



Dana Suskind, MD -- 2 Events!

Founder and Director, Thirty Million Words Initiative
 Director, Pediatric Cochlear Implant Program, The University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital
 Author, *Thirty Million Words: Building a Child's Brain*

Thursday, September 17, 2015, 1:00 PM

With Michael Kaufman, Director, Education Law and Policy Institute, Loyola University Chicago School of Law
 Loyola University Chicago School of Law
 Power Rogers & Smith Ceremonial Courtroom, Corboy Law Center
 25 E. Pearson St., Chicago, IL 60611

Thursday, September 17, 2015, 7:00 PM

With Diana Mendley Rauner, Ph.D., President, Ounce of Prevention Fund
 Skokie School Auditorium
 520 Glendale Ave., Winnetka, IL 60093

Both events moderated by Heidi Stevens, "Balancing Act" columnist, *Chicago Tribune*

Free and open to the public. Book sale and signing at both events.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DANA SUSKIND, MD – TWO EVENTS!

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EVENT #1: Thursday, September 17, 2015, Thirty Million Words: Building a Child’s Brain, 1:00 PM, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Power Rogers & Smith Ceremonial Courtroom, Corboy Law Center, 25 E. Pearson St., Chicago, 60611.

EVENT #2: Thursday, September 17, 2015, Thirty Million Words: Building a Child’s Brain, 7:00 PM, Skokie School Auditorium, 520 Glendale Ave., Winnetka, 60093.

A famous study by researchers Betty Hart and Todd Risley (1995) found that some children heard thirty million fewer words by their fourth birthdays than others. The children who heard more words were better prepared when they entered school. These same kids, when followed into third grade, had bigger vocabularies, were stronger readers, and got higher test scores. The bottom line: the kids who started out ahead, stayed ahead; the kids who started out behind, stayed behind. This disparity in learning is referred to as the achievement gap.

Dana Suskind, MD, Professor of Surgery and Director of the Pediatric Cochlear Implant Program at The University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children’s Hospital, learned of this thirty million-word gap in the course of her work as a cochlear implant surgeon. Along with her sister-in-law, **Beth Suskind**, she founded The Thirty Million Word Initiative, developing programs for parents to show the kind of parent-child communication that enables optimal neural development. The goal is to get parents to follow the three Ts: Tune in to what your child is doing; Talk more to your child using lots of descriptive words; and Take turns with your child as you engage in conversation.

Family Action Network (FAN) offers two events in one day with Dr. Suskind. At the first event at 1:00 PM on Sept. 17, Dr. Suskind will be joined on stage after her presentation by **Michael Kaufman, Director, Education Law and Policy Institute, Loyola University Chicago School of Law**. At the second event at 7:00 PM on Sept. 17, she will be joined by **Diana Mendley Rauner, Ph.D., President, Ounce of Prevention Fund**. Both events will be moderated by **Heidi Stevens**, the “Balancing Act” columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*.

Sponsored by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with **Alliance for Early Childhood, Erikson Institute, Loyola University Chicago’s School of Education and School of Law’s Education Law and Policy Institute, the Ounce of Prevention Fund, and Winnetka D36**. FAN is grateful for the support of its 2015-16 annual sponsors **Compass Health Center, Erikson Institute, Evanston Township High School D202, Make It Better Foundation, New Trier High School D203, Pathways.org, the Martin & Mary L. Boyer Foundation, the Mammel Foundation, and Tina & Byron Trott**; our strategic partners **Acclaim Media, Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University, Evanston/Skokie D65, Hackstudio, Josselyn Center, the Master of Science in Education Program at the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University, New Trier Parents’ Association, North Shore Community Bank, Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSD), ReDefined Fitness, The Book Stall at Chestnut Court, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.), and the YWCA Evanston/North Shore**; and our in-kind sponsors **Kirkland & Ellis LLP and Turing Group**.

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