

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Sarah Vazquez was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at age four. Sarah's mother raised her mindful of the knowledge and awareness that she could do anything to which she put her mind. She is a graduate of Rutgers University, where she earned her BA degree in Psychology and English. More information is available at: <http://sarahvazquezspeaks.com>.

MORNING WORKSHOPS

1. Stepping Into Your Future (Panel)

- General information about student transition from high school to adulthood
- Strategies for successful transition planning from high school to work/education/life
- Developing a transition plan while the student is in high school
- How to connect to youth & adult services

2. Champion Your Cause (Panel)

- Learn about VT legislative process from a legislator, political organizer, & parents
- Q & A with experts who have successfully effected legislative change

3. Speech Recognition Software—It Really Works Now!

- Overview given of all the new & exciting speech-recognition software options
- Speak into a microphone to have your words translated into text on a computer screen
- Hands-on demonstration of main focus: Dragon NaturallySpeaking version 10
- Tips for troubleshooting voice-dictation issues
- Identify characteristics of students who benefit from Dragon software in school setting

4. Fun, Fitness, & Friends (Panel)

- Exploration of available social & recreational opportunities, which can be adapted to individual needs, regardless of age, ability, cognitive impairment, or special needs
- Learn ways in which children & adults can engage in an active & healthy lifestyle, through camp, school, & community activities
- Emphasis on adaptive & inclusive recreation in a social environment

5. Healthy Social & Emotional Development of Young Children

- Information provided on positive experiences building competence & resilience
- Healthy social & emotional development as a precious resource
- Understanding infant & toddler mental health, using principles that foster growth of reciprocity in relationships & capacity in every child
- Useful strategies for interventionists, parents, childcare providers, teachers, & others
- Exploration of the idea of "ghosts in the nursery"
- The importance of the 0-3 years in every child's life for determining trust, empathy, conscience, & self-regulation

Participate in 2 Round Table Discussions - *Choose topics day of event*

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

6. Build a Better IEP

- Step-by-step explanation of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process
- Information for parents to understand how the plan is designed to work for their child
- Tips for active participation in the IEP planning process as team members
- Create a well-written IEP that can help your child make meaningful progress

7. Creating a Better Future through Effective Communication

- Communication strategies, best practices, & research-based techniques for getting your point across respectfully, even in situations of conflict
- Audience scenarios & group problem-solving
- Geared for parents, school administrators, & educators

8. Caring for Ourselves & Our Children with Special Needs

- Explore commonly-faced challenges for families of children with special needs
- Identify personal/relational stresses associated with parenting a child with special needs
- Examine the role of loss, grief, & mourning within familial relationships
- Consider preferred methods of self-care & effective alternatives
- Examine communication patterns within the family & new ways of relating
- Discuss concerns about the future
- Share information regarding resources for accessing support

9. Effective Strategies for Challenging Behavior

- Solving a child's behavior issues, for parents & schools
- Support of parents' unique role in helping schools develop good behavior plans
- Explanation of functional behavioral assessments & positive interventions in school
- Advice about practical behavior intervention strategies for the home

10. Accessing Your Community (Panel)

- Discover resources & services, regarding housing, employment, & social opportunities
- Learn about possible effects of FY 2011 budget cuts
- Focus is on adults with developmental disabilities
- Connect with VFN to access information & resources for individuals with developmental disabilities

More info, including presenters, online: www.vtfn.org/Conf2010.html

Registration

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Place of Employment: _____
(for name tag)

Check all that apply:

- Educator/Para Educator Nurse MD OT/PT
 Social Worker Birth-to-3 Professional Youth Professional
 Parent/Guardian of child with a disability 0-3 years
 Parent/Guardian of child with a disability 3-18 years
 Parent/Guardian of adult with a disability
 Individual with a disability/Self-advocate
 Student Childcare Provider Other

Sign up for: (optional)

- Social Work Cont. Ed Attendance Certificate
 Mental Health Certificate

2nd
Choice:

Morning Workshops 10:15 - 11:30 (check one)

- 1 2 3 4 5 _____

Afternoon Workshops 2:45 - 4:00 (check one)

- 6 7 8 9 10 _____

Conference Fee: (includes continental breakfast & buffet lunch)

- \$70 Early Registration (before April 15)
 \$75 Registration (April 16 - May 5)
 \$55 Family Member/Caregiver of person with special needs
(NOTE: A limited number of Partial & Full Scholarships are available; call us at 1-800-800-4005)

Your name/contact info will be included on a participants list, in our conference packets, unless you state otherwise: No listing, please

Photos will be taken at the conference event. Please check here if you do NOT want your photo used in any VFN promotional material: No photos used, please

Send check payable to: Vermont Family Network
(You may call in credit card info 1-800-800-4005.)

2010 Vermont Family Network Conference



Thursday, May 13, 2010
Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center

Sign up now for Workshops!
Fill-in registration & mail, with payment, to:
Vermont Family Network
600 Blair Park Road, Ste 240
Williston, VT 05495



Call us or view more info online:
1-800-800-4005 | www.vtfn.org