

July 2022



# Family Centered Events, Information & Resources

*Created for Families, by Families.*



# The Union Outpatient Center is Now Open!



## The Union Outpatient Center is Now Open!

Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) opened the doors of its newest outpatient center located at the Kenneth Esdale Pavilion at 2840 Morris Avenue in Union, NJ.

This new 66,000 square foot facility offers the latest technology and a full suite of therapy and physician services and encompasses all outpatient services from both the CSH Warren and Mountainside sites in one convenient location.

[Learn More](#)

### Children's Specialized Hospital Locations

#### New Jersey

Bayonne, Clifton, East Brunswick, Egg Harbor Township, Hamilton, Jersey City, Mountainside, New Brunswick, New Brunswick - Plum Street, Newark, Somerset, Toms River - Stevens Road, Toms River - Lakehurst Road, Union, West Orange

#### California

San Diego

1-888-CHILDREN

[www.rwjbh.org/childrensspecialized](http://www.rwjbh.org/childrensspecialized)



# Special Needs Primary Care

We understand the complexities of raising a child with special healthcare needs. Our Special Needs Primary Care is proud to provide children with special healthcare needs, and their siblings, outstanding family-centered healthcare.

## As Your Medical Home, we will:

- Take care of your child when he or she is sick
- Help you plan your child's care and set goals for their care
- Discuss any testing or treatment that your child needs
- Coordinate care with you and other care providers
- Partner with you to help you live well and stay well

## Two Locations in Hamilton, NJ and Union, NJ

[Click here to learn more.](#)



# Does Your Child Struggle to Understand the Emotions of Others?



## If your child:

- has sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) at least 1 year ago
- is between the ages of 9-17 years old
- is experiencing difficulties in understanding others emotions
- has no other neurological illness
- is able to speak and read English fluently
- is able to use a computer

They may be eligible to participate in a new study investigating whether an emotional processing program can improve the interpretation of others emotions in children and adolescents following traumatic brain injury (TBI).

## Requirements:

- 45 minute screening evaluation for full study inclusion.
- 8 weeks total of participation broken down in the following:
  - *Week 1:* 3-hour visit for paper-and-pencil tests and questionnaires.
  - *Weeks 2-7:* 45-60 minute sessions twice per week for six weeks, during which your child has a 50/50 chance of either undergoing experimental treatment for processing emotions or participating in computer exercises.
  - *Week 8:* 3-hour visit for paper-and-pencil tests and questionnaires.

This study can be completed entirely remote! Testing will take place using a HIPAA compliant online platform.

**Participants who complete this study will receive \$300 for their time.**

## For more information, please contact:

Clarice Bourland

Kessler Foundation

973-323-3678, [cbourland@kesslerfoundation.org](mailto:cbourland@kesslerfoundation.org)



# Need Medical Equipment or Have Some to Donate

## Did you know...

**The Medical Equipment Ministry collects and donates a variety of medical equipment at no cost to you!**

### How does it work?

The Ministry collects medical equipment donations and makes them available to those in need. The equipment is given out at no cost, for as long as it is needed. Simply return it or pay it forward and you are done.

### What type of medical equipment is available?

Hospital beds, wheelchairs, scooters, motorized wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walkers, commodes, lifts, adult diapers, shower seats, bed rails, rolling tables, transport chairs, and more.

**For more information please contact  
the Medical Equipment Ministry:**

[ppch.org](http://ppch.org)

908-396-6057

279 U.S. 202  
Bedminster, NJ 07921



*Children's Specialized Hospital does not endorse any commercial products or services.*



# Necesitas Equipo Medico O Tienes Algo Que Donar?

## Sabias Que...

**El Ministro de Equipos Medicos recoge y dona una variedad de Equipis Medicos sin costo para usted!**

### Como Funciona?

El ministro recauda donaciones de equipos medicos y las pone a disposicion de los necesitados. El equipo se entrega sin costo alguno, durante el tiempo que sea necesario. Simplemente devuelvelo o pagalo y listo.

### Que Tipo de Equipo Medico esta Disponible?

Camas de hospital, sillas de ruedas, scooters, sillas de ruedas motorizadas, muletas, bastones, caminantes, equipo basico para ir al bano, ascensores, panales de adultos, sillas de ducha, barandillas de cama, mesas rodantes, sillas de transporte, y mas.

**Para mas Informacion Comuniquese con  
Ministro de Equipo Medico:**

[ppch.org](http://ppch.org)

908-396-6057

279 U.S. 202

Bedminster, NJ 07921



*El Hospital de Children's Specialized no respalda ningun producto o servicio comercial.*



# Friday Night Fever!



**WHAT:** A social group for teens ages 13-21 years old

**When:** Friday nights

**Register:** [CSH.recdesk.com](http://CSH.recdesk.com) or call 908-301-5548

Friday Night Fever is a membership-based social program for teens and young adults. This program provides monthly events virtually, on site and in the community to promote independence. Status of virtual/in-person events coincides with the CDC and CSH guidelines at the time of the events. All new applicants must trial to insure they're an appropriate fit.



## Friday Night Fever!

*A social group for teens ages 13-21 years old!*

Friday Night Fever is a membership-based social program for teens and young adults. This program provides monthly events virtually, on site and in the community for members to hangout, try new activities, meet friends and navigate the community to promote independence. Status of virtual/in-person events coincides with CDC and CSH guidelines at the time of events. All New applicants must trial to insure they're an appropriate fit.

### Participant Criteria:

- Demonstrate the ability / desire to initiate and respond to social interactions.
- Able to communicate with volunteers and peers via communication device or verbally.
- Able to follow group rules and directions in public settings independently-or with reminders.
- Independent with ADL's



### Register:

Teens and young adults who wish to participate in this group must meet the criteria and will be screened and selected prior to attendance.

**2022 Fee:** \$150 Annual Membership Fee (2022 fee has been adjusted to account for virtual programming.) \*FNF accepts Benefit Fund applicants for this program as needed, please inquire.

Complete the Interested FNF Participant Application at:

[csh.recdesk.com](http://csh.recdesk.com) or call 908-301-5548



# CSH Activity Connection



Scan this code with your smartphone or tablet to view program offerings, access calendars, and register for events.

## Activity Connection

Activity Connection provides recreational, sports and social activities for children, teens and young adults with diverse abilities. Our programs create an ideal environment for participants to make new friends and enjoy new experiences. All programs are led by Children's Specialized Hospital's therapists, certified program instructors, coaches and trained volunteers who provide age-appropriate and safe activities in an inclusive and fun environment.

### Register for programs today!

Register online:  
[csh.recdesk.com](http://csh.recdesk.com)

Register over the phone:  
908-301-5518

[activityconnection@childrens-specialized.org](mailto:activityconnection@childrens-specialized.org)

### Program Opportunities:

#### In-person Recreation Programs

- Court Sports, Social Club, Individual Aquatics, Play Times and Teen Nights.

#### Virtual Recreation Programs

- Weekly Zumba and Yoga
- Monthly Musical Me!

#### Summer Camps

- Camp Pal's Paradise and Camp Chatterbox



# CSH Activity Connection



Escanee este código con su teléfono o tableta para ver las ofertas de programas.

## Activity Connection



Activity Connection ofrece actividades recreativas, deportivas y sociales para niños, adolescentes y adultos jóvenes con diversas habilidades. Nuestros programas crean un ambiente ideal para que los participantes hagan nuevos amigos y disfruten de nuevas experiencias. Todos los programas están dirigidos por terapeutas recreacionales, personal de recreación comunitaria y voluntarios del Children's Specialized Hospital y instructores certificados del programa, que brindan actividades seguras y apropiadas para la edad en un ambiente inclusivo y divertido.

### Registrar aquí:

[csh.recdesk.com](http://csh.recdesk.com)

908-301-5548

[activityconnection@childrens-specialized.org](mailto:activityconnection@childrens-specialized.org)

### Opciones virtuales y presenciales!

#### En persona:

- Court Sports, Social Club, Individual Aquatics, Play Times y Teen Nights!

#### Híbrido y Virtuales:

- Híbrido Zumba y Yoga
- Virtuales mensuales Musical Me!

#### Campamento:

- Camp Pal's Paradise and Camp Chatterbox



# Announcing 2022 Sessions!



This seven-week virtual parent workshop was developed by the pediatric psychotherapists at Children's Specialized Hospital to help parents of children ages 2-10 years learn how to better manage their behavior.

**This program is free, but registration is required.**

For a full list of 2022 dates, please click below:

[2022 Workshop Information](#)

*\*Registration opens approximately 5 weeks prior to the start of date of each cycle.\**



# Sharing Possibilities in Self-Direction



## Join Us for Our Next Conversation!

**Sharing Possibilities in Self-Direction**, a monthly conversation series, is held the first Tuesday of each month. This series is the product of a partnership between the NJ Division on Developmental Disabilities' brand-new Office of Education on Self-Directed Services, and the Rutgers Community Living Education Project (CLEP).

This conversation series will address a broad range of topics related to self-direction, as well as provide opportunities for people and families to come together, learn about creating community connections, the 'nuts and bolts' of self-direction, **and most importantly, hear & learn from others who walk this path.**

Tuesday, July 5 | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
**Building a Self-Directed Life**

Relationships form the foundation of all our lives. Learn how to take a person-centered approach to creating relationships and building the life you/your loved one wants to live.

### Speakers:

Sandi Cooper  
Executive Director of Community Living, Neighbours, Inc.

Cherry Oakley  
Executive Director of Support Coordination, Neighbours, Inc.



[Click Here to Register](#)



# Bradley Beach Volleyball is BACK – Register Now!



## Beach Volleyball Details

**When:** July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3 and 10  
from 6:30pm – 7:30pm

**Where:** Bradley Beach beachfront at Cliff Avenue and Ocean Avenue

### Other Important Details:

- Open to boys and girls, ages 7 and up, with any special needs
- No experience with volleyball is necessary, all are welcome
- All equipment is provided, but please bring something to stay hydrated and wear comfortable clothing
- \$25 registration fee, includes a trophy at the end of the season for each player. Scholarships available for those who cannot afford the registration fee – please email [lukesims@rallycapsports.org](mailto:lukesims@rallycapsports.org) with questions
- **Text Alert System:** You must have an account on our registration platform, then click on this link (<https://rcsnj.leagueapps.com/sms>), sign in and follow the instructions. Once you have opted in for text messages you will automatically receive any text alerts for any sport that your RallyPlayer is registered for.

[Register for Volleyball Here](#)



Special Needs. Special Sports. Special Times.



# Autism Friendly Swim Hour

by [Ocean County YMCA](#)

## About this event

Families of those on the autism spectrum are invited to join us for an hour of family swim fun. This after-business-hours event will be overseen by our Adaptive Learning Coordinator, Licensed Behavior Therapist Daniel Giacin.

To ensure our families have a pleasant experience, please note the following information:

- An adult needs to accompany the autistic family member in the pool.
- Come swim ready, with bathing suits on.
- Event takes place in the shallow-end only.

To accommodate auditory sensitivity, there will be no music and the number of attendees will be limited.

## Date and Time:

Sun, July 17, 2022

12:00 PM – 2:30 PM EDT

## Location:

Ocean County YMCA

1088 West Whitty Road

Toms River, NJ 08755

[TO REGISTER](#)



# Movie Night

**Come to Inland and enjoy a kid friendly movie with your family.**

**WHEN: Monday, July 18, 2022**

**TIME: 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM EDT**

## About this event

**Come to Inland and enjoy a kid friendly movie with your family. We will have fresh popcorn and other treats for you to enjoy.**

- This event is of No-COST to participants and open to ALL families living in Atlantic County, NJ.
- Pre-Registration is REQUIRED. Every family member attending must be added in your registration.
- Please email [inlandfsc@gmail.com](mailto:inlandfsc@gmail.com) for more information or call us at 609-569-0376.

[To Register](#)



# VOICES ADVANCING THE BRAIN INJURY COMMUNITY MEETING



## Voices Advancing the Brain Injury Community Meeting

**DATE**

Jul 02 2022

**TIME**

10:00 am - 11:00 am

**ORGANIZER**

TOM GRADY

**PHONE**

[732-745-0200](tel:732-745-0200)

**EMAIL**

[tgrady@bianj.org](mailto:tgrady@bianj.org)



The Voices Advancing the Brain Injury Community champions and publicizes the advocacy, rights, and needs of people who have sustained a brain injury, and their families.



# Sharing Possibilities in Self-Direction



## The Byte Size Lunch Series: Making Assistive Technology work for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Presented in partnership with The Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center

From the smart phone in your pocket to smart home thermostats, assistive technology is everywhere! But it can sometimes feel hard to know how or where to start exploring all the options and putting them into practical use. Thankfully, we're here to help people with and without disabilities explore high, low, and no-tech solutions

In easy-to-understand 'bite size' lunchtime conversations, we'll show how to use these solutions in the home, the office, and in the community! Each 45-minute session will highlight one specific topic, demonstrate tools, and leave plenty of time to answer your questions.

Come explore the possibilities for yourself and others. You can register for one, two or more sessions.

[Click Here to Register](#)



**SCHEDULE - All sessions are 12:00 - 12:45pm**

**July 7, 2022** – AT for Executive Function

**August 4, 2022** - Creating Accessible Materials

**September 1, 2022** - Incorporating AT into Classroom Settings

**October 6, 2022** - Supports for Individuals Who are Blind / Visually-Impaired

**November 3, 2022** - Supports for Individuals who are Deaf / Hard-of-hearing

**December 1, 2022** – AT for Medication

**January 5, 2023** – AT for Physical Mobility

**February 9, 2023** - Low Tech 3-D Printed Solutions / Non-3D Solutions

**March 2, 2023** - Introduction to Augmented and Alternative Communication



# "DDI on Autism" Radio Show - 103.9 FM



## What

"DDI on Autism" Radio Show - 103.9 FM

## When

7/9/2022, 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

## Where

Long Island News Radio 103.9 FM

Heard every Saturday at 10:00 am on LI News Radio 103.9 FM, "DDI on Autism" is a 30-minute show that shares and explores all relevant issues related to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It is dedicated to the thousands of people on Long Island who live and work with the condition on a daily basis.

Join host Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Michael Romas, as he engages New York's leading autism professionals in thought-provoking conversation to inspire, inform, and support families and individuals living with ASD.

Dr. Michael Romas is a licensed clinical psychologist who has been involved in the support and treatment of persons with developmental disabilities for more than 30 years. He is also the Coordinator of Training and Professional Development for Developmental Disabilities Institute in Smithtown.

His diverse experience brings a unique perspective from multiple domains inclusive of treatment education options. Explore early childhood issues, planning for adulthood, school and community opportunities, and the many general issues that can help guide and facilitate an understanding of ASD diagnosis and its many implications for Long Islanders.

Missed one of our shows?

Listen to our past programs on our SoundCloud at <https://soundcloud.com/jvcbroadcasting/sets/ddi-keeping-an-eye-on-autism>



# Join our TS Community and Connect with Others!



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH TS



**Monday, July 11 at 7 P.M.**

Calling all young adults with TS, age 18-35. Join us as we come together to build our community and connect with others navigating both the TS journey and adulthood - including college, work, relationships and family. Here you can comfortably discuss your experiences, share advice, and build a network with those who understand your unique challenges.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



# Kids Yoga in the Park

## KID'S YOGA IN THE PARK DEVELOPMENTAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

TAUGHT BY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AND  
CERTIFIED CHILDREN'S YOGA TEACHER  
SARA WILBERT OTR/L CYT ASDCS

**Veteran's Park  
Bayville, New Jersey  
Tuesdays at 4:30pm  
July 12th-Aug 2nd**

Each class will have an imaginative theme and will include a social emotional learning story, yoga pose sequence, yoga breathing, affirmations and will end with a fine motor craft.



# Paperwork for Families: Getting Organized

## Date and time

Wed, July 13, 2022 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EDT

## Location Online event

- Overwhelmed by the paperwork created by your child's school records? Join us to finally get those papers organized
- About this event
- Are you overwhelmed by the mountains of paperwork created by your child's school records? Not sure what to keep, what to toss? Want to be better prepared for that next meeting at school? Join us to finally get those papers organized so you can more effectively advocate for your child.
- Presented by: Julie Rikon
- More Information: Contact for more information - Tammi Kaminski tkaminski@spanadvocacy.org
- [To Register](#)



# Let's Read Together: Pajama Party!



SPAN offers a variety of learning opportunities for families and the professionals who work with them.

**Upcoming Events include:**

## **Let's Read Together: Pajama Party!**

Join us for a pajama party and learn some tips you can do to make reading fun for your child.

This workshop is for parents of kids in PreK- 3rd grade.

Guest speakers will share simple and effective strategies for you and your child(ren) to have fun reading!

Tuesday, July 19, 2022,  
at 7:00 PM

[Register Here](#)



# IEP III: Student-Led IEPs: A Path to Success

## Date and time:

Wed, July 20, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM EDT

## Location:

Online event

- **When students are involved in their IEP meetings they engage in self determination and can practice decision-making skills.**
- **About this event**
- Young people are experts in their lives. Encouraging students to use their voice early helps to build self advocacy skills. When students are involved in their IEP meetings they engage in self determination and can practice different decision-making methods in a safe environment. Parents and schools can work together to build these skills in youth/young adults with disabilities.
- **Presented by:** Dawn Monaco
- **More Information:** Tammi Kaminski [tkaminski@spanadvocacy.org](mailto:tkaminski@spanadvocacy.org)
- [To Register](#)



# Super Heroes – Family Fun Day 2022

## Super Heroes - Family Fun Day 2022

Mobile Family Success Center and the Edison Housing Authority are teaming up to bring you:

" 3rd Annual FAMILY FUN DAY!" July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022

### About this Event

Bring the entire family to this FREE event . While adhering to physical distance guidelines, you can meet different community providers, enjoy outdoor games, refreshments and much more! This year the theme for this event will be Super Heroes!

\*\*\* This is an outdoor event. \*\*\*

### [To Register](#)



3RD ANNUAL FAMILY FUN DAY

CALLING ALL  
**SUPER HEROES**

**SATURDAY, JULY 23RD**  
**11AM - 2PM**  
**EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
**\*\*\*WEAR YOUR FAVORITE COSTUME\*\*\***

**JOIN US THIS FREE EVENT AND BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY TO ENJOY OUTDOOR GAMES, REFRESHMENTS, COMMUNITY PROVIDERS, MUSIC, RAFFLES, AND MORE...**

Register on Eventbrite:  
<https://superheroesfamilyfunday2022.eventbrite.com>



# Kids Yoga in the Park



We're very excited to announce that registration for the 2nd annual Seize the Wave is now OPEN!

This event, brought to you by Epilepsy Services of New Jersey and Paul's Purple Warriors, will allow 35 registered attendees to participate in instructional surf lessons provided by our partners, the Heritage Surf Shop and Tass Home Remodeling.

Register today and join us Tuesday, July 26th, 2022 in Sea Isle City, NJ for a wonderful day of surfing.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Brought to you by:



# Dover Night Out



## FREE CELEBRATION

*Come and Join Us for a Night of Safe, Family-Friendly Fun! Crescent Field Parking Lot B (Across from 26 South Morris Street in Dover)*



# Statewide Special Education Roundtable



*"It was time to share our side of the story. You can't just take over a federal building and not tell anyone why you did it."*  
-Judith Heumann, Being Heumann: The Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist

**Monday, August 1, 2022 @ 7pm &  
Wednesday, August 3, 2022 @ 10am**

## STATEWIDE SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE SUMMER 2022

## TELL YOUR STORY SO THE WORLD LISTENS

For questions or for help with registering, contact Debbie [desposito@spanadvocacy.org](mailto:desposito@spanadvocacy.org)

**Simultaneous Spanish interpretation will be available**



Scan the QR code or use the link to register <https://summer2022-roundtable.eventbrite.com>

**Question:** What do IEP meetings, Board of Ed meetings and legislative testimony have in common?

**Answer:** They are all opportunities to influence outcomes that affect students with disabilities *by telling your story.*

As we continue our policy advocacy work, we will discuss:

- What does it mean to "tell your story"
- Why telling your story can be such an effective advocacy tool.
- Where and when are the best opportunities for telling your story
- How to tell your story so it has the most impact.



# Discusion Sobre Educacion Especial



*"Era hora de compartir nuestro lado de la historia. No puedes simplemente tomar el control de un edificio federal y no decirle a nadie por qué lo hiciste."*

~Judith Heumann, autora de:  
*Being Heumann: The Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist*

**lunes, 1ero de agosto @ 7pm &  
miércoles, 3ero de agosto @ 10am**

**MESA REDONDA  
ESTATAL DE  
LIDERAZGO DE  
PADRES EN  
EDUCACIÓN ESPECIAL  
VERANO 2022  
CUENTE SU HISTORIA  
PARA QUE EL MUNDO  
ESCUCHE**

¿Preguntas? Contactar a  
**Brenda L. Figueroa**  
[bfigueroa@spanadvocacy.org](mailto:bfigueroa@spanadvocacy.org)

**Interpretación simultánea en  
español disponible**



**Escanear código QR o  
Regístrese aquí:**

<https://summer2022-roundtable.eventbrite.com>

**Pregunta:** ¿Qué tienen en común las reuniones del IEP, las reuniones de la Junta de Educación y el testimonio legislativo?

**Respuesta:** Todas son oportunidades para contar su historia y así influir en los resultados que afectan a los estudiantes con discapacidades.

A medida que continuamos nuestro trabajo de defensoría de políticas, discutiremos:

- ¿Qué significa "contar su historia"?
- Por qué contar su historia puede ser una herramienta de defensoría tan efectiva.
- Dónde y cuándo son las mejores oportunidades para contar su historia
- Cómo contar su historia para que tenga el mayor impacto.



# IEP I: Essential Components of the IEP

## Date and time:

Wed, August 10, 2022 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EDT

## Location:

## Online event

**This workshop provides participants with a review of the essential components of an Individualized Education Plan.**

## About this event

This workshop provides participants with a review of the essential components of an Individualized Education Plan. As a result of this workshop, participants will better understand the IEP document and the parent's role in the development of an IEP. How to address IEP concerns/issues in a proactive and positive way will be discussed. Participants are invited to bring their own IEP they can review during the presentation.

**Presented by:** Kim Rivers

**More Information:** Contact Tammi Kaminski at [tkaminski@spanadvocacy.org](mailto:tkaminski@spanadvocacy.org)

[To Register](#)



# Sexual Health Equity for People with I/DD

## Sexual Health Equity for People with I/DD

Did you know many people with disabilities do not receive access to sexual health education? This can be a difficult topic for some to navigate, but thankfully Oregon Health & Science University has put together a wonderful guide and resource portal on this topic, including how to help people with I/DD learn who they are, what their rights are, how to express themselves, and how to build healthy relationships.



[Check it out](#)



# Accessible Beaches in Monmouth County

## Accessible Beaches in Monmouth County

It isn't summer in New Jersey until you've gone to the shore! But it can sometimes be hard to know which beaches are wheelchair and handicapped accessible.

Thankfully Monmouth County's Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veteran's Services has put together [this great guide!](#)



# We want to hear from Individuals with I/DD and their family members!



## *Participate in a Focus Group to share your perspectives on:*

The ways in which people with I/DD from underserved communities and their families access information about services and supports.

Your feedback will help to inform the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities about the ways in which information about supports and services can be most effectively shared in underserved communities.

To register, fill out the  
[Pre-participation survey here](#)

Stipends will be provided to those who are selected to participate in the focus groups.



# Infant Research Study at Rutgers



## Institute for the Study of Child Development Where Science and Baby Minds Meet

The Institute for the Study of Child Development at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School invites you and your infant (4 – 24 months of age) to participate in a free research study on how infants learn about their world through vision and hearing and interaction, and how this might identify at-risk infants.

You together with your baby will watch a few short videos of moving objects and talking faces, and also spend some time interacting with each other face-to-face.

We make appointments to fit your schedule  
Appointments last approximately 45 minutes  
Please contact Stacey at (732) 235-7700 Or  
[napolis1@rwjms.rutgers.edu](mailto:napolis1@rwjms.rutgers.edu)



# Upcoming Events

SPAN offers a variety of learning opportunities for families and the professionals who work with them. Check out our [Event Calendar here](#) for details and registration links

## Upcoming Events include:

- [Education and Health Care Rights in the Juvenile Justice System](#)
- [Empowering Women Resilience Information Session](#)
- [Starting and Running an Effective SEPAG](#)
- [Virtual Town Hall - COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Families](#)
- [Reunión Comunitaria Virtual Vacunas COVID-19](#)
- [Basic Rights in Special Education](#)

## More events



# Teleplay Provides Live, Interactive Play for Children Affected by Rare Diseases



Project Sunshine's Rare Teleplay is a monthly virtual opportunity for children who have any rare disease and their siblings to enjoy Zoom activities and games. There is no talking about their condition or their sibling's condition. It's just about having fun and meeting other people who are living a life that's a little like theirs.



[Check out the Telehealth Game Library here](#)

Volunteers from California Polytechnic University entertain children from ages 5 to 18 for an hour each month. Parents don't need to be there but they can be if they want to be. This is all about the kids. It is free and it is fun.

Rare Teleplay meets via Zoom on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM Eastern

[Download the Rare Teleplay event here from our website to join next month!](#)



**THE BRIDGE**

*Your weekly access to SPAN news, events and resources*



SPAN  
Parent Advisory Network



# Join the NJCTS Youth Advocate Council



The purpose of the NJCTS Youth Advocate Council is to empower youth (ages 13-18) living with TS, tic disorders and the associated conditions, or some form of lived experience with TS, to educate, advocate and increase awareness of Tourette Syndrome and tic disorders.

The Youth Advocate Council will provide an open forum for communications where youth can share information and ideas, and discuss relevant topics inherent to the TS and tic disorder community. Through these conversations, making connections and participating in activities, teens will create and develop ways for increasing awareness and furthering the mission of NJCTS.

Did we mention it looks good on a college application?

If interested, please complete the form below and we will be in touch!

## [YOUTH ADVOCATE COUNCIL APPLICATION](#)

Please note: Council meetings will be held once a month (mostly virtual and some in-person) and the Council term is for one year. (July-June)



# NJ Dept. of Education: Providing Additional Services to Students with Disabilities Beyond Age 21



## NJ Department of Education: Providing Additional Services to Students with Disabilities Beyond Age 21

The New Jersey Department of Education provided guidance to school districts, students, and parents/guardians of students with disabilities regarding the implementation of P.L.2021, c.109, which allows schools to provide additional or compensatory special education and related services to eligible students with disabilities beyond the age of 21.

The guidance includes information for school districts/LEAs about:

- The role of the IEP team in determining the need for additional services
- Sharing information with families about this legislation
- Dispute resolution

Reimbursements to school districts for providing additional services beyond age 21

[Review the Guidance here](#)

[View additional Guidance regarding extending the period of time to file a due process hearing request](#)

[Contact the SPAN Warmline](#)

via email for assistance related to these guidance documents or call 800-654-SPAN (7726)



# The Seizure ID Program

Epilepsy Alliance America will be providing more than 2,000 Seizure ID products to people with epilepsy who need them through this one-of-a-kind campaign in the epilepsy community.

The Seizure ID Program is made possible through a partnership with Greenwich Biosciences, now part of Jazz Pharmaceuticals

[Click here to learn more!](#)



# Don't forget to register for Summer 2022 Programs!



## Camp Helping Hands

### Summer Dates & Times

#### Session 1:

June 27th to July 22nd, 2022  
(closed Monday July 4th)  
Weekdays, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

#### Session 2:

July 25th to August 19th, 2022  
Weekdays, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

[Register for Helping Hands](#)

## Camp Leaps & Bounds

### Dates & Times

#### Session:

July 25th to August 19th, 2022  
Weekdays, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

[Register for Leaps & Bounds](#)

## IT Works: Summer Program

### Dates & Times

#### Session 1:

June 27th to July 22nd, 2022  
(closed Monday July 4th)  
Weekdays, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

#### Session 2:

July 25th to August 19th, 2022  
Weekdays, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

[Register for IT Works](#)



Services are provided at:  
Intensive Therapeutics, Inc.  
31 Fairfield Avenue  
West Caldwell, NJ 07006

[Contact Us](#)



# Financial Aid for Students with Intellectual Disability



## Resources

### Financial Aid for Students with Intellectual Disability\*

There are college programs for students with intellectual disabilities that are not giving out a standard college degree. These are called Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary programs, or CTP programs. This Issue Brief is part of the 'Plain Language Series' from [ThinkCollege](#).

It includes:

- Definition of federal financial aid
- Types of federal financial aid
- How to get financial aid

[Plain Language Series: Federal Financial Aid \(Link\)](#)

[New Jersey Inclusive Higher Education Collaborative \(Link\)](#)



# Special Needs Vaccine Clinic



## Special Needs Vaccine Clinic Accepting Appointments in Red Bank, NJ

Autism New Jersey together with the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey (VNACJ) Community Health Center is open for all groups 12 and older.

We offer comprehensive information, support, and vaccine access through our special needs clinic. [Learn more>>](#)

- Extensive planning conversations with families and medical staff
- Individualized, on-site accommodations In-car vaccine option available

### [Pre-Register](#)



# Mane Stream : Unbridled Possibilities for Children and Adults with Special Needs



## OUR MISSION

is to improve the quality of life for individuals with physical, developmental, emotional, and medical challenges through a diverse program of equine assisted activities, therapy services, and educational initiatives.

## Programs

- [WHAT WE OFFER](#)
- [THERAPY SERVICES](#)
- [ADAPTIVE RIDING](#)
- [OPERATION: TAKE THE REINS](#)
- [HORSES FOR HEALING](#)
- [SUMMER CAMP](#)
- [FIELD TRIPS](#)

[Click here for more information](#)



**MANE STREAM**  
*unbridled possibilities*  
For Children and Adults  
with Special Needs



# Special Strides Horse Therapy



## Our Mission

Special Strides is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the lives of individuals with special needs. With a unique combination of therapy, horses, and the natural environment, individuals achieve goals appropriate for therapy, recreation, and education. Special Strides provides all individuals an opportunity to “Improve their lives... one stride at a time” regardless of financial status.

## Our Vision

Harvesting Hope...Breaking Boundaries...Realizing Potential

## Our Values

Respect...Learning...Inclusion...Empathy...Possibility...Positivity...Teamwork

*The values of diversity, inclusion, and equity are central to our mission.*

<http://specialstrides.com/>



# Virtual Programs DSACNJ.ORG

## WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS

**Academics (3) 4:15-4:45 pm**

**Volunteer Instructor: Taylor**

Areas of focus: weather, geography, grammar and punctuation, fractions, decimals, percentages

**(Virtual)**

**Arts & Crafts + Guided Drawing 5:00- 5:30pm**

**Volunteer Instructor: Taylor**

**(Virtual)**

**Academics 4/Life Skills 5:45-6:15**

**Volunteer Instructor: Abby**

Areas of focus: time management, creating schedules, money management, value of money, leaving a tip at a restaurant, other life skills for teenagers/adults

**(Virtual)**

**REGISTER @ [DSACNJ.ORG/EVENTS](https://dsacnj.org/events)**



# Education and Health Care Rights in the Child Protection System

## Learn about parent rights related to education and health care in Child Protection Services System

### About this event

Is a child with a disability who you care about involved in the Child Protection system?

Are you concerned about educational rights for a child with a disability who is engaged in the Child Protection System?

Join a WORKSHOP to learn about the Child Protection System, parent rights related to special education and health care resources!

After the workshop, families will be invited to schedule an individual 30 minute appointment to review their child's IEP and/or health-related issues or concerns.

**Presented by:** Monique Dujue Wilson

**More Information:** Contact for more information

[jbrinkley@spanadvocacy.org](mailto:jbrinkley@spanadvocacy.org)

Multiple Dates Available



[Click for Dates to Register](#)



# Join Club Dreams Virtual Yoga



## DSACNJ CLUB DREAMS



Club DREAMS

**THURSDAY PROGRAMS**

Please join us for

**Virtual Yoga**  
**4:45pm-5:15pm**

Register at [dsacnj.org/events](https://dsacnj.org/events)



[TO REGISTER](#)

Breaking down barriers for people with Down syndrome



# Support Group for Caregivers



*Support Group*

**For parents and caregivers of children with Special Needs**

**Join us virtually every other Thursday  
from 6PM to 7PM.**

*Supporting You on Your Parenting Journey*

FACT and CAU are hosting  
a biweekly parent support group to help you feel supported  
and lifted as a parent. This effort is supported by  
Union County Children's Interagency Coordinating Council  
(CIACC)

**Scan the QR Code to register for the meeting**



**or click this link to register directly:**  
<https://bit.ly/33Kf8g3>

**For more information contact:**  
Felicia Frazier  
Director of Community Engagement & Resource Development  
Families & Communities Together  
Feliciaf@factnj.org  
or  
Walter Kalman  
Associate Executive Director  
Community Access Unlimited  
wkalman@caunj.org.

*"Ask for help not because you're weak, but because you want to remain strong."*  
- Les Brown



Resources for Children and Families in Union County, NJ



**FACT**  
FAMILIES & COMMUNITY TOGETHER

**UNION COUNTY INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL**



# FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP



## Find your community of support

Join CAU and FACT for our support group for parents and adult siblings of children and adults with disabilities! Look for our email reminders to learn whether we are having a presentation that week.

**Meetings with presentations** will include information about services, DDD, important timelines and more. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and gain knowledge to assist you in advocating for your child's needs.

**Discussion-based meetings** will focus on your needs as a parent/caregiver, including topics of health and wellness, mental well-being, coping skills and more.

You may choose to attend our **discussion-based meetings, meetings with presentations, or both!** Talk and connect with families who share similar experiences. Join us to share ideas and opportunities, find peer support and get answers to questions about services.

**THURSDAY BIWEEKLY MEETINGS**  
**6:00 PM**  
**ZOOM**

Community Access Unlimited | [caunj.org](http://caunj.org)

Our next meeting is Thursday at 6 pm. Join and connect with us!

[Register for Family Support Group](#)

[Visit our website to learn more about CAU services](#)

**Community Access Unlimited | 80 West Grand St., Elizabeth, NJ 07202**



# Save the Date! 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Beach Bash



**18TH ANNUAL  
AUTISM  
BEACH BASH**

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2022**

14th Ave. beach in Belmar, NJ  
9:00am - 3:00pm  
Registration check-in at 8:00am

**NEW JERSEY'S LARGEST  
FAMILY FRIENDLY  
AUTISM EVENT.**

 **Autism Family  
Services of  
New Jersey**

For sponsorship or other inquiries:  
ph: 877.237.4477 | email: [info@autismbeachbash.org](mailto:info@autismbeachbash.org)

The poster features a beach scene with a blue sky, white clouds, a yellow and blue striped beach umbrella, a red beach bag, a lounge chair, and a red biplane flying over the ocean. The text is in bold, colorful fonts. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds. The bottom of the poster shows a sandy beach with a lounge chair and a red beach bag. The ocean is blue with white waves. A red biplane is flying over the ocean. The logo for Autism Family Services of New Jersey is in the bottom center. The contact information is at the bottom.

# Traumatic Brain Injury Board Members



Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor Board at the New Jersey Division of Disability Services

We are looking for a survivor of traumatic brain injury between the ages of 17 and 21 to serve as a member on the newly established survivor board. Please refer to the role and expectations outlined below to see if you or someone you know would be a good fit.

Role and expectations:

- Serve as a member on the NJ TBI Survivor Board and, along with the TBI Advisory Council, advise the NJ TBI Fund on pertinent issues and concerns.
- Contribute to discussions and activities in subcommittees based on experience and expertise. Subcommittees include:
  - Data Analysis and Evaluation
  - Consumer and Family Needs
  - Racial Equity
  - Resource Infrastructure and Service Providers Capacity.
- Assist in development of advocacy and prevention material and programs for TBI survivors in New Jersey.
- Convey the priorities and recommendations of the TBI Advisory Board to other relevant state or private boards, commissions, committees, or workgroups on which members participate.
- Update the TBI Advisory Board on the work of other relevant boards, commissions, workgroups, and committees.
- Contribute to discussions and implemented plans to coordinate services for individuals with traumatic brain injury.
- **If interested, please contact Sakina Ladha at: [sakina.ladha@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:sakina.ladha@dhs.nj.gov)**





# Save the Date! NJ Youth Conference

## 2nd ANNUAL NJ YOUTH TRANSITION CONFERENCE

Save the Date

Monday, October 3 - Friday, October 7, 2022

12:00 PM - 12:00 PM

*"The Annual NJ Youth Transition Conference was created for youth ages 14-21+ who experience I/DD, their families, caregivers, and the professionals who serve them.*

***This is a Virtual Conference***

More info can be found on the conference website: <https://www.njyouthtransition.life/>

***Brought to you in collaboration with:*** Values into Action, Coordinated Family Care, Camden County Partnership for Children, Camden County Family Support Organization, Partnership for Children of Essex, Ocean Partnership for Children, Monmouth Cares, and SPAN Parent Advocacy Network."

[Get More Information](#)

**Values**  
*into action*



# Two federal programs for low income individuals: Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity



The Lifeline program and the Affordable Connectivity Program help make phone and internet service more affordable for low-income individuals. Eligible individuals also qualify for a free smartphone through the Lifeline program. If you participate in certain assistance programs like Medicaid, NJ SNAP or SSI, you automatically qualify for both federal programs. For additional information, please see this link:

<https://nj.gov/humanservices/home/digitalaccessforall.shtml>



# Looking for safe, at-home activities to keep you and your family busy?

Our virtual program library is a free hub of on-demand activities that can be done from home by people with disabilities, their families, and service providers.

The library is expanding all the time and has activities in a wide variety of areas, such as arts, life skills, health and wellness, virtual clubs, and more.

Browse listings to find activities like:

- Participating in dance, yoga, and other movement activities
- Learning about internet safety
- Virtually touring places like Disney World and museums
- Making your own Jeopardy templates

Finding self-advocacy support

[Browse Programs](#)



# Kessler Foundation Performing a Walking Study to Train the Hip and Knee



## Eligibility

*Children and young adults who may be eligible for the study:*

- are between 7 to 21 years old
- are diagnosed with brain injury including but not limited to Cerebral Palsy, Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- have a walking pattern where the knee is straight when the foot is off the ground
- are able to walk on a treadmill without assistive devices

## Study Requirements

*Children and young adults in the study will:*

- wear lightweight sensors on the waist, leg and shoe to measure movement
- walk on a treadmill while watching a display that shows the walking pattern
- try to change the walking pattern to score points

This study has two 1-hour (60 minute) treadmill walking appointments at either of the below locations:

### **Kessler Foundation**

1199 Pleasant Valley Way  
West Orange, NJ 07052

### **Children's Specialized Hospital**

150 New Providence Road  
Mountainside, NJ 07092

***Participants who complete this study will receive \$50 for their time.***

### **For more information, please contact:**

Xuan Liu, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator  
Kessler Foundation  
973-324-3561, [xliu@kesslerfoundation.org](mailto:xliu@kesslerfoundation.org)



# Intensive Therapeutics 2021-2022 Group Programs



At Intensive Therapeutics, we value a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach. We offer sessions incorporating both occupational and speech therapy. This allows us to look at the child as a whole within the context of various settings.

Additionally, we communicate with all members of the child's team, including, parents/caregivers, therapists from other disciplines, teachers, and more.

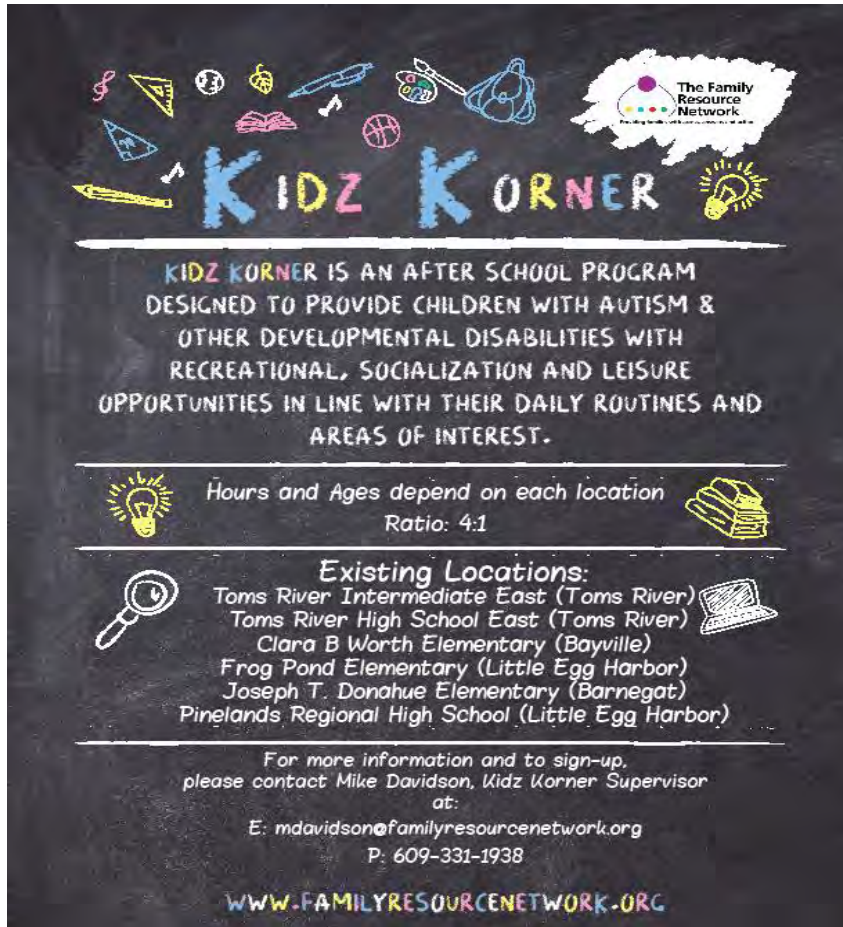
Learn more about our available group programs for the 2021-2022 school year:

- **Say & Play (Ages 1 to 6+ years)**
  - [Learn more about Say & Play.](#)
- **SPOT On (Ages 7 to 12 years)**
  - [Learn more about SPOT On.](#)
- **Teen Series (Ages 13+ years)**
  - [Learn more about our Teen Series program and module dates.](#)

**Services are provided at:**  
Intensive Therapeutics, Inc.  
31 Fairfield Avenue  
West Caldwell, NJ 07006



# KIDZ KORNER AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



**KIDZ KORNER**

**KIDZ KORNER IS AN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DESIGNED TO PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH AUTISM & OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WITH RECREATIONAL, SOCIALIZATION AND LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES IN LINE WITH THEIR DAILY ROUTINES AND AREAS OF INTEREST.**

Hours and Ages depend on each location  
Ratio: 4:1

**Existing Locations:**  
Toms River Intermediate East (Toms River)  
Toms River High School East (Toms River)  
Clara B Worth Elementary (Bayville)  
Frog Pond Elementary (Little Egg Harbor)  
Joseph T. Donahue Elementary (Barnegat)  
Pinelands Regional High School (Little Egg Harbor)

For more information and to sign-up,  
please contact Mike Davidson, Kidz Korner Supervisor  
at:  
E: [mdavidson@familyresourcenetwork.org](mailto:mdavidson@familyresourcenetwork.org)  
P: 609-331-1938

[WWW.FAMILYRESOURCENETWORK.ORG](http://WWW.FAMILYRESOURCENETWORK.ORG)

- KIDZ KORNER AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
- For more information:
- [WWW.FAMILYRESOURCENETWORK.ORG](http://WWW.FAMILYRESOURCENETWORK.ORG)
- [MDAVIDSON@FAMILYRESOURCENETWORK.ORG](mailto:MDAVIDSON@FAMILYRESOURCENETWORK.ORG)
- or call 609-331-1938



# Gas Voucher Transportation Assistance



Medicaid Program (Non-Emergency Transportation: N.E.T.): N.E.T. is a free program that offers gas money or transportation to Medicaid recipients. It pays for the expenses of taking a child to Medicaid covered doctor visits. This program provides reimbursement for travel to any non-emergent appointments, basically anything but an ambulance visit to the emergency room. Contact the Medicaid office (**number on the back of your Medicaid card**) to find out if you qualify. This is a reimbursement program. That means you must attend your appointments first, before you are paid. After you have applied for the services and are approved, you will receive a debit card in the mail. The funds will be electronically deposited to your card. You should plan on paying for your own transportation for up to three months. After that, you will have money on your debit card. Steps to take for the program:

- Call the phone number on the back of your Medicaid Card
- Select the appropriate option to connect
- Tell the service representative that you want to apply for the N.E.T. program
- Have available: your Medicaid card, your doctor's name, the date of your next appointment, and the doctor's telephone number

## Other Resources:

*-Salvation Army-* Free gas vouchers, free gas cards for low income individuals and more general transportation help are offered at most Salvation Army locations. However, only a small number of individuals who apply for these resources will be accepted. Funding is extremely limited, and varies based on the cost of gasoline. The most common reasons for releasing funds are for help reaching school, doctor's appointment, job training, or an interview. Contact the Salvation Army or go into a local location to apply.

*-Saint Vincent de Paul-* Society of St. Vincent de Paul is one of the largest charity organizations. Contact the nearest Catholic Church in your town or county and inquire if they have a Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference near you, people of all backgrounds and religions can get help. As funding and resources allow, if someone needs a bus token or free gasoline to get to a job interview or appointment, then St. Vincent may be able to provide this. Funding is very limited so only certain centers or churches will be able to offer gas.

*-Local charities and religious organizations may provide financial assistance for gas or transportation.*



# NCC 2022



The Family Resource Network will re-convene many of the nation's industry leaders and family caregivers for the National Caregivers Conference on October 16-17, 2022.

For the first time, NCC will be delivered in a hybrid format, combining an in-person conference experience in Philadelphia, PA with a virtual component.

**The Conference Committee invites you to submit a session or workshop proposal for the National Caregivers Conference 2022.**

**Call for proposals will remain open through January 31, 2022.**

[More Information](#)



# On Track Resources

## On Track Resources

We provide child study team services (case management, full child study team evaluations) to the Lakewood, NJ non public school system. We services 70+ schools through our contract with the Lakewood BOE.

### **Our Mission**

To provide each child with a comprehensive evaluation in order to determine the best approach catered to each specific child.

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



# Understanding HIPAA

## Understanding HIPPA: What Parents Need to Know About Privacy and Their Adult Child's Health Information

As your child grows into adulthood, both your rights and the rights of your child under HIPAA change.

[This document](#) answers frequently asked questions (FAQs) about when parents can access their adult child's protected health information.

Readers are encouraged to view this resource on-line as it includes links to additional detailed information.

*Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*



# Department of Human Services - Education & Training College Accessibility Series



Colleges and universities offer a wide range of services to ensure support to students with disabilities while providing certain basic disability access. However, the responsibility ultimately falls on the student to request the disability-related accommodations required. See the informative guides below developed by BestColleges.com to assist you in planning your post-secondary education.

[Overview of College Resources for Students with Disabilities](#)

[Financial Aid & Scholarships for Students with Disabilities](#)

[How to Access College Disability Services and Accommodations](#)

Please direct any questions regarding specific training/educational programs to the hosting agency.

## College Guides for Students with Disabilities

[Physical Disabilities](#)

[Learning Disabilities](#)

[Visual Impairments](#)

[Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)

[Psychiatric Disabilities](#)

Department of Human Services Education & Training Page  
<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/hottopics/education/>



# Art Therapy Group for Neuro divergent Young

Supportive & kind community  
Coping skills, relaxation, enjoyable activity  
Social support & peer connection  
Skill building  
Creative problem solving  
Self-expression & self compassion  
Wellness, positivity & quality of life enhancement

Embodied Art Therapy & Yoga, LLC  
Cathy Rosa, MS, ATR-BC, RYT-200 Clinton NJ (732) 439-3385  
[WWW.ArtTherapyAndYoga.Com](http://WWW.ArtTherapyAndYoga.Com)



# Nourish Your Mind With Our Brand New Mid-Day Webinar Series



The Family Resource Network is inviting you to nourish your mind with the Brunch for the Brain webinar series!

Focusing on mental health for the person with the disability and/or their caregiver.

The year-long webinar series take place on the third Wednesday of every month at 12 PM (EST).

All webinars are being offered free of charge.

[Click for more information](#)



# FACEBOOK SUPPORT GROUPS

## Facebook Support Groups



Facebook groups bring together individuals who share a common interest. When you join a group that's made up of people who share the same need, you'll have multiple opportunities to receive and offer support to individuals with IDD and their families.

[CLICK HERE FOR A LISTING OF FACEBOOK GROUPS](#)



## The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute



# From the Community Health Law Project



## NJ Human Services Announces Partnership with Community Health Law Project to Increase Access to Legal Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals with Lower Incomes

Human Services Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced on July 26th that the Department has partnered with the Community Health Law Project to increase access to legal services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals with lower incomes.

The partnership is a collaboration between Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing ([DDHH](#)) and Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services ([DMHAS](#)).

Through the partnership, eligible deaf and hard of hearing individuals can receive legal assistance and supports with matters related to their public assistance, health insurance, social security benefits, landlord-tenant disputes, foreclosure defense, family law issues, consumer protection and debt collection and more. In addition, CHLP is able to meet communication access needs including ASL interpreting and captioning.

[More Info](#)



# Planning For Adult Life – Guardianship Matters

## Why Guardianship Matters to You

In New Jersey, the age of majority is 18. This means that by this time an individual is presumed capable of making decisions as well as taking legal responsibility for those decisions. This law does not change if a child has a developmental disability. Parents do not automatically remain their child's natural guardian. For some adults who are incapable of making decisions, guardianship may be an avenue for parents, family members, or caregiver to ensure/determine their best interest. Obtaining guardianship is an extensive process and should not be taken lightly. Guardianship entails making decisions about where a person lives, what care and supervision is required, how to interact with the medical community and if the person is deemed incapable of making decisions, they will lose rights to vote, to drive, and to marry. Only a judge can decide a person's abilities and incapacitates and considers the person's needs before appointing a guardian. An assessment is done on the individual to measure their capacity for self-determination or skills in making decisions for themselves.



# There are varying degrees of guardianship:

## **Full Guardianship**

States that the individual cannot make decision on their own behalf. This allows for the Guardian to make all legal, financial, personal, and medical decisions for the individual.

## **Limited Guardianship**

States that the individual may need some help in certain areas. This allows for the Guardian to help only in the areas determined by the court.

## **Conservator**

States that the individual is not incapable of making decisions however, requires assistance in financial responsibilities. If an individual is capable of understanding what they are signing, there are options of assistance that does not require a judge. Surrogate a substitute or person to carry out a certain duty or role instead of the individual.

## **Representative Payee**

Allows for an individual or organization to be appointed to manage the Social Security and SSI for someone who cannot manage his or her money. A payee must use the benefits to pay for the current and foreseeable needs of the beneficiary and properly save any benefits not needed to meet current needs. Helpful Link: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10076.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10076.pdf)

## **Dual Power of Attorney**

Allows for an individual to choose a surrogate to make financial and legal decisions as well as access the persons records.

## **Medical Power of Attorney**

Allows for an individual to choose a surrogate to make medical decisions and to access records.

## **Advanced Directive/ Living Will**

This allows for the individual to choose a surrogate to make decisions on what medical/mental health treatments a person would accept or refuse if or when unable to communicate their choice.

## **Helpful Links:**

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

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



# SPAN's Virtual Learning Opportunities and

**NEW**

Browse our newly updated resource collections for articles, briefs, fact sheets, checklists, short videos, webinars, and training materials.



## [Inclusion Resource Collection](#)

Here you will find resources on the benefits of inclusion for students with and without disabilities, inclusion in education, strategies and tips for families, and inclusion webinars.



## [Literacy Resource Collection](#)

Here you will find materials on supporting literacy achievement in the classroom, activities to promote literacy at home and in your school/district, as well as literacy webinars.



## [NJTSS Resource Collection](#)

Here you will find basic information on multi-tiered systems of support, NJTSS framework and its components, practical strategies and tips for families and parents, as well as NJTSS webinars.



# SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES IN NJ AND THE ROLE OF THE SUPPORTS BROKER



We are proud to share that The Collaborative for Citizen Directed Supports assisted in developing this new resource from The Boggs's Center on Developmental Disabilities for Self-Directed Services and Supports Brokerage!

*Understanding Self-Directed Services in New Jersey and the Role of the Supports Broker* serves as a guide for people with disabilities, families, Support Coordinators, and Supports Brokerage providers interested in learning more about Self-Direction in New Jersey and the role of the Supports Broker in supported self-direction. Available in English and Spanish.

[Access New Resource](#)



# Curious About VIANJ?

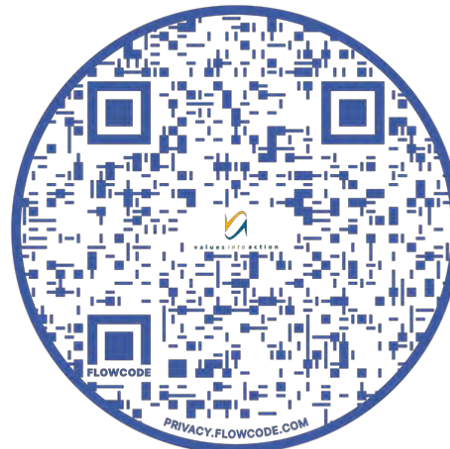


values into action

*Supporting People with Disabilities and Their Families Since 2007*

## Curious About VIANJ?

Learn all about us by scanning our new QR code with your smart phone!



# Autistic Volunteers are needed for a research Study

**Do you want help  
managing depression?**

**Autistic volunteers are  
needed for a research study!**

Researchers at Rutgers University are recruiting autistic adults for a research study to evaluate the efficacy of a 12-week mental health treatment designed to help with symptoms of depression

You may be eligible if you...

- Are at least 18 years of age
- Have a previous diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder
- Can understand English
- Have someone who will participate with you (e.g., parent, sibling, friend)

If you are eligible, you will be asked to complete:

- 12 therapy sessions (option online or in-person)
- Questionnaires and 4 assessment visits

If you participate, you will be compensated: Up to \$150 for completion of assessment visits



*If you are interested, please complete  
the screening form at:*

[redcap.link/depressiontreatment](https://redcap.link/depressiontreatment)

*If you have questions, email us at:  
LifeSPANLab@gsapp.rutgers.edu*

Date: 06/30/2021  
Version: 1.0

Clinical Investigator: Vanessa Bal, PhD  
604 Allison Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Title of Study: Adaptation of a Behavioral Activation  
Treatment to Treat Depression in Autistic Adults

[Click to complete the screening form](https://redcap.link/depressiontreatment)



# Your child may qualify for a research study on behavioral therapies for children with Autism



IRB NUMBER: 2014-3795  
IRB APPROVAL DATE: 05/27/2020

## Is your child diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder?



Is your child between the ages of 6 and 9.5 years old?

Your child may qualify for a research study on behavioral therapies for children with Autism!

- Eligible participants receive **Autism diagnostic testing** and assessments of **functional skills and sensory behaviors**
- Participants may be randomly selected to receive **30 one-hour sessions** of Sensory Integration therapy or Applied Behavior Analysis. The **goal of both therapies** is to see **improvements in a child's functional skills** and a **reduction of maladaptive behaviors**.
  - ◊ **Sensory Integration Therapy (SIT)** works to improve sensory-motor factors that affect a child's functional skills. Children do sensory-motor play-based activities and apply skills to functional tasks.
  - ◊ **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)** works to identify skills that impact a child's every day functioning. The interventionist breaks down each skill into teachable steps, to facilitate learning.
- Participants will be **compensated \$250** throughout the course of the study and will receive a summary **report** of evaluations and a list of **referred practitioners** of ABA and SIT

Follow the QR code to view study website and access our secure online screener



### Contact for information:

Lauren Laffoon  
732-240-8621

[LLaffoon@childrens-specialized.org](mailto:LLaffoon@childrens-specialized.org)

### Location:

Children's Specialized Hospital  
94 Stevens Road  
Toms River, New Jersey 08755

This study is funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development



# Free At-Home COVID-19 Test Kits



From the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

## Federal Government to Provide Free At-Home COVID-19 Test Kits

Residential households in the U.S. are able to order one set of 4 free at-home rapid antigen COVID-19 tests from [USPS.com](https://www.usps.com). There is a limit of one order per residential address and shipping is free. Eligible households are encouraged to obtain COVID-19 tests so they are available if needed.

Please visit <https://www.covidtests.gov/> for more information.

[Order COVID Tests](#)

**Values**  
*into action*



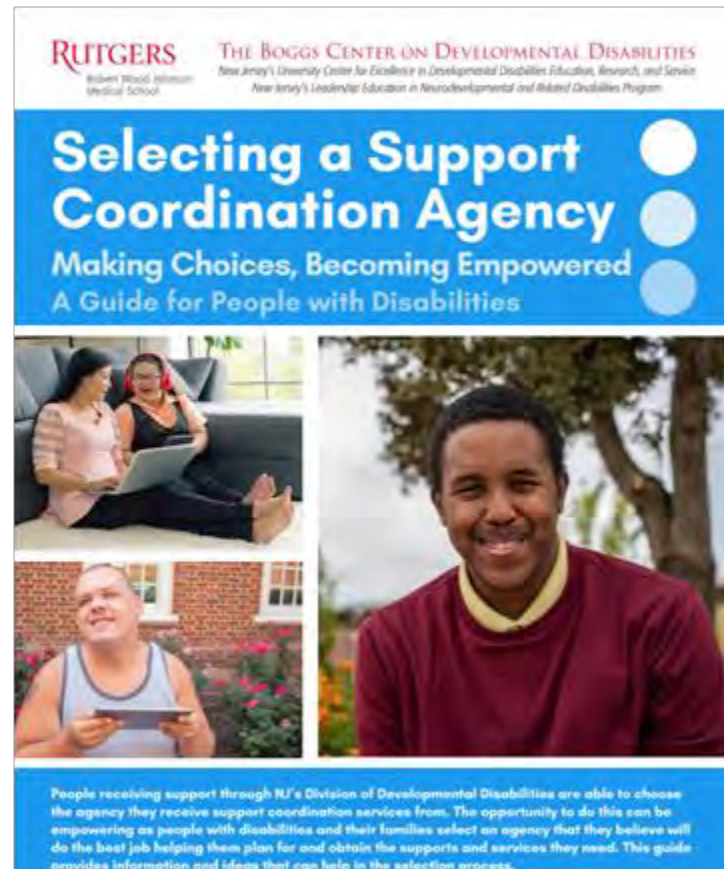
# Updated Guide to Selecting a Support Coordination

*From The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities*

## Updated Guide to Selecting a Support Coordination Agency Now Available

The Boggs Center has updated *Selecting a Support Coordination Agency: Making Choices, Becoming Empowered*, a guide for people with disabilities to use with the support of family, friends, and others close to them when choosing the agency they receive support coordination services from.

[Download Resource](#)



# We're Recruiting!



Children's Specialized Hospital's **Research Center** strives to advance pediatric rehabilitation by initiating and supporting evidence-based studies that explore innovative interventions, technologies and approaches to specialized care for children and adolescents. See below for details on one of our current studies.

## Study: Characterizing Action-Control in Healthy Children

This research study aims to understand how healthy children control their behavior and choose their actions. It involves completing paper-and-pencil measures, computer-based games, and brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). No contrast/dyes or injections will be used in the study. Results from this branch of the study will be compared to patterns of learning in children with ADHD to characterize any learning deficits in this population.

### Who's Eligible?

- Healthy children with no prior medical diagnoses.
- Children between the ages of 6 and 10.
- Must be able to speak English well.
- Ability to play a computer- based game.
- Capable of undergoing an MRI scan (there will be a training session to make sure the child is able to undergo the actual MRI scan).

Participation in this study will include 2-3 visits to the following **Kessler Foundation** locations:

- 120 Eagle Rock Ave, Suite 100, East Hanover, NJ 07936
- 1199 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Joman Y. Natsheh  
Principal Investigator  
973-391-7858, [jnatsheh@kesslerfoundation.org](mailto:jnatsheh@kesslerfoundation.org)

Michael Dacanay  
Research Assistant  
973-324-8453, [mdacanay@kesslerfoundation.org](mailto:mdacanay@kesslerfoundation.org)

Participants will be compensated for their time and children who complete the MRI scan are eligible to receive a copy of the images and a certificate of completion.

[About Our Research Center](#)



# Types of Medicaid Eligibility in NJ

## TYPES OF MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY IN NJ

### AGED, BLIND, OR DISABLED (ABD)

#### **Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medicaid**

Provided automatically when a person with IDD is approved for SSI benefits. Apply for SSI at age 18 or above through your local SSA Office here: [bit.ly/ssaooffices](http://bit.ly/ssaooffices)

#### **Medicaid Only**

For individuals with IDD who do not receive monthly SSI, but meet SSI income and resource limits. [bit.ly/medicaidonly](http://bit.ly/medicaidonly)

#### **NJ Workability**

Offers healthcare to individuals with IDD ages 16-64 who are employed and whose income would disqualify them from other forms of Medicaid. [bit.ly/njworkability](http://bit.ly/njworkability)

#### HOW TO GET IT

Apply for SSI at age 18  
[bit.ly/Apply4SSI](http://bit.ly/Apply4SSI)  
ABD Medicaid Application  
[bit.ly/ABDapplication](http://bit.ly/ABDapplication)

#### WHAT'S COVERED?

Doctor visits, prescriptions, x-rays, dental, lab testing, eyeglasses, mental health, hospitalization, specialist visits, hearing aids, Personal Care Assistant (PCA), Personal Preference Program (PPP)

For specific questions about Medicaid or the application process, contact Beverly Roberts at [broberts@arcnj.org](mailto:broberts@arcnj.org) or 732-246-2567.

#### **Disabled Adult Child (DAC)**

For persons whose SSI ended because they received benefits from a parent who retired, became disabled, or died. Request for information (RFI) is for people who have DDD. [bit.ly/dacmedicaid](http://bit.ly/dacmedicaid)

#### **New Jersey Care... Special Medicaid Program**

For individuals with IDD with income below \$1,074/month. Contact your County Board of Social Services: [bit.ly/njcbss](http://bit.ly/njcbss)

#### **Long Term Services and Supports**

Applies to younger individuals who need significant support, such as private-duty nursing, etc. [bit.ly/longtermsupport](http://bit.ly/longtermsupport)

#### QUICK FACT

Medicaid is an entitlement-based program. Anyone who is determined eligible by the Medicaid Office has the right to receive Medicaid and its related services. Eligibility is not guaranteed.

### NJ FAMILYCARE

- Also called Medicaid Expansion.
- Eligibility is based on income, not on the individual having a disability.
- The maximum monthly income limit increases each year.
- The maximum gross income for a single adult in 2021 is \$1,074/month.
- The individual cannot be listed as a dependent on their parent's tax return.
- The individual cannot receive Medicare.
- ABD is a better route if eligible.

#### HOW TO GET IT

Applicants must have financial eligibility.  
NJ FamilyCare Quickstart  
[bit.ly/njfamilycare](http://bit.ly/njfamilycare)

#### QUICK FACT

Adults must have legal resident status for 5 years to be eligible. Children and pregnant women with legal resident status are eligible, regardless of length of residency.

#### WHAT'S COVERED?

Doctor visits, prescriptions, x-rays, dental, lab testing, eyeglasses, hospitalization, mental health, preventative screenings, regular checkups

# Support Groups

Click below for more information on any of the following support groups available to families.

- [New Dad Support Groups](#)
- [Moms Connection](#)
- [Weekly Parents Group](#)  
Parenting Through the Pandemic;  
Creating Work/Life Balance at Home  
Through the Pandemic



# NJ's Housing and Utility Assistance Programs



## Apply NOW for Help with Housing or Utilities!

Recently, the federal government issued a limited eviction moratorium beginning August 3<sup>rd</sup> through October 3<sup>rd</sup> for renters living in communities experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases.

In addition, Governor Murphy signed legislation that expands COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance and Utility Assistance Programs.

For more information, or to apply for rental or utility assistance, please use the following links to access the programs:

- **First, know your rights:** <https://legalfaq.org>
- **For general assistance questions, call 211 or check the website:** [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org)
- **Renters MUST self-certify to qualify for assistance:** <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/renter>
- **State Rental Assistance Application:** <https://njdca.onlinepha.com>
- **A video tutorial on completing the application:** <https://njdca.onlinepha.com/en-US/Pages/View/152/how-tenants-can-apply-for-cverap>
- **Frequently Asked Questions and Answers:** <https://njdca.onlinepha.com/en-US/Pages/View/145/program-frequently-asked-questions>
- **Comprehensive Statewide Housing Resources:** <https://www.housinghelpnj.org/>
- **Renters may also access assistance at both the County and City level using the federal database of rental assistance programs:** [www.consumerfinance.gov/renthelp](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/renthelp)
- **New Jersey Utility Assistance:** [www.state.nj.us/bpu/assistance/programs](http://www.state.nj.us/bpu/assistance/programs)
- **The Federal government issued three Economic Impact payments. Make sure you got all three:** <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/recovery-rebate-credit>
- **If you have children and didn't automatically receive the federal Child Tax Credit, sign up for it:** [www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-non-glier-sign-up-tool](http://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-non-glier-sign-up-tool)



# ESNJ Prescription Assistance Fund

The goal of ESNJ is to support you on your epilepsy journey by ensuring that you have continued access to treatment and care.

Through our Medication Assistance Program we have funds available for people with epilepsy who are temporarily unable to afford the purchase of their anti epileptic medication.

This fund is available one time, once a year. There is a limit to the amount allowed.

For more information, email [info@epilepsynj.org](mailto:info@epilepsynj.org).



# NJ Mental Health Cares

## **NJ Mental Health Cares**

If you're concerned about your mental health or the mental health of someone you love, **NJ Mental Health Cares** can help. The **free helpline** offers telephone counseling, emotional support, information and assistance.

**866-202-HELP (4357)**

7 days per week, 8am - 8pm



# Register Ready



**Register today—  
be ready for tomorrow!**

**Help emergency responders plan for  
and support your family members  
who have disabilities or  
access and functional needs  
in the event of a disaster**

If you or a family member has a physical, developmental, cognitive or behavioral impairment, language barrier, or transportation challenge that may make it difficult to safely shelter in place or evacuate in a disaster, please register.

Register at:

[www.registerready.nj.gov](http://www.registerready.nj.gov)

or call **211** within NJ or **877-652-1148** toll free

- Free
- Voluntary
- Secure and confidential
- Protective of your privacy

Update your information at least annually. In a life threatening situation, don't wait for help — call 9 1 1



# Brain Injury Alliance NJ

## Virtual Support Group



As you know, BIANJ has been hosting virtual support groups, during the day and evenings to help you stay connected. Effective July 1st, BIANJ's support groups will follow this schedule:

### **Caregiver Support Groups:**

Every other Wednesday at 11:00 AM  
Second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM\*

### **Survivor Support Groups:**

Every other Wednesday at 11:00 AM  
Third Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM\*

### **Virtual Happy Hours for Survivors and Caregivers:**

Last Wednesday of every month at 5:30 PM

*\*please note the evening groups will now be offered once per month*

[Register Now](#)



# New Law Extends Special Education Services



## A Practical Guide to the Law to Extend Special Education Eligibility

Our [guide](#) will help you understand whether your child qualifies for an extra year and how to work with your district to access it.

If this law applies to your child, how easy it will be to access depends on whether your IEP team agrees that your child requires an additional year of instruction.

### [Read Our Guide](#)

As always, if you require support or information, please contact us at 800.4.AUTISM, 609.588.8200 or visit [www.autismnj.org](http://www.autismnj.org).



# Patient & Family Portal

## In our Portal, you can...

- Get secure access to refill prescriptions and review medications any time
- View upcoming appointments and review past medical and therapy needs
- View, print, and share patient records at a moment's notice
- Have 24/7 access so you can pay bills when it's most convenient for you

## Not signed up yet?

Email [PortalHelpDesk@childrens-specialized.org](mailto:PortalHelpDesk@childrens-specialized.org) to receive your access code.

## Already signed up?

Access the portal at [my.childrens-specialized.org](http://my.childrens-specialized.org)



# Providing Respite: Supporting People & Families Across the Lifespan



In partnership with the NJ Lifespan Respite Program, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at Rutgers University has published [Providing Respite: Supporting People and Families Across the Lifespan](#).

This booklet offers an overview of respite and highlights the positive impact that respite makes in the lives of people with disabilities, seniors, and their families.

[To access, click here.](#)



# Schedule a Virtual Telehealth Visit

## What are benefits of receiving services through this platform?

- Quick access to your child's initial evaluations
- Eliminates any delay in beginning a beneficial treatment plan
- Provides an opportunity to meet and begin to develop a relationship with your provider allowing them to get to know you and your child
- Your child will be seen in the comfort of their natural home environment
- Doxy.me link allows for easy access using your smartphone, computer, or tablet

## What can I use for my child's virtual visit?



Computer  
or Laptop



Web Cam



Tablet



Smart Phone



**Call 888-244-5373 to request an appointment.**



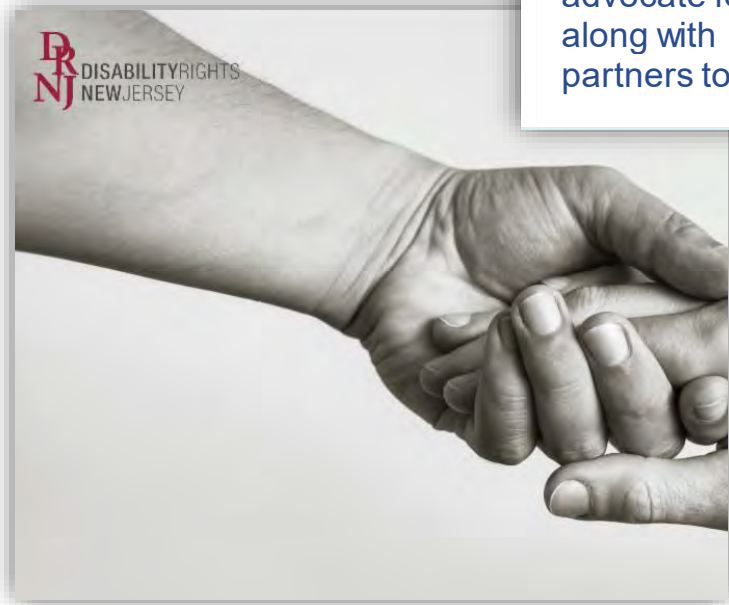
# Stay Informed on COVID-19: Disability Rights NJ

## Stay Informed at [DRNJ-COVID.org](http://DRNJ-COVID.org)

Dedicated to providing resources during the coronavirus pandemic, this new site shares valuable information and the actions we've taken to protect and advocate for people with disabilities, along with important resources from our partners to help you navigate this crisis.

DRNJ is a private, non-profit, consumer-directed organization established to:

- Advocate for and advance the human, civil and legal rights of citizens of New Jersey with disabilities;
- Promote public awareness and recognition of individuals with disabilities as equally entitled members of society;
- Advise and assist persons with disabilities, family members, attorneys and guardians in obtaining and protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities; and
- Provide education, training and technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, the agencies that serve them, advocates, attorneys, professionals, courts and others regarding the rights of individuals with disabilities.



# Fun Activities To Do at Home With Your Child

## Fun Activities

- Play cards, go fish, war, solitaire, memory.
- Take turns reading to each other.
- Have a spa night.
- Look through old photo albums together.
- Watch your child's favorite television show or movie together.
- Do a puzzle.
- Play a board game.
- Sit outside and look at the stars or clouds.
- Eat meals together.
- Help your child send an email to a grandparent, aunt, or uncle.
- Help your child write a letter to a friend or relative.
- Go bird watching. Try to identify the birds you find.
- Play a video game together.
- Pull out a box of toys they haven't played with for a while.
- Plant seeds from something you've eaten, such as an apple or watermelon.
- Play I-Spy, hot or cold, mother may I, red light/green light.
- Sing Karaoke.
- Teach your dog tricks.
- Let your child teach you about something they know or do well.

## Movement, Exercise & Outdoor Play

- Play hide and go seek.
- Workout together.
- Write down exercises on separate pieces of paper and put them in a box, shake it and pull one out at a time. Do what it says! 10 jumping jacks, jog in place, do a somersault, 10 sit ups, 10 touch your toes, 10 arm circles, 10 lunges, walk sideways, make up your own!
- Play hop-scotch.
- Ride bikes.
- Play Simon-says
- Take a walk in the woods collect acorns, pretty rocks, & leaves.
- Rake leaves together.
- Play tag.
- Wash your car together.
- Teach your child how to ride a bike.
- Learn a new dance, Chicken Dance, Electric Slide, The Hustle, The Macarena dance
- Help your child practice a sport they enjoy. Have a catch.
- Draw on the sidewalk with sidewalk chalk.
- Have a picnic outside.
- Have a dance party.



# The Center on Nutrition & Disability

If you have been impacted by the pandemic and are in need of food, the Center on Nutrition and Disability is here to connect you to your local food resources.

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

Or, text **FOOD to 304-304** and you will receive a message with local sites to receive free summer meals. No paperwork to fill out. No income requirements.



# Helpful Links & Resources

**National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities**

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/nichcy-gone/>

**National Organization for Rare Disorders**

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

**New Jersey Department of Human Services**

[www.state.nj.us/humanservices](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices)

**New Jersey Developmental Disabilities Council**

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

**New Jersey Protection and Advocacy**

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

**Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (CICRF)**

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cicrf/home/>



# Values in Action New Jersey

## *Our Values*

Accountable to **YOU** and Yours  
Dedicated to **YOU** and Your Ambitions  
Empowering **YOU** to Live Your Life  
Kind to **YOU** Without Exception  
Open Minded to **YOU**  
Respecting **YOU** and Your Choices  
Transforming Services with **YOU**

**Our Values Into Action NJ Team is at your service  
and always dedicated to your support!**

**Values into Action NJ provides Support Coordination in service  
for people with disabilities aged 21+ and their families,  
across the state of New Jersey.**

**Using a person-directed, family-centered approach, we structure our  
services to assist individuals through the process of self-direction and  
empower them to remain in charge of their plans (and their lives).**

**[www.ValuesIntoActionNJ.org](http://www.ValuesIntoActionNJ.org)**



# Join the local T1D Community

## Join the local T1D Community

At JDRF, we're leading the fight against type 1 diabetes (T1D) by funding research, advocating for policies that accelerate access to new therapies, and providing a support network for millions of people around the world—including our local New Jersey Metro and Rockland County Chapter.

### BLUE CREW

If you have a grade school aged child living with T1D, we invite him or her to join our monthly virtual Blue Crew meet-up on Zoom! Join for fun activities, games and crafts!

### TEENS & PRE-TEEN VIRTUAL MEET-UPS

Our Youth Ambassadors are leading virtual meet-ups for teens and pre-teens on Zoom. They'll break-out into small groups so you'll be with peers close in age!

### PARENTS SUPPORTING PARENTS

Make a cup of hot tea, pour a glass of wine or just find a cozy, quiet spot and join our Outreach Volunteers for an hour to chat, relax, and connect with other T1D parents. The parents meet monthly on a Wednesday evening on Zoom.

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

We also host educational programs throughout the year (examples include T1D Caregiver 101, Taking T1D to College, and Carb Counting for Beginners).



Find more information on these and other events at:

[www.jdrf.org/newjerseymetro](http://www.jdrf.org/newjerseymetro)

JDRF New Jersey Metro  
1480 Route 9 North, Suite 306  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
newjerseymetro@jdrf.org  
732.219.6654

Scan the QR reader to be taken  
directly to our website!

