



# Early Times

Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church

703-246-7121

3750 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

Part of the Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia

**FEBRUARY 2009**

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## ITCFF'S PURPOSE

The Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church provides evaluations and early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers who have a developmental delay and who are younger than three years old. Early intervention supports and services focus on increasing the child's participation in family and community activities that are important to the family. In addition, supports and services focus on helping parents and other caregivers know how to find ways to help the child learn during everyday activities. These supports and services are available for all eligible children and their families regardless of the family's ability to pay.

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Changes are coming ... ITCFF is transitioning to an electronic documentation program. This will save on paper and more importantly, will provide for better communication between team members, and more accountability in the maintenance of your child's educational record. To this end, please insure that we have your family's most current contact information, as well as email and insurance information. Please contact your Service Coordinator if your information has recently changed.

March marks "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Inclusion Month". The county will celebrate the contributions that individuals with disabilities make to our community when they receive the supports they need. Join us for a Proclamation Ceremony on March 9, 2009 at the Fairfax County Government Center in the Board Auditorium at 9am. A Pre-Proclamation Reception will take place in the Conference Center Reception Area at 8:15 a.m. The ceremony is sponsored by The Arc of Northern Virginia, People First of Northern Virginia and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

Due to the increase in the number of evaluations, reviews and services taking place in our office, we have revised the Inclement Weather Policy. Please see the back page of this newsletter for the revised policy.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or issues not being addressed. Your child's positive experience in Infant & Toddler Connection is very important to me. I may be reached at [allan.phillips@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:allan.phillips@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-246-7170.

Allan Phillips, Director

## ! MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

**Saturday, May 30 11am-2pm**

**Infant & Toddler Connection**

**Annual Picnic**

**Van Dyck Park, Fairfax**

**Look for more information in  
the next Early Times**

Fourth Friday Family Fun at ITCFF



**Fridays 10-11:30am February 27, March 27, April 24**

Join us in our office for playtime, crafts, storytime, snacks and more!

For more info, call Andrea Adelman at 703-246-5351 or email [andrea.adelman@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:andrea.adelman@fairfaxcounty.gov)

"El Cuarto Viernes del Mes" - diversión para las familias...

**viernes 10-11:30am 27 de febrero, 27 de marzo, 24 de abril**

Para más información llame a Andrea Adelman al 703-246-5351. Deje un mensaje con su nombre, el nombre de su hijo(a) y número de teléfono en español.



## READING WITH YOUR CHILD – EARLY LITERACY RESOURCES

### *Leyendo con su hijo - Recursos para el desarrollo temprano de la lectura*

**Reading is Fundamental (RIF)** is the nation's largest children's literacy organization. The "Leading to Reading" section of their website includes read-aloud books, songs, finger plays and more. [www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/en/babies-toddlers](http://www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/en/babies-toddlers)

*Leer es Fundamental es la organización literaria mas grande de la nación. La secciones "Leamos en Familia" y "Semillitas de Aprendizaje" incluyen historias animadas, canciones, juegos y mucho mas.* [www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/es](http://www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/es)

**Get Ready to Read** is a national initiative to build the early literacy skills. The website includes screening tools, online games, activity cards and literacy checklists.

[www.getreadytoread.org/content/view/95/104](http://www.getreadytoread.org/content/view/95/104)

*Listos para Leer es un programa con la iniciativa de de desarrollar temprana destrezas literarias. Su pagina de Internet incluye juegos animados, tarjetas de actividades, y guía de destrezas literarias* [www.getreadytoread.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=107](http://www.getreadytoread.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=107)

**The Literacy Center** aims to provide safe learning activities for parents to share with young children. The website includes online lessons in colors, shapes, numbers, etc.

[www.literacycenter.net/lessonview\\_en.htm](http://www.literacycenter.net/lessonview_en.htm)

*El Centro Literario provee actividades de aprendizaje para que los padres compartan con sus hijos. Su pagina de Internet incluye actividades educativas para aprender desde los colores, formas, números y otras cosas mas.* [www.literacycenter.net/lessonview\\_es.htm](http://www.literacycenter.net/lessonview_es.htm)

**Colorín Colorado** was created just for parents and families to provide you with the information you need to help your child become a good reader and a successful student. The site includes reading tip sheets, articles and additional resources. [www.colorincolorado.org/families](http://www.colorincolorado.org/families)

*Colorín Colorado fue creado para padres y familias con el propósito de proveer información que les ayude a que sus hijos se conviertan en buenos lectores y estudiantes exitosos. La pagina de Internet incluye ideas para desarrollar la lectura, artículos informativos y otros recursos.*

[www.colorincolorado.org/familias](http://www.colorincolorado.org/familias)

**Reach Out and Read (ROR)** is a national nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud, in pediatric exam rooms across the nation. The website includes literacy developmental milestone charts, tips for reading and choosing books, book recommendations and more.

[www.reachoutandread.org/about\\_develop.html](http://www.reachoutandread.org/about_develop.html)

**Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL)** - CELL Practice Guides Especially for Parents can be used by parents to give their infants, toddlers, or preschoolers fun and exciting literacy-learning experiences and opportunities. [www.earlyliteracylearning.org/pgparents.php](http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/pgparents.php)

**GET INVOLVED WITH EARLY INTERVENTION!** Many local early intervention agencies that provide services throughout the state of Virginia are struggling! We need your help in emphasizing the importance of Early Intervention services in Virginia so that our communities and our local and state government systems know that our children are the ones that are suffering. We are the key to causing change and educating others about our children and the valuable service they need to be successful. If you would like to be more proactive, please consider joining [The Arc of Virginia's Family Involvement Project](#). The next telephone conference call is scheduled for Thursday, March 19 at 1pm. For more information and resource tools, please contact **Andrea Adelman, Family Resource Coordinator** at Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church ([andrea.adelman@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:andrea.adelman@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-246-5351) or **Debra Holloway, Statewide Family Representative, Family Involvement Project, The Arc of VA** 888-604-2677, x103.

## **Parent Partner Training**

**April 15, 2009 9:30-11:30am**

Volunteer to join a network of trained parents offering one-to-one telephone support to other families of children with special needs.

*Free childcare provided during training*

Infant & Toddler Connection Meeting Room  
3750 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax

Registration required - Contact Andrea Adelman, Family Resource Coordinator by  
April 8, 2009

andrea.adelman@fairfaxcounty.gov or  
703-246-5351

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

#### **Free Income Tax Preparation**

If you worked in 2008 and earned less than \$42,000, you may qualify for assistance by IRS certified volunteers. For locations, times and more information, go to

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childreneyouth/families/free\\_income\\_tax\\_prep.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childreneyouth/families/free_income_tax_prep.htm)

**New Inova Pediatric Center Unit** - Inova Health System will open a new pediatric unit in Reston this spring to serve children of low-income families. The clinic will be located in a newly renovated Inova Emergency Care Center-Reston, at 11901 Baron Cameron Ave. The new unit will be part of Inova's Pediatric Center, located near Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children in Falls Church, which has been serving Fairfax County since 1993. The Inova Pediatric Center provides well-child care, immunizations, sick visits and school or sports physicals for newborns to 21-yr-olds.

**One Place for Special Needs** is an exclusive, collaborative community for special needs parents and those that work with children, teens and adults who have disabilities. Everyone adds their own information so together we can help each other. We can connect with families just like ours. We can find providers with the expertise to work with our child's disability. We can find businesses that are sensitive to special needs. We can network with local disability groups. We can become more knowledgeable advocates for our child's future.

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

### **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/EVENTS**

**Friday, February 27 7:00-9:15pm**

***Transitioning from Early Intervention to Preschool – What to Expect/What to Avoid***

presented by Special Education Partners, LLC  
Burke Community Church

9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke, VA

\$10 registration fee – For more info. call 703-346-2414 and RSVP to Beth at [beth@spedpartners.com](mailto:beth@spedpartners.com)

**Saturday, February 28 9:00-1:30pm**

***Medicaid Waivers & Supplemental Security Income Workshop***

The Arc of Northern Virginia

98 North Washington St., Falls Church, VA

Free of charge – For more information and to

RSVP, contact Maribel McIntyre at

[info@TheArcofNoVa.org](mailto:info@TheArcofNoVa.org) or 703 532-3214.

The same workshop will be offered May 16 at Fairfax Presbyterian Church and July 18 at Fairfax County Government Center from 9am-1:30pm.

For a complete listing of workshops and other events, go to [www.thearcofnova.org/calendar](http://www.thearcofnova.org/calendar).

**Saturday, March 14 1:00-4:00pm**

***Adapted Sports, Recreation and Travel Fair for Individuals with Disabilities***

This fair will provide information on adapted sports, recreation and travel opportunities, including adapted summer programs and camps, for all individuals with disabilities.

Monroe Gym of the James Lee Community Ctr.

2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA

Free of charge – For directions, call 703-534-3387

**Monday, April 20 7:30-9:00pm**

***Behavior Management with Sharon Weiss***

Community lecture designed for parents and professionals in the disability community.

McLean Bible Church Tysons Campus

8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA

Free of charge - For more information, contact

Jackie Mills-Fernald at 703/770-2942 or

[Jackie.millsfernald@mcleanbible.org](mailto:Jackie.millsfernald@mcleanbible.org)

**Monday, April 27 2:00-5:00pm**

***Sibshops*** - An exciting program just for brothers and sisters of children with special needs, ages 7-11. Sibshops are a lively mixture of new games, discussions, and guest speakers.

Kilmer Center - 8102 Wolftrap Rd., Vienna, VA

\$5 Registration fee - For more information & the registration form, call Wanda Vander Nat at 571-226-8474 or go to

[www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/sibshops/SibshopsRegistrationForm2008.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/sibshops/SibshopsRegistrationForm2008.pdf)



## REVISED Inclement Weather Policy – effective 1/1/09

ITCFF follows Fairfax County Public Schools Weather related closing (available on Cable Channel 21, [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) or the FCPS hot line at 800-839-FCPS (3277))

- When public schools are CLOSED due to weather – all evaluations, reviews & sessions **IN THE HOME/DAYCARE** are cancelled
- When public schools announce they will CLOSE EARLY – all evaluations, reviews & sessions **IN THE HOME/DAYCARE** scheduled **after** the announcement are cancelled
- When public schools announce a LATE OPENING – all evaluations, reviews & sessions **IN THE HOME/DAYCARE** beginning **before 12 Noon** are cancelled
- When public schools are not in session (school holiday) AND Fairfax County Govt. has unscheduled leave in effect – evaluations, reviews & sessions **IN THE HOME/DAYCARE** are cancelled

Despite the above announced closings, an interventionist or an MDE/IFSP team may wish to try to keep a session that has been scheduled with a family. Under these circumstances, the family will be contacted by the Interventionist or the Program and, if the family agrees, the session can occur as scheduled. In the above listed cases, ITCFF offices **REMAIN OPEN** for administrative purposes **AND FOR CENTER-BASED EVALUATIONS AND OTHER SERVICES. THEREFORE, EVALUATIONS SCHEDULED AT THE ITCFF OFFICE WILL TAKE PLACE REGARDLESS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL CLOSINGS.** If the Fairfax County Government CLOSSES, all evaluations, reviews & sessions will be cancelled AND ITCFF office will be CLOSED.



To request this information in an alternate format, call ITC-FCC, 703-246-7180, 703-538-5292 (TTY). Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations call ITC-FCC, 703-246-7180, 703-538-5292 (TTY). Please allow seven working days in advance of the event in order to make the necessary arrangements.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED