



The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) is excited to announce an opportunity for families of children with disabilities and other special needs! This year, DEC will offer 25 stipends covering the cost of registration for the *24th Annual International Conference for Young Children with Special Needs and their Families* which will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis Minnesota from October 27-30, 2008. The stipend covers full conference registration (a value of more than \$185) as well as optional participation in full-day workshops offered on Monday October 27 or half-day workshops offered on Thursday October 30. Go to www.dec-sped.org/conference to learn more about the conference and to see a list of the pre- and post-conference workshops.

This conference provides a unique opportunity to hear from leading experts in early intervention and early childhood special education, become exposed to cutting edge research and ideas, learn about intervention strategies that are being used throughout the world, and see the latest resources. DEC 's annual conference is the conference where professionals come to gain access to the information they need, connect with colleagues, learn new strategies, and become re-energized to continue their work with young children and families. The Executive Board of DEC knows that many family members are also eager for this information and we are committed to providing this opportunity to encourage more parents and family members to participate.

YOU MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Be the parent or family member of a child from infancy through eight years of age who has a disability, developmental delay, or other special need.
2. Not be employed full-time in an early intervention or early childhood special education position.
3. Be able to attend at least two full days of conference activity and participate in the following special activities:
 - *Family Consortium Committee Breakfast* on Tuesday October 28, 2008 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
 - *Family Consortium Reception* on Tuesday October 28, 2008 from 6:15-7:15 p.m.
4. Be willing to complete a written evaluation giving us your feedback and suggestions about the conference.

TO APPLY, PLEASE SEND A LETTER OR EMAIL THAT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. Name
2. Complete mailing address
3. Telephone number
4. Email address (if available)
5. Assurance that you meet all of the requirements for the stipend which are listed above
6. Brief description of why you want to attend this conference, including:
 - What you hope to gain personally and as a parent
 - How you plan to share what you have learned with others

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTER TO:

Division for Early Childhood
27 Fort Missoula Road, Suite 2
Missoula, MT 59804

Fax: 406-543-0887
Email: dec@dec-sped.org

All stipend requests will be reviewed by our Family Consortium Committee. Notification of awards will be made no later than September 15. Selection will be based on the family's interest and commitment to gaining new information and willingness to share what is learned with other families. Recipients are responsible for travel, lodging, and meals.

If you have any questions, please contact the DEC office at 406-543-0872 or dec@dec-sped.org or contact Cheryl Rhodes, DEC's national Family Consortium Committee Chairperson at specar@langate.gsu.edu.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 30, 2008!