



You are invited to attend
The 27th Annual *International Conference for Young Children with Special Needs and their Families*

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children is excited to announce an opportunity for families of children with disabilities and other special needs! DEC will offer 25 stipends covering the cost of registration for this year's international conference which will be held at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland from November 17-19, 2011. The stipend covers full conference registration as well as optional participation in a full-day workshop offered on Thursday November 17. Go to www.dec-sped.org and click the "Conference" link to learn more

This conference provides a unique opportunity to hear from leading experts in early intervention and early childhood special education, become exposed to cutting edge research and ideas, learn about intervention strategies that are being used throughout the world, and see the latest resources. DEC's annual conference is the event where professionals come to gain access to the information they need, connect with colleagues, learn new strategies, and become re-energized to continue their work with young children and families. The Executive Board of DEC knows that many family members are also eager for this information and are committed to providing this opportunity for parents and family members to participate.

TO QUALIFY for the stipend, you should:

- Be the parent or family member of a child from infancy through eight years of age who has a disability, developmental delay, or other special need.
- Not be employed full-time in an early intervention or early childhood special education position.
- Be able to attend at least two full days of conference activity and participate in a *family networking meeting* to be held on Friday, November 18.
- Be willing to complete a written evaluation giving your feedback about the conference.

TO APPLY, please send a letter or email that contains:

1. Your name and contact information: address, city, state, zip code, phone, and email address. Please let us know if more than one parent in the family will be participating.
2. The name, ages, disability, and gender of your child(ren).
3. Brief description of why you want to attend this conference, including:
 - What you hope to gain personally and as a parent
 - How you plan to share what you have learned with others

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTER or EMAIL TO:



Division for Early Childhood
Attn: Cynthia Wood
27 Fort Missoula Road, Suite 2
Missoula, MT 59804

Fax: 406-543-0887
Email: cynthia.wood@dec-sped.org

Stipend requests are due by **September 15, 2011**. All requests received by the due date will be reviewed and notifications made no later than September 15, 2011. Selection will be based on the family's interest and commitment to gaining new information and willingness to share what is learned with other families. Recipients are responsible for travel, lodging, and meals. Requests received after the deadline will be considered if space is available. If you have any questions, please contact the DEC office at 406-543-0872 or dec@dec-sped.org.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2011!