



# 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

*The Vision of the Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church is: All infants and toddlers with a developmental need are identified, supported, accepted, included and valued in their family and community.*

## A Note from the Director

Infant & Toddler Connection is making progress with our billing back log and we do appreciate your patience as we continue to work to get into insurance networks. If you have billing questions or need to make payment arrangements, please contact the **PB&C billing office (202.785.3399 or ITC.BillingOffice@oteropbc.com)**.

Please do not contact your Service Coordinator, but you can certainly contact me with any concerns you might have as well. Please accept our sincere apology for any inconvenience this has caused and rest assured that we are working to better serve ITC families.



**Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church**

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Do you want to learn more about ITC Fairfax-Falls Church, as well as ITC at the state level? Would you like to meet other key stakeholders who care about Fairfax County's very young children? Do you enjoy policy and procedure and sharing your perspective as a parent in ITC? Then please consider becoming a member of the **Fairfax-Falls Church Interagency Coordinating Council (FFICC)**. This group of representatives from various local government agencies, non-profits and the school system, meets approximately 5-6 times per year, for two hours, at the Government Center, to share information. To learn more about the FFICC, please contact me.

Be sure to mark your calendar for my favorite event of the year—our annual ITC Picnic. It's wonderful to see so many smiles and laughter, when staff members and families come together. There's always great food and entertainment, so your immediate family will not want to miss out. See below for the details and please RSVP to insure enough food for everyone. I look forward to meeting you on **May 14th**.

Allan Phillips, Director 703-246-7170  
allan.phillips@fairfaxcounty.gov



## ITCFF's PURPOSE

The Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church provides early intervention supports and services to infants and toddlers from birth to age three who are not developing as expected or who have a medical condition that can delay normal development. 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.

### ITC STAFF & FAMILY PICNIC

It's the annual event you've all been waiting for ...

**Saturday, May 14 11am - 2pm Van Dyck Park, 3730 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax**

Food, Drinks, Entertainment & More

Please bring a dessert to share if you wish ~ Immediate family members welcome

RSVP to Andrea Adelman, Family Resource Coordinator, at

[andrea.adelman@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:andrea.adelman@fairfaxcounty.gov) (preferred) or 703-246-5351

by **May 9**

Please indicate the name of the child in ITC, the total number of adults and total number of children attending.



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## Partners in Policymaking Class of 2011/2012

Please consider applying to participate in **Partners in Policymaking (PIP)**, the government funded advocacy training program sponsored by the VA Board for People with Disabilities. The program is free of cost and takes up one weekend a month from September to May. Partners attend eight two-day sessions in Richmond. Led by state and national experts, attendees prepare to use the power of advocacy to change the way that they, their families, and others with disabilities are understood, supported, taught, live, work, and play in their communities. Training sessions cover the history of the disability rights movement, selfadvocacy, independent living, supported employment, building inclusive communities, natural supports, legislative advocacy, assistive technology, communications, and team building.

All expenses for training, lodging, meals, and travel are covered by the Board, which also works with participating self-

advocates to arrange personal care support services and with parents to arrange respite care. In return, participants must agree to complete all homework and class assignments, as well as one major project designed to demonstrate their new competencies. Each year's Partners class features a diverse group of highly motivated individuals representing a wide range of backgrounds and abilities from all across Virginia.

Information and applications can be obtained at

<http://tinyurl.com/partners12>, by e-mailing

Erin.Hickey@vbpd.virginia.gov or

Teri.Barker@vbpd.virginia.gov, or by calling 1-800-846-4464 (toll free, voice & TTY). Application forms must be RECEIVED in the VBPD office by no later than 5:00 pm on **April 29, 2011** to be considered for the 2011-2012 PIP class.

## New Playgroup Forming for Children with DS

My name is Yvonne Manino and I have a 10 month old son, Aidan, with down syndrome. My son is at an age where he is active and likes to play. It would be great if he can play with other kids with down syndrome that is close to his age (between 8-18 months old). I'm setting up Kidzplay, a playgroup for the kids and a good social gathering for parents, at my home on **April 12<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am -11:30am**. I wanted to reach out to see if anybody would be interested in attending. I can comfortably accommodate about 10-12 kids with parents in my home in Annandale. So, it has to be on a first come first serve basis. Refreshments will also be served. Please email me if you are interested in attending. Thank you. Email: [Yvonne.Manino@dhs.gov](mailto:Yvonne.Manino@dhs.gov)



**More CELLcasts ...** The Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL) has released three new CELLcasts for parents (audio/video versions of CELL practice guides for viewing online or downloading to an iPod/Mp3 player). *World of Words* teaches parents where to find everyday literacy-rich opportunities in their community. *Get Write on It* discusses ways to encourage early writing in toddlers. *Listen Hear* focuses on helping children make letter and sound connections while learning to read and spell. [www.earlyliteracylearning.org/ta\\_cellcasts1.php](http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/ta_cellcasts1.php)

**Educational Website** for children Birth to 3rd Grade, broken out by ages and including developmental stages, game ideas, interactive play and more. [www.loving2learn.com](http://www.loving2learn.com)

**Infant & Toddler Nutrition** The Virginia Department of Health and the University of Virginia Office of Continuing Medical Education announce the launch of a new website dedicated to providing the latest evidence-based guidelines for infant and toddler nutrition. It includes a series of interactive, web-based continuing medical education modules that provide guidelines for infant and toddler feeding.

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

**Premature Infants** This resource discusses developmental support of infants. [http://specialstart.ucsf.edu/sstp/download/getting\\_to\\_know.pdf](http://specialstart.ucsf.edu/sstp/download/getting_to_know.pdf)

**Web Site on Hearing Loss in Children** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have launched a new Web site on Hearing Loss in Children. [www.cdc.gov/hearingloss](http://www.cdc.gov/hearingloss) Some of the features include: Easy-to-read infor-

## Websites You Can Use

mation on signs & symptoms, screening & diagnosis, treatment services, and prevention; a compilation of important data and scientific publications; individualized pages for different visitors – families, health professionals, EHDl programs, and partners and more.

**Assistive Technology for Communication: TapToTalk**

If you're looking for an inexpensive, customizable, socially acceptable way for your child to "talk," TapToTalk may very well be it. So says Disaboom, at: [www.disaboom.com/children-with-disabilities/best-assistive-technology-for-communication-taptotalk](http://www.disaboom.com/children-with-disabilities/best-assistive-technology-for-communication-taptotalk)

**For Military Families** Over 100,000 military families have members with special needs. These include spouses, children, or dependent parents who require special medical or educational services. These family members have a diagnosed physical, intellectual, or emotional condition. The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) works with these families to address their unique needs. Military Homefront E-Magazine has a special section dedicated to EFMP.

[www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/tf/efmp](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/tf/efmp)

**Web Site on Healthcare in Spanish** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services unveiled CuidadodeSalud.gov [www.cuidadodesalud.gov/enes/](http://www.cuidadodesalud.gov/enes/). CuidadodeSalud.gov is the partner site of HealthCare.gov, and is the first website in Spanish to provide consumers with both public and private health coverage options tailored specifically for their needs in a single, easy-to-use tool.

*April 2011*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 
3	4	5 	6 	7 	8	9 
10	11	12 	13	14	15	16 
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 	29 	30 

*May 2011*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2	3	4 	5	6	7 
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**THE S.M.I.L.E. PROGRAM** is currently taking registrations for the spring session at Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road, in Alexandria. Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) & ITC are providing an integrated play experience for children ages 2 1/2 to 5, with disabilities and their non-disabled peers, including siblings. The S.M.I.L.E (Saturday Morning Integrated Leisure Experience) Program emphasizes opportunities for individuals to participate in play designed to increase social and leisure skills.

- ☉ 5-week Pilot Program on Saturdays from April 2-May 7 (no program on April 23). 10-11:30am
- ☉ Drop-off program includes small group activities, pretend & imagination activities, centers & other age and ability appropriate activities.
- ☉ The program focuses on providing a fun playgroup for children while providing a period of respite for parents.
- ☉ Staff to participant ratio is 1:4 and includes both TRS & ITC staff members
- ☉ Space is limited on a first come first serve basis

- ☉ Registration deadline is 4/1 or until the program is full
- ☉ Cost is \$30 per child for the 5-week session.
- ☉ For questions and an application, please contact Natalie Haynes at 703-324-5712 or Natalie.haynes@fairfaxcounty.gov.



**Upcoming Workshops/Events**

**Tuesdays, April 5, April 12** **7-9pm**  
**Interactive Workshops Addressing Behavior in Young Children**

Jewish Community Center of NoVA **\$30/pp/per session**  
 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax

**4/5—Managing Major Meltdowns**  
**4/12—Building Positive Relationships**

Each workshop includes a presentation and Q&A session with a panel of early childhood experts. To register call 703-896-7907.

**Wednesday, April 6** **7-9pm**  
**De-Escalating Behaviors at Home** by Margarita Benavides, Behavior Support Specialist.

The Auburn School, Herndon Campus **FREE**  
 13525 Dulles Technology Drive (Suite 101), Herndon  
 Please go to <http://www.theauburnschool.org/forms.cfm?myForm=11022> to register online. For more info, call (703) 793-9353.

**Wednesdays, April 6 & May 4** **7-8:30pm**  
**Parent Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs**

JSSA and the JCCNV co-sponsor this group for parents of children and teens with learning disabilities, ADHD, Autism spectrum disorders, mood and anxiety disorders and related disabilities/ disorders. Free babysitting available upon request with one week's notice.

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV), 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax **\$15 per session**  
 Facilitators: Andrea LoBalbo (JSSA) and Melissa Hochberg, Resource Specialist (JCCNV)  
 Pre-registration required: 703-537-3040 or 703-896-7915

**Thursday, April 7** **10am-12Noon**  
**Visual Strategies to Support Success**

FCPS Dunn Loring Parent Resource Center (Entrance 2, Room 100), 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring **FREE**  
 Learn the power of using pictures to communicate with children with disabilities. Pre-made visuals, basic signing and other resources can help improve academic success, behavior and confidence! Download the flier at <http://www.fcps.edu/ccoprcl/documents/revisedflier.pdf>. Please register by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or registering online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/C986TGP>.

**Friday, April 29** **10am-3pm**  
**AUTISM AWARENESS DAY at the PRC**

FCPS Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services (Entrance 1) 2334 Gallows Rd., Dunn Loring **FREE**  
 The day will start with a workshop from 10:00 a.m. to noon, presented by The Office of Special Education Instruction, Applied Behavior Analysis Program. Resources, food and door prizes will be available throughout the day from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. For a complete list of all upcoming workshops, activities, and newsletters go to the PRC web site <http://www.fcps.edu/ccoprcl>, contact by email [prc@fcps.edu](mailto:prc@fcps.edu) or phone 703-204-3941 or 703-204-3955 (Español).

## Just another day at the office ...

On Wednesday, March 9, the staff of interventionists at the Infant and Toddler Connection were getting settled in for their twice monthly staff meeting. Just as the agenda got rolling, they were pleasantly interrupted by two staff members from Cabot of Vermont. The Cabot folks were making their rounds thanking people for all they do for the community with a "Random Act of Cheddar." They gave the staff bags and bags full of yummy cheese and then invited them outside for a picture with the plaid "cheese-mobile".



### ■ Cancellation Policy

Occasionally appointments may be cancelled by you or your interventionist. When this happens, cancellations are not typically made up because interventionists do not have blocks of time available for rescheduling missed appointments. Families should continue to utilize the strategies for everyday activities presented during previous visits. If you need to cancel an appointment, please contact your interventionist directly, or contact ITC at 703-246-7121.

### ■ Cancellations Due to Illness:

If your child or a family member is sick, please call to cancel your visit as soon as you can. Appointments should be cancelled if the child is not feeling well enough to participate in the visit, or if any of the following conditions are present:

■ Fever of 100 degrees during the last 24 hours

■ Diarrhea

■ Mouth sores



■ Two or more vomiting episodes during the last 24 hours

■ Unexplained rash with fever or behavioral changes

■ Other communicable diseases

■ Conjunctivitis (Pink eye) up until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated

■ **No-Shows:** Families are expected to cancel their appointments early enough that the interventionist would be able to schedule another family for that time period. If two consecutive appointments are missed without previous cancellation, or if appointments are frequently missed, the Service Coordinator will be notified and intervention sessions will be suspended. The Service Coordinator will contact the family to determine the barriers to service delivery and may schedule an IFSP review to identify and solve any problems.

 To request this information in an alternate format, call ITC-FFC, 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-FFC, 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