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Transition Points - Building a Life Without Limits

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Disability Update

Pediatricians should guide parents on out-of-home placements

A doctor's first priority should be to support families in providing home care for children with special needs, but physicians should be prepared to help families considering out-of-home placements, the American Academy of Pediatrics said in a clinical report published in the journal [Pediatrics](#). Pediatricians should be knowledgeable about community-based services available for families who need out-of-home care options, the group said. [Disability Scoop](#) (10/28)

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Study questions care given to pediatric ADHD patients

A study in Pediatrics found that some pediatricians who diagnose attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in children fail to check the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, put too much emphasis on medication, and fail to get parent and teacher input on day-to-day behaviors of the child. Researchers from Cincinnati Children's Hospital reviewed almost 1,600 patient charts and found that 93% of children were prescribed medication for ADHD but only 13% also received therapy. [HealthDay News](#) (11/3)

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Lawmakers: Consider self-advocates in implementation of autism law

A group of lawmakers have asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institutes of Health to consider the concerns of adults with autism when implementing the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education and Support Act. Among their concerns, self-advocates are seeking more funding for research and services. [Disability Scoop](#) (10/31)

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Other News

- **Analysis finds little change in seclusion, restraint rates despite policy updates in many states**

Disability Scoop (11/3)

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Assistive Technology

How tablets can help educators remove learning barriers

Tablet-based technology is helping therapists and special-education teachers in some Minnesota schools remove learning barriers for students with disabilities. This article is the second in a series highlighting how one school district is using adaptive technology in special education. [The Free Press \(Mankato, Minn.\) \(tiered subscription\)](#)

[model](#)) (11/1)

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Transitions

Calif. group plans residential community for adults with disabilities

Board members of Pleasanton, Calif., nonprofit Sunflower Hill plan to build a residential community for adults with developmental disabilities that will offer daily activities, learning opportunities and group events. Board president Susan Houghton, whose son has autism, says the project will give people with disabilities a place to live and work independently. [Contra Costa Times \(Walnut Creek, Calif.\)](#) (10/30)

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How one high school incorporates therapy animals

Special-education students in a transitional class at a California school are learning life skills with the help of visits from a nonprofit therapy animal organization. Educators say the animals have had a profound, positive effect on the students, even boosting communication skills in some students. [The Desert Sun \(Palm Springs, Calif.\) \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (10/27)

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Other News

■ Fla. P.E. program emphasizes lifelong physical activity

 PBS (10/27)

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■ Study: Playgroups enhance social skills in children with autism

Science World Report (10/29)

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SmartQuote

“ Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness.”

-- Seneca,
Roman philosopher

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About UCP

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) educates, advocates and provides support services to ensure a life without limits for people with a spectrum of disabilities. Together with nearly 100 affiliates, UCP has a mission to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people disabilities by supporting more than 176,000 children and adults every day—one person at a time, one family at a time. UCP works to enact real change—to revolutionize care, raise standards of living and create opportunities—impacting the lives of millions living with disabilities. For more than 60 years, UCP has worked to ensure the

inclusion of individuals with disabilities in every facet of society. Together, with parents and caregivers, UCP will continue to push for the social, legal and technological changes that increase accessibility and independence, allowing people with disabilities to dream their own dreams, for the next 60 years, and beyond. For more information, please visit www.ucp.org.

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