Organizational Resources for the Occupational Therapist in the Public Schools

Carol J. Sears

Key Words: information services • organizations

Many organizational resources can assist the public school occupational therapist in fulfilling his or her commitment to the population being served. This paper presents four types of organizational resources that are readily available to the therapist: professional, nonprofit/volunteer, and commercial organizations, and information search and retrieval systems. Each category of resource contains examples and a brief description of each example. Descriptions of professional and nonprofit/volunteer organizations include information about their purpose, membership, and publications. The examples in each of these categories cover a variety of disciplines and disabling conditions; however, all are involved with and provide information about children with disabilities. Descriptions of commercial organizations highlight specific products that are applicable to occupational therapy in the schools. Descriptions of information search and retrieval systems state the kinds of materials each system maintains and provide information on how to gain access to each system.

American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM). PO Box 11083, 2495 Westwood Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23230, (804) 282-0036.

AACPDM is a multidisciplinary scientific society devoted to the promotion of professional education in developmental medicine and to the study of cerebral palsy and related neurological disabling disorders. Through its educational and research programs the academy strives to stimulate interest in all aspects of these disorders. Publication: Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology.

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). PO Box 927, 141 Northwest Point Road, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60009-0927, (312) 228-5005.

AAP is a professional society for pediatricians. It maintains a library on socioeconomic and clinical pediatrics and has numerous committees on special topics. Publications: AAP News, Pediatrics, Pediatrics in Review, reports, guides, and handbooks.

American Association for Counseling and Development (AACD), 5999 Stevenson Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22304, (703) 823-9800.

AACD is a professional society working to improve effective guidance and counseling services in elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, community agencies, rehabilitation programs, government, and business. It lobbies at the state and federal levels for programs in improved mental health and facilitates research and professional development. Major publications: Journal of College Student Personnel, School Counselor, Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin, Vocational Guidance Quarterly, and Guidepost (newspaper).

American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR), 1719 Kalorama Road, NW, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 387-9688.

A large national organization with a multidisciplinary membership, AAMR promotes the general welfare of people with mental retardation and educational labeling over the age of 5 and/or over 15 years who are not in school. AAMR offers educational opportunities, publishes a membership journal, and provides information on specific issues. Publications: Mental Retardation, Mental Retardation Today, and the Journal of the American Association on Mental Retardation.
of mentally retarded persons and facilitates research and the dissemination of information on the causes, treatment, and prevention of mental retardation. It is also involved in lobbying and legislative efforts on behalf of the mentally retarded. It has been responsible for developing assessment instruments for retarded students. Major journals: *American Journal on Mental Retardation* and *Mental Retardation*.


AERA is a major national organization for professionals interested in the development and application of research to education. It is composed of nine divisions and sponsors over 25 research specialty groups. Publications: *Review of Educational Research*, *American Educational Research Journal*, and *Educational Researcher*.

**American Psychological Association (APA)**, 1200 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 955-7600.

APA is the largest organization in the nation concerned with psychology and the social sciences. It lobbies at the state and federal levels for legislation and programs to promote mental health services and facilitate research and professional development. Membership includes psychologists and educators. Major publications: *Developmental Psychology*, *Journal of Educational Psychology*, and *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*. APA also publishes *Psychological Abstracts* and has its own computerized data bases: PsycINFO and PsycALERT.

**American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)**, 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, (301) 897-5700.

ASHA lobbies at the state and federal levels for the provision of speech-language-hearing services in schools and clinics and for legislation affecting its profession. It promotes effective services and the development of the profession. Membership includes specialists in speech-language pathology and audiology. Major publications: *ASHA, Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*, *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research*, and *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*.

**Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)**, 11141 Georgia Avenue, Suite 200, Wheaton, Maryland 20902, (301) 942-2443.

Committed to identifying and fulfilling the needs of children and the professionals serving them, this team of educators works to promote the quality and availability of educational programs and services worldwide. Over 200 state, provincial, and local branches exist. Publications: *Childhood Education, Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, and *ACEI Newsletter*.

**The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**, 1920 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091, (703) 620-3660.

CEC is the largest professional organization devoted to the welfare of disabled and gifted children. National and state chapters also lobby at the federal and state levels for legislation affecting this population. Membership includes teachers, administrators, teacher educators, and related professionals. Publications: *Exceptional Children*, a comprehensive research journal; *Teaching Exceptional Children*, a guide for the practical application of teaching techniques; and *Exceptional Child Education Resources (ECER)*, a listing of all special education publications and documents stored in the ECER data base.

To become a member of any of the specialized divisions of CEC, an individual must be a member of CEC. The following is a list of the specialized divisions of CEC that can be reached at the above location and may prove useful:

**Council for Children with Behavior Disorders (CCBD)**

This division promotes the education and general welfare of children and youths with behavior disorders or serious emotional disturbances as well as research on students with these disorders. Membership: members of CEC who teach children with behavior disorders or who train teachers to work with these children. Publications: *Behavior Disorders (journal)*, *CCBD Newsletter, Severe Behavioral Disorders of Children and Youth* (a monograph series), and *Programming for Adolescents with Behavioral Disorders* (in two volumes).

**Council for Educational Diagnostic Services (CEDS)**

This group promotes the most appropriate education of children and youths through appraisal, diagnosis, educational intervention, implementation, and evaluation of a prescribed educational program. It also works to facilitate the professional development of those assessing students and to develop better diagnostic techniques and procedures. Membership: members of CEC who are school psychologists, educational diagnosticians, social workers, or are otherwise involved in diagnosing educational difficulties. Publications: *Diagnostique (journal)* and *CEDS Newsletter*.

**Division for Children with Communication Disorders (DCCD)**

The education of children with communication disorders through the integration of multidisciplinary efforts and the promotion of cooperation with other agencies and organizations are two of the main objectives of this division. It also promotes research and the
professional growth of its members. Membership: members of CEC who are speech-language pathologists, audiologists, teachers of children with these disorders, or educators of professionals who plan to work with these children. Publications: *Journal of Childhood Communication Disorders, DCGD Newsletter*, and monographs and digests.

**Division for Early Childhood (DEC)**

DEC promotes effective education for young children and infants, encourages parents' involvement in their children's development, stimulates communication between early childhood practitioners and organizations offering regular and special education infant, nursery, and preschool programs, and promotes legislation and research. Membership: members of CEC who teach preschool children and infants or who educate teachers to work with young children. Publications: *DEC Journal* and *DEC Communicator* (newsletter).

**Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD)**

Goals include promoting the education and general welfare of children and youths with learning disabilities; facilitating the interaction of many disciplines whose research and service impact on children and youths with learning disabilities; disseminating research; and fostering exemplary training, teaching, and diagnostic practices. Membership: professional personnel who are members of CEC, students, and other interested persons. Publications: *Learning Disabilities Focus* (journal), *Learning Disabilities Research* (journal), and *DLD Times* (newsletter).

**Division for the Physically Handicapped (DPH)**

DPH promotes closer relationships among educators of students who are physically disabled or homebound. It also facilitates research and encourages the development of new ideas, practices, and techniques. Membership: members of CEC who work with physically disabled students in an educational or support service role, and parents. Publications: *DPH Journal* and *DPH Newsletter*.

**Division for the Visually Handicapped (DVH)**

This division advances the education and training of professionals who work with visually disabled children and young adults, and promotes the understanding of educational, emotional, or other problems associated with visual impairment. It also facilitates the research and development of new ideas and techniques. Membership: members of CEC who work with children and young adults with visual disabilities or who educate professionals to work with these children, and parents. Publication: *The DVH Quarterly* (newsletter).

**Division on Mental Retardation (CEC-MR)**

CEC-MR promotes research on mental retardation, advances the education of mentally retarded children and youths (infancy through 21 years of age), and the training of professionals to work with these persons, and promotes public understanding of mental retardation. It also facilitates the professional development of those who work with mentally retarded persons or who educate professionals to work with them. Any member of CEC who is interested in mental retardation may become a member of this division. Publications: *Education and Training of the Mentally Retarded* (journal), newsletter, and numerous books and monographs.

**Technology and Media Division (TAM)**

TAM's objectives include the promotion of closer professional relationships between educators and others concerned with the use of media and technology with exceptional students; the development and dissemination of new technologies and media; cooperation with education and government agencies and business and industry in research, demonstration, and review; and the advancement of standards for the technology and media used with exceptional individuals. Membership: teachers, therapists, administrators, parents, and publishers. Publications: *Journal of Special Education Technology* and *TAM Newsletter*.

**Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD)**, PO Box 40503, Overland Park, Kansas 66204, (913) 492-8755.

CLD is an organization with an interdisciplinary, field-based focus. It has developed standards for professional conduct for those serving the learning-disabled population and has designed guidelines for conducting research in learning disabilities and remedial education. CLD analyzes and makes recommendations about current and continuing issues in the field. It contacts federal and state agencies on behalf of professionals in learning disabilities and makes their concerns known. Membership: educators, occupational therapists, physical therapists, psychologists, and physicians, among others. Publications: *Learning Disability Quarterly* (journal), *LD Forum*, and videotapes.

**National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**, 1834 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 232-8777.

This association promotes service and action on behalf of the needs and rights of young children with an emphasis on the provision of educational services and resources. Membership: teachers and directors of nursery schools, play groups, and others interested in preschool education. Publications: *Young Children* (journal), *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, and various books and brochures.

SRCD is an international professional interdisciplinary society that is involved in research and in the publication of major literature in the field of child development. Write or call for information about membership and publications. Membership: pediatricians, anthropologists, therapists, educators, and members of other related professions. Publications: Child Development (journal), Review of Child Development (journal), Child Development Abstracts and Bibliography, and monographs.

The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH), 7010 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, Washington 98115, (206) 523-8446.

TASH works to provide quality education and services for persons with severe disabilities to ensure them a dignified, autonomous life-style. It has an organized parent-to-parent network for communication, monitors legislation and litigation concerning this population, disseminates information, and promotes research on the education of and service to severely disabled persons. Membership: teachers, therapists, parents, administrators, and advocates involved in all service areas. Publications: The Journal of the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps and a newsletter.

Nonprofit/Volunteer Organizations

American Brittle Bone Society (ABBAS), 1256 Merrill Drive, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19382, (215) 692-6248.

ABBAS is a national organization to help persons who have osteogenesis imperfecta (OI) or osteoporosis, and their families. The society provides information and support for these families; promotes public and professional education about OI and osteoporosis; and encourages and funds research that will lead to improved treatment, carrier detection, and a possible cure. Membership: brittle-boned adults and their families, physicians, and health and education professionals. Publication: On the Record.

American Cancer Society (ACS), 90 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016, (212) 599-3600.

This organization is dedicated to the control and eradication of cancer. It sponsors programs of research, education, and service to cancer patients. Its immediate goal of saving more lives and diminishing suffering from cancer is accomplished mainly by educating the public on the dangers of cancer and the possibilities of a cure, by educating medical professionals on the latest advances in diagnosis and treatment of cancer, and by providing direct services to cancer patients and their families. Publications: Cancer—A Journal of the American Cancer Society, A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, Cancer News, and World Smoking and Health.

American Diabetes Association (ADA), PO Box 25757, 1660 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22313, (703) 549-1500.

ADA is a national voluntary organization that combats the problem of diabetes through research, patient education, professional education, and public education and detection. It supports research to learn more about the nature and causes of diabetes, its care, and treatment. Patient education activities include programs to keep those who have diabetes informed of the need for proper management of the disease; professional education activities include programs to keep physicians and other health personnel abreast of latest developments to ensure continued improvement in treatment. Publications: Diabetes Forecast (magazine), Diabetes: The Journal of the American Diabetes Association, and Diabetes Care (journal).

American Heart Association (AHA), 7320 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75321, (214) 750-5300.

AHA is a national volunteer organization dedicated to the reduction of early death and disability from heart disease and stroke. It supports research; evaluates changes in health care delivery; develops community service programs and educational materials for use by patients, health professionals, and the general public; and formulates AHA positions and establishes priorities on crucial cardiovascular and stroke-related health issues to influence public policy. The affiliates throughout the country are divided into components at the community service level. Publications: Circulation, Circulation Research, Stroke, Atherosclerosis, Hypertension, Modern Concepts of Cardiovascular Disease, Current Concepts of Cerebrovascular Disease, and Cardiovascular Nursing. Monographs, films, slides, and other teaching aids are available.

American Lung Association (ALA), 1740 Broadway, New York, New York 10019, (212) 315-8700.

The main purpose of ALA is to prevent and control lung disease. Its activities focus on pediatric and adult lung disease programs, the improvement of environmental health, and professional education and training. Grants for research in lung disease are provided by both ALA and its state affiliates. Publication: American Review of Respiratory Diseases (journal).

The Arthritis Foundation (AF), 1314 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, (404) 872-7100.

This voluntary health agency is working to find answers for more than 100 arthritis-related diseases. It serves persons with arthritis, their families, and the health professionals who assist them. Its chapters
throughout the United States support research, patient and community services, and provide public health information and education as well as professional training and education. Two sections within the foundation represent specific interest groups: The Arthritis Health Professions Association (AHPA) is for occupational and physical therapists and other professionals who care for persons with arthritis; the American Juvenile Arthritis Organization (AJAO) is for people interested in childhood arthritis. A list of publications is available that includes literature of interest to the public, to patients, and to medical personnel.

Association for Children and Adults With Learning Disabilities (ACLD), 4156 Library Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15234, (412) 341-1515.

ACLD has numerous state and regional chapters whose main purpose is to advance the education and general welfare of individuals with learning disabilities. Members include parents and professionals who are strong advocates for legislation and programs that will benefit the learning-disabled population. Publications: The Journal of Learning Disabilities, ACLD Newsbriefs, and state or regional newsletters. The national office also has a publications list with a wide variety of literature on the various aspects of learning disabilities.

Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC), 2501 Avenue J, Arlington, Texas 76011, (817) 640-0204.

ARC's mission is to improve the quality of life for all mentally retarded persons, to work to prevent this condition, and to search for cures. Local, state, and national chapters promote treatment, research, and legislation; provide counseling for parents; and promote public understanding. Publications: Mental Retardation News, arcfacts (fact sheets about current topics), and a publications list.

Association of Birth Defect Children (ABCD), 3526 Emerywood Lane, Orlando, Florida 32806, (305) 859-2821.

ABCD was established to provide information and support to families of children with birth defects, especially those presumed to be caused by drugs, chemicals, radiation, and other environmental factors. It provides parents and professionals with information on birth defects and on research in prosthetics. It is a support group for individuals with defects, assisting them with problems due to physical malformations. It also conducts studies and compiles statistics. Publication: ABCD (newsletter).

Autism Society of America (ASOA), 1234 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 1017, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 783-0125.

ASOA is dedicated to the education and welfare of persons with autism. A network of 200 chapters in the United States and Puerto Rico provides support groups for families. NSAC also provides legislative analysis as well as referral services to its constituency and the public. It operates the nation’s most extensive clearinghouse for autism materials and information. Publications: Directory of Programs Serving Children and Adults With Autism, Advocate (newsletter), reprints, handbooks, booklets, and pamphlets.

Children in Hospitals, Inc. (CIH), 31 Wilshire Park, Needham, Massachusetts 02192, (617) 482-2915.

CIH is an organization of parents and health care professionals seeking to educate all those who are concerned about the need of a child and a parent for continued and ample contact with each other when either is hospitalized. Publications: Consumer Directory of Hospital Policies, a newsletter, and numerous books on hospital/parent/child relationships and policies.

Compassionate Friends, Inc., PO Box 1347, Oak Brook, Illinois 60521, (312) 323-5010.

This is a nationwide support group for bereaved parents. Its chapters provide opportunities for parents to share support and ideas about coping with the death of a child. Publications: pamphlets, a booklist, and a newspaper.

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation (CdeLS), 60 Dyer Avenue, Collinsville, Connecticut 06022, (203) 693-0159.

This foundation promotes the early and accurate diagnosis of CdeLS throughout the world. It supports parents and children affected by this syndrome, increases public awareness of the syndrome, and supports research. Publications: Reaching Out (newsletter), a list of current publications, and a fact sheet on CdeLS.

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF), 6931 Arlington Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, 1-800-FIGHT CF, or (301) 951-4422.

The foundation's main purpose is to prevent, control, and treat cystic fibrosis, the number 1 genetic killer of children. CFF pursues this objective through a comprehensive network of research centers and through programs in care and professional education at CF centers affiliated with hospitals and university clinics. It also maintains a national registry of patients who have been seen in CF centers. Membership: parents and families of children with CF, professionals, and interested others. Publications: Commitment, pamphlets, and brochures.

Epilepsy Foundation of America (EFA), 4351 Garden City Drive, Landover, Maryland 20785, (301) 459-3700.

This foundation is dedicated to the prevention and control of epilepsy and to improving the lives of those
who have it. Goals are achieved through a broad range of programs in information dissemination, advocacy, research, and delivery of needed services to people with epilepsy and their families. Publications: National Spokesman (newspaper), Epilepsy Advances (newsletter), pamphlets, audiovisual, informational, and educational materials.

International Rett's Syndrome Association (IRSA), 8511 Rose Marie Drive, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744, (301) 248-7031.

The purpose of IRSA is to promote an awareness of this syndrome, which strikes only females. The association encourages research, collects and disseminates information, and assists in the identification of victims. It also conducts activities aimed at the prevention, treatment, and final eradication of Rett's syndrome. Publications: International Rett's Syndrome Association Newsletter and information packets for professionals and parents.

Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), 810 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York 10019, (212) 586-0808.

MDA supports nearly 800 research projects worldwide, focusing on 40 neuromuscular diseases (including the spinal muscular atrophies). It sponsors a network of 240 clinics coast-to-coast to provide diagnostic services, therapeutic and rehabilitative follow-up care, and genetic, vocational, and social service counseling. It also assists with the provision of selected orthopedic appliances and daily living aids, physical and occupational therapy, and educational and recreational activities, including summer camping sessions. Publications: MDA NewsMagazine and numerous informational pamphlets.

National Association for the Craniofacially Handicapped (FACES), PO Box 11082, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401, (615) 266-1632.

This is a nonprofit organization that helps people from all over the world who have severe craniofacial deformities resulting from accidents or congenital birth defects. FACES provides a resource file of available treatment centers, support groups, and general information. It pays travel expenses when clients travel to medical centers for reconstructive surgery, if financial assistance is necessary. Publication: periodic newsletter.

National Association for Sickle Cell Disease (NASCID), 4221 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 360, Los Angeles, California 90010, (213) 936-7205.

This association provides extensive public and professional education programs about sickle cell disease, its variants, and sickle cell trait. It prepares and distributes educational materials, provides technical assistance to interested groups, and encourages support for research. Resources include blood banks, screening and testing services, camps, tutorial services, and vocational rehabilitation programs. Publications: Help: A Guide to Sickle Cell Disease Programs and Services, and a newsletter.


This organization focuses on the prevention of child abuse by providing services to children and families at the community level. There are NCPCA chapters in most states and the District of Columbia. The national office assists local chapters by providing training and technical assistance, disseminating child abuse prevention program models, and coordinating research and evaluation efforts. NCPCA has numerous publications, a number of which are reproduced in Spanish. The publications catalog includes such topics as The Disabled Child and Child Abuse (pamphlet), and Educators, Schools, and Child Abuse (booklet).

National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC), 1640 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Illinois 60608, (312) 226-0416.

NDSC includes 600 local groups composed of parents, health professionals, educators, and interested others. Its purpose is to promote the welfare of persons with Down syndrome. It advises and aids parents, acts as a clearinghouse for information on Down syndrome, monitors research programs, and maintains a library and a speakers bureau. Publications: Down Syndrome (booklet), Down Syndrome News, and a bibliography of printed and audiovisual materials.

National Easter Seal Society, 2023 West Ogden Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60612, (312) 243-8400.

This is a national network with approximately 200 state and local societies. Programs provided by local societies are tailored to meet specific community needs and usually include diagnostic services, preschool services, and physical and occupational therapy. Its publications catalog is filled with listings of pamphlets, books, computer software, and rehabilitation systems.

National Federation of the Blind, 1800 Johnson Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230, (301) 659-9814.

The main purpose of this organization is to integrate the blind into society on an equal basis with sighted people. It monitors legislation, evaluates services, and works to improve policies toward the blind. It also awards scholarships to blind students and assists blind persons victimized by discrimination. Programs for public education are continuous. There is a local chapter in every sizable community in the nation. Membership: state and local organizations of
blind persons. Publication: *Braille Monitor* (produced in braille, print, and on records).

**National Foundation of Wheelchair Tennis**, 15441 Red Hill Avenue, Suite A, Tustin, California 92680, (714) 259-1531.

The foundation recently produced a video, *Tennis in a Wheelchair*, that is designed to create interest in the sport. For further information or rental contact the above.

**National Kidney Disease Foundation, Inc. (NKF)**, 2 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016, (212) 889-2210.

This voluntary health agency has many affiliates throughout the country. Its purpose is to prevent, treat, and cure kidney diseases. Activities include support of patient services, research, professional and public education, and a nationwide organ donor program. Publications: *The American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, *The Kidney* (journal), *Perspectives Journal*, newsletters, and audiovisual materials on kidney disease and treatment.

**National Reye's Syndrome Foundation (NRSF)**, 426 North Lewis, Bryan, Ohio 43506, (419) 636-2679.

This foundation conducts awareness programs to disseminate information to the public and to medical professionals. It raises funds for research and provides support and guidance to families of children with Reye's syndrome. It helps federal and state agencies compile more accurate statistics and encourages more federal funding of research. Resources in­cludes two slide/tape presentations geared to health professionals, siblings and parents, and form realistic expectations about marriage and children. PREP materials include audiodiscs, activity book. Small Wonder, a program designed to help students handle peer pressure, get along with siblings and parents, and form realistic expectations about marriage and children. PREP materials include audiodiscs, role play cards, a handbook, and an activity book. Small Wonder, a program to encourage emotional and intellectual growth in infants and toddlers, uses an array of activities (hand puppets, recorded songs, plastic books, activity cards). AGS also offers tests, including the Miller Assessment for Preschoolers, the Minnesota Rate of Manipulation Tests (for adolescents and adults), and the Pennsylvania Bi-Manual Worksample.

**Spina Bifida Association of America (SBA)**, 1700 Rock­ville Pike, Suite 540, Rockville, Maryland 20852, 1-800-521-3141, or (301) 770-7222.

SBA is a national voluntary association that has many local chapters. Its goals are to promote research, treatment, training of personnel, and public awareness of the problems of spina bifida. SBA offers consultation to parents and develops educational materials for professionals and parents. Publications: *Spina Bifida Insights* (newsletter), numerous pamphlets, and a publications list.

**Commercial Organizations**

**American Guidance Service (AGS)**, Publishers’ Build­ing, PO Box 99, Circle Pines, Minnesota 55010-1796, 1-800-328-2560.

This company offers the STEP program to assist par­ents in raising responsible children (this program is also available in Spanish). STEP materials include audiodiscs, handbooks, and charts, and are used in group sessions. The PREP program is designed to help students handle peer pressure, get along with siblings and parents, and form realistic expectations about marriage and children. PREP materials include audiodiscs, role play cards, a handbook, and an activity book. Small Wonder, a program to encourage emotional and intellectual growth in infants and toddlers, uses an array of activities (hand puppets, recorded songs, plastic books, activity cards). AGS also offers tests, including the Miller Assessment for Preschoolers, the Minnesota Rate of Manipulation Tests (for adolescents and adults), and the Pennsylvania Bi-Manual Worksample.

**American Telephone & Telegraph Co. (AT&T)**, 60 Co­lumbia Turnpike, Room AA228, Morristown, New Jersey 07960, (201) 644-3715.

AT&T is marketing the 1310 Video Communication Terminal, which uses a conventional television set. It may sell for under $200. For further information contact Mr. Curreri at the above address.

**ASIEP Education Company**; PO Box 12147, Portland, Oregon 97212, (503) 236-1317.

ASIEP specializes in materials for children and adoles­cents with autism, developmental disabilities, and learning disabilities. It also offers these unique items: Aimstar, a computer software program that graphs individualized student data when data base programs are used; Omnibox, an electronic peripheral de­signed to interface with the Apple computer with single switches and battery-operated devices simulta­neously or to allow collection of time-based data during students’ interaction with computers; and Data Sheet, which allows the user to create task analysis data sheets, schedule forms, etc. Its powerful format-
ting function permits the user to customize a data sheet to meet personal needs.

Aspen Publishers, Inc., 1600 Research Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland 20850, (301) 251-8500.

Infections in Children: A Sourcebook for Educators and Child Care Providers (1986) contains information on 77 specific congenital and central nervous system infections. The book describes principles of hygiene, infection control, and immunization, and contains color plates to assist in the identification of infections. Newborns at Risk—Medical Care and Psychoeducational Intervention (1986) features current research on early intervention and the stimulation of neurodevelopmental growth in preterm newborns. It also provides information on which newborns should start therapy and highlights areas needing further research.

Automated Functions, 6424 North 28th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22207, (703) 536-7741.

Travel Talk is a portable talking computer that enables a visually impaired person to create and edit documents, take notes, quickly retrieve text, perform math functions, and print results on regular or braille printers. It is a completely programmable computer with all speech electronics in one unit. It features a speaking rate of 75 to 300 words per minute, controllable volume and pitch, a built-in speaker, and a headphone jack.

Bell Helmets, Inc., PO Box 1020, Norwalk, California 90650, (213) 921-9451.

The L’il Bell Shell, an infant protective helmet, was originally developed as a child’s bicycle helmet. Its lightweight protection is useful for infants and young children with head injuries or defects. It is easy to put on, tolerated well without complaints of head or neck discomfort, and difficult for the child to remove.


Cambridge produces a large collection of competency-based Video-Print materials designed as instructional tools and total learning systems (videotapes plus interrelated Videotext Study Guides). Materials include Life Skills, which dramatizes how older students can overcome practical problems of everyday living; Emergency Medical Training, an in-depth instruction on the course of action to take in an emergency; Scoliosis Screening for Early Detection, which defines and describes scoliosis and how it can lead to critical disabilities; and Love is to Grow On, which portrays the true potential of most children with Down syndrome or other congenital handicaps.

Childcraft Education Corporation, 20 Kilmer Road, Edison, New Jersey 08818, 1-800-631-5657.

A complete line of products from all over the world is offered to meet specific developmental needs. Items include Toddlers’ Gym and Tunnel of Fun for physical and motor skills, Stay-N-Sway for balance and coordination, and Ring Toss to develop eye-hand coordination.


Nutrition and Feeding of the Handicapped Child (1987) provides information to help improve the nutritional status of disabled children and information on the interactions of drugs and nutrients, the evaluation of nutritional status, the eating process, and the treatment of conditions that need special dietary management.

Communication Skill Builders, 3830 East Bellevue, PO Box 42050-U, Tucson, Arizona 85733, (602) 323-7500.

This company has introduced more than 80 materials designed to teach early skills to young children. These materials include adaptive aids for nonverbal children, videotapes, and computer software. Of particular interest are the perceptual training activities and fine motor skills materials, which include teaching aids suitable for children in the preparatory stages for dressing, using scissors, writing, and using sign language.

Constructive Playthings, 1227 East 119th Street, Grandview, Missouri 64030-1117, (816) 761-5900.

This company offers a wide variety of creative playground equipment (e.g., a swaying bridge plus a slide; Spring Mate animals with special back braces and safety belts; Roll on the Barrel for balance, coordination, and upper and lower body development). Indoor equipment includes Teeter for Two, giant tumbler balls, riding toys, manipulative play materials, and perceptual training games and activities.

Crestwood Company, PO Box 04606, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204-0606, (414) 461-9876.

Crestwood specializes in communication aids. Products include the Fast Food Passport, which allows the nonverbal person to order food by pointing to pictures; portable Talking Pictures, which are multilingual; robot voice synthesizers; an opticommunicator, which allows communication with eyes; and Talking Beam, a device that enables a nonverbal, paralyzed person to point a light fastened on the head at a specific picture. Products also include an Object-Picture talk board, which progresses from concrete objects to abstract pictures; a portable pocket type-writer/computer; and various switches to operate aids and adapted toys.
Curriculum Associates, Inc., 5 Esquire Road, North Billerica, Massachusetts 01862-2589, 1-800-225-0248.

Touch to Type (grades 1–8) is a self-teaching program in touch-typing keyboard skills that builds strong touch-typing skills for transfer to a microcomputer. The program is self-directing, and any standard typewriter can be used for practice. Materials include a student text easel with attached Kolor-Kode keyboard, self-instruction cassette tapes, Kolor-Kode finger dots, and practice templates.

Discovery Toys, c/o Kyanne Anderson, 2506 Goddard, Toledo, Ohio 43606, (419) 536-4847.

These toys feature good color contrast and texture for children with impaired vision. Some toys encourage speech formation for language-impaired children; others are designed to develop motor skills and coordination for children with physical limitations. Toys, books, and games to develop memory, reading skills, and concentration are available for children with learning disabilities. If the customer includes a description of the special needs of the children for whom the materials are being purchased, an occupational therapist with pediatric experience will identify catalog products that could be especially beneficial.

Education Corporation of America, PO Box 25408, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27114, 1-800-354-2014.

The SiDiKi is a transparent writing surface on an adjustable stand. It includes a variety of inserts that develop spatial relationships, identification and use of body parts, prewriting skills, etc. Another product, Partners for Learning, is a complete education program providing a unique opportunity for child-adult interaction and sharing.

The Equipment Shop, PO Box 33, Bedford, Massachusetts 01730, (617) 275-7681.

Portaplay 2, a freestanding support system compatible with the Fisherform rod toys, can be carried and stored flat. An infant or very young child may be placed in the appropriate position to encourage a desired activity, and a toy attached to Portaplay 2 at the correct height may be used to maintain attention while the child is worked with. Portaplay 2 can also be used to promote specific activities such as grasp and release. It can be used on the floor or in a crib.

Exceptional Education, PO Box 15308, Seattle, Washington 98115, (509) 924-9060.

Exceptional Education offers the Match-Sort-Assemble Series, a prevocational program for disabled children and adults. The series provides a simple-to-complex continuum of instruction for moderately and severely or profoundly disabled persons. The series includes three phases, which take the student from matching, sorting, and assembling in response to pictures to using tools to assemble objects in response to pictures and schematics.

Exceptionally Yours, Inc., c/o Judith McKie, 22 Prescott Street, Newtonville, Massachusetts 02160, (617) 969-6576.

Ms. McKie designs attractive adapted clothing for children and young adults with special needs. The bright and practical clothes feature T-shirts, polo shirts, running shorts, jogging pants, and long-sleeved tops. The clothes feature brightly colored knee pads for crawling, release side closures for diaper changes and catheter tubing, harem-shaped pants for leg braces, and extra long and wide leg cuffs for those who use walkers or crutches.


Special Touch is computer software that can be activated through touching a video monitor screen rather than by typing in commands. Software packages feature Touch Window, an excellent device to enable persons with developmental disabilities and severe motoric impairment to use programs. New programs include Learning Left and Right (concepts of left, right, and crossover); Speak Up, which creates words and phrases to be spoken by computer; and FAST (Fast Access Scan Talker), which helps nonvocal persons express themselves quickly and easily.

Laurel Designs, 5 Laurel Avenue, Belvedere, California 94920, (415) 435-1891.

Laurel Designs offers Lok-Tie shoe laces, which enable people with disabilities to tie their own shoes. Each pair of stretch laces comes with a unique device that locks the lace into place.

LTV Aerospace and Defense Co., PO Box 655907, Dallas, Texas 75265-5907.

Gene Schell’s Opening Doors Again: A Collection of Toys for Special Children provides illustrations and adaptations of popular toys (e.g., See’N Say, Farmer Says, pull toys). Forty-seven devices for disabled children are presented. The book shows the toy and the problem a disabled child has in using it. A solution to the problem is provided with a description of the adaptation and a photograph of the completed device. Write to the above address for a free copy.

Radio Shack Circulation Department, 300 One Tandy Center, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, (817) 390-3011.

Radio Shack has issued Selected Products for People with Special Needs, its first catalog specifically directed to the needs of persons with disabilities. Many of the products are designed to aid persons with hearing or sight problems (e.g., phone flashers that light when the telephone rings, oversized number buttons on telephones). Send for a free copy.

This company offers a bowling ball with a handle grip. Upon release the handle retracts completely flush to the ball, allowing a true roll. The manufacturer claims it cannot catch fingers. Made of rubber, the ball is available in various weights and has a 1-year warranty.

Recreational Programs Unlimited, Inc., PO Box 2043, Upland, California 91785-2043, (714) 982-0916.

Unique Aerobics are videotapes designed for and starring persons with developmental disabilities. The tapes provide an opportunity to work with peers but at the viewer's pace. There are two levels: The exercise routine provides a workout for all muscles at a slightly slower speed than normal; the moderate video routine involves running and jumping.


From School to Working Life: Resources and Services (1985) provides practical information to facilitate the transition of disabled students to higher education or directly to the workplace. Information is arranged according to the Office of Special Education or directly to the workplace. Information is arranged according to the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation's concept of basic transitional models: transition without special services; transition with time-limited services; and transition with ongoing services. Individual or multiple copies are free.


Special Clothes for Special Children, PO Box 4220, Alexandria, Virginia 22303, (703) 549-2640.

Send for a free catalog that offers a wide selection of clothing and related products designed to promote the ease and comfort of children with special needs and those who care for them. Among the clothes included are bibs, shirts, shorts, overalls, underwear, jackets, and hats.

The Stanley Works, PO Box 7000, New Britain, Connecticut 06050, (203) 225-5111.

Stanley Hardware has a piece of equipment called Latchtrack Threshold that is constructed of high-quality extruded aluminum and is designed for use with commercial exits. It meets specifications for making buildings accessible and is available in various sizes.

Steven E. Kanor, Ph.D., Inc., 8 Main Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706, (914) 478-0960.

Commercially available toys have been specially adapted by this medical engineer so that children with minimal movement of hands, arms, or head can have access to toys otherwise inaccessible. Also available are a variety of switches (e.g., intention, vertical wobble), equipment for computer use such as a multiswitch module, a universal input adaptor, software for problem solving reinforced by an activated toy, and switch-mounting hardware. Radios and tape recorders have been modified for profoundly multiply disabled children.

Year Book Medical Publishers, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601, 1-800-621-9262, or (312) 726-9733.

Toys for Growing: A Guide to Toys that Develop Skills (1986) presents different types of toys carefully selected from the vast inventory of the National Lekotek Center. The toys are organized by developmental categories. This book will help the reader find the appropriate toys for optimal growth.

The Zaadi Company, 836 Chelmsford Street, Lowell, Massachusetts 01851, (617) 453-6508.

Zaadi Dolls, because of their comprehensive detail, are a teaching tool for children. Male and female dolls are anatomically correct, displaying musculature and skeletal and internal systems. Using this doll under a parent's or professional's guidance, a child can explore the internal body parts, hook up a pretend IV, practice insulin injections, or insert a catheter. Dolls can be used in almost any situation that calls for something more than words to help young patients understand their illness.

Information Search and Retrieval Systems

CEC Information Services

This is a computerized bank of information and materials on numerous topics (e.g., citations from literary sources, audio and visual media, project reports, products, assessment instruments). The following types of services are available: custom computer searches on specific topics by request; topical bibliographies; and Exceptional Children Education Resources (ECER), an annotated bibliographical reference volume that contains citations of current documents and literature references within the CEC Information Services' data base on topics related to the disabled and gifted populations. The CEC Information Hot Line provides quick access to a specialist.
ERIC operates through a network of 16 clearinghouses, each specializing in a particular area of education. One such clearinghouse is the Clearinghouse on Handicapped and Gifted Children at CEC in Reston, Virginia (see above under “Professional Organizations”). ERIC, through its links with key professional organizations, governmental and private agencies, and universities and colleges, collects information on new products and other information of interest to those in the field of education. The following publications can be obtained through the central ERIC processing and reference facility or are available in university libraries:

- A Current Index to Journals in Education
- Directory of ERIC Computer Search Services
- How to Use ERIC
- Directory of ERIC Microfiche Collections
- ERIC Information Analysis Products

National Center for Special Education Technology Information Exchange

This organization is located at CEC in Reston, Virginia (see above under “Professional Organizations”). It is a clearinghouse of information on technological advances and their applications. It provides information about available products, assistance in the selection of appropriate devices, and training in their use. It also provides information to organizations or individuals.

National Information Center for Educational Media (NICEM), University of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles, California 90007, (213) 746-6681.

NICEM is a major resource for regular and special education. The subdivision called the National Information Center for Special Education Materials (NICSEM) produces an indexed computer-based listing of audiovisual educational materials such as films, videotapes, etc. It also has materials that can be used by disabled children, materials applicable to service planning, and materials relevant to individualized instructional programming for disabled children. The Master Catalog of the NIMIS/NICSEM Special Education Information System contains a complete listing of materials on the center’s data base. This catalog can be purchased from NICEM, or may be available at university libraries or from state departments of education.

National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC), 4407 8th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017, (202) 635-5826.

ABLEDATA is a comprehensive computerized listing of information about more than 12,000 products and devices for independent living. Each entry includes the name of the manufacturer, a description of the device, and, when possible, an evaluation of it.

Psychological Abstracts Information Services (PAIS)

PAIS is a computerized information source operated by the American Psychological Association (see address above under “Professional Organizations”). It provides access to world literature in psychology and related behavioral and social sciences through its five components: Computerized Literature Search and Retrieval Services, PAIS Data Base, Psychological Abstracts, Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms, and Three Year Cumulative Indexes to Psychological Abstracts.

PsycSCAN: LD/MR

This is a system of quarterly abstract indexes published by the American Psychological Association that provides abstracts on learning and communication disorders and on mental retardation. The abstracts are published in the following volumes: PsychINFO Retrospective: Mental Retardation—An Abstracted Bibliography and PsychINFO Retrospective: Learning and Communication Disorders—An Abstracted Bibliography. For more information, contact the American Psychological Association (see address above under “Professional Organizations”).

SpecialNet Communication Network (NASDSE), 2021 K Street, NW, Suite 315, Washington, DC 20006.

Access to this network is obtained by subscribing to SpecialNet Computer System operated by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) at the address above. A user must have access to a word processor, microcomputer, or computer terminal, and can request special information or technical assistance from a large number of legal, subject area, and technical specialists via SpecialNet. Access to information on specific topics is available through topical “bulletin boards” on the computer system or by posting requests for information. Information is sent from the SpecialNet system to the user’s personal “mailbox.”