

Parent Education & Support Opportunities September 2009

Kids don't come with instruction manuals. But whether you're a new mom or dad, a seasoned veteran, or a non-traditional parent/caregiver, there are tips and techniques you can use to make parenting easier for yourself, and living with children better for everyone in your household.

**Compiled and distributed by the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition
www.capecoalition.com.**

**To receive this list every month by e-mail, please contact
Paul Melville at 508-771-4338 or paul@capecoalition.com.**

All meetings, workshops, etc. are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

September 1, 15 and 29 (every other Tuesday), 10 a.m. - noon: **"New Babies' Breastfeeding Support Group"** at *Falmouth Hospital* (Family Room, Maternity Unit), 100 Ter Heun Dr. (off Route 28), with Suzan Schar, RNC and board certified lactation consultant. Siblings welcome. Information: 508-457-3632.

September 2 (first Wednesday), 6:30 - 8 p.m.: **"Parents of Diabetic Children"** at *Sandwich Public Library*, 142 Main St. (Room 2), with Sandy Bovat. Non-therapeutic parent-led support group. Open discussion format. Join us for information sharing and support. No registration necessary. Information: Sandy at 508-477-8542 or Susan Hendy at 508-888-7054.

September 3 and 10 (must attend both sessions), 5:30 - 8 p.m.: **"Set a Good Example (SAGE)"** at MSPCC, 206 Breeds Hill Road, *Hyannis*, with Jennifer Taylor, LMHC and Matt Daniels, LMHC. Divorce has a profound impact on children; come learn how you can lessen the impact for your kids. Meets the court's mandate for education for parents filing for divorce. FEE: \$80. Information or registration: 508-775-0275.

September 7 (first Monday), 6 - 7:30 p.m.: **"Dads' Talk"** at a private location in *Harwich* (call for address; returning to Community Center in October), with Matt Daniels, LMHC and Paul Melville, family support specialist. This group provides a monthly opportunity to get together with local fathers and other male caregivers. All dads are welcome to this non-therapeutic gathering, regardless of their child(ren)'s age(s) and their parenting situation. Free pizza and child care. Sponsored by the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition with additional support from Cape Cod Children's Place and Harwich CPC. Information or registration: 508-771-4338 or paul@capecoalition.com.

September 9, 7 - 9 p.m.: **"Transition to Parenthood"** at *Falmouth Hospital* (Faxon One Conference Room), 100 Ter Heun Dr. (off Route 28), with Lee Burwell MFT, LMHC. You can expect significant changes in your couple relationship after having a baby. Practice important skills for continuing to strengthen your friendship and increase relationship satisfaction through the stressful first few months of parenting. FEE: \$10 per couple (scholarships available). Information or registration: 508-457-3632.

September 10 (second Thursday), 5:15 - 6:45 p.m.: **“Single Parenting”** at Cape Cod Child Development, 83 Pearl St., *Hyannis*, with Paul Melville, family support specialist and Kathleen Shine-O’Brien, LMHC. This monthly group is designed to create a safe, supportive environment for single moms and dads to share successes, challenges, and other information. All single parents are welcome to attend this non-therapeutic gathering, regardless of their child(ren)’s age(s) and their parenting situation. Free dinner and child care. Sponsored by Cape Cod Child Development’s Families United Network (F.U.N.) Program with funding from the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition. Information or registration: Mary at 508-775-6240 ext. 512.

September 10 (second Thursday), 7 - 8:30 p.m.: **“All Families Touched by Adoption (AFTA), Waiting Parents Group”** at the Family Center (Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School), Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, *Oak Bluffs*, with Marney Toole, family services coordinator at the Martha’s Vineyard Family Network. The group mission is to enrich the lives of children, families and all those touched by or considering adoption. We hope to provide, education, support, communication and resources to all. Information or registration: Marney Toole at 508-693-7900 ext. 283.

September 10 (second Thursday), 7 - 9:30 p.m.: **“Breastfeeding Class”** at *Falmouth Hospital* (Faxon One Conference Room), 100 Ter Heun Dr. (off Route 28). This one session course prepares moms-to-be for breastfeeding. It covers the advantages of breastfeeding, the anatomy and physiology of lactation, dispels myths surrounding breastfeeding, and will prepare you to get the best possible start. FEE: \$5 per couple. Information or registration: 508-457-3632.

September 11 and 26 (every other Friday), 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.: **“Nursing Mothers Support Group”** at the *Falmouth Fire Station* (2nd floor), 399 Main St. Non-WIC mothers, fathers, and pregnant women also welcome. Sponsored by Cape Cod WIC. No registration necessary. Information: Kathy at 508-548-0814.

September 11 and 25 (every other Friday), 10 a.m. - noon: **“Nursing Mothers Support Group”** at the *Hyannis WIC office*, 1019 Iyannough Road. Non-WIC mothers, fathers, and pregnant women also welcome. Sponsored by Cape Cod WIC. No registration necessary. Information: Cheryl at 508-540-5275.

September 14, 6:30 - 8 p.m.: **“Barnstable Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SE PAC)”** at Barnstable High School (Room 1202), 744 West Main St., *Hyannis*. To start the year off with a bang, we’re giving away "Getting Organized" supplies (3-ring binders/tabs) free of charge on a first-come/first-serve basis, one per person. Information: www.barnstablesepac.org or Linda: 774-994-0713 or Michelle: 508-246-0467.

September 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.: **“Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Listening & Learning Tour”** at the Bourne Council on Aging, Bourne Veteran’s Memorial Community Center, 239 Main St., *Buzzards Bay*. This is the first of several state-wide sessions where the Commission will be assessing the needs of Massachusetts grandparents and other kin raising children. Please join them to share your concerns and ideas. Free refreshments and child care provided with registration. Sponsored by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families, and the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition. Information or registration: 508-771-4336.

September 14, 7 - 8 p.m.: **“Parents of Socially Challenged Youth Meeting”** at the Southeast Alternative School, 270 Communications Way (Suite 2G), *Hyannis*, with Bambi Rosario of Cape Cod Child Development. Funded by the Southeast Alternative School, Cape Cod Campus, a division of Community Care Services. Information or registration: 508-862-0288.

September 14 (second Monday), 7 - 8:30 p.m.: **“Cape Cod Mothers of Multiples (C2M2)”** at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Cape and Islands (RHCI), 311 Service Road, *East Sandwich*. A support group for parents of twins, triplets etc. Information: Stephany Alves at 508-246-5091 or stephany2@comcast.net.

September 15 (third Tuesday), 5 - 6:30 p.m.: **“Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”** at the Barnstable Senior Center, 825 Falmouth Road (Route 28), *Hyannis*, with Rosanne DeVito of Elder Services. A monthly get together for grandparents raising grandchildren with different topics discussed each month. A separate “Grandkids Get Together” is run concurrently by Barnstable’s youth services coordinator, Sally-Ann Imes, so that grandchildren Ages 8 and up can meet and interact with peers whose family settings may be similar to their own. A light dinner will be provided to all. Information or registration: Sally-Ann at 508-862-4633 or sally-ann.imes@town.barnstable.ma.us.

September 16, 7 - 9 p.m.: **“Successful Stress Management Strategies for New Parents”** at *Falmouth Hospital* (Faxon One Conference Room), 100 Ter Heun Dr. (off Route 28), with Lee Burwell MFT, LMHC. Research shows that learning how to manage stress can help prevent the incidence of postpartum depression. Become familiar with the warning signs of stress and practice relationship skills and relaxation skills that will help you decrease stress and anxiety so that your new family can thrive. FEE: \$10 per couple (scholarships available). Information or registration: 508-457-3632.

Beginning September 17 for eight Thursdays (skips 10/1), 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.: **“Effective Positive Discipline”** at A Baby Center, 81 Willow Ave., *Hyannis* with Cindy Horgan, family support coordinator at Cape Cod Children's Place and co-creator of the Parenting Station. Topics include: developmental issues, communication, understanding temperament, encouraging good behavior, parenting styles, discipline, working through power struggles and tantrums, anger management, sibling rivalries, and coping with stress. Free pizza and limited free child care and transportation available. Sponsored by Cape Cod Child Development’s Families United Network Program. Funded by the Massachusetts Children’s Trust Fund and Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. Information or registration: 508-775-6240 ext. 512.

September 17, 6 - 7 p.m.: **“Breastfeeding Support Group”** at the Outer Cape WIC office, 79 Finlay Road, *Orleans*, with Gabrielle Hathaway, lactation consultant. For moms-to-be and mothers of nursing infants. Get your breastfeeding questions answered and learn the latest information in a confidential and sympathetic group environment. Please join us for this informative and supportive evening. Snacks provided. Sponsored by Outer Cape WIC. Information: 508-240-0853.

September 17, 6 - 8 p.m.: **“Father & Baby Pizza Party”** at Cape Cod Hospital (Lorusso Board Room), 27 Park St., *Hyannis* with Ann Macdonald, RN, BSN, CCE and Paul Melville, family support specialist at the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition. A great place for dads (and dads-to-be) to show off their babies from newborn to 18 months old, to connect with other Cape dads, and to learn about resources for local families. Free pizza dinner. Sponsored by Cape Cod Healthcare and the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition. Information or registration: Ann at 508-862-5123.

September 17 (third Thursday), 7 - 9:30 p.m.: **“Newborn Care”** at *Falmouth Hospital* (Faxon One Conference Room), 100 Ter Heun Dr. (off Route 28). This class covers infant daily care, feeding and sleep habits, infant growth, development, and safety. We’ll also cover the identification of illnesses and when to call your pediatrician. FEE: \$5 per couple. Information or registration: 508-457-3632.

September 19 (third Saturday), 5:30 - 7 p.m.: **“Waiting Family Meetings”** at Good Hope Adoption Services, 708 Route 134, *South Dennis*. For singles and couples beginning adoption, waiting, or recently home with their child. Free pizza and coffee. Information or registration: Cape Cod Adoption Network at 508-385-7815.

September 21 and 22 (must attend both sessions), 6 - 8:30 p.m.: **“Parents Apart”** at VFW Post 2578 (Flight View Room), 455 Iyannough Road, *Hyannis*, with James Caramello, MA, LICSW and Lisa Margarit, MA of Massachusetts Bay Counseling. Divorce has a profound impact on children; come learn how you can lessen the impact for your kids. Meets the court’s mandate for education for parents filing for divorce. FEE: \$80. Information or registration: Amy Crissinger at 617-786-3027.

September 21 and 29 (must attend both sessions), 6:15 - 8:45 p.m.: **“Promoting Children’s Physical Development”** at the Gus Canty Recreation Center, 790 Mains St., *Falmouth*. This two-part training for parents and teachers provides the basics of physical development and fitness for young children: developmental milestones, identification of “red flags”, obesity research, nutritious snack and meals, improvement of children’s fitness level, creating supportive environments and curriculum, ideas for games and movement, and relaxation techniques. FEE: \$3.00. Registration or information: Carolyn at 508-548-0151 ext 128.

September 21 (third Monday), 7 - 8 p.m.: **“Parents of Socially Challenged Youth Meeting”** at the Southeast Alternative School, 270 Communications Way (Suite 2G), *Hyannis*, with Bambi Rosario of Cape Cod Child Development. Funded by the Southeast Alternative School, Cape Cod Campus, a division of Community Care Services. Information or registration: 508-862-0288.

Sept. 23, Sept. 30, and Oct. 14, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.: **“Frugal Families – Eating Right, Spending Less”** at Cape Cod Child Development’s School Age Center, 439 E. Falmouth Highway (Route 28), *East Falmouth*. Kim Condra, of the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension will cover important topics on food, nutrition, and cost. Lots of helpful handouts and information, recipes to try at home and sample foods to try. Limited child care available. Registration or information: Carolyn at 508-548-0151 ext 128.

September 25, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.: **“Free Divorce and Estate Planning Legal Clinics for Women”** at We Can, 537 Main St. (Route 28), Suite 2H, *Harwich Port*. Individual, half-hour appointments with an attorney are available by registration only. This is an opportunity for low and moderate income women to ask questions, get answers, navigate their documents, and find out what their rights are. Funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. Information or registration: 508-430-8111.

September 26 (fourth Saturday), 10 - 11:30 a.m.: **“Adoptive Moms Support Group”** at the Northside Methodist Church, 701 Airline Road, *Dennis*. Coffee, refreshments, and child care available. Information or registration: Cape Cod Adoption Network at 508-385-7815.

September 28, 10 - 11:30 a.m.: **“Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Monthly Support Group”** at the Bourne Council on Aging, Bourne Veteran’s Memorial Community Center, 239 Main St., *Buzzards Bay* with Lois Carr. Information or registration: 508-759-0654.

September 28, 5:30 - 7 p.m.: **“Single Moms”** at Cape Cod Children's Place, 10 Ballwic Road (formerly Forest Ave.), *Eastham*, with Kate Macaulay and Cindy Horgan. This non-therapeutic group is designed to encourage individuals to share their challenges as well as their successes. Meet new friends and be supported and empowered by each other! Free Pizza dinner and child care provided. Funding support provided by a Massachusetts Family Centers grant through Children's Trust Fund, administered by Cape Cod Children's Place. Information or registration: 508-240-3310.

Weekly Programs and Groups:

Mondays, 10:30 a.m. - Noon (beginning September 14): **“Postpartum Moms & Babies Group”** at *Harwich Community Center*, 100 Oak St., with Monica Keefe-Hess, parent education coordinator at Cape Cod Children's Place. We meet to share stories, ask questions, and get familiar with resources that support you such as: nutrition, parenting, breastfeeding etc. Funded by a Massachusetts Family Centers Grant through Children's Trust Fund. Information: 508-240-3310.

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - noon: **“Nursing Mothers’ Group”** at the Center for Breastfeeding, 327 Quaker Meeting House Road, *East Sandwich*. Information or registration: 888-890-2229 or 508-888-7794.

Weekly Programs and Groups continued:

Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.: **“Postpartum Depression Support Group”** for new mothers at Hospice & Palliative Care of Cape Cod, 765 Attucks Lane, *Hyannis*, with Aimee Rozum LMHC ATR-BC. There is a FEE associated with this group, but most insurance is accepted and no one is turned away due to inability to pay. Information or registration: Aimee at 508-957-0267.

Tuesdays, 6 - 7 p.m.: **“Anger Management Classes”** at the Gosnold-Thorne Outpatient Counseling Center, 1185 Falmouth Road, *Centerville*, with Rick Martin, drug court treatment coordinator at Gosnold. Fulfills court requirements for anger management classes. FEE: \$20 per class, pay as you go. For information or registration: Rick Martin at 774-313-0503 or rmartin@gosnold.org.

Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.: **“Divorce Support Group for Women”** at We Can, 537 Main St. (Route 28), Suite 2H, *Harwich Port*, with Peggy Wilbur, LICSW. In the time of divorce, a woman may feel like her world has fallen apart. It is common to feel alone, scared and overwhelmed. This group connects women to provide a sense of support, competence and empowerment. Information or registration: WE CAN at 508-430-8111.

Fridays, 10 a.m. - Noon: **“Moms & Babies Support Group”** at Cape Cod Hospital (Whitcomb Pavilion), 27 Park St., *Hyannis*, with Ann Macdonald, RN, BSN, CCE. A great place to connect with other Cape Cod moms. Information or registration: Ann at 508-862-5123.

Select Ongoing Resources:

“Adoption Network Programs” sponsored by the Cape Cod Adoption Network are held at various locations across the Cape. Playgroups and programs for adoptive parents, foster parents, or adoptive parents-to-be. Information: 508-385-7815 or visit www.capecodadoptionnetwork.org for a program listing and to request a resource guide.

“Breastfeeding Warmline” sponsored by the Center for Breastfeeding, *East Sandwich*. All calls are free and confidential. Call anytime, day or night; all messages received after-hours will be returned at the start of the next business day: 888-890-2229 or 508-888-7794.

“Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Hotline”: Independence House staffs this hotline 24 hours a day, every day of the year. You do not have to leave your relationship in order to get help and you are not required to press charges against your abuser. They will not notify the police unless you request it. Independence House can help arrange for emergency safe shelter for you and your family, as well as police intervention and medical care: 800-439-6507.

“Family Support Information Line” of the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition provides free, confidential information about resources and referrals to services for families with dependent children across the Cape & Islands: 888-99-CCNSC (888-992-2672). We talk to families (and those who work with families) about “where to go for what.” There are no income guidelines and there is no intake process in order to receive information from us. Learn more about the Coalition at www.capecoalition.com.

“Fit to be Kids” at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Cape and Islands (RHCI), 311 Service Road, *East Sandwich*. An outpatient weight management program for children Ages 6 - 16. Information or registration (including fee schedule): 508-833-4197.

Select Ongoing Resources continued:

“FoodSource Hotline of Project Bread”: If you or someone you know is having difficulty making ends meet for whatever reason, Project Bread’s FoodSource Hotline can help. This hotline is the only comprehensive information and referral service for the hungry in Massachusetts. The hotline operators can provide information and screen callers for food stamp eligibility, connect callers to school meal programs, and direct callers to the best local, emergency food resources. All calls are personalized and confidential; with capacity for 160 languages. Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.: 800-645-8333.

“Kids Grieve Too!”: Children who experience the loss of someone they love often feel like the world is falling apart and that no one else knows how they feel. The Kids Grieve Too! program at Hospice & Palliative Care of Cape Cod uses a combination of sharing, expressive arts and play therapy to assist children in expressing their feelings. Their licensed therapists specialize in supporting children through loss and grief. Information: 508-957-0200 or www.hospicecapecod.org.

“Lactation Connection”: Breastfeeding mothers on Nantucket can reach a certified lactation consultant who will answer your questions and arrange to meet with you for free as needed: 774-563-1970.

“Navigating ADHD” with Tracey Bromley Goodwin, M.Ed. and Holly Oberacker, ATR, LMHC: This education/support group for parents whose children have been diagnosed with ADD/ADHD involves a 10-week series of small group meetings (6 - 10 parents/guardians). Learn the facts on what ADHD is and isn’t, strategies for managing difficult behaviors, communication and conflict resolution techniques, tips for organizing your child’s environment, and effective methods for building positive relationships with your child’s school. Take home strategies, behavior interventions, and organizational charts. Meetings will be held in Centerville and will be offered during the day once a week, and during the evening more than once a week. FEE: \$30 per session if you enroll for all 10 weeks, or \$35 per session, pay as you go. For information or registration: Tracey Bromley Goodwin at 508-888-2354, or Holly Oberacker at 508-566-0242.

“Operation Military Kids”: Families experiencing the absence of a loved one due to a deployment overseas can learn what opportunities are available to them and their child(ren). Free after school and family programs are available through a grant from the Army Child and Youth Services, and hero backpacks are available to school aged children. Information: Kerry J. Bickford at 508-375-6695 or kbickford@barnstablecounty.org.

“Oral Health Programs and Services”: Dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease; fortunately it’s almost entirely preventable. Do you or your family need help accessing dental care? The Tri-County Collaborative for Oral Health Excellence (Tri-CCOHE) links children and adults with affordable dental care. Information: Cheila Smith at 508-771-1375.

“Parent Information Network (PIN)”: assists families who are challenged by children’s mental health, emotional, or behavioral needs. They offer a quarterly newsletter, individual advocacy, parent/community education, and two monthly support groups (*Brewster* and *Falmouth*). Funded by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. Information or registration: Jennifer Ross at 508-947-8779 ext. 29.

“Parental Stress Line”: You don’t have to keep going it alone, Parents Helping Parents can help. The “Parental Stress Line” is confidential, anonymous, and available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week across Massachusetts: 800-632-8188.

“Postpartum Depression Support Group”: Hospice & Palliative Care of Cape Cod sponsors groups for new mothers in Hyannis and Falmouth. Groups forming now! Information or registration: Aimee Rozum, LMHC-ATR-BC at 508-957-0267 or arozum@hospicecapecod.org.

Select Ongoing Resources continued:

“The Samaritans on Cape Cod and the Islands”: Dedicated volunteers answer this crisis hotline and listen compassionately to anyone who needs to be heard or who needs to hear a consoling human voice. Some of their callers are suicidal and some simply need a non-judgmental friend to validate their feelings and listen to their concerns and fears. All calls are confidential and anonymous: 800-893-9900.

The Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition (CCNSC) compiles and distributes this monthly list for the benefit of Cape and Islands families. We include workshops, classes, support groups, and other resources that we believe adhere to best practices; however, we suggest that you consider the appropriateness of program content for your family's needs and values.

This list is neither exhaustive nor an endorsement of any program or provider.

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