

TIP SHEET FOR RELATIVES AS PARENTS

Learning About Your Child

Have you ever returned from a school meeting on your child or even a doctor's appointment and have some unresolved questions or are still trying to relate to some of the information that was brought up? If so, there are resources that could help you with those answers.

Great Resource Online:

SchwabLearning.org is a website for parents of children with learning and attention difficulties. On their website you will find information, publications, helpful resources and insights from other parents. SchwabLearning.org is free and encourages users to share the information found on their site. Topics are written by professionals in the education and medical fields and include:

- How to Detect Learning Problems in Your Child.
- Is it a Reading Disorder or a Developmental Lag?
- Helping Children from other Cultures with Possible Learning Disorders.
- Managing Home and Family.
- Managing School and Learning.
- Child Development Milestones
- Guides for Special Education and IEP meetings and 504 plans.

If you do not have Internet at home:

Visit your local library for access to their computers. Look for coffee shops or bookstores in your community which may have free or a small fee to access computers. Try taking an adult education class at your local school for access to computers and to learn more about accessing the internet. Or find a tech savvy teen in your community who will share his knowledge with you.

Four Great Resources and Libraries by Phone and Mail:

If using the internet isn't your thing, then the Maine Parent Federation's information packets on over 200 topics could be just what you're looking for. MPF's office is located in Augusta. The following is a list of a few of their recently updated packets and examples of the topics:

- Education (Homelessness, Home Schooling, Sexuality Education for Developmentally Disabled)
- Disability/Disorder-Related Topics (Emotional Disturbance, ADHD- Instructional Strategies)
- General Information Topics (MaineCare, Physical Therapy)

Call **Maine Kids-Kin** to request copies of articles printed from SchwabLearning.org or other websites. Feel free to call staff to talk further about some of this information or to see what books and videos are available in their library. Go to www.mainekids-kin.org to view what's in the lending library, or call for a list.

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine (AFFM) is an agency that collaborates with Maine Kids-Kin and has a resource library available to kin families as well. AFFM can be reached at 1-800-833-9786 or go to: www.affm.net to view their lending library.

The Maine Office of Substance Abuse offers a website with print information about substance abuse and listings of treatment agencies and statewide support groups. Go to www.maine.gov/dhhs/osa to view their website and order their materials, or call 1-800-499-0027.

You can call **Maine Parent Federation** for a free packet at 1-800-870-7746 (ask to speak with a parent information specialist) or visit their library online at: www.mpf.org.

*Copies of our tip sheets may be found on our web site at www.mainekids-kin.org
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