



'ŌLELO NU'UKIA

Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawai'i

IS YOUR CHILD A **TARGET** OF **BULLYING?**



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By Rosie Rowe, Executive Director

Bullying in our schools and the behavior that has existed since I can remember has hit home to many of our families this year and LDAH is standing in agreement with other parents to build a better community. Haven't you been bullied in school? Or, were you the bully? I considered myself the bully in school. I went to a large private school where it was important for kids to "fit" in, to belong. As a middle school student, the bullying behavior that I displayed was all about being popular and for other students to envy the "popular" kids, like "don't mess around with them" kids. What were we thinking?



Today, there is cyber bullying added to the mix. We are standing together as a parent organization, assisting parent groups to take a stance against bullying. A Parent Support Group, "Stronger Together" was formed out of a parent forum started in May where parents took turns telling their story about their kids with and without disabilities being bullied in school and how the school responded or didn't respond.



Sign waving was organized in Ewa Beach and in front of the State Capitol urging people to help us be the voice. Pledge cards are being shared with the public to pledge against bullying. Parents are canvassing neighborhoods with Pledge cards during morning and evening walks. The information collected will be used to know what zip codes have not made a pledge against bullying.

If your child was a victim of bullying, we created a Bullying Response Kit for parents. The materials in the kit can help you think through the anger or sadness inside of you. In preparation for Bullying Prevention Month in October 2023, the parent support group is hosting activities in July, August and September to build a momentum of change in our community. Get involved in making a statement against Bullying. See our website for more information and to receive your Bullying Response Kit. www.LDAHawaii.org for details.



PANDEMIC'S OVER; NOW WHAT?

By Beverly Reidy,
 Education & Training
 Coordinator - Hawai'i

As Hawaii's Parent Training & Information Center, LDAH takes many calls every week and hears a wide variety of needs and concerns. A reoccurring theme from both parents and professionals is the rise in behavior concerns post pandemic. The National Institute of Health reported that the social distancing and isolation during the pandemic led to increased "incidence of psycho-social problems, worsening of preexisting mental illness and fears." So as parents, what do we do? Here are some recommendations from the National Association of School Psychologists and Rebecca Eanes.

Children look to you for guidance on how to react to stressful events; so be a positive role model. Model how you handle stress, deep breathing, physical activity, etc. Teach them ways for them to handle their stress. Practice the skills in situations when they are calm.

It is important to talk to your children about fears and give them a sense of some control. Let their questions guide your conversations. Be honest and accurate with them. Listen to them with empathy and compassion. Focus on the things they are doing well. Try to give six positive statements for every negative statement.

Monitor their use of television and social media. Provide alternatives that engage them in games or activities. Give them some control over these alternatives. Above all else offer your children lots of love and affection.

"The greatest gift I can give to my children is my time, my love, and my attention." – Unknown.



AKOYIKOYI SUMMER OF CREATIVE LITERACY & DIVERSITY



By Clark Graham, Akoyikoyi School Chuuk & Linee Reeves, Education & Training Coordinator - Pacific

Summer can be a time when children with disabilities and neurodiverse needs fall behind other students. To combat this "summer slide," Akoyikoyi's Summer of Creativity offered classes in art, music, and dance, providing an inclusive summer school experience, that permitted all children to fully participate together. Four dedicated American teachers (one born in Chuuk) provided this inclusive learning experience. Generally, all students do well during the months they are in school, but the "summer slide" is known as a time when high needs children and those with disabilities lose ground. Akoyikoyi School used summer to individualize our students' needs and promote their unique and creative capabilities.

Music and dance permit creativity in all students, allowing them to express themselves using their unique intelligences using non-literate methods. We offered traditional arts such as weaving pandanus and coconut fiber and traditional dance, preserving Chuukese culture.



Our summer of creativity was a new journey into both Micronesian non-Micronesian fine arts.



Catching Up to Summer Wellness with Partnerships

By Tina King, SRP Program Coordinator

The 2023 summer experience for the School Readiness Project was about venturing to sites where young learners are attending Family-Child Interaction Learning sites with their parents to learn, grow, be nurtured, receive services and resources for homeless and at-risk families. Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) and Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawai'i (LDAH) have partnered together for two years now to serve our communities of families and children who are getting ready to transition to local shelters or temporary housing facilities and get a head start into life experiences.



Through the School Readiness Project, our staff joins PIDF staff to promote health and wellness through hearing, vision screening and follow-up support to families. The effort between the two organizations ensures that families are given the needed services and support to follow their child's health, development, and education needs. This summer we met families and their children in Kapolei, Nanakuli, Maili land, Waianae Boat Harbor, Ke Aka Ho'ona in Maili and even traveled to Hawaii Island. What an experience!



To meet a diverse group of families who openly welcome our services for their young learners while developing their own parenting skills at PIDF, we get to witness their commitment to the program first-hand as they trust us with screening their children.

Dwa-nah Du-rite



By Beverly Reidy,

Education & Training Coordinator - Hawai'i

Dear Polly,
 In Hawai'i Administrative Rules, §8-60-45 (6), it says, "At the discretion of the parent or the department, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student. . . "can be included. This means parents can invite anyone who has knowledge or special expertise to the meeting. You

Dear Dwa-nah,
 Help! I want to bring my son's private therapist to the IEP meeting and the school is telling me I cannot. She knows a lot about my son and could really help me explain things at the IEP meeting.

-Polly Parent

can invite people to your meeting that help you feel comfortable, such as a family member or friend. You can also invite people such as an advocate or a private therapist. They should be allowed to participate as any other IEP team member.

Best Regards,
 Dwa-nah Du-rite

WORD UNSCRAMBLE

1. IEP 2. BULLYING 3. PARTNERSHIP 4. LITERACY
5. DIVERSITY 6. PRESCHOOL 7. CYBERBULLY
8. STRONGER TOGETHER 9. BEHAVIOR 10. RESOURCE

1. PIE _ _ _
2. UBLLYNGI _ _ _ _ _
3. TRIPRHANSPE _ _ _ _ _
4. ILERACTY _ _ _ _ _
5. ESITYRDIV _ _ _ _ _
6. ECHORLOPS _ _ _ _ _
7. YCRBULELBY _ _ _ _ _
8. RNOTGSRE GTTRHEOE _ _ _ _ _
9. REAVIBOH _ _ _ _ _
10. SUREERO _ _ _ _ _

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For more information on events, to request a training, or to make reservations, visit our website at:

www.LDAHawaii.org

Call us at 808-536-9684

Upcoming Events!

- 10/23-10/25 'Aha Lokahi: Hawai'i CommUNITY Conference
- 10/25 Screening - Kamehameha Schools Honaunau Preschool
- 10/27 Screening - Kamehameha Schools Kona Preschool
- 10/27 Screening - Kamehameha Schools Kailua-Kona Preschool
- 10/28 Maui Keiki Health Fair - Wailuku, Maui
- 10/31 Screening - Kailua Methodist Preschool
- 11/1 Screening - Partners in Development: Waimanalo District Park
- 11/6 Screening - Mountain View Elementary
- 11/8-11/9 Screening - Holy Family Catholic Academy
- 11/14 Screening - Trinity Lutheran Preschool
- 12/2 Kaneohe Christmas Parade
- 12/7 Kaimuki Christmas Parade
- 12/9 Celebrate 'Ohana Festival - Old Kona Airport
- 12/16 Kapolei City Lights Christmas Parade
- 12/23-1/7 LDAH Office Closed for Holidays

SCAN FOR MORE LDAH



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