

The Family Resource Network, Inc.  
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Oneonta, NY 13820



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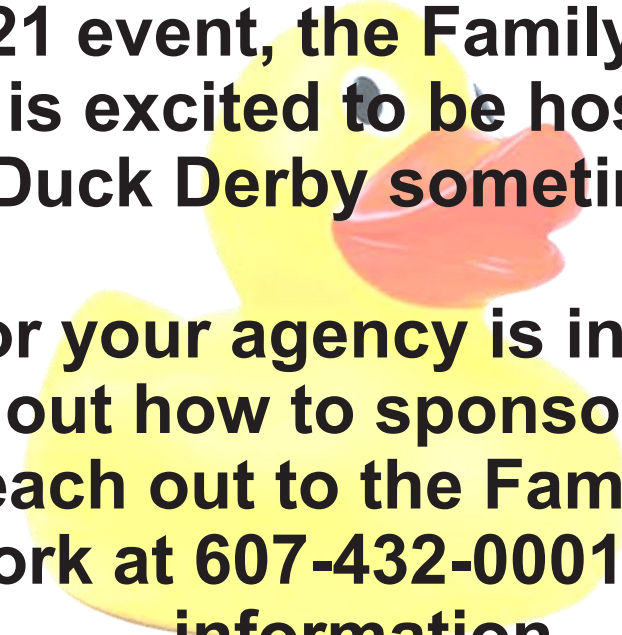
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**Although we have not picked out a date for our 2021 event, the Family Resource Network is excited to be hosting our 6th Annual Duck Derby sometime this Fall!**



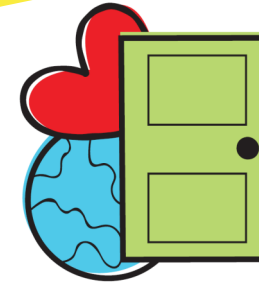
**If you or your agency is interested in finding out how to sponsor this event please reach out to the Family Resource Network at 607-432-0001 for more information.**

# connections

Information, Resources, and Updates from **The Family Resource Network, Inc.**

**July-August 2021  
in this issue:**

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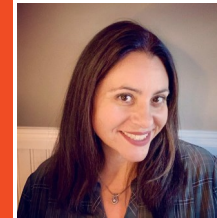
**Family  
Resource  
Network**

### Happy Summer from the Family Resource Network!

Have you attended one of our conferences? Every year, Family Resource Network brings in well-known experts in the field of Autism to share their knowledge with parents during our conference series. The topics are often of interest to the parents of individuals with other developmental disabilities, so you do not have to have a child with Autism to attend. These conferences are free to the families of individuals who are OPWDD eligible. Other families, providers, and community members may be charged a small fee to cover expenses.

This summer, we are excited to welcome Nancy Clements from Social Thinking, and Kim Wiggins, OTR/L for our first two conferences of 2021.

**Kim Wiggins, OTR/L.** Kim Wiggins is an experienced occupational therapist specializing in pediatrics who has worked extensively in public school settings, outpatient, and home-based services to children of all ages with a variety of diagnoses and special needs. Kim is currently a full-time therapist at the Binghamton City School District and the owner of OT KimWiggins LLC, which primarily focuses on providing educational opportunities for parents and professionals. She is an experienced National program developer who has produced and presented training workshops and seminars on a variety of topics related to handwriting, vision, primitive reflexes, sensory techniques, and technology to therapists, teachers, administrators, and parents. She has presented to audiences nationwide since 2010. She is also the co-author of "Just Right! A Sensory Modulation Curriculum for K-5."



**Nancy Clements, SLP-CCC,** is a speech language pathologist and Executive Director of Social Thinking Boston®, the East Coast sister clinic to Social Thinking Stevens Creek and Social Thinking Santa Clara. She brings her highly creative approach to her clinical practice, where she maintains a very active and varied caseload ranging from early social learners through adults. She is especially interested in bringing Social Thinking concepts to all learners and continuing to analyze the impact of social thinking methodologies across all tiers using a Response to Intervention (RTI) model. Nancy enjoys formulating programs from the ground up through creative strategies, systems of implementation, and models of efficacy that are data driven. Having been raised by parents who were both educators, she brings an empathic and collaborative approach to coaching teachers, administrators and specialists.



See inside for more details on both conferences and registration information.

### The Family Resource Network, Inc. Mission & Purpose

**Mission Statement:**

Individuals with special needs deserve every opportunity to achieve their unique potential. The Family Resource Network was founded by parents to enhance the lives of individuals with special needs and their families, empowering them to lead productive independent lives within the community.

**Purpose:**

We want to make our community a better place through education and the enlisting of our citizens to bring services to those in need. We accomplish our mission through our core values.

We have been a vital part of our community for a number of years. We were founded to serve a growing segment of our community in need of inaccessible services. We have continued to grow with the help of our donors and volunteers that make our mission possible. Through all these years our purpose still remains the same: bring services to those in need.

**Family Resource Network Staff:**

- Heather Cotten: Family Peer Advocate
- Terry Diluzio: Education Advocate
- William Drew: Education Advocate
- Barbara Finkelstein: FPA-YPA Supervisor
- Mary Fralick: Family Peer Advocate
- Karyn Kanzer: Family Peer Advocate
- Darcy McElligott: Youth Peer Advocate
- Jennifer Moore: Family Peer Advocate
- Robin Piefer: FSS Supervisor
- Joleane Robinson: Family Peer Advocate
- Twyla Shaffer: Medicaid Billing
- Kristin Winn: HR Supervisor/Program Coordinator
- Michelle Zuk: Executive Director



**G & E Therapies**  
Summer Camp for Youth with Autism  
After School Program for Teens with Autism-Social Skills Group (Geckos on the Go)

**Legacy Resource Fund**  
Source of financial assistance

**Family Resource Network Programs:**

**Services for Families with OPWDD Eligibility**

- Education Advocacy
- Intensive Advocacy Program
- Enhanced Autism Trainings
- Support Groups
- Family and Provider Trainings
- Dragon Dates Program (Social Opportunities)
- Service Access Program

**Mental Health and Wellness Services**

- Family Peer Support
- Residential Family Peer Support
- Youth Peer Support
- Teen Scene
- Monthly Parent Group
- Southern Tier Chapter of Families Together in NYS

## Keep up with the Family Resource Network through our Social Media Accounts!



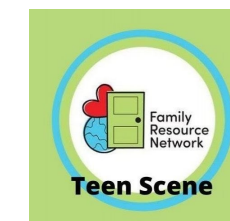
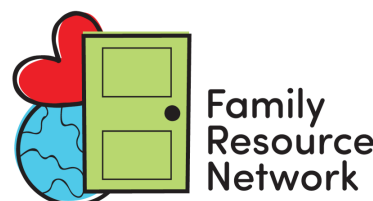
Find us on Facebook:  
[@familyrn](#)

Find us on Instagram:  
[@family.resource.network](#)

Interested in finding out more about our youth programming and upcoming Teen Scene events? Follow our Teen Scene pages on Facebook and Instagram!

Find us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/FRNTeenScene](http://www.facebook.com/FRNTeenScene)

Find us on Instagram:  
[@\\_frnteenscene\\_](#)



## ***Family Resource Network 2021 Conference Series:***

### ***Sensory Self-Regulation:***

#### ***Managing and Implementing Successful Sensory Diets***

Wednesday, July 14

9:00 am– 3:00 pm with a 1 hour lunch break

Online

Speaker: Kim Wiggins, OTR-L

#### **Learn about:**

1. The purpose of a sensory diet and explanation of sensory modulation disorder
2. How sensory activities affect the neurochemicals in the brain
3. How sensory breaks should be provided including strategies for developing Sensory breaks, routines, and modifications
4. Various sensory activities that will be beneficial for a child. Learn how to differentiate the use of calming, alerting, and just right activities
5. Behaviors that are most likely to be impacted through the use of a sensory diet
6. Determine who needs a sensory diet
7. Learn to make your own child's sensory diet

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***Social Thinking***

#### ***A Comprehensive Overview of Building Social Competencies***

Wednesday, August 18

9:00 am– Noon

Online

Speaker: Nancy Clements, SLP-CCC

This presentation will explore the key components of the Social Thinking Methodology. Frameworks for teaching social attention, interpretation and problem solving will be explored and discussed as the basis for social responses and related social behaviors across various age groups. The core concepts and Social Thinking vocabulary will also be presented.

Registration is required for both events. To register, go to [familyrn.org](http://familyrn.org) and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar". For questions or to register by phone, call Will at (607)353-2551.

\*\*\*These conferences are funded through a grant from OPWDD. Self-directing families will need to add "Autism Training" to their budgets prior to attending. For assistance adding this program to your budget, please contact Robin at (607)287-6358.\*\*\*

The Family Resource Network would like to recognize all of its staff for the hard work and effort they have put in over the past year when it has come to adapting the services we provide to families. With the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic last March, almost all of our service delivery had to be immediately transitioned to virtual and remote. From the beginning our staff have been dedicated to making this transition as seamless as possible to families and still providing the same quality and level of support. We want them to know how much everything they do on a daily basis is appreciated and that what they have been able to accomplish over the past year by continuing to help the families we serve in this capacity has been no easy feat! With that being said, the Family Resource Network will be individually recognizing a staff person each month with the "Quacktastic" Award as a special thank you!

### **Congratulations to Karyn Kanzer, FPA! Recipient of the Quacktastic Award in recognition of her hard work, commitment and positive outcomes!**



Karyn is a "boots on the ground" and "by the book employee" with the determination to try, try and try again until its right. Karyn has the ability to relate to families in need without judgement to support positive communication, self-advocacy, improved family dynamics and successful outcomes.

Karyn has immersed herself in the communities we serve to provide first-hand information to the families she works with. Karyn has worked to build relationships with other community providers using strength based approaches, modeling family driven practices all while maintaining professional boundaries.

#### **Recognition:**

This month we would like to give the much deserved and earned special recognition to Karyn Kanzer, Family Peer Advocate for being a Mentor, an innovative thinker and a model employee that has touched the lives of many. The Family Resource Network is proud to have such a stellar representative.

Thank you Karyn!

## **\*\*Update About Summer Teen Scene Events\*\***

The Family Resource Network staff would like to thank all of our participants who have joined us since our Teen Scene and Dragon Dates events transitioned to a virtual platform in 2020. Without the support of our participants and community members, we would not have had such a successful transition!

As the school year is wrapping up and COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted, we have decided to take the summer off from **Teen Scene** and put a pause on hosting events so we can dedicate our time to planning for our Fall Kickoff.

We hope that everyone has a fantastic summer and we are looking forward to seeing you all again in September!

**Questions? Call Darcy at (607) 353-0728**

## **\*\*\*Dragon Dates is Back In-Person!\*\*\***



We have missed seeing members of our Dragon Dates Program in person! We are hoping to take advantage of the warm weather to schedule in-person events where safe physical distancing measures can be followed. We are working on scheduling some fun and safe activities for the summer.

### **Dates and More Info Coming Soon!**

**Watch your email, our Events Calendar, and our Facebook page for more information.**

Registration for all events is **REQUIRED**. To register please visit our website @ [www.familyrn.org](http://www.familyrn.org) and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar".

**Dragon Dates** events are for the families of individuals with OPWDD eligibility living in the family home in Broome, Chenango, Otsego, Delaware, Tioga or Tompkins County. Self-directing families will need to add "Social Skills" to their budgets before attending. Please contact Robin at (607)287-6358 for assistance adding this program to your budget.

### Please Join the Family Resource Network for Our Online and Phone Family Support Groups:

At Family Resource Network, we recognize that during these difficult times, families of individuals with special needs are facing unique challenges and may feel even more isolated. While we can't meet in-person to support one another, we invite you to join us for online support groups. These will be conducted through Zoom Meetings, and families may participate online or by phone. We are offering these groups as an opportunity for families to form connections, support, and learn from each other.

We will be offering two groups per week: one morning and one evening.

#### **Registration is required.**

#### Tentative Support Group Dates:

Tuesday, July 6 6:30 pm	Thursday, July 1 10:00 am
Tuesday, July 13 6:30 pm	Thursday, July 8 10:00 am
Tuesday, July 20 6:30 pm	Thursday, July 15 10:00 am
Tuesday, July 27 6:30 pm	Thursday, July 22 10:00 am
Tuesday, August 3 6:30 pm	Thursday, July 29 10:00 am
Tuesday, August 10 6:30pm	Thursday, August 5 10:00 am
Tuesday, August 17 6:30 pm	Thursday, August 12 10:00 am
Tuesday, August 24 6:30 pm	Thursday, August 19 10:00 am
Tuesday, August 31 6:30 pm	Thursday, August 26 10:00 am

Dates may be adjusted based on interest and need as physical distancing regulations are lifted.

To register, go to [www.familyrn.org](http://www.familyrn.org) and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar".

For questions, or to participate by phone, please call Terry at (607)287-3816.

\*\*\*Support Groups are funded by a grant from the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. Self-directing families will need to add "training groups" to their budgets. Please contact Robin at (607)287-6358 for assistance adding this program to your budget.\*\*\*

### Family Resource Network presents:

## Attorney Training: **Return to School after COVID**

with Patrick Radel, Esq.

**Wednesday, July 28th at 9:30am-11:00 am  
(Online via Zoom)**

Whether your child has been fully remote or participating in a hybrid program this year, there is no question that their education has been disrupted. Special Education Attorney Patrick Radel will share information and answer your questions to help you get your child's education back on track.



*Patrick Radel, Esq.* is an attorney who specializes in several areas including Special Education Law. He is a graduate of State University of New York at Buffalo Law School and father of three children, including a child with special needs.

#### **\*\*\*Registration is required\*\*\***

To register online, go to [www.familyrn.org](http://www.familyrn.org) and click on the News & Events link and the Event Calendar. To register by phone, call the Family Resource Network at 432-0001.

\*\*\*This workshop is funded through a grant from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Self-directing families will need to add "Advocacy" to their budgets prior to attending. Please contact FRN for assistance adding this to your budget.\*\*\*

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## Please join the Family Resource Network's Teen Scene for a Workshop Series Focusing on

### ***Transitions Through High School and Beyond!***

This fall FRN Teen Scene is excited to be offering a virtual series to our older youth! This series will focus on the decisions and transitions youth face and experience throughout their high school career and beyond! Potential topics and options to be covered include:

- **Getting a job/internship**
- **Trade schools**
- **College**
- **Building your perfect resume**
- **And More!**

We will be inviting community members who specialize in these areas to lead discussions and activities about each topic and answer any questions you may have! If there is any particular transition topic you are interested in learning more about or if you are a community member interested in leading a workshop for local youth about one of these topics please call Darcy at (607) 353-0728 for more information! As these workshops will be focusing on topics appropriate for Transition Aged youth these workshops will be for individuals 14-21 years of age.

### **Coming Soon!**

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact the Family Resource Network at 607-432-0001.

## *Please join the Family Resource Network for our Virtual Nurturing Parenting Series: Nurturing Skills for Families-A Strength Based Approach to Positive Parenting*

The Family Resource Network will be offering a ten session course presented by our team of credentialed Family Peer Advocates and trained facilitators focusing on positive parenting of children birth-11 years of age.

The ten session, virtual workshops will meet on the following Thursdays from 6:00pm-8:00pm via Zoom:

Thursday, June 24  
Thursday, July 1  
Thursday, July 8  
Thursday, July 15  
Thursday, July 22  
Thursday, July 29

Thursday, August 5  
Thursday, August 12  
Thursday, August 19  
Thursday, August 26  
Thursday, September 2\*  
Thursday, September 9\*  
\*Make up sessions

The Nurturing Parenting Programs are a family-centered trauma-informed initiative designed to help caregivers build nurturing parenting skills and develop positive parenting techniques. The Nurturing Parenting Programs are designed to meet the family's needs based on their parenting strengths and weaknesses.

Instructors of the Nurturing Programs gather information from families in order to prepare tailored sessions. Assessments will gather information about participants' current life conditions, their childhood, their relationship with their partner, their relationship with their children, how much they already know about parenting, and the beliefs they have about raising children. The Family Resource Network strongly encourages participants to complete this assessment prior to the first meeting if possible.

What to expect if you participate in the Nurturing Parenting Series:

- The Nurturing Programs are family based interventions where parents and their children learn similar knowledge and skills for improving the quality of their lives.
- Built in assessment strategies allow facilitators and parents to chart the course of their successes.
- The flexibility within the structure of the programs allows facilitators to ensure the specific needs of families are being met.
- The nurturing philosophy of non-violent parenting focuses on the development of empathy, self-worth, self-awareness, empowerment, discipline with dignity, appropriate family roles and age-appropriate expectations of children's development.
- This 10 session course is geared towards families raising children from birth through 11 years old.

To find out more information or to register please call the Family Resource Network at 607-432-0001 and ask to speak with Leslie.