Executive Director
Carlene Leaper

Leaper's Viewpoint

Learning Loss… And Recovery Services

I would like to address learning loss through extended school year, compensatory education, and summer learning programs. Families are entitled to compensatory services for special education services that were not provided in the spring or summer. For example, if an IEP (Individual Education Plan) stipulates that a child see a speech and language pathologist three times a week for 30 minutes, but the school did not schedule the appointments, then the family should receive compensatory services from the school district. However, I understand most schools are still working out details as far as how to make up for what has been lost. In speaking with several parents, a lot of the questions that parents and guardians have in special education are, “How do I get my child what they need, what am I entitled to, and what am I allowed to ask for?” Parents of children receiving IEP services, or a 504 plan have been consistently and completely overwhelmed. For working parents, juggling the school—from home and work—from home balance is very, very difficult. In the spring of 2020 when schools closed due to COVID-19, the federal government declared that there would be no special education waivers, which meant everything within the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)—all timelines, services, and regulations—remained in force. But that was extremely difficult for schools to implement, let me be clear, ensuring compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 1 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act should not prevent any school from offering educational programs through distance instruction.

https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/frontpage/faq/r/fuller328Fact%20Sheet%203,2120%20FINAL.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

Federal law said schools could provide a modification to the IEP in the form of a remote learning program, which was to be submitted in writing to families. However, unlike the IEP, the remote learning plan did not require any kind of sign-off from parents. Many school districts felt they did not need to provide everything if they could not do it in person, and they did not need to provide services for the same amount of time or in the same way.

Unfortunately, many schools provided very little in terms of special education. Some parents did not know that timelines for special education evaluations and meetings were still in effect, yet schools were postponing them. If a child has an IEP, then by law it is rewritten each year, and the child must be reevaluated every three years to determine whether he/she are still eligible for special education. Also, if a student is new to the special education system, the school must evaluate the child within 30 school days, and after another 15 days meet with the child’s family. But during the COVID-19 quarantine in the spring, schools did little or no testing. I understand that schools were overwhelmed as they adapted to virtual learning and enhanced safety measures inside school buildings to comply with COVID-19 guidelines, but that is no excuse to deny a child’s right to free and appropriate public education.

Resources for your review
https://www.wrightslaw.com/
On July 29 at 10:00 a.m., The Memphis Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities (MACDD) will be hosting its annual Disability Awareness Summit. Over the last several years, this event has made a direct impact in the lives of thousands of citizens in the Mid-South. This webinar will offer sessions on a variety of disability and mental health topics. The agencies participating are Lakeside Behavioral Health, Memphis Police Department (Crisis Intervention Team), Disability Rights of Tennessee and speakers from Memphis City Mayor’s Office. We hope you will tune in and take advantage of the many resources that will be offered. To register, please follow the following link. https://form.jotform.com/21099859138616

“Building Resilient Communities: Through Relationships, Reimagination and Resources”

Presented by:
The Memphis Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities (MACCD)

- Thursday, July 29, 2021
- 10:00 AM - Noon
- This is an Online Virtual Event
Registration: https://form.jotform.com/21099859138616

There will be door prize giveaways
Accommodations available
The Arc Mid-South Partnered with The Major Taylor Cycling Club for the Inaugural Juneteenth Freedom Ride

Juneteenth was not just a victory for the freedom and civil rights of African Americans, it helped pave the way for the disability rights movement. We are grateful for those on whose shoulders we stand. Our collective freedom is bound to one another and we will continue to honor their efforts by fighting to ensure people with disabilities have the same right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as anyone else. The Arc Mid-South celebrated Juneteenth by supporting The Juneteenth Inaugural Freedom Ride and was honored to be chosen by Claudia Addison and The Major Taylor Cycling Club to participate in such a monumental event!
This is the Paw-Fect opportunity to show off your special fur babies! The Arc Mid-South is partnering with Paul Mitchell The School Memphis to raise money for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by hosting a special pet show and beauty contest! Prizes will be generously donated from local pet stores including Hollywood Feed, and include Paul Mitchell’s very own line of pet products. Prizes will be awarded for “Best dressed pet” along with “Best owner and pet costume”! Backdrops will be provided, and Reflective Moments Photography will be on hand to capture the magic! Digital photos are included for contest entries or simply have your pet strike a pose for photos only! Pet owners love to have lasting photos of their favorite snuggle buddies, not to mention they are fantastic for all occasions including Christmas cards! There is no registration necessary, photos are from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the contest is at 1:00 p.m. All pets are welcome. We look forward to seeing you at the event! Remember, barking is free so bring a friend, and don’t forget to like and share this news with your fellow pet lovers on Facebook! Registration for the contest is only $20 which includes a free digital downloadable photo. If you simply want a lasting photo of your fur baby, digital photos are $10.
The Arc Mid-South is now hiring for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)

The Arc Mid-South has immediate openings for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). These caregivers work directly with people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. "DSPs", primary goals are to assist individuals in realizing their full potential, while helping become integrated and engaged in their community. If you or anyone you know would like a rewarding career helping others, please visit our website to apply at https://www.thearcmidsouth.org/employment.htm, send us an email at info@thearcmidsouth.org or give us a call at (901) 327-2473.

We are looking for people 18 years and older who have a high school diploma or GED equivalent, a valid driver’s license, transportation, car insurance. They must be able to transport, and pass a criminal background check.

Various shifts available - including nights and weekends.

Salary: $10.50 – 12 per hour.

To apply visit our website at https://www.thearcmidsouth.org/employment.htm
Job Placement Services at The Arc Mid-South continue to make a lasting impact in the lives of those we serve. We are very proud of our clients who continue to thrive in their new positions as they continue on the road to self independence. There are many benefits for employers to hire individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities including improvements in profitability, less turnover and retention, reliability and punctuality, employee loyalty and company image. Secondary benefits for people with disabilities include improved quality of life and income, enhanced self-confidence, expanded social network, and a sense of community. Please contact us today if you or someone you know is in need of job training and employment.
Ways to Give Back

Become an Arc Mid-South member today!

- Do you want to become part of something bigger than yourself?
- Will you stand with us and become an advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves?
- Memberships open doors to advocacy and include opportunities for volunteerism, event planning committees, newsletters, and more!
- Give us a call at (901) 327-2473 to sign up or visit our website at https://www.thearcmidsouth.org/membership.htm

Volunteers Needed

- We need volunteers to serve on various planning committees and assist us with preparation for our upcoming events.
- We are looking for creative and innovative ideas to bring our mission to those who support our cause of "Empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities."
- If you would like to donate your time to a greater cause, please reach out to us today!
- Contact Lee Southard at (901) 327-2473, info@thearcmidsouth.org or sign up online at https://www.thearcmidsouth.org/volunteer.htm

Kroger Community Rewards

- Did you know that every time you shop at Kroger it will generously donate a portion of the proceeds directly back to The Arc Mid-South? It only takes a few clicks, see instructions below.
- Login to your Kroger Account at Krogercommunityrewards.com
- Click on the four lines in the top corner the screen
- Click on “Rewards” then “Community Rewards”
- Click “Search for Organization” and enter “81469”
- Next click "enroll". It’s as simple as that!
• Every time you purchase an item, Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds directly to The Arc Mid-South.
• Visit smile.amazon.com in place of amazon.com
• Login like you would to your regular Amazon account, then type in The Arc Mid-South under "Select your charity."
• Click "Yes, I understand that I must always start at smile.amazon.com to support The Arc Mid-South."
• Then start shopping!
• If you need assistance, please watch the following instructional video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyJ7HcreC7A

**Upcoming Events**

**The Paw-Fect Opportunity Pet Show and Beauty Contest**  
June 27  
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

**Disability Awareness Summit**  
July 29  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**June Celebrations**

• National PTSD Awareness Day - June 27
• Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

**Achieve with us.**

Don't forget to follow The Arc Mid-South on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates!

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