

## Module I. Unit 3: Activity 4 – Web Resources

Check out the following websites for a wide variety of information on educational issues of youth in out-of-home care. Print it and place it in your volunteer manual as a resource. It will also be available to you as a sidebar link throughout the series.

Categories: **General** | **Preschool** | **School Age** | **Aging Out**

Certain websites will appear in more than one category. Within each category, the websites are listed in alphabetical order.

### General

#### American Bar Association (ABA) Center on Children and the Law

This site offers documentation of the ABA's policies and standards of practice related to children and child law. Also available are ABA positions on a great number of child law issues ranging from foster care, to child custody proceedings, to child protection.

<http://www.abanet.org/child>

#### Casey Family Programs

Casey Family Programs provide and improve—and ultimately prevent the need for—foster care. The organization offers direct services for children, youth, and families in the child welfare system and promotes advances in child welfare practice and policy.

<http://www.casey.org>

#### Child Find

This site offers information and resources related to the earliest possible identification of young children and their families who may benefit from early intervention or education services. It is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

<http://www.childfindidea.org>

#### Child Trends Data Bank

This site offers a series of reports on issues affecting children, from substance abuse, to family environment, to education. "What Works" is a listing of programs and interventions that may influence outcomes for

children and youth.

<http://childtrendsatabank.org/whatworks.cfm>

#### Children's Defense Fund (CDF)

The CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investment before they get sick or into trouble, drop out of school, or suffer family breakdown.

<http://www.childrensdefense.org>

#### Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA)

COPAA seeks to secure high-quality educational services for children with disabilities. The site is a good resource for information on special education laws, court decisions, and legal services.

<http://copaa.net/index.html>

#### IDEA Data

This site provides statistics on children with disabilities on a state-by-state basis, per IDEA 1997. The law was significantly revised in 2004.

[http://www.ideadata.org/tables24th/ar\\_aa3.htm](http://www.ideadata.org/tables24th/ar_aa3.htm)

#### IDEA Data/Post 2004

This site contains information on IDEA following significant revision to the law in 2004. <http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/idea2004.html>

#### IDEA Law & Policy Resources

This site contains links to the laws and policies that affect education for disabled children, including training materials, memos from the U.S.

Department of Education, and reports to Congress, among other things.

[http://www.cec.sped.org/law\\_res/doc/law/resources.php](http://www.cec.sped.org/law_res/doc/law/resources.php)

#### Judicial Checklist: Meeting the Education Needs of Children and Youth in Juvenile and Family Court

Judicial Checklists are drafted by nonprofit legal organizations such as Casey Family Programs and TeamChild®. These drafts serve as the foundation for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) to establish formal checklists or tools to educate judges and juvenile courts about the educational needs of youth in foster care and to create shared expectations within the system for educational outcomes.

<http://www.NCJFCJ.org>

## Learning Disabilities Advocates Guide

This guide is a how-to reference for those who wish to advocate for individuals with learning disabilities. It also includes IDEA updates.  
<http://www.ld.org/advocacy/>

## Learning Disabilities, National Center for (NCLD)

The NCLD works to ensure that those with learning disabilities have opportunities to succeed in school, work, and life. The organization provides information, advocacy, research, and programs for the learning disabled.  
<http://www.nclld.org>

## Literacy Connections

This site provides a wealth of information on reading, teaching and tutoring techniques, ESL literacy, and adult literacy. It recommends resources that are useful for teachers, volunteers, and directors of literacy programs. Topics include the language experience approach, phonics, word study, and the best in children's literature.  
<http://www.literacyconnections.com>

## Make a Difference in a Child's Life and Toolkit for Change

TeamChild® and Casey Family Programs created this Toolkit to help states develop resources and training on education advocacy. These tools have been used successfully in Washington State to build capacity in caregivers and social service providers to effectively advocate for a child's education.  
<http://www.teamchild.org>  
Contact: Anne Lee, (206) 322-2444

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Act attempts to remove barriers to a homeless youth's enrollment, attendance, or success in school. It also enables homeless youth to make choices about school location and ensures that those wishes are met so that they can gain access to free public education and services. The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) is a legal organization that seeks to end homelessness. It also monitors and enforces compliance with McKinney-Vento.  
<http://www.nlchp.org>

## Pew Commission

The Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care was established to develop recommendations to improve outcomes for children in the foster

care system and report on them.  
<http://www.pewfostercare.org>

### Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

This site offers a state-by-state contact list of people who can help with special education and rehabilitative services.  
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/monitor/state-contact-list.html>

### Student Achievement

This site offers information on national trends and state-by-state comparisons of student achievement. Edweek requires membership, which is free, to access the data.  
<http://www.edweek.org>

### TeamChild®

The TeamChild® organization believes that many juveniles can be diverted from delinquency if basic needs are met. They work to get at the root of a youth's problems. TeamChild's Educational Advocacy Project provides a manual and training for foster parents, social workers, and others involved with foster youth to help them be more effective advocates.  
<http://www.teamchild.org>

### Washington Public Policy

The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to carry out nonpartisan research on issues of importance to people in the state. Current areas of staff expertise include education, criminal justice, welfare, children and adult services, health, utilities, and general government.  
<http://www.wsipp.wa.gov>

### Youth Law Center (YLC)

The YLC investigates, protects, improves, and monitors the treatment of kids in out-of-home care. They also publish *Getting out of the red zone: youth from the juvenile justice and child welfare systems speak out about the obstacles to completing their education and what could help*.  
<http://www.ylc.org>  
Contact: Mamie Yee, 415-543-3379, ext. 3914

## Preschool

### Action Alliance for Children

This is the reprint of an article that originally appeared in the July-August 2000 issue of the *Children's Advocate* news magazine, published by Action Alliance for Children: "Home language, school language: Preschool programs play a key role in helping children learn English and the language of their families."

<http://www.4children.org/news/700lange.htm>

### Early Head Start – National Resource Center – Zero to Three

This site is a storehouse of early childhood expertise that promotes building of knowledge and sharing of information and is administered by the Zero to Three organization.

<http://www.ehsnrc.org>

### Illinois Early Learning

This early learning site includes a listing of ESL resources discussed during a live chat, "Supporting the Literacy Development of Diverse Language Learners in Early Childhood Classrooms."

<http://illinoisearlylearning.org>

The transcript of the chat can be found at the link below.

<http://illinoisearlylearning.org/chat/barrera-trans.htm>

### National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

This site offers an overview of the Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (Part C of IDEA), early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, from birth through age two, and their families.

<http://www.nectac.org/partc/ptcoverview.asp?text=1>

### Success by 6

This program of United Way is the largest network of early childhood coalitions in the nation. They are dedicated to improving access to services and advocating for public policies that improve the lives of kids and families.

<http://www.national.unitedway.org/sb6/>

### Zero to Three

The Zero to Three organization is a national resource on the first years of

life for parents and professionals.  
<http://zerotothree.org>

## School Age

### Colorin Colorado

Colorin Colorado provides information, activities, and advice for Spanish-speaking parents and educators of English language learners.  
<http://www.colorincolorado.org/homepage.php>

### *Endless Dreams* Training and Video

The *Endless Dreams* curriculum educates classroom teachers, school administrators, and other staff about the unique needs and academic challenges of youth in out-of-home care and shows how to improve their educational outcomes. For a copy of the *Endless Dreams* video, please call Debbie Staub.

<http://www.casey.org>

Contact: Debbie Staub, Manager K-12 Education, (206) 282-7300

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involved with foster youth to help them be more effective advocates.  
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### TRIO Programs

TRIO Programs are educational opportunity and outreach programs that motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Their goals are to increase enrollment and graduation from undergraduate and graduate-level programs by youth from low-income backgrounds by providing educational opportunities regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstances.  
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>

## Aging Out

### Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment

Ansell-Casey provides free assessments, learning plans, and life skills guidebooks to help prepare youth for successful adulthood.  
<http://www.caseylifeskills.org>

### Casey Family Scholars Program of the Orphan Foundation of America (OFA)

OFA helps parentless teens, orphans, and foster youth, as they transition from care to young adulthood, with emphasis on attending college and vocational school. The Casey Family Scholars Program provides scholarships to youth currently or formerly in foster care and ongoing support for their college success.  
<http://www.orphan.org>

### Chafee Independence Program of the Foster Care Independence Act (FCIA, 1999)

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program funds state programs that provide independent living services to youth who are or have been in out-of-home care. The National Resource Center for Youth Services' (NRCYS) website has information on each state's implementation of the Chafee Act (go to the Youth Development section and click on State-by-State).  
<http://www.nrcys.ou.edu>

### College Bridge Programs

The program below offers college-level curricular options to high school students and encourages youth to complete high school, while creating a

relatively seamless transition to postsecondary education.

Diploma Plus, a program of the Center for Youth Development and Education, expands learning and career development opportunities for youth, especially at-risk youth who are not completing high school.  
[/http://www.commcorp.org/cyde/index.html](http://www.commcorp.org/cyde/index.html)

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### Gear Up

This U.S. Department of Education discretionary grant program commits itself to increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/gearup/index.html>

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<http://www.nlchp.org>

### State Tuition Waivers

Tuition waivers enable qualifying youth to attend publicly funded postsecondary schools by waiving tuition and fees according to certain criteria—such as eligibility requirements, the number of school terms funded, and the process for accessing the waivers. Go to “State-by-State” at the National Resource Center for Youth Development site.

<http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/NRCYD/>



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