

SHARING LIFE'S LESSONS

parenting   
**specialneeds**  
magazine

Covering  
all the  
Ages & Stages  
"Real Life"  
with a  
Special  
Needs  
Child

*Access Anytime*

**Priceless  
Information**

Delivered Digitally to you for **FREE**

**GREAT  
Resource**

Serving the Special Needs

**COMMUNITY**

**plus**

**EVENT  
CALENDAR**

[www.parentingspecialneeds.org](http://www.parentingspecialneeds.org)



Serving the Special Needs Community

## WELCOME

We are a **FREE**, bimonthly, online publication serving the special needs community. We cover all ages and stages of guiding children/individuals with special needs. We empower parents, caregivers, teachers & friends of special needs children by providing resources, information and inspiration.

Parenting Special Needs Magazine provides practical tips, shares life's lessons, tackles the challenges and celebrates the joys of one of life's greatest gifts.

Together, we navigate our world together, and explore the changing face of parenting a special needs child. We continually seek change for the better with new and helpful information that is "simplified" to fit into our already busy schedules.

Articles relating to: **"REAL LIFE"** with a special needs child, **"IEP HELP"**, **"Practical Tips"**, **Do you know or did you know?**, **Ages & Stages**, **"SOCIAL LIFE"**, **"WORK LIFE"**, Special Needs Planning, Rights, Caregiver Care, Information and Resources to help navigate your course.

Our Mission is to create change through understanding by sharing information and uniting the Special Needs Community. We are working together towards a goal of tolerance, acceptance and a limitless life for all individuals with different abilities.

We look forward to bringing together the "world wide" Parenting Special Needs community, using one voice to advocate for our children.

Please Join Us!

*BRAVO on such an awesome magazine! It makes me very excited--both as a writer/author AND as a mom of special needs children--to see a wonderful publication like yours.*  
~ Chynna L. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

*Thank you so much for the important information you share in your magazine, along with the mission to make a positive difference in the world!* ~ Terri Bartos Eckert, Annapolis, MD

To get your **FREE** Copy and begin Reading go to

[www.parentingspecialneeds.org](http://www.parentingspecialneeds.org)



## "God is in the details"

Have you heard this saying? It's become a daily mantra for me. This is probably one of my favorite pictures of my boy. You see, Max is... different. Max sees the details. In this picture, Max is looking at the details. Max is tasting the details. Max is feeling the details.

This is the beauty of Autism. Watching Max see the world through a different set of eyes. When he looks at the door, he sees the screws in the knob. When he goes outside, he sees not the slide or the balls, he sees the dirt, the grass, the weeds.

~ Sarah Cook  
Proud Moment™

We recognize and honor **"Everyday Heroes"**. Anyone that has made an impact on you or your child's life can be nominated. To nominate your hero, please share their story with us about how this person has made a difference. Please make sure to include a picture of your hero.

Send your submissions and image to [submit@parentingspecialneeds.org](mailto:submit@parentingspecialneeds.org)

## "Everyday Heroes"



Read more about how this Honoree is Making a Difference!

[Click Here](#)

**Cindy Economou**

Cover Image Courtesy of Sarah Cook of Cookwire Photography



## Chewy Straws

Have a little shark on your hands? Chewy Straws are designed by a mom whose son bit through most ordinary drinking straws. Made of tough, medical grade tubing, these straws can handle your most aggressive chewer or biter. In addition, drinking through a straw requires a coordinated suck, swallow, breathe pattern. The large diameter of the opening makes it easy to successfully suck through the straw. Ages 3+.

**Set of 3 straws.** \$12.99  
[www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)

## Swring

Swring spins and revolves in circles, improving balance and strengthening core. Fun and calming too! Safely holds up to 4 kids who sit or stand on 4 layers of rings. Made in USA for indoor or outdoor play. Swring play technology improves postural control, motor skills, group cooperation, bilateral coordination, problem solving and more! Choose from Basket Swring, Moving n' Grooving Swring, and Climbing Swring. From 18 months to adult.

**Price starting at:** \$588.99  
[www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)

## Give A Flip

The movement game your kids will love! Place the beanbag (or a ball) on one end, stomp your feet on the other end, and catch the flying object. A perfect tool for children to work independently on eye-hand coordination, visual tracking, motor planning -- and persistence. Made of solid wood, 6" wide x 24" long. Holds up to 150 pounds. Ages 4+ Includes flip board and two bean bags.



**Price starting at:** \$49.99  
[www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)



## Bite Bands

Enter to WIN at PSN Contests

Reduce stress and increase concentration with Bite Bands! These super absorbent necklaces are designed for children who crave the oral stimulation of chewing or biting. Keep a stash at home, at school, and on the road, safely channeling the impulse to chew. Machine washable for easy cleaning. Adult supervision required. For ages 5+

**Set of 6 assorted colors:** \$24.99  
[www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)







## Memory Matching Game

Enter to WIN at PSN Contests

Winner of the prestigious iParenting Media Award! Children increase syntactical skills with this fun memory matching game. Match each pair of pictures and say the singular and irregular plural nouns. For example, "I have one goose. I have two geese." Ten pairs of challenge cards teach the correct use of regular plural nouns, in addition to irregular nouns. Game includes activity book for carryover purposes, which targets 3 levels. Perfect for family play and in speech therapy groups. Supports children with language or developmental delays, learning disabilities, and autism. For 2-8 players. Age 5+

**Price:** \$14.99

[www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)



## Swing Adjustment System

Children love to swing, and the new Swing Adjustment System from Fun and Function lets you raise, lower and swivel any single point suspension swing. Ideal for vestibular therapy and sensory integration, the Swing Adjustment System hangs from a pre-fixed ceiling bolt or suspension device in your home, classroom or clinic. Includes swivel device for free rotation, 2 low-noise carabineers, 10' therapy rope with eye splice, and height adjuster. Ages 3+

**Price:** \$249.99

[www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)



## Yoga Deck for Kids on the Ball™



Kids can literally have a ball with the new yoga deck from Fun and Function, which delivers an innovative twist on an ancient tradition. Yoga Deck for Kids On the Ball™ has 44 colorful yoga poses that each use a ball for dynamic challenges and extra support. The front of each card shows Herbert, the mirthful mascot, in a range of yoga poses with a ball, from "Up, Up and Away" to "Where's My Shoe?" The back of the card describes the position, the action, and modifications for children of different abilities. The easy-to-follow instructions highlight which poses build Balance, Calm, Strength, Stretch, and Social abilities. The ball provides a tactile surface for proprioceptive input, acting as a dynamic balancing point to challenge and support each pose. The movements can be used for a 1-minute transition time between activities, for a full session, and everything in between.

Ages 3+ Adult supervision required.

**Yoga Deck** \$15.95

Yoga Deck with 16" therapy ball set \$32.99

Yoga Deck with 21" therapy ball set \$34.99

Yoga Deck with 25" therapy ball set \$36.99

## Jaxx Cocoon Jr.

Foam-filled, the Cocoon Jr. is a 4-foot circular floor pillow that can be used three ways! Lay it flat for a comfortable floor pillow or crash mat for playtime and bedtime. Flip the Cocoon Jr. onto its side for a comfortable, kid-sized nook. Tip it up and the kids can enjoy a retro-style beanbag chair. Enjoy the fun alone or with siblings and friends. The Jaxx Cocoon Jr. adds a cozy feel to reading, napping, sleepovers, or watching movies. Available in six bright colors with protective liner and childproof zipper. Washable cover can be zipped off. Ages 6+

**Price:** \$119.99

[www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)



### Dynamic Wedge Cushion

A miracle wedge that your kids must have! With the option for tactile input (one side smooth and the other with bumps), the wedged shape of this cushion makes it a wonderful seating alternative for those who seek movement or have poor body awareness. Increase or decrease the amount of air for the perfect fit. An ideal choice for children with sensory processing and focus challenges since the subtle movement can filter over stimulation and encourage focused attention. So why sit still when you can move and learn! Available in 10 inch and 13 inch sizes

**Price starting at:** \$24.99  
[www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)

### Crash Mat

For jumping, tumbling or just relaxing: Crash Pad is always the perfect place to land! Ideal for sensory stimulation and balance activities, the crash pad is made of durable nylon and filled with soft inviting foam. The sturdy construction and ample foam filling make it ideal for home, school, or play areas. Wipes clean. Cover is machine washable. Available in two sizes, 3x4 and 5x5

**Price starting at:** \$119.99  
[www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)

Enter to WIN at PSN Contests

### Heavy Sleeper

You asked for calming weight in a deep sea design, with comfortable features like mesh -- and we made this weighted sleeping bag, perfect for home, rest time or sleepovers. Mesh fabric keeps children cool, and the weights are evenly distributed. Fleece interior and bottom for maximum comfort. Choice of 45" x 60" inches (8 lbs) with deep sea graphics (WR4257) or 45" x 72" (13 lbs) in solid sea blue with red lining (WR4333).

**Price starting at:** \$109.99  
[www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)



### Animal Lap Pads

Help Choose from monkey, zebra or dinosaur lap pad for circle time, homework time, writing, reading or test taking. The Animal Lap pads are the perfect compliment to a fidgety kid. Each pad has an incredibly unique and stimulating feel that will keep their fingers busy, their laps still and their minds focused. Features a smooth tail that doubles as a fidget too! The Monkey is soft, soothing and furry. The Zebra is so fun-to-feel with felt-like black stripes and smooth leathery white skin. The Dinosaur is scaly with leathery skin that fingers love to feel.

**Price starting at:** \$49.99  
[www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)

