-8652

For children age three and older:

Contact: Local school district

| District: | Phone: | District: | Phone: | District: | Phone: |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Arlington | 360-618-6215 | Darrington | 360-436-1323 | Edmonds | 425-670-7208 |
| Everett | 425-385-5254 | Granite Falls | 360-283-4513 | Index | 360-793-1330 |
| Lake Stevens | 425-355-1500 | Lakewood | 360-652-4501 | Marysville | 360-653-0825 |
| Monroe | 360-863-4244 | Mukilteo | 425-356-1250 | Northshore | 425-489-6377 |
| Skykomish | 360-677-2623 | Snohomish | 360-563-7310 | Stanwood | 360-629-1250 |
| Sultan | 360-793-9801 | | | | |

SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| Local: | Fathers Network – Snohomish County Keith Harrell | 425-379-9810 krharrell_nw@yahoo.com |
| Regional: | Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program | www1.dshs.wa.gov/iteip |
| | Parent to Parent Support Programs of Washington | www.arcwa.org/parent_to_parent.htm 1-800-821-5927 |
| | Washington State Fathers Network | www.fathersnetwork.org 425-747-4004, ext 4286 |
| | Washington State Medical Home Website | www.medicalhome.org |
| | WithinReach (formerly Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies) | 1-800-322-2588, 1-800-833-6388 (TTD) www.hmhbwa.org |



**SNOHOMISH
HEALTH
DISTRICT**

Children with Special Health Care Needs
3020 Rucker Avenue, Suite 203
Everett, Washington 98201