



## Inside Info

A newsletter for parents of children with sensory impairments,  
published by the RIDBC Renwick Centre Library.

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### Issue Theme

In this issue of Inside Info we focus on the theme of advocacy, highlighting new books on this important topic and drawing together recent journal articles and web resources designed to help parents be effective advocates for their children.

Also in this issue, Marijana reviews *Elephant in the playroom*, a new book of parent experiences and we report current articles on sensory impairment in this year's professional journals.



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### Web Edition

Previous issues and web editions of Inside Info are available from the RIDBC web-site:  
[www.ridbc.org.au/publications/insideinfo.asp](http://www.ridbc.org.au/publications/insideinfo.asp)

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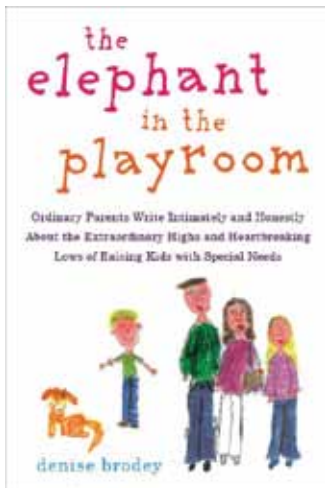
### Resources

All resources in this edition are available from the RIDBC Renwick Centre Library.  
Our contact details are listed on the final page of this issue.

Book Review

**Elephant in the playroom: ordinary parents write intimately and honestly about the extraordinary highs and heartbreaking lows of raising kids with special needs**

Author: Denise Brodey  
 Publisher: Hudson Street Press, 2007  
 Pages: 256 pages  
 ISBN Number: 1594630356  
 Renwick Library Number: [306.874087 BROD](#)



[Request to Borrow this book from the Library](#)

Full of touching stories from American parents who are raising children with special needs, including autism, ADHD, ADD, deafness, cerebral palsy, mutism, sensory disorders and depression, this book is an eye opener into the private worlds of families with special needs children.

“I broke all the rules today” is one story from this collection that I found most touching. It’s about a mother and her three year old autistic son, who showed her in his own special way that he loved and understood her on one of her worst days.

I highly recommend this book for people wishing to get an insight into what special needs parents and families experience. These dedicated parents are advocates for their special needs children in a world where there doesn’t seem to be enough resources to cater for them. It’s easy to read and wonderfully written.

A very moving, touching book, it certainly educated me about the heart-wrenching situations parents experience on a daily basis. I felt the pain, loss, confusion, grief and physical exhaustion of the families involved, along with the tremendous joy they felt when their kids excelled in something. It shows that when children are placed in the right type of school for their needs, they can absolutely excel and shine.

Reviewed by: Marijana Miletic, Senior Librarian

## Advocacy Articles

### The velvet hammer

Journal: The Exceptional Parent  
 Author: Nancy Henderson  
 Details: Jul 2008, Volume 38, Issue 7, pages 33-35

This article features the life of Louise Underwood, an advocate for people with disabilities and their families. Underwood is known for her nickname "The Velvet Hammer" because of her relentless attitude when it comes to advocating for people with disabilities.

### Advocacy tips and techniques: ideas by and from parents and those supporting parents and children

Published: See/Hear Newsletter  
 Date: Winter 2000  
 Author: Parent Education Project of Wisconsin, Inc., USA  
 Web Address: [www.tsbvi.edu/Outreach/seehear/winter00/advocacy\\_tips.htm](http://www.tsbvi.edu/Outreach/seehear/winter00/advocacy_tips.htm)

### Sharing my story with those who need to hear

Published: See/Hear Newsletter  
 Date: Spring 2005  
 Author: Denise Sewell, Deafblind Family Leadership Participant, Texas, USA  
 Web Address: [www.tsbvi.edu/Outreach/seehear/spring05/sharing.htm](http://www.tsbvi.edu/Outreach/seehear/spring05/sharing.htm)



## Library Opening Hours

The Library will have the following opening hours during the non-semester period (December, January and February):

### Non-semester

Monday to Friday - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (Closed Monday 1-2 pm)

The Library is closed on weekends and public holidays.

*Please note: these hours may be subject to change.*

## Advocacy Factsheets

### **Advocacy and Why it's Important by Kieran McGovern**

What is advocacy? Kieran McGovern explores the rights and wrongs of advocacy and concludes that co-operation is the best way to create change. (From the US Kids As Self Advocates organisation).

<http://fvkasa.org/resources/files/civil-advocacy-imp.html>

### **Understanding Advocacy**

Published by the Disability and Aged Information Service providing an Australian perspective on advocacy services.

[www.daisi.asn.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=22&Itemid=38](http://www.daisi.asn.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22&Itemid=38)

### **Parent Advocacy**

Advocacy tips in PDF format for parents from the Association for Children with a Disability.

[www.acd.org.au/information/content/helping\\_you\\_and\\_your\\_family\\_parent\\_advocacy.pdf](http://www.acd.org.au/information/content/helping_you_and_your_family_parent_advocacy.pdf)

### **Education Rights for Children with Disabilities**

Australian perspective on the legal rights of children with disabilities.

[http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/disabilities\\_education\\_rights.html/context/793](http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/disabilities_education_rights.html/context/793)

### **Special Education Advocacy Library at Wrightslaw**

American authors and advocacy experts' commercial website.

[www.wrightslaw.com/advoc.htm](http://www.wrightslaw.com/advoc.htm)

### **Advocating for Your Child with Disabilities**

Advice from US author Miriam Edelson.

[www.childrensdisabilities.info/advocacy/advocacy-child-disabilities.html](http://www.childrensdisabilities.info/advocacy/advocacy-child-disabilities.html)

Advocacy Books

Did you know? The Library publishes a regular list of New Items available at:  
[www.newcastle.edu.au/campus/renwick/ROL/findinginfo/new\\_items.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/campus/renwick/ROL/findinginfo/new_items.html)



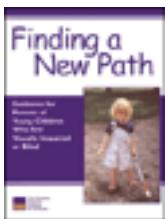
**A parent's guide to special education for children with visual impairments**

Editor: Susan LaVenture  
 Year: 2007  
 Library Number: 371.911 LAVE



**Breakthrough parenting for children with special needs: raising the bar of expectations**

Author: Judy Winter  
 Year: 2006  
 Renwick Library Number: 649.151 WINT



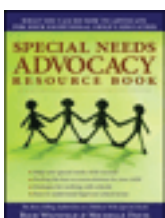
**Finding a new path: guidance for parents of young children who are visually impaired or blind**

Author: Canadian National Institute for the Blind  
 Year: 2002  
 Renwick Library Number: Q649.1511 CANA



**My turn to learn: an up-to-date guide for parents of babies and children with hearing loss**

Editors: Susan Lane, Lori Bell and Terry Parson-Tylka  
 Year: 2006  
 Renwick Library Number: 649.152 LANE



**Special needs advocacy resource book: what you can do to advocate for your exceptional child**

Author: Rich Weinfield and Michelle Davis  
 Year: 2008  
 Renwick Library Number: 371.90973 WEIN



**Teachers and families working together**

Author: Deborah Diffily  
 Year: c2004  
 Renwick Library Number: 371.103 DIFF

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## Unfolding the tent: advocating for your one-of-a-kind child

Author: Anne Addison  
Year: 2005  
Renwick Library Number: [371.90973 ADDI](#)



## Advocacy Web-sites

### Family Advocacy

Australian organisation to help families speak up for opportunities for people with disability to enjoy the same environment, lifestyle and living conditions that are available to the majority of Australians. Includes journal and collection of web links.

[www.family-advocacy.com](http://www.family-advocacy.com)

### Deafhub

Wiki site providing information about all aspects of Deaf community life - includes advocacy section.

[www.deafhub.com/infohub/spokes/advocacy/](http://www.deafhub.com/infohub/spokes/advocacy/)

### Parent Council for Deaf Education

The Parent Council for Deaf Education aims to influence change and improve opportunities for deaf children and their families through campaigns directed at policy makers and Government.

[www.pcde.org/wehelp/advocacy.htm](http://www.pcde.org/wehelp/advocacy.htm)

### Deaf Society of NSW: Advocacy

Information about the rights and responsibilities relating to Deaf people's access to services.

[www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/advocacy/](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/advocacy/)

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## **Vision Australia: Latest Policy and Advocacy News**

Vision Australia is committed to breaking down barriers that exist for people who are blind or have low vision in our community.

[www.visionaustralia.org.au/info.aspx?page=779#related](http://www.visionaustralia.org.au/info.aspx?page=779#related)

## **Blind Citizens Australia (BCA)**

BCA is the united voice of blind and vision-impaired Australians.

[www.bca.org.au](http://www.bca.org.au)

## **Action for Community Living (ACL)**

ACL is a federally funded organisation advocating empowerment, independence and life in the community for people with disabilities.

[www.advocacyhouse.org/acl/about.html](http://www.advocacyhouse.org/acl/about.html)

## **Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) Inc.**

The PDCN is the peak body in NSW, Australia, representing people with physical disability across the state.

[www.pdcnsw.org.au/education/advocacy/whatis.html](http://www.pdcnsw.org.au/education/advocacy/whatis.html)

## **Disability Advocacy NSW Inc.**

Located in the Hunter, New England and Mid North Coast Regions of NSW, Australia, they aim to ensure people with a disability obtain their rights in practice through advocacy.

[www.da.org.au](http://www.da.org.au)

## **Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU)**

DARU is a Victorian statewide service run by and for people with disabilities.

[www.daru.org.au/about.shtml](http://www.daru.org.au/about.shtml)

## **Advocacy Tasmania, Inc.**

Independent, non-government organisation providing advocacy services across Tasmania to older people and people with disabilities.

[www.advocacytasmania.com.au](http://www.advocacytasmania.com.au)



## Article Update: What's New in the Professional Journals?

Visit the library or contact the library if you want to read these articles.

### **The child who will not sleep**

Details: Paediatrics and Child Health, Volume 18, Issue 5, May 2008, Pages 250-251  
Author: H. Hiscock

### **Development in deaf and blind children**

Details: Psychiatry, Volume 7, Issue 7, July 2008, Pages 286-289  
Author: B. Wright

### **The efficiency of ophthalmologic interventions and occupational therapy in children with cerebral palsy and poor vision**

Details: European Journal of Paediatric Neurology, Volume 12, Supplement 1, May 2008, Page 59  
Authors: E. Aki, A. Turan

### **Everyday problems and stress faced by parents of children with cochlear implants**

Details: Rehabilitation Psychology, Volume 53, Issue 2, May 2008, Pages 139-152  
Author: A. Zaidman-Zait

### **The nature of the social experiences of students with deaf-blindness who are educated in inclusive settings**

Details: Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness, Volume 102, Issue 5, May 2008, Pages 272-83  
Author: S.M. Correa-Torres

### **Pediatric hearing impairment caregiver experience: impact of duration of hearing loss on parental stress**

Details: International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology, Volume 72, Issue 11, November 2008, Pages 1693-1703  
Authors: J. Meinzen-Derr, L.H.Y. Lim, D.I. Choo, S. Buyniski, S. Wiley

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**Reading abilities after cochlear implantation: the effect of age at implantation on outcomes at 5 and 7 years after implantation**

Details: International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology, Volume 72, Issue 10, October 2008, Pages 1471-1478

Authors: S. Archbold, M. Harris, G. O'Donoghue, T. Nikolopoulos, A. White, H. Richmond

**Relationship between visual perception training and reading speed on visually impaired children**

Details: European Journal of Paediatric Neurology, Volume 12, Supplement 1, May 2008, Page S70

Authors: E. Aki, H. Kayihan

**Sleep disturbances in visually impaired toddlers**

Details: Brain and Development, Volume 30, Issue 9, October 2008, Pages 572-578

Authors: E. Fazzi, M. Zaccagnino, S. Gahagan, C. Capsoni, S. Signorini, et al

**A survey on literacy instruction for students with multiple disabilities: research report**

Details: Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness, Volume 102, Issue 1, January 2008, Pages 40-45

Authors: J. Durando

**Teaching choice making to children with visual impairments and multiples disabilities in preschool and kindergarten classrooms**

Details: Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness, Volume 102, Issue 7, July 2008, Pages 397-409

Authors: C. Clark, A.P. McDonnell

**Training the fine motor skills of children with poor vision due to congenital cataract**

Details: European Journal of Paediatric Neurology, Volume 12, Supplement 1, May 2008, Page S70

Authors: E. Aki, S. Atasavun

**The visual perception of children with multiple handicaps**

Details: European Journal of Paediatric Neurology, Volume 12, Supplement 1, May 2008, Pages S59-S60

Authors: E. Aki, S. Atasavun

## Contact Details

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Fax: +61 (0)2 9872 0809  
e-mail: [renwick@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:renwick@newcastle.edu.au)

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## Library Staff

Julie Thorndyke, Manager, Library and Information Services  
Marijana Miletic, Senior Librarian  
Jillian Thompson, Library Technician

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## Library Address

RIDBC Renwick Centre Library  
Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children  
361-365 North Rocks Rd  
North Rocks NSW 2151  
Australia

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## Mail Address

RIDBC Renwick Centre Library  
Private Bag 29  
Parramatta NSW 2124  
Australia

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**RIDBC Renwick Centre**  
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