

## Summer 2026 Newsletter

### Nevada's Kids Are Recruiting Doctors!

Here's the thing, we aren't actually the ones recruiting doctors, but that doesn't change the fact that we really need them.

Thanks to Taosies, Charly, Ethan, and Jorden for using their voices to raise awareness of the pediatric physician shortage in Nevada. Together, we can bring comprehensive pediatric care to every child in the Silver State!



### Family Story - Sue

Check out Sue's family video!

Sue is a child life specialist here in Nevada, and in fact was the first Child Life Specialist here in our state!

She has seen the pediatric healthcare infrastructure grow the last few decades and has seen how it has worked to try to meet the needs of Nevada's kids.

Not only has she seen this in her professional life, she is also a parent to a child who has gone through cancer treatment at a very young age and has navigated the healthcare system for her own family. Watch her story below!



### SAVE THE DATE!

Northern Nevada families- please save the date, October 3, 2026. We will be hosting our next family advocacy workshop at the Innovation Center at UNR:

The *Family Engagement Workshop* is a free opportunity for Northern and Rural Nevada families to learn how to engage with the healthcare system and advocate for their child's needs. Presented by Act4Kids Nevada, this workshop addresses topics such as:

- managing and communicating your child's health needs
- partnering with your pediatrician for the best outcomes
- tips for advocating for your child's needs in the hospital
- working with your child's school team to meet health needs
- crafting your family's medical story for community advocacy
- using your story to change health policy in Nevada
- navigating the big picture of raising a child with health needs

### 9th Annual Early Childhood Research Symposium

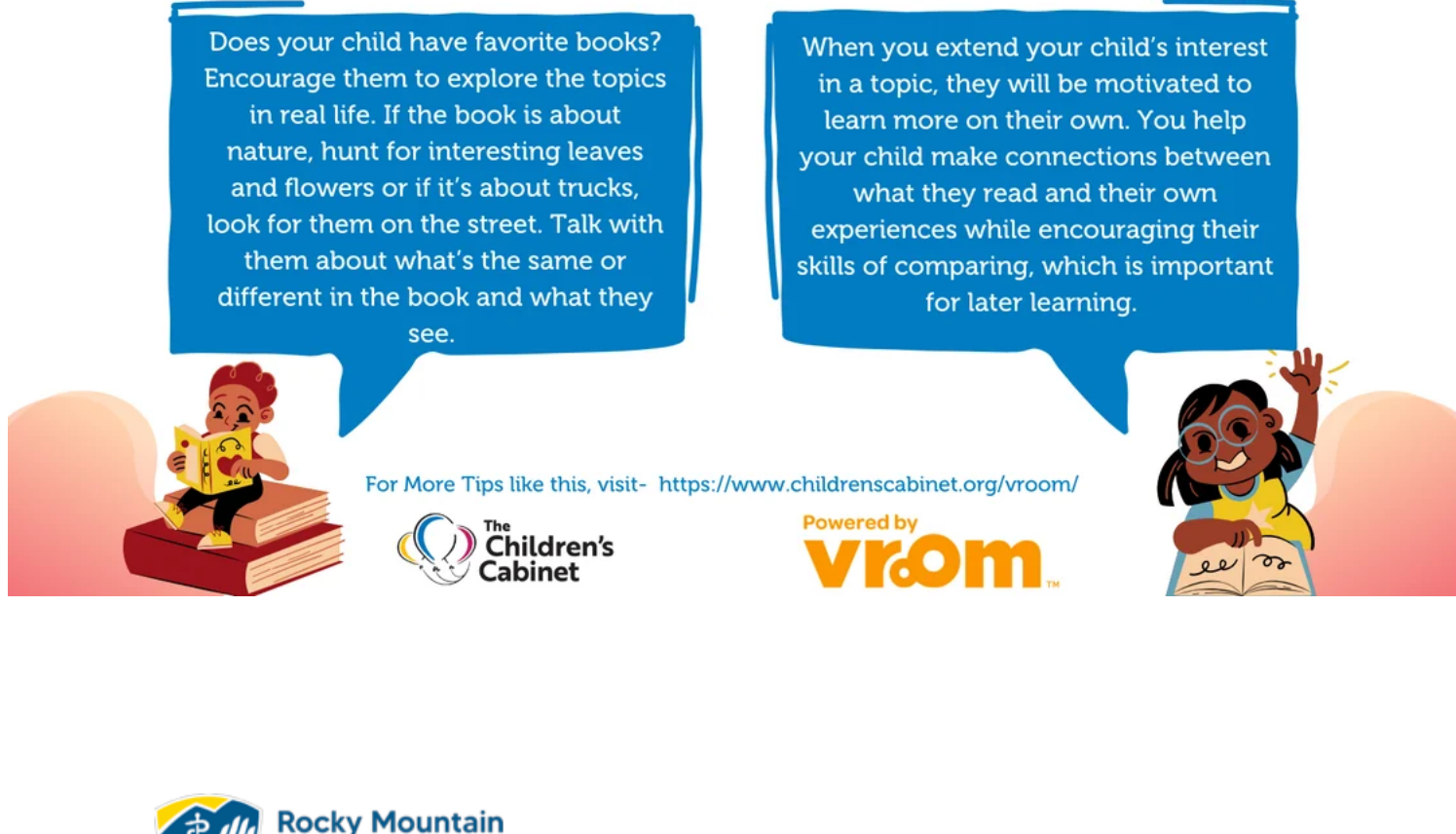
Act4Kids Nevada board members attended the 9th Annual Early Childhood Research Symposium in Reno/Sparks, hosted by [Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy](#). Professionals in childcare, education, healthcare, and research came together from across Nevada to share their work and break down silos.

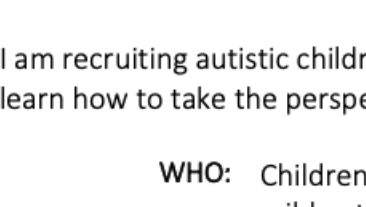
Rebeka Acosta and Penni Echols presented a lightning talk sharing about Act4Kids' mission, programs and events, and our [Healthcare Impact Survey](#) project. While encouraging the inclusion of children and family voices in all healthcare system spaces, attendees learned from [Taosies, Charly, Ethan, and Jorden](#) about the pediatric healthcare provider shortage in our state thanks to our recent public service announcement. Spoiler alert: they loved the PSA!

Thank you to NICRP for having us. We look forward to working together in bringing comprehensive pediatric healthcare to every child in the Silver State!



## Community Resources and Events





### Take Part in Perspective Taking Research

Attention: Parents and Guardians of Autistic children ages 8-10 with Level 1 Autism

I am recruiting autistic children ages 8-10 with Level 1 Autism to participate in a study to learn how to take the perspective of others.

**WHO:** Children between ages 8-10, with verifiable medical diagnosis of mild autism. Participants will be included who

- a) have a medical diagnosis of autism according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) or the International Classification of Disease (ICD-11);
- b) severity level of mild autism – level 1;
- c) are able to communicate their wants and needs and read and write at a first-grade level;
- d) are able to answer questions and;
- e) can focus on and participate in sessions.

**WHAT:** Participate in study twice a week for 40–60-minute sessions over approximately 6–7 weeks.

**WHERE:** Vibrant Therapy Services  
7469 W Lake Mead Blvd Las Vegas, NV 89128 or  
2470 W Horizon Ridge Pkwy Suite 120 Henderson, NV 89052

**RISK/BENEFIT:** The primary risk is the possible loss of confidentiality. Benefits may include an increase in your child's perspective taking abilities.

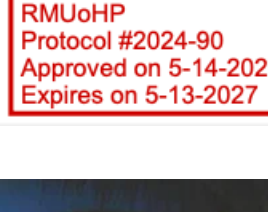
**COMPENSATION:** You will not be paid for your participation.

**CONTACT:** Jessica Garrett MEd, CCC-SLP  
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The Effect of the SEA Bridge Program on Perspective Taking Skills in Wordless Videos in Autistic Children Ages 8-10

Recruitment flyer, v1



RMDHSP  
Protocol #0024-01  
Approved on 5-14-2026  
Expires on 5-13-2027

