

KIDZ



www.texaskidz.com

ADVOCATES FOR KIDZ AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Volume 2, Issue 2

March/April 2005

Monthly Meeting Info

January 2005 Summary:

Margo Dewkett of Windridge was our guest speaker in January. The services that Windridge provides can be seen at: www.windridgetexas.com

February 2005 Summary:

Deployment of our First Contact Brochures was the topic this month, as well as new information about available resources in Longview and surrounding areas.

Upcoming Meetings:

We will be discussing our wheelchair accessible playground project in March and have many guest speakers lined up for this year. Don't miss out, we need your input!

Remember: March and April meetings start at 6:30 PM

KIDZ MONTHLY MEETINGS

PLACE: NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
600 GEORGE RICHEY RD.
LONGVIEW, TX
(SEE MAP)

TIME: 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
FROM 6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM

Childcare is available at no charge.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	About Us...
1	Monthly Meeting Info
1	Family Focus
2	First Contact Brochure Update
3	News
3	Encouraging Words

About Us...

KIDZ is a group of parents with special needs children who have joined together to provide support and information for other parents with special needs children regardless of how minor or severe the disability.

- Monthly Meetings
- Bi-monthly Newsletters
- First Contact Brochures
- Support Line
- Special Events

Visit us on the web at www.texaskidz.com or call or write for more information about KIDZ and our programs. KIDZ mailing address and phone number can be found on the last page of this newsletter. ■

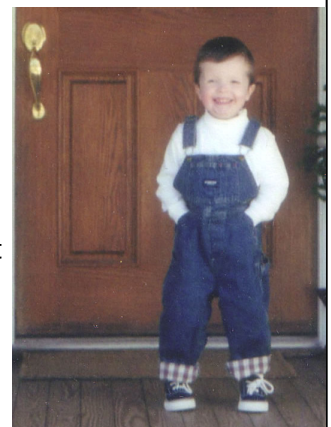
Family Focus

This column highlights stories from different families.

By Kevin & Kelly Buchanek

The Bible says in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." Sure we want to believe this, but did we really trust God with our son's future?

Caleb Brennan was born on April 4, 2002. Everything seemed to be fine at first, but as he got older Caleb was not crawling nor did he like to be on his stomach. Although He did enjoy rolling from room to room to play with his toys he



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Respite (n.) a brief rest
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First Contact Brochure

We have begun distributing our First Contact Brochures around town. Be on the lookout for them and be sure to spread the word about them. The response has been great so far with nearly 300 being placed in just two weeks!

One of the goals of this brochure is to inform new parents and existing parents that there are other families in our community with special needs children who are going through, have been through, or will go through the same challenges and uncertainties that they are facing.

Family Focus continued from page 1

rarely made any sounds except to laugh or cry. We were given unwanted advice from friends and family such as, "He'll walk when he wants to," "He may skip crawling and go straight to walking," or "Maybe he just doesn't have anything to talk about." Caleb was 1 year old and was still unable to sit up on his own or crawl.

"...we got a phone call from the doctor saying that Caleb had a chromosome deletion that they had never seen or heard of before."

Together with his physician we were concerned about his continued delays and were sent to Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock. July 1st, 2003 was the day we got a phone call from the doctor saying that Caleb had a chromosome deletion that they had never seen or heard of before. "What did this mean?" "What would happen in the future?" "What do we do now?" And of course the most important one, "God, are You sure You know the plans for my son?" These were just a few of the questions that crossed our minds.

We started speech and physical therapy right away and continued making our doctor's visits. As there is no other documented case of this specific deletion, the physicians had no idea as to what Caleb's future may hold. One doctor even said, "The worst case scenario for your son would be that he will never be able to live independently, get a job and his condition may even deteriorate." Thanks for the encouragement!

It was at that point that we realized God had bigger plans for our son. God has sent Caleb some great

God, are You sure You know the plans for my son?"

therapists who have diligently worked to improve his life. In just a year and a half Caleb is now walking. He is also making sounds and is using sign language to communicate. He captures the hearts of everyone he meets with his constant smile. Caleb is almost 3 years old and is independent enough to feed himself, play with his toys and follow simple requests. He can also throw a mean fast ball.

Yes, God does know the plans for our son and yes, we do truly believe He will make his future prosperous. We believe it so much that we already have plans to send a graduation invitation to his doubting doctor. ■



- **KIDZ** has a website! You can view our newsletters, current and past issues, along with many other interesting things at www.texaskidz.com.
- We need your help! One of our goals is to have a "library" of information pertaining to different diseases, afflictions, or disabilities that you have dealt with. We would like to make this information available to others who are faced with the same situation for the first time. Please ensure that all the information you submit is 100% accurate. Send articles or references to info@texaskidz.com or mail copies to KIDZ, PO Box 10015, Longview, TX 75608-0015.
- If you are interested in purchasing advertising space in our newsletters, please e-mail us at info@texaskidz.com. Ads will be restricted to a limited number per issue and will be accepted/denied and placed at our discretion.
- **KIDZ** is working on getting wheelchair accessible playground equipment placed in the Longview area. If you are interested in helping with this effort, which will benefit your children and the entire community by allowing all children to play together in one place, please contact us!



Handicap Accessible Children's Park
Lubbock, TX

Encouraging Words

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

- James Baldwin

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive our KIDZ newsletter, please call Amber at (903) 663-5936 or e-mail us at info@texaskidz.com

FAST FACTS

"A mother should never have to choose between her children. She should never have to decide which one has more important needs than the other. She should never have to suppress the life of one child so that the other will flourish. It's just not natural. But what if one child has more potential than the other? Is it then okay for a mother to make a choice?"

"Sibling issues are a major part of raising a child with disabilities. We all know that the child with special needs typically requires a lot of attention, in turn, leaving the sibling to feel jealous and angry. As parents, we try our best to give both children equal amounts of attention, but many times it's just impossible. While we rationalize intellectually that it's not the special child's fault that he or she is so demanding and that we need to meet his or her needs, our "typical" children are unable to draw the same conclusion. They, instead, see their parents making a choice.

"It's not an easy situation to be in. It's so hard to make everyone happy and fill everyone's needs. But I, like many others, think I am a supermom. So, I'll do everything I can to try to make peace with all members of my family without hurting anyone else. I think with a little effort... okay, a lot of effort... things will work out in the end." - To read the full article, visit www.specialchild.com/editor.html

The Resource Foundation for Children with Challenges.
Retrieved Feb. 22, 2005, from
<http://www.specialchild.com/editor.html>



KIDZ would like to say a special "thanks" to ...

All of those **volunteering** to watch the kids during our meetings!

Margo Dewkett of **Windridge** for speaking at our January meeting!

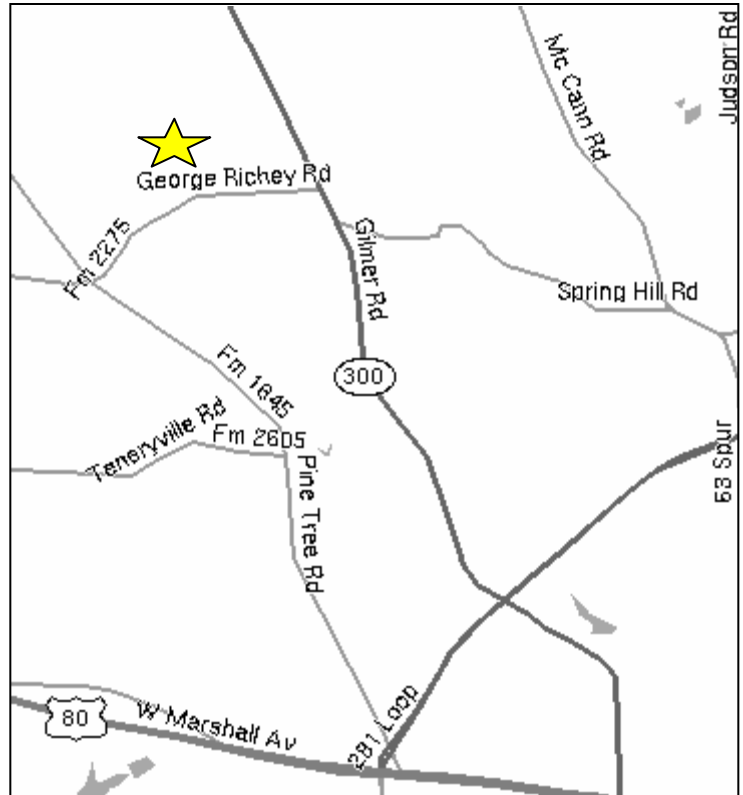
Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) for providing copying and mailing services for our newsletters!

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If you would like to make a donation to KIDZ, please make checks payable to:

NBBC c/o KIDZ

Donations are tax deductible.

KIDZ is a bimonthly publication. As the KIDZ fiscal sponsor, New Beginnings Baptist Church oversees donations and disbursements on behalf of KIDZ in order for KIDZ to direct its efforts to the families in need.

KIDZ
P.O. Box 10015
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