

December 2015

EXCEPTIONAL NEWS

December Events

December 3rd is international day of persons with disabilities!
December 5th



Join us on Saturday, **December 5th** for Sensory Saturday! Enjoy a movie in a comfortable and accepting setting with your family. We will be seeing **The Good Dinosaur** at **9:30 am**. Tickets are **\$5 per person** at the Jonesboro Malco Theater.



MULTIPLE DISABILITIES

Multiple Disabilities means concomitant impairments (such as Intellectual Disability/blindness, Intellectual Disability/orthopedic impairment etc.), the combination of which causes such severe educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one of the impairments. This term does not include Deaf-Blindness.

For a child to be identified as having Multiple Disabilities, they must exhibit two (2) or more disabilities. Some children may not receive formal, standardized evaluation(s). Educational information and data may be collected through checklists, basic skill inventories, observations and/or rating scales.

A systematic in-depth assessment of the child shall be conducted in terms of medical (including neurological, when indicated). When formal evaluation is not applicable, functional skills assessments may be used to determine the child's current level of educational and behavioral functioning.

Required evaluation data:

- Social and medical history
- Intellectual Intelligence (IQ)
- Individual Achievement
- Adaptive Behavior
- Communication Abilities or
- Functional Skill when standardized tests cannot be administered Motor Development (Fine and Gross Motor)

Many children with Multiple Disabilities receive related services such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy. The child may also receive specialized transportation depending on the IEP team's determination of these services.



Chef With Down Syndrome Opens Food Truck

Fort Worth's newest food truck is the creation of the 37-year-old Underwood, who has Down syndrome and has long dreamed of working as a professional chef and owning a restaurant. Called Austin's Underdawgs, the rolling restaurant will serve hot dogs with inventive toppings such as "dawg sauce," a raspberry chipotle barbecue-flavored concoction.

Underwood's face is sketched on the side of the food truck, alongside the words, "Dream," "Slurp" and "Yum." For now, the truck is available for catering by reservations only.

To many, Underwood is already a familiar face in Fort Worth, where he works as a host and greeter at Campisi's, an Italian restaurant.

Owner David Campisi hired him shortly after the restaurant opened three years ago. The two have grown close, talking by phone every night Underwood works and frequently dressing in matching blazers.

"Austin knows everybody," Campisi said. "He represents the Campisi's culture very well. We are all about handshakes and hellos. He comes to work every single day with a sense of urgency and a great attitude. His attitude is very infectious, not just for the Fort Worth restaurant but our entire company."

Underwood first announced he wanted to work as a chef at age 21, while attending a vocational college in New Mexico for students with special needs. Instructors trained him to work as a prep chef in the school's cafeteria, and by the second semester he was running the stir fry station.

To prepare for his new venture, Underwood spent two days learning the ins and outs of frankfurters at Vienna Beef's Hot Dog University in Chicago. He and his mom then developed the menu with the help of family and friends, who served as taste testers.

So far, the crowd favorite has been The Straw Dog, a frankfurter with dawg sauce, bacon bits and crispy onion straws, served on a toasted bun.

"Everyone raves about The Straw Dog," Jan Underwood said. All hot dogs are \$3 or \$4.

Proceeds from Underdawgs will not only help her son fulfill his dream of owning a restaurant, Jan Underwood said, but earnings from the truck will raise money for a cause important to the family. The Underwoods hope to open a vocational school for people with special needs in Texas similar to the one Austin attended in New Mexico.

"That was life-changing for him, to be able to live on his own and decide what he wanted to do with his life," she said. "Everyone with Down syndrome should have the same opportunity."

-Sarab Babari Fort Worth Star-Telegram/TNS —> [Link to Article](#)

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