

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL

# Imagine! That

THE IMAGINE! NEWSLETTER

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## TOY STORIES: IMAGINE!'S LENDING LIBRARY AND A COMPANY THAT MAKES TOYS MORE USER FRIENDLY

For parents who have a child with physical or cognitive limitations, finding toys that are useful and enjoyable for their child can be challenging, frustrating, and expensive. Two resources for parents may help to make life more pleasant for themselves and their child.

A toy lending library has recently been created by Imagine!'s Service Coordinators. The library consists of toys, books, CDs, reference materials, and equipment that parents with children enrolled in Early Intervention (under the age of three) may borrow for up to two months.

An example of how to take advantage of the library is borrowing a toy or piece of equipment such as a mini trampoline to see how your child responds to it as a therapeutic tool or for fun before purchasing one. To find out more about what is available through the toy lending library, please ask your Service Coordinator or therapist.

Finding engaging, switch-adapted toys can also be a bit of a challenge, especially when children have moved on from baby toys and are longing to play with the types of toys they see other children playing with. Adaptations Colorado is a company that adapts children's toys that they already own so they can play with their toys as independently as possible.



The best adaptable toys are those that are battery-operated, but please feel free to inquire about other possibilities. Prices for adapting the toys will vary depending on the toy, but for single function toys the range is from \$20 to \$30. Other objects may be adaptable, too, so don't feel limited to just toys. Having options can positively impact the quality of life for a child, and increased choices with toys is one way to achieve that goal. Visit Adaptations Colorado's website at

[www.adaptationscolorado.com](http://www.adaptationscolorado.com) for more information.



## THE IMAGINE! WEBSITE CALENDAR WAS CREATED FOR YOU

No matter what role you have in the field of developmental disabilities, the Imagine! website calendar was created for you. The website calendar provides information on upcoming events, seminars, and local activities related to the field of developmental disabilities. The calendar is updated frequently, so please check it regularly at [www.imaginecolorado.org/Calendar.htm](http://www.imaginecolorado.org/Calendar.htm).

## BOULDER POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE SAFETY FIRST CLASS FOR ADULTS



The Boulder Police Department will be offering Safety First for Adults from 4:00 - 6:00 PM on Thursdays: April 7, 14, 21, 28 and May 5 at the Public Safety Building, 1805 33rd Street, in Boulder. The free classes are designed to provide safety tips to adults with developmental disabilities who live and work in the community. The curriculum of the program covers decision making skills, street- smart safety, home security, fire prevention, and safety on public transportation.

Safety First for Adults is taught by Boulder Police Officers using a combination of lecture, small group, and hands-on activities. The registration deadline is March 31, **no exceptions**. For more information or to register, please email Kris Gibson at [gibsonkr@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:gibsonkr@bouldercolorado.gov) or call her at 303-441-3332.

## LONGMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE SAFETY FIRST CLASS

The Longmont Police Department is offering a unique safety course for individuals who are 16 years of age or older who have a developmental disability. The curriculum includes making good decisions, recognizing risks in the community, personal and street-smart safety, home security, and safety in public situations including public transportation. There will also be a short session on fire safety.

The course will run for five sessions on June 28 and 30, and July 6, 7, and 11. Classes are 9:00 - 11:00 AM in the Community Room at the Safety and Justice Center, 225 Kimbark Street in Longmont. Students will work with members of the police department in discussion groups and on class projects.

People interested in enrolling in this free, five lesson course should call either Officer Kathy Sanner at 303-651-8511 or Deena Brown at 303-651-8536. Enrollment is limited, so call today!

## IMAGINE! ADDRESSES CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Recently there has been talk about eliminating the potential for conflicts of interest in the developmental disability services delivery system. The State of Colorado Departments of Human Services and Health Care Policy and Financing consider it problematic that not-for-profit corporations provide both Case Management as a Community Centered Board (CCB) and Direct Services as a Program Approved Service Agency. They advocate consolidating case management to a state directed or other non Community Centered Board system.

Imagine! is addressing the issue of the potential for conflicts of interest and is committed to respecting individual choices and to helping individuals make choices or changes whenever possible. Read more about the issue and Imagine!'s thoughts on separating Case Management and Direct Service provision by visiting <http://imaginecolorado.org/WhatsNew.htm#COI>.

## DOWN SYNDROME SYMPOSIUM SERIES

On Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16 in Denver from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM both days, the Down Syndrome Education Fund presents the Down Syndrome Symposium Series. This is for parents, family members, caregivers, and professionals interested in educational tools and best practices for children and young adults with Down syndrome. Friday is Professional Day, and Saturday is Parent Day. Speaking at the event will be Patti McVay, a nationally renowned special education leader. Register online at [www.denveroptions.org](http://www.denveroptions.org) or call Denver Options at 303-636-5700.

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**THE MISSION OF IMAGINE! IS TO CREATE AND OFFER INNOVATIVE SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WITH COGNITIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND HEALTH RELATED NEEDS SO THEY MAY LIVE FULFILLING LIVES OF INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY IN THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES.**