

**Families and Developmental Disability
Online resources for parents, professionals and
researchers**

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A variety of online resources provide information and support related to families and developmental disability (DD). A number of key web sites are summarized below. Resources are grouped by their primary relevance to parents and siblings or professionals and researchers. Please note that the Journal on Developmental Disabilities provides these resources for information purposes only and does not necessarily endorse specific content. It is also important to note that content on the world-wide web changes frequently, so it is useful to check into websites at regular intervals.

Resources for Parents and Siblings

Family Village: A Global Community of Disability-Related Resources

<http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/index.html> This extensive and well maintained site integrates information, resources, and communication opportunities on the Internet that support individuals with cognitive and other disabilities. The site is divided into sections addressing issues such as education, social skills, recreation, and health. Specific information on the site focuses on sibling relationships, advocacy, behaviour management, and respite care. The site is also equipped with links to discussion boards and chat rooms.

The Sibling Support Project

<http://www.thearc.org/siblingsupport/> The Sibling Support Project aims to increase the support and information available to brothers and sisters of individuals with special needs and to increase parents' and providers' understanding of sibling issues. Their site presents testimonials from siblings and information about how to support their development. It also provides two listserves for siblings of individuals with disabilities, one for adults and another for children.

Resources for researchers and professionals

The American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR)

<http://www.aamr.org/> This site provides access to up-to-date information about a range of topics related to families and developmental disability. It provides links to AAMR abstracts and articles about family coping, sibling relationships, and family-based care and presents an online resource room with a section devoted to family issues.

National Dissemination Centre for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)

<http://www.nichcy.org/index.html> The NICHCY aims to disseminate research about children with disabilities to practitioners in the field. Their publications, available on line, summarize information about family coping, respite care, and parent training. The site also contains a comprehensive collection of links to information about autism, positive behavioural support and parent groups.

JP Das Developmental Disabilities Centre

<http://www.quasar.ualberta.ca/ddc/INDEX.html> The JP Das Developmental Disabilities Centre is a research and training centre located within the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta. Their website provides access to articles published in the Developmental Disabilities Bulletin, a resource emphasizing education and service provision for persons with developmental and learning disabilities. The site also contains information for parents and teachers about topics such as inclusive education and health care.

Author's Note

The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Thistletown Regional Centre or the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

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