

Parent Time

A Newsletter for MoSPIN Parents

Volume 21, Issue 1

February 2016



Greetings!

This issue of Parent Time has a special focus on “individuals who are important in my child’s life.”

We want to thank the five MoSPIN families who agreed to share their perspectives on who is important in their child’s life in this issue. I found it interesting to read about the importance of siblings, grandparents, teachers, therapists, medical personnel, parent advisors and others in the community. As the saying goes – it takes a village to raise a child.

We are deeply saddened to share that Nicodemus Hall passed away in November. His mother, Claudia, has been a regular contributor to Parent Time and she agreed to share her thoughts on the fine medical personnel that were there for Nic and the family during his long hospitalization.

Our thanks go out to the Wilson, Jenson, McKee, Patrick and Hall families for their contributions to this issue!

Ginny Williams

Virginia.Williams@msb.dese.mo.gov

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From the McKee Family

Hello again MoSPIN families! We are the McKee family, and we are thankful for this opportunity to write for Parent Time. Our son, Carter, is 19 months old and has CHARGE Syndrome. CHARGE affects our son in many ways, but with regard to vision he has a condition called microphthalmia. For Carter, this means he is legally blind in his left eye, which is his smaller eye. He is near-sighted in his right eye and wears glasses for correction. Carter is also bilaterally profoundly deaf and has bilateral cleft lip and palate. Since we last wrote, Carter was able to receive a cochlear implant in his left ear in October. The last month has been a very exciting time for our family as we have really seen gains not only in auditory awareness and response, but also in feeding and mobility as well. Carter will have surgery at the end of February for a cleft palate repair, and hopefully this is his last big surgery for a while.

The topic of this Parent Time issue is “important people in my child’s life.” I never fully understood the whole ‘it takes a village’ concept until Carter came along! With any child there are always important people who support you along the way, but when you have a child with special needs, the

circle of support broadens even more. We feel so blessed to have the supports that we have working together on 'Team Carter!' Here are a few of those people and how they impact our lives:

- **Medical professionals:** Carter has many doctors and specialists that work together to follow and treat him. We have worked hard to find appropriate professionals who are dedicated to doing what is best for our son. There have been times that we have had to switch doctors, but the majority of the doctors we see have been compassionate, encouraging, and attentive to our concerns. We have a wonderful relationship with our pediatrician, who goes out of her way to accommodate us whenever we have a concern. You can really tell the dedication of a physician when they are willing to personally call you or stay late (multiple times) to treat your child. I've also learned the importance of working as a team with the medical professionals in my son's life. I have to trust them at some level as the professional, but I also trust my instincts when it comes to knowing my son and his medical conditions.

- **Therapists:** Carter currently has about seven therapists that see him regularly. Once again, finding and building the appropriate team for him has not always been easy, but has been completely worth it in the long haul. Our therapists love Carter, and it is evident in the way they work with him. At this stage of his development and our lives, these individuals are very intertwined into our daily lives. Many of his therapists go above and beyond by attending trainings and conferences to learn more about deaf-blindness and to collaborate together about Carter.

- **Parent Advisors:** We currently work with three different parent advisors from three different agencies. These individuals work closely with us as parents to help us understand our child's disabilities and also to bring developmentally appropriate strategies for us to use with our son. Being a parent of a child with a rare condition can be very isolating and intimidating because you start to second guess how you will know how to best help your child. These individuals help you know that you are not in this alone and will get you connected to resources to help your child. We so appreciate their investment in our son.

- **Community Providers:** There are many individuals in our community that go out of their way to support and accommodate for Carter. These include staff with Capable Kids who work to provide developmentally appropriate programs. Also, the Runge Nature Center where the facilitator goes out

of her way to learn and use sign language and to give Carter tactile experiences. Finally, when we attend story time at Barnes and Noble there is a volunteer who signs the books and songs. Even if they don't realize it, the impact they are having to create an inclusive environment for my son means the world to me. I am so thankful these people provide opportunities for him to be around other children so that they can all learn from each other.

- **Faith Community:** We are very fortunate to have a strong support system from our church family. People from our church love on us as a family during times of high stress and need, whether it's in the form of prayers and encouragement or meals. There are many individuals that seek Carter out and love on him. It's so encouraging to see other families and their children interacting with Carter as if he has no differences.



- **Friends and Family:** We have a strong support of family close to us that includes two retired grandmas, aunts and uncles, and lots of cousins. We also have many friends that have children of a similar age. Whether it's traveling with us to an appointment in St. Louis, babysitting so mom and dad can have a date, or coming over for playtime, the friends and family in our life are an amazing support to us and a very important part of Carter's life. We even have some family members that have gone out of their way to attend classes and learn sign language so they can better communicate with our son, and to also attend trainings to help them better understand CHARGE syndrome. These family members will be around Carter for the rest of his life, and along with us will be his teachers and support systems.

As you can see, we are very fortunate to have so many important people in our son's life. It is still amazing to me how so many others can care so much for my little boy. Carter has a way of touching people. Writing this article is a wonderful reminder of these people and the need for me to show my appreciation to all of them for the hard work and love that they show our son and our family. Finally, I have to mention that as parents we are the most important people in our child's life. We are their advocates, their providers, their caretakers, and their medical case managers. We love our children unconditionally. Never forget how important YOU are.

The McKee Family: Tom, Amanda, & Carter



Resources to Share with Grandparents

When You Have a Special Needs Grandchild

This article provides sections on:

- “Tips for Dealing with Disabilities”
- “Learning About Disabilities”
- “Fighting for Your Grandchild”

This originally appeared on aarp.org, but is also found at <http://www.grandparents.com/archive/special-needs-grandchildren-tips-for-parents>

Every Star is Different – To Grandparents of Special Needs Children

This is part of a blog in which the author, Renae, shares her thoughts on how to promote the relationships between her children and their grandparents. The following questions and her ideas are provided for grandparents: (See the complete article for more details.)

“How do I form a positive relationship with my son or daughter, the parent of a special needs child?”

Have a sincere desire to learn more about your grandchild's disability...

Be open to new and different ways of parenting...

Accept your grandchild's disability...

Be a support...”

“How can I form a positive and lasting relationship with my special needs grandchild?”

Enter the child's world...

Create special routines and rituals that are specific to you and your special needs grandchild...

Set aside special time for your special needs grandchild...

Be present...”

The complete article can be found at <http://everystarisdifferent.blogspot.com/2014/03/to-grandparents-of-special-needs.html>

In Celebration of Grandparenting – For Grandparents of Children with Visual Impairments

A good friend of MoSPIN, Debbie Chapuis from the Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments in St. Louis, wrote this wonderful book for grandparents that addresses “possible concerns and the unique joys of grandparenting a child with visual impairments.” You can purchase this book at www.Perkins.org/publications



From the Wilson Family

Hello again, MoSPIN families. My name is Jonie and my family has been a member of MoSPIN for five years in March. Yes, that means we will be graduating from the MoSPIN program this year. It seems like it was just recently when we had our first meeting with our Parent Advisor at our home where she was introduced to all of the craziness of the Wilson household. We will definitely miss our visits with her. Our son Cheston is blind, which is why we are part of the MoSPIN program. Cheston was born with severe bilateral microphthalmia. He wears the most beautiful blue prosthetic eyes.

My husband John and I have three wonderful children. Andi is 8 years old and in 2nd grade this year. She keeps her teacher on her toes. Andi, like Cheston, also has microphthalmia, but it only affected her left eye. Andi is visually impaired in her left eye. She wears her glasses all the time to help her vision in her right eye but mostly to protect her right eye. Her optic nerve is under-developed in her left eye which makes her vision uncorrectable. Andi is a very active little girl. She is involved in soccer, softball, and the local 4H group where she shows hogs, sheep, cake decorating and crochet. She keeps us very busy. Clayton and Cheston are our twin boys. They will be 5 years old in March. I can hardly believe they are already getting ready to start Kindergarten next fall. Clayton is a very busy boy. He is getting ready to start soccer and baseball soon. He is our dinosaur enthusiast. He loves anything and everything dinosaurs. Cheston is our social butterfly. He loves to socialize. He loves to talk, in person and on the phone. He still has his love for the phone. He has nine phones he plays with! Cheston is doing well at school. He has lots of friends and gets along well with everyone in his class and at daycare. He is learning braille. We wish it was coming along faster but I keep having to remind myself to be patient about this. Cheston loves to be silly and sometimes that gets him in trouble with his learning.

The biggest news we have for our family is we received information from our geneticists at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia in November. Since we have two children with microphthalmia, we obviously have some genetic issues. John and I both have the same mutated gene and passed both mutated genes to both Andi and Cheston. Clayton received both of our genes that were not affected. We were extremely lucky to find out this information as quick as we did. Sometimes it takes years to find the mutated gene. We

now know what other medical concerns we need to look for and how this will affect them when they have children.

This article is about the important people in my child's life. If you were to ask Cheston this question, he would tell you by name everyone he has ever met and why they are that important to him. That is how loving of an individual he is. That does make the list of important people in his life long. Of course there's our immediate family such as myself, John, and both of his siblings. He is very close with Andi and Clayton and we love that about our children. They always play well with each other. I admire Andi and Clayton for always including Cheston in whatever it is they are doing. I hope this is something that will last a lifetime and they will always have this special bond. Cheston is also very close with both sets of grandparents. Of course it would not have anything to do with the fact that all of his grandparents spoil him rotten and give him whatever he wants. He loves talking to them "on the phone." My husband and I each have two sisters. Cheston loves to spend time with his family; he loves to play with all of his cousins and terrorize them. He is constantly asking when they are going to come see him and play with him. Another member of our family that is important to Cheston is a family friend of ours that has lived with us for the past four years. He is like Cheston's older brother. They love to wrestle, give each other a hard time and talk to each other on the phone.



Cheston has been at the same day care since he was 5 months old. He has been with his special teacher every day. God bless this woman—she puts up with him. She embraced him and loves him more than anything. I will never forget the day he "took his eyes out" for her and she frantically

called me wanting to know what to do. When Cheston was a baby, another special teacher took care of him at the day care. She now works at Cheston's school, so he gets to see her every single day and loves it. She is very special to him, and the rest of us as well.



Everyone involved in Cheston's educational experience is very important to him. He has had the same teacher now for three years. I thank this woman every day for the hard work and effort she gives to educate him (and for coming back every day). She keeps us updated and informed on his progress. She is always thinking of ways to include him in class activities and does a great job at adapting lessons and incorporating braille. Cheston has his own paraprofessional, who stays with him the whole time he is at school. She is always there for him and keeps him safe, and out of trouble I presume. She also pushes him to do his best and work as hard as he can. Cheston also has a TVI and O&M that comes and works with him at school. She always has the most awesome ideas to make sure he has a great educational experience. She comes prepared and is patient with him. One thing that I always do is to thank my son's teachers and show them how much we appreciate them. Whether it's their favorite candy bar or soda, I always try to show them how much we appreciate everything they do for him.

Cheston's team of doctors and specialists may not be his favorite people but they are a very important part of his life. His pediatrician, doctors, surgeons, and all the wonderful things they have done have played a very important role in his health. I value their opinions, professionalism and the fact that they always put Cheston's best interests first. Once we found out through MRI's and other vision tests that Cheston did not have any

vision (he does not have optic nerves), our next step in his medical treatment was cosmetic. Making sure he looked as typical as possible was about the only thing we had to work with. Once all of this was taken care of, we now focus on maintaining. The main individual we see now is his ocularist, "eye maker." Cheston has been going to her in St. Louis since he was one month old. She is an artist and has done an incredible job making him look as handsome as he is. We also see his orbital plastic surgeon once a year for a checkup just to make sure his implants are doing well.

Other important people to Cheston are his friends and everyone in our community. He never meets a stranger and never forgets a single person. Everyone is very important to Cheston. He is always asking us how is so and so or where is so and so. Cheston is very social and has such an outgoing personality. He loves to talk and interact with people. He recognizes people by their voices or even their touch. It always amazes people how he remembers their voice. He loves to be included in activities and events such as parties, etc. I am so thankful for all the individuals who come into Cheston's life and accept him and love him as much as they do. It means a lot to John and me that Cheston is loved by everyone.

I know at times when you meet a person who is blind or any individual with a disability, some individuals are apprehensive as to how to communicate and interact with them. Usually once someone meets Cheston that goes away quickly. He usually does not give them an opportunity not to. If someone does not answer one of his questions or talk back to him, he will just keep asking the same question until they answer. He loves it when he meets new people and can interact with them. Throughout the years, the important people in Cheston's life will change and some will stay the same. I know that no matter what role anyone plays in his life, they will always mean the world to him. That is the best thing about him, is he is such a loving boy. I hope he will always be like this. Now that we are getting ready to start a new chapter this fall, there will be many changes we will face. We have been blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of MoSPIN for the past five years. We will miss our visits with our parent advisor as well. I will miss writing the articles for MoSPIN. I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing our family with the rest of you.



Five Tips to Encourage Healthy Relationships Between Blind Children and Their Siblings

By Emily Coleman. (Go to FamilyConnect.org to read her complete article.)

1. "Have the same expectations."
2. "Inclusion goes both ways."
3. "Find activities that are fun for the whole family."
4. "Teach your visually impaired child how to interact with their siblings."
5. "Be an open book... Make sure you are always available to answer questions."



From the Jenson Family

Hi everyone! We are the Jenson family. All 7 of us. Cory (my husband), myself (Aleta), Maren 18, Preston 16, Alivia 15, Bethany 13, and Nathias who will be 4 in February. Nathias joined our family through adoption. Along with his visual impairments of optic nerve hypoplasia and CVI, Nathias has hydrocephalus, a seizure disorder (which is currently under control and he has been free of meds for almost 3 months), and multiple brain malformations with developmental delay. Despite all of this we have seen some awesome improvement and changes in him these past few months.

The first big change is that his vision has improved. This has had the happy result that he has a much better understanding of his environment. The second change is huge and made us cry. After 3 years of effort, Nathias has finally started crawling. Initially he was afraid to leave his carpet in our living room, but now he is venturing all over the place. He is crawling across the room to us when we ask him to come to us and he is even exploring down the hall way and into the bedrooms. Once, he snuck around a corner and climbed halfway up the stairs before I noticed he had escaped the play room! I didn't know he knew where the stairs were!

He especially loves to look out the windows that are at his eye level. We don't know how far outside of the windows he can see but he loves to look. It has been a huge change for us to have to start child-proofing the house and watching his every move. It has been very exciting to watch even if it takes more work to make sure he is safe. We were not sure if he would ever learn to crawl based on his initial diagnosis before he was born, so we are feeling extremely blessed that he has come this far.

These changes would not have occurred without the many important people in his life who have helped him. It has taken countless hours of therapy and assistance to get to this point. He has especially benefitted by having aides at school who spend lots of one-on-one time with him every day to make sure he progresses. We have had many therapists bend over backward to fit him into their very busy schedules and do things they may not have done otherwise because they have recognized his great need. And it is paying off! It has been a team effort of many people working together to help him. He receives, speech, physical, (for a while he did water therapy) and occupational therapies as well as vision instruction.



Along with the many therapists, teachers, aides, and medical professionals are Nathias' amazing siblings. We don't live near our extended family so we don't have the benefit of visits from grandma to help out or take him overnight to let my husband and I get a night out. It has been the generosity and loving hearts of his four amazing older

siblings that has made the process of taking care of a special needs child doable. When we decided to adopt around 7 years ago, we did not know at the time that we would be led to adopt a child with severe developmental delays. But when we did, our 4 older children never hesitated for a moment to welcome him and love him and treat him as one of them. The minute he came home from the hospital they began to fight over who would get to hold him and feed him and take care of him. They have never resented the time mom and dad have had to spend helping him instead of having extra time to spend with them. They have been extremely understanding and helpful.

Nathias shares a room with his older brother who was good about bringing him to us in the middle of the night when he was smaller and wasn't sleeping through the night as well as he does now. Sometimes he has even changed his diaper and given him bottles in the middle of the night. I know that hasn't been easy for him especially since he is often up late studying and then wakes up early to attend an early class before his regular school day begins.

The help and encouragement from his older siblings have made every milestone Nathias has reached possible. They are his biggest cheerleaders. Now that he has learned to crawl, we are focusing on helping him learn to walk, too. Everyone takes turns helping him take steps since he really doesn't like his gait trainer. I guess it is too cold and impersonal for him. He really enjoys having his siblings spend that time with him. He loves for them to read him stories and let him hang out with them while they play games on the Wii or watch television. He loves to be included. Nathias truly feels a part of the family and he knows how much he is loved.

We have learned that a child with special needs, especially a visual impairment, needs a lot of people to help them experience the world around them. I hope you all take advantage of the people in your community as well as your family to help your child learn and grow.



Our Gift to You: “Hold Everything!”

Our families will be receiving a gift from MoSPIN. The “Hold Everything!” booklet has been mailed to you or will be delivered by your MoSPIN Parent Advisor. This booklet provides 20 ideas for making “stay put” play spaces that incorporate Lilli Nielson’s Active Learning philosophy. Active Learning promotes the approach that ALL children can and should interact with their environment. Would you like your child to have a play environment that:

- * Is easily adaptable to your child’s unique needs?
- * Can be used individually or with others?
- * Is inexpensive and easy to make?

If you answered yes, then this is the right resource for your family. Maybe you can even get your child’s grandparents, siblings or other important people in their lives involved in these activities. We hope you enjoy it. Let your MoSPIN Parent Advisor know which play space worked for your child.

Considering taking your family to a National Park?

Did you know that an Access Pass can get you discounts or free admission at national parks and other federal recreation sites? The Access Pass is a free, lifetime pass for anyone with a permanent disability; you can request one in person or by mail (with a \$10 processing fee) for your child with a physician’s statement. With the Access Pass, your child can be accompanied at a discounted rate or for free by up to three adults and any number of children under 16. (It’s always a good idea to call ahead for more information from specific sites.) Keep it in mind for your next family outing! For more information, go to: <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html>

In Missouri, you can use the Access Pass at:

- The Jefferson Nation Expansion Memorial (aka the St. Louis Arch) — \$3 entry fee waived
- Ozark National Scenic Riverways – reduced camping fee
- The Harry S. Truman home – free guided tour
- Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield (outside of Springfield) – free entry

From the Hall Family

Claudia Hall is the mom of Nicodemus Hall, a 3-year-old with multiple disabilities who died in November from a previously unknown genetic illness. She and her family live in St. Louis.

This article was inspired by a Facebook post I made back in October of 2015, when Nic was struggling in Cardinal Glennon Hospital. At the time there was a news story about a resident doctor in Mexico who fell asleep at her desk. Various people were making comments on the news, and I rose to the defense of the caregivers at the hospital. In his 3 years of life my son spent as much time in the hospital as at home, giving me a lot of time to observe the doctors, nurses, and other staff 24/7. Even though he could not be saved, they never, ever gave up on him. In fact, they were so determined to fight that they found an entirely new illness, and are now researching ways to diagnose and treat it. So even after his death, their dedication and work continue. Here is the original post I wrote, edited only for spelling and clarity.

“Any of you that want to be cranky at doctors, let me tell you a few things. There are bad doctors, no denying it. Having said that, I've spent the last two months in an enforced observational setting and I can tell you, at least at Cardinal Glennon, these people are INSANELY dedicated to their work. I've seen a doctor on their way out the door for the weekend when a patient had an issue. This doctor turned around and they were back in the office for several hours. I've had the surgeon in our room at 6 a.m., already scrubbed and ready for his surgery load, and then run into him at 8 p.m. just getting done with patients and preparing to spend even more time on charts and reports. The residents work something like 28 hours on, 16 off. Mind you, in that "off" time they are supposed to do paperwork and case notes, as well as prepare for their license testing. Nurses get paid for 12 hour shifts... But I've never seen them work less than 14, because after their shift they have to do all the paperwork that didn't get done because they were working with patients.

The PICU doctors are certifiable workaholics, some take at most one day off in seven, and they spend *that* day reviewing charts and looking for ways to

save kid's lives, just in case they missed anything. So before you ever gripe about medical staff, realize that of all the professions in this country they have the most expensive training, the longest training, the longest hours, the most at stake, and the least thanks. They are under pressure from the hospital to save money, insurance to do more with less, families to fix things beyond their control, and patients to save them. These people have nothing but my respect and admiration. Yes, I've caught them sleeping from time to time, at 4 a.m. when they've been awake day and night with trauma cases, and once in a blizzard where half the staff couldn't get to work so the ones stuck at the hospital were pulling double or triple shifts. But the moment their phone buzzes they jolt awake, slap on a professional face, and go take care of people who usually don't say thank you.

Oh, and they cry a lot more than you will ever know.

So cut them some slack, realize they are good people trying to do amazing things, the system is rigged against them more than any of us knows, and let them grab sleep where they can. They are welcome to the couch in my room if they need it.

Sincerely,
Mom of a chronically ill kid”



In Memoriam

We are very saddened by the recent passing of these three children who participated in our MoSPIN program.

Nicodemus Hall
11/6/2012 – 11/22/2015

Tommy Veltrop
9/27/2004 – 11/25/2015

Shawn Middlecamp
8/18/1990 – 12/1/2015



From the Patrick Family

Hello again. Hoping that everyone has had a great holiday season and that life is getting back to a normal schedule. My name is Kami and my husband Chris and I are part of the MoSPIN family because of our son Everett. Everett just celebrated his second birthday and we were so excited to see him reach this milestone. His formal diagnosis is called CHARGE Syndrome. It is a very complicated genetic syndrome that affects Everett in many ways. One of the main ways it affects him is that he has a condition called microphthalmia in his right eye and anophthalmia in his left eye. Leaving all the technical terms aside it means that Everett is legally blind in his right eye and is missing his left eye. Everett is also completely deaf in both ears. Thankfully this has never gotten Everett down and he is one of the happiest toddlers ever. We just recently learned that we will be getting a chance to try glasses and are so excited to see how this helps Everett on his journey!



I was excited for the chance to write an article for this newsletter when I heard it was about important people in your child's life. Two of the most important relationships Everett has in his life are with his brother and sister. Everett has an older brother Christian who is 8 years old

and an older sister Willow who is 5 years old. As a mother to a child with special needs I constantly worry about all three of my children and how their lives are affected by this. Everett tends to naturally attract a lot of attention in our family but this has never come between him and his siblings. If anything, having siblings has only motivated Everett in ways my husband and I cannot. We have found by happy coincidence that when we bring in either Willow or Christian on some of Everett's therapies he tends to do way better. I feel the reason for this is because he always sees the both of them as fun and play time—unlike how he sees the therapist

and myself as making him work and not play. At the end of the day all children would rather play with each other than listen to Mom.



Christian is a typical oldest child and loves to help. I felt from the very beginning of Everett's journey he knew that his big brother will always be there. When Christian is around, Everett feels complete trust and strength from him. Christian helps with Everett's daily needs, from turning off his feeding pump to throwing a diaper away every now and then. But the best thing of all is the amount of respect and knowledge Christian carries for Everett. Many times I have heard him recite to others what CHARGE syndrome is and how it affects Everett. He also has a passion now to learn sign language. He has participated in a summer camp and a school club. He is excited to have this help him communicate with his brother. He did this all on his own without any pushing from Mom and Dad.

One great story about them starts shortly after Everett came home from the NICU. I put Everett down on his play mat on the floor to play for a little while. Christian was in the room and moved down from the couch to play with Everett. I walked off to the other room to do laundry. It was probably five to ten minutes later when I went back to the living room to check on the two. Christian was kneeling down by Everett and placing his hand gently in front of Everett's face. Everett immediately took it and placed Christian's hand on the side of his face. I asked Christian why he thought Everett was

doing this and he said Everett wanted a “hand hug” and then told me this is how Everett shows love for us and how we can show love for Everett. Since then it has become a whole family affair and even spread down to our nurses. Everyone that comes to the house knows Everett’s “hand hug.” As you can see, Everett’s siblings have always been important people in his life.



Read More about Sibling Issues

What Siblings Would Like Parents and Service Providers to Know

<https://www.siblingsupport.org/publications/our-papers>

Siblings of Children with Special Needs

http://www.aboutourkids.org/articles/siblings_children_special_needs

What About Me? — Support for the Siblings of Disabled Children

<http://psychcentral.com/lib/2006/what-about-me-support-for-the-siblings-of-disabled-children/>

Dilemmas and Advantages of Siblings of Special Needs Children

https://mydoctor.kaiserpermanente.org/ncal/Images/GEN_Sibling%20of%20your%20Special%20Needs%20Child_tcm63-13832.pdf

Siblings of Kids with Special Needs

<http://www.med.umich.edu/yourchild/topics/specneed.htm>

Parenting Siblings of Children with Disabilities

<http://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/teaching-tolerance/parenting-siblings-of-children-with-disabilities/>

Ginny Williams will be retiring as of March 1, 2016. Until her position is filled, the point of contact for MoSPIN is Anna Werner, Administrative Assistant of Outreach Services at the Missouri School for the Blind. You can reach her at 314-633-3961 or at Anna.Werner@msb.dese.mo.gov. Of course, you can still contact your Parent Advisor for assistance as well.

Need Web Assistance?

Many of the articles in this issue of Parent Time refer you to websites. If you do not have access to the Internet, just ask your MoSPIN Parent Advisor to assist you. I am also available to provide information or hard copies of resources. You can contact me at 573-295-4808.

*Ginny Williams
Lead Parent Advisor for MoSPIN*



Contact Ginny Williams,

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