

# Connections

A Newsletter from Child and Family Connections of DuPage County



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## January 2013

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### Transition Workshop

Do you have questions about your child's transition from Early Intervention to your school district?

The Parent Liaisons are holding a Transition Workshop to help parents with their questions.

#### Topics include:

- Why you should go through the transition process
- What to expect from your School District
- What you can do to help make the process go smoothly

This workshop will be held:

**Tuesday, February 5, 2013**

**7 pm – 9 pm**

at

CFC DuPage office  
750 Warrenville Road Suite 300  
Lisle, IL

Please RSVP by noon on February 5th to Jenny at 331-481-4257 or Marianne at 331-481-4259 or [jsomone@pactinc.net](mailto:jsomone@pactinc.net) or [mmcquire@pactinc.net](mailto:mmcquire@pactinc.net)

### Did your insurance change?

Many insurance policies change January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. If your insurance has changed, please contact your service coordinator immediately. It is very important to have the correct insurance information on file.

## Take A Break in the Afternoon!

We are happy to announce a new partnership between PACT, Inc., Clearbrook & NEDSRA.(Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association) Our three agencies are working together to bring the *Take A Break in the Afternoon* program to qualified families.

The *Take A Break in the Afternoon* program provides a break once a month to families who have a young child receiving Early Intervention services through our CFC and their siblings.

Clearbrook began the Take A Break Volunteer Program over fifteen years ago in the northwest suburbs. The program matches the spirit of volunteerism with the needs of families who have children with developmental delays by providing them with regularly scheduled time away.

The DuPage *Take A Break in the Afternoon* program is offered one Saturday a month from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm, September through May.

Trained volunteers along with Clearbrook staff will provide the opportunity for children to play and socialize while their parents can have time to re-energize. The program is housed at NEDSRA, 1770 W. Centennial Place, Addison, IL 60101.

Interested families need to complete an application. Contact Jenny Somone, Parent Liaison at 331-481-4257 for more information.

## Volunteer Opportunity

Do you know someone who is looking for volunteer opportunities? Do you have time to give – once a week, twice a week or even once a month? If you do, we need you!

Clearbrook's Take A Break Volunteer Program offers volunteers training and an opportunity to share, have fun, grow and play with children of all abilities. If you are interested in volunteering or finding out more about Take A Break programs, please call or e-mail Jenny Somone at 331-481-4257 or [jsomone@pactinc.net](mailto:jsomone@pactinc.net)

## Special Recreation Associations

Most towns in DuPage County has a partnership with a Special Recreation Association (SRA). Your local SRA provides classes for developmentally challenged children and can also supply an aide when necessary if a developmentally delayed child is registered for a park district class. Class fees are still enforced, but the SRA aide would be supplied free of charge.

Check your town's park district brochure for the SRA in your area. The number is usually listed in the front section of the park district brochure.

Several of the SRAs have created classes and events especially for children under three. You can attend classes at any of the SRAs, but you might need to pay out of district fees.

Age ranges for classes are suggestions. You can call the SRA staff to determine if your child could take any class offered.

### **Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Assn. (NEDSRA)**

1770 W. Centennial Place, Addison  
630-620-4500

### **Northwest Special Recreation Assn. (NWSRA)**

3000 W Central Rd. Suite 205, Rolling Meadows  
847-392-2848

### **Southeast Assn. for Special Parks & Recreation (SESPAR)**

6000 S. Main St., Downers Grove  
630-960-1144

### **Western DuPage Special Recreation Assn. (WDSRA)**

116 N. Schmale Rd. Carol Stream  
630-681-0962

### **Fox Valley Special Recreation Assn. FVSRA**

1 N. Lincolnway, North Aurora  
630-896-6066  
Covers Aurora families within the Fox Valley Park District

## FUN WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Below is a list of places you can go with your children – indoors and outdoors - that are accessible and reasonably priced. These places have activities throughout the year. Some of these are indoor destinations for those cold rainy/snowy days.

### **Cosley's Zoo**

1356 N. Gary Rd., Wheaton  
Phone: 630-665-5534  
[www.cosleyzoo.org](http://www.cosleyzoo.org)

This zoo/farm is run by the Wheaton Park District. They have a variety of farm animals as well as deer, coyotes, red foxes, raccoons and birds.

Wheaton residents and children are free. \$3.00 per non-Wheaton resident adult

### **Willowbrook Wildlife Center**

Park Rd. and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Glen Ellyn  
Phone: 630-942-6200  
[www.dupageforest.com](http://www.dupageforest.com)

This is a wildlife center that rehabilitates injured wildlife. Some animals are permanent residents due to their injuries. Visitors can view eagles, foxes, hawks, raccoons and other woodland animals outside. There is also an indoor exhibit with song birds, frogs, snakes, etc. An area for puppet shows and other activities are also inside.

A donation is welcomed

### **DuPage Children's Museum**

301 N. Washington, Naperville  
Phone: 630-637-8000  
[www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org](http://www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org)

This hands-on children's museum is lots of fun. Exhibits are geared for children up to about 10 years old. Each age range will find interesting things to do within an exhibit.

Call for times and fees.

### **Forest Preserve District of DuPage**

The DuPage Forest Preserve District offers educational programs, recreational activities, and special events. For information, call (630) 933-7200 or visit their website at: [www.dupageforest.com](http://www.dupageforest.com)

### **Morton Arboretum Children's Garden**

4100 IL Rt. 53, Lisle  
630.968.0074  
[www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org)

The Children's Garden is a great place to visit year round.

Admission includes FREE parking! Wednesdays are discount admission days: \$7 Adults (18-64) \$6 Seniors (65+) \$5 Youth (2-17)

### **Fullersburg Woods**

3609 Spring Rd., Oak Brook  
Phone: 630-850-8110  
[www.dupageforest.com](http://www.dupageforest.com)

This is a good place to hike with small children and children in strollers. Wide paved paths that are easily accessible wind along the Salt Creek. A nature center is at one end, Graue Mill at the other. There are picnic tables near the nature center.

Visiting the nature center is free. There is a fee to tour the mill.

### **GiGi's Playhouse**

GiGi's Playhouses are Down syndrome awareness and educational centers that provide resources, specialized teaching, and support to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community.

There are several locations within the Chicagoland area. They have a variety of programs to support families and children.

To find the location nearest you, go to their website: [www.gigisplayhouse.org](http://www.gigisplayhouse.org)

### **Sensory Friendly Films**

AMC Theaters offer Sensory Friendly films the first Saturday of the month. These films are presented with the lights turned up and the sound turned down. Audience members are invited to dance, sing, walk around, etc. This is a great way to see a movie with your children who are challenging to take to the theater. We have received positive reviews from parents who have done this in the past.

Yorktown 17 and Naperville 16 are two of the theaters who participate in this program. For more info go to:

<http://www.amctheatres.com/sff/>

## DuPage Children's Museum Third Thursday Program

**Third Thursday** is a special time once each month when families of children with special needs can enjoy the Museum and take advantage of the many parent and community resources available to them. This program is available the third Thursday of every month, from 5-7 p.m.

Photo books are available to help visitors structure a visit. Families are also invited to play and utilize the augmentative communication devices available at our exhibits.

In addition to the Museum's exhibits and activities, during Third Thursday DCM's Community Access Network coordinator provides a resource table offering visitors information, community and parent support resources.

Normal admission prices apply. No registration required. Free to DCM Members. The Museum is open at this time and everyone is welcome!

## Free Dental Screenings for Children

For the fifth year, the DuPage Children's Museum is partnering with DuPage County Health Department Dental Services for Give Kids A Smile Day.

This year the event is Friday, February 1. The health department's Smile Squad Mobile Clinic will be in DCM's parking lot from 9am – 3pm, volunteer dentists and assistants will provide children free screenings.

Call DuPage County Health Dept. for information, 630-682-7400 x7776.

## YWCA Childcare Resource & Referral

The YWCA Childcare Resource & Referral (CCR&R) assists parents and caretakers in their search for child care through referrals, individual counseling and provider workshops.

Parents who are looking for child care solutions can call the YWCA and get a list of providers in their area. There is a sliding scale fee to obtain the list.

Another aspect of the CCR&R is the Child Care Assistance Program. Families that meet the income eligibility criteria may get assistance with child care costs.

The CCR&R is just one of the many YWCA programs offered to women area of the Y. You can find out more on their website at: [www.ywcachicago.org](http://www.ywcachicago.org) or call 630-790-3030.

## CFC Playgroup

Child and Family Connections (CFC) has a playgroup for children in our program as well as their parents and siblings. We meet once a month, usually on a Friday morning from 9:30 – 11:00. You will get an email with the upcoming dates if you shared your email address with us. This is a free activity.

We meet at NEDSRA (Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association) which is located within the Addison Park District complex at 1770 W. Centennial Place, Addison, IL 6010

Email Jenny or Marianne for the Winter 2013 dates.

Email Marianne at [mmcguire@pactinc.net](mailto:mmcguire@pactinc.net) to get on the CFC email list.

For more information about the play group contact Jenny Somone at [jsomone@pactinc.net](mailto:jsomone@pactinc.net) or 331-481-4257 or Marianne McGuire at [mmcguire@pactinc.net](mailto:mmcguire@pactinc.net) or 331-481-4259.

## Transition at a Glance

The word transition has many meanings. There are two ways you will hear about transition in Early Intervention. One definition refers to how well your child can move from one activity to another. You will see this definition in evaluations and progress notes from therapists.

The other type of transition in EI refers to the child's movement out of the EI program. This occurs when a child meets their goals in the IFSP and no longer needs our services or when a child turns three and must leave the program.

Transition to your local school district's Early Childhood program is the next step for many children in Early Intervention.

Your service coordinator will give you a detailed transition packet when your child turns 29 – 30 months or earlier if your child has a summer birthday. One important item in the packet is the release/consent form.

**Written consent** must be obtained prior to any reports or evaluations being forwarded to the school district. It is very important that you promptly return the consent form to your service coordinator.

A transition conference will be set up with the school district, the family and the service coordinator. This meeting offers parents an opportunity to meet with a representative from their local school district and hear what options are available when their child turns three. It also offers the district the opportunity to learn about your child and plan appropriately. This conference should occur *at least* 90 days before your child turns three.

Sometimes parents are hesitant to start the transition process. It may seem like we are planning too far into your child's future, but the school district needs time to schedule meetings, evaluations, etc.

We encourage you to begin the transition process even if you aren't sure that you want to proceed in this direction because there are several steps that must be taken to ensure that your child is in an appropriate program on their third birthday.

The Illinois State Board of Education is now required to obtain minimal information on each child enrolled in Early Intervention.

The Early Intervention Program shares your child's name, date of birth, and sufficient parent contact information with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to ensure that every child has a smooth transition to preschool, other community based services or the school district Early Childhood program. This information will be provided to your school district shortly before your child turns three and will only be used for transition. This information will be shared whether or not you sign consent for release of information with your service coordinator.

If you refuse to consent to the release of your child's reports and evaluations, we will not send those documents to the school.

The school district will call you once they receive the report from ISBE if they did not receive a transition packet from us. You have the right to refuse services through your school district. Participation in school at 3 years of age is optional but may be a good choice for your child.

If you have any concerns about transition, be sure to discuss them with your service coordinator or one of the parent liaisons.

You may want to sign up for one of our transition workshops for further information on the process. The Parent Liaisons send out notices regarding upcoming Transition Workshops via email. Make sure they have your current email address. Email contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.



## Equipment Loan Programs

There are several programs that will loan equipment to families. This is a good way to find out if a piece of equipment or device is appropriate for your child.

### **Infinitec Durable Medical Equipment**

[www.infinitecdme.org](http://www.infinitecdme.org)

The mission of this project is to provide a durable medical equipment resource to benefit children and adults with permanent or temporary disabilities. The DME exchange is designed for anyone who needs this type of equipment but might not be able to afford it. The DME exchange connects individuals who have new or used DME for sale, loan or donation.

### **Illinois Assistive Technology Program**

[www.iltech.org](http://www.iltech.org)

The purpose of IATP's device loan program is to let potential AT users try-out devices prior to purchase, have access to a backup system when their device is in for repairs and/or have access to a device while waiting for their device to be delivered.

Check out their website for more information:

### **Kid's Equipment Network**

[www.tken.org](http://www.tken.org)

The Kids Equipment Network has donated equipment that can be used for children and their families. Equipment includes wheelchairs, strollers, standers, adaptive seating, and bath chairs.

### **Clearbrook: Alex Leone Equipment Lending Library**

<http://www.clearbrook.org/page.aspx?pid=432>

Various types of equipment are available for loan through this lending library. The Alex Leone Equipment Lending Library offers anyone with access to the library the opportunity to borrow available equipment. The library contains equipment that is suited for children from birth to five years of age.

## By The Numbers

- We are currently serving 1,408 children. At this time last year we were serving 1,406 children.
- We average between 180-200 new referrals a month
- 203 children are currently in the intake process
- 1,198 children have active IFSPs
- We have 27 service coordinators
- Caseloads average 57 children for each full time service coordinator
- On average, service coordinators receive between 15-20 phone calls a day
- On average, service coordinators attend 26 meetings a month
- 26 meetings a month translates into an average of 60 hours that service coordinators are out of the office each month
- We have 2 part time parent liaisons to assist parents

## For Your Information

We have been struggling with some telecommunication issues lately. We strive to return phone calls within 2 business days. Please call again if you do not receive a return phone call within 2 business days.

It is helpful to leave a short message when calling your service coordinator containing the reason for your call and the best phone number where you can be reached.

# Websites

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## **APRAXIA KIDS**

A comprehensive website for information on childhood apraxia of speech and children's speech and language topics

[www.apraxia-kids.org](http://www.apraxia-kids.org)

## **AUTISM COMMUNITY CONNECTION**

DuPage County group created by parents for families with children on the autism spectrum. Wide variety of resources on this site.

[www.autismcommunityconnection.com](http://www.autismcommunityconnection.com)

## **AUTISM SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS**

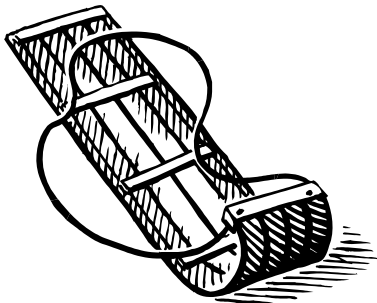
A great source for autism resources, including local support groups.

[www.autismillinois.org](http://www.autismillinois.org)

## **AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

Link above is for local chapter in Illinois, this website is the national one. Site has other links that may be of interest to families.

[www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)



## **CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK**

This site lists the dates and locations for a free car seat inspection.

[http://www.seatcheck.net/?page\\_id=33](http://www.seatcheck.net/?page_id=33)

## **DO2LEARN**

This site has activities and products to promote independence. They have a FREE picture card maker as part of the site which can be used to make picture cards for communication.

[www.do2learn.com](http://www.do2learn.com)

## **EXCEPTIONAL PARENT**

This website compliments the Exceptional Parent magazine, which is a great magazine for parents of special needs children.

[www.eparent.com](http://www.eparent.com)

## **FUSSY BABY NETWORK**

Offers support to families who are experiencing a baby who is fussy, crying excessively, or has difficulties with sleeping or feeding. Offers options from calling their warm line to an individual home visit. The Fussy Baby Team works with mom and dad in finding more ways to soothe, care for, and enjoy your baby.

[www.fussybabynetwork.org](http://www.fussybabynetwork.org)

## **SENSORY PROCESSING DISORDER**

Website created by an Occupational Therapist who has a daughter with sensory processing disorder.

[www.sensory-processing-disorder.com](http://www.sensory-processing-disorder.com)

## Ways to Reach Us

You can reach us through the various addresses listed below. If you would like to be informed about upcoming parent support group meetings, parent workshops or other events please send the parent liaisons your email address. Please note: service coordinators do not have individual email addresses.

**[cfcdupage@pactinc.net](mailto:cfcdupage@pactinc.net)**

CFC Service Coordinators

Put the name of the service coordinator in the subject line and it will be given to them.

**[Lorr@pactinc.net](mailto:Lorr@pactinc.net)**

Lori Orr

Program Manager

**[jsomone@pactinc.net](mailto:jsomone@pactinc.net)**

Jenny Somone

Parent Liaison

**[mmcguire@pactinc.net](mailto:mmcguire@pactinc.net)**

Marianne McGuire

LIC Coordinator and Parent Liaison

**[www.pactinc.net](http://www.pactinc.net)**

PACT, Inc.

Our agency website

### CFC Contacts:

Adrianna LaRusso	4335	Jessica Radner	4287	Marianne McGuire	4259
Amanda Krzystofiak	4267	Jillian Gondek	4265	Melissa Otten	4303
Amy Bramwell	4293	Jillian Santora	4253	Mindy Koechling	4299
Amy Zeman	4301	Jim Reeves	4249	Nicole James	4273
April Leigh	4291	Justin Wojdyla	4271	Paula Santoro	4279
Beth Hoppert	4263	Kerra Taylor	4277	Sarah Martinez	4221
Haley Mason	4289	Kim Peterson	4285	Stacy Brock-Jones	4297
Heather Kijewski	4247	Kim Stanley	4243	Stephanie Glass	4229
Jenn Brennan	4275	Kristi Gillespie	4283		
Jenna Nystrom	4333	Krystal Madai	4255		
Jennifer Greviskes	4251	Liz Schaid	4215		
Jenny Somone	4257	Lori Orr	4209		