

Presidents Day

February 20th, 2012

Presidents Day (also called Washington's Birthday) is celebrated in the USA on the third Monday of February. It is a Federal holiday in the USA.

Why not celebrate this upcoming holiday by creating your own Patriotic Wind Sock. For directions and supplies needed, please visit:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/windsock/>



Crafts are a great way to enjoy time with the ones you love. These crafts are easy and use common household items that are easy to find.

Monthly Shout Out



Contact Sonia at sdykhuizen@arioncaresolutions.com to nominate your favorite provider. Recipient will receive a \$50 gift card.

Jane McCullough started her work with Conner 2.5 years ago. When I first heard that she was a "retired" teacher from Texas, I was skeptical. But the minute Jane came through our door and started playing with Conner, I knew she was a "keeper" First of all, let me say that we should all hope to have as much energy as Jane does! She is always smiling and always has such a wonderful, positive attitude. Her teaching experience makes her such a wonderful habilitator. She is very creative and is always coming up with fun ways to teach Conner a new concept. And she is very artistic, which I am not. Sometimes I secretly think to myself, "oh no - she brought glitter," but then I smile and know that Jane is the perfect habilitator for Conner. Conner's mom

Featured Family



Meagan was born 7 years ago with a rare disorder called CHARGE Syndrome. This cruel disorder wreaked havoc within her tiny, little, premature body, rendering it useless

to do even the simplest of things each of us do on a day-to-day basis. Doctors told us that she would never eat by mouth, hear, see or walk; basically she would never live a normal life. We were devastated. We immediately developed a team of 15 doctors, therapists and other specialists and, today, we're happy to say this beautiful, 7 year old little girl is eating, seeing, walking and even running! She is a bundle of giggles that is contagious to all those around her. Arion is a part of our team. We wouldn't be where we are today without them and, for that, we are so grateful! Brandi Melton

Tax Tips

It's that time of year again... tax time. Here are some tax strategies for Parents of Kids with Special Needs (see link below for more info) Medical expenses are limited by 7.5% of Adjusted Gross Income, but some of the following out of pocket costs may cause you to exceed that limitation. Costs that can be deducted include:

- Aides required for a child to benefit from regular and special education.
- Diagnostic evaluations by qualified personnel.
- Exercise program if recommended by qualified medical personnel to treat a specific condition, includes yoga, dance, horseback riding, etc.
- Transportation: Mileage to and from special schools or therapy sessions at the medical mileage rate of 20 cents per mile. Also parking fees. Airfare for parents and child to obtain treatment or testing.
- Equipment or devices used primarily for the alleviation of a person's illness- examples would be specially designed bedding, car seats, etc.
- Special instruction, training, or therapy such as OT, Speech, remedial reading, etc.

Please contact your tax advisor for advice and clarifications. The link below has more information.
<http://www.tacanow.org/family-resources/tax-strategies-for-parents-of-kids-with-special-needs/>