

## **Family Support & Advocacy Committee Update**

### **March 14, 2001**

#### **Membership:**

- < The FS&A Committee welcomes 28 members (new and old) this year!
  
- < Cigars please! Congratulations to Bob and Regina Myrick who welcomed a baby boy last month to their family. Regina has been a member of the FS&A and the Tidewater Regional Family Representative for three years.

#### **Conference Committee:**

- < The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Families are Special, Too! Conference is fast approaching. A high school teacher with Autism, a swimming medalist teenager with Down syndrome, Part C and Part B staff, and a Virginia Congressman are scheduled to speak to parents Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Our keynote presentation on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> is entitled "The thrills and chills of the roller coaster ride: life with a sibling with a disability." Workshops include: 1) all children can experience school success: a model for teacher inclusion; 2) get a life: family support and self-determination; 3) the parent portfolio notebook; 4) understanding your child's temperament; 5) sensory integration; 6) early literacy program; 7) making choices with young children (self-determination); 8) language development and adaptations; 9) shared voices: telling your family story; and 10) transition. Child Development Resources (CDR) will be providing on-site childcare services. We are looking for any local EI program that would like to donate public awareness materials to the conference goodie bags.
  
- < Monica Uhl of VIDDD's Respite Resource Project will return to the VICC this month to discuss (with the FS&A Committee) their role in the FS&A's regional respite forums scheduled this spring and summer. No further update is available at this time.

#### **Publications:**

- < Work continues on publishing the monthly *Family Matters Newsletter* currently available on the Babies Can't Wait website. As always, submission of family stories and articles are encouraged.
  
- < The "Family Guide" and "Beginning with Families" publications are on tap to be translated into Spanish this year. No further update is available at this time.