

Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Raising

Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Week

August 14th – 22nd 2010 is National Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Week. The aim of the week is to heighten community awareness of early childhood intervention and the variety of services available for infants and young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families.

In some cases, the most effective awareness-raising event in a community may occur outside of Awareness Week.

Awareness Raising Events

We've had a wonderful array of events in the last few years. In 2010 we would again like to focus on raising awareness of early childhood intervention in those parts of our communities that are harder to reach.

You can participate in a community festival or band together with other service providers to organize a fun day, or run an event for the families within your service, as well as families in your community.

Nominate an individual or organisation for an Early Childhood Intervention Australia NSW Achievement Award. (see Resource Kit)

Anything that will help raise community awareness of the needs of children with disabilities and their families... it's up to you. It can be as small or as grand as you like!

We are available to help, provide Resource Kits and supply kites, stickers, bookmarks and balloons for you to use as part of your celebrations. For details, look on the ECIA website: www.ecia-nsw.org.au or contact the ECIA office on 9873 2593, e-mail: admin@ecia-nsw.org.au

Here are some idea starters:

- ◆ A stall at a community festival with information for parents and children's products
- ◆ Highlight local families in the press, community radio or TV
- ◆ Local recognition of pre-schools and community activities which are positive role models for inclusive practices.
- ◆ Kite-flying family community picnic with information for parents and children's products
- ◆ Decorate-a-kite art competition
- ◆ Kite-making workshops in local schools
- ◆ Art competition for local schools: *'Kites for Kids – The sky's the limit for kids with disabilities'*
- ◆ Walkathon
- ◆ Shopping centre information display and sale of kites

More ideas for activities can be found in the Resource Kit. It also includes sample media releases, event checklists, kite patterns and suppliers.

You'll not only have fun, but you'll be helping to get the message out there about the need to support and include children with disabilities and their families.



Funding your Event

A small amount of funding goes a long way!
So:

- ◆ Find out about funding from your ECIC Area Committee; or through your local council; or your Regional Arts Council
- ◆ Check your local Clubs for support and sponsorship.
- ◆ Approach local service clubs or businesses for sponsorship, funds or help.

PLEASE NOTE: Events that are badged as 'Kites for Kids' must focus on ECI Awareness Raising activities – not fund-raising for a service.