



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

In this final newsletter of 2011, we reflect back on what a busy, ever changing year it has been. Infant & Toddler Connection has seen a record number of children join our program and bid adieu to many others. Work colleagues have also come and gone. We look forward to an exciting 2012 and wish your family a wonderful holiday season! Allan Phillips, Director 703-246-7170 allan.phillips@fairfaxcounty.gov



Infant & Toddler
Connection of
Fairfax-Falls Church

Volume 16, Issue 4

WINTER 2011

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY REMINDER

ITC follows Fairfax County Public Schools weather related closing (available on Cable Channel 21 or at www.fcps.edu or the FCPS hotline at 800-839-3277)

- ⇒ When FCPS schools are CLOSED due to weather, all appointments are canceled.
- ⇒ When schools announce they will CLOSE EARLY, all appointments scheduled *after* the announcement are canceled.
- ⇒ When schools announce a LATE OPENING, all appointments beginning *before 12noon* are canceled.
- ⇒ When schools are not in session (school holiday) & FFX County Government has unscheduled leave in effect, all appointments are canceled.
- ⇒ In the above-listed cases, the ITC offices will remain OPEN unless FFX County Govt. CLOSES, in which case all appointments are canceled and ITC offices are closed. See your Welcome Book for complete details.

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.



Take some time out for yourself this holiday/winter season!

Pamela Hanner, ITC Infant Educator, recommends these BOOKS:

Rex-A mother, her autistic child, and the music that transformed their lives by Cathleen Lewis

Rex's mother was told her blind son would not walk or talk due to his diagnosis of autism, yet he grew up to be a musical savant, performing piano concerts all over the world.

A Thorn in My Pocket-Temple Grandin's Mother Tell the Family Story by Eustacia Cutler

Temple's mom shares her struggles to keep Temple mainstreamed in the family, community and school amidst rejection from her husband and others around her.

Not My Boy-A Father, a Son, and One Family's Journey with Autism by Rodney Peete

A compelling story of a father's unconditional love for his autistic son, whose diagnosis he first rejected.

Gift From My Son-Autism Redefined by Keli Lindelien

The toddler who was growing into a normal mischievous little boy changed overnight and so did all the members of the family, as they grew while looking into every possible avenue to help their boy.

Making Peace with Autism-One Family's Struggle Discovery, and Unexpected Gifts by Susan Senator

This mom describes her own journey with raising a son with severe autism spectrum disorder, while also raising two typically developing sons.

The Horse Boy-A Father's Quest to Heal his Son by Rupert Isaacson

When Rowan begins to say his first words at three while riding a horse with his dad, his father plans a horseback riding trip across Mongolia to take his autistic son on the adventure of his life.

Cowboy and Wills-A Love Story by Monica Holloway

Monica shares the extraordinary, deeply moving story of Cowboy, the golden retriever puppy who changed her autistic son's life.



Inside this issue:

Airline Travel	2
Websites/Podcasts	2
Upcoming Events/ Workshops	3
Behavior	4
Way to go Cathie!	4

Airline Travel with Children Who Have Special Needs



This excerpt is from [The Exceptional Advocate Newsletter Holiday Edition](#). The eNewsletter is a monthly publication for military families with special needs, but has useful articles for everyone. Please enjoy the entire edition, which includes articles about Coping with Holiday Stress, Enjoying the Holidays with Your Child, etc. at <http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/efmp/news>.

Traveling with Children Who Have Special Needs

Traveling with children can be quite an adventure. To minimize the possibility of triggering an alarm, ensure that all items have been **removed from your child's pockets at the security checkpoint** before beginning the security screening process. If your child has a special need or medical condition, consider the following tips to help the process go smoother:

- ☉ Let the security officer know if your child has any special needs or medical devices.
- ☉ Inform the security officer if you think the disability may result in your child becoming upset during the screening process.
- ☉ Tell the security officers about your child's physical abilities. Questions they may have include: Can your child stand up to be patted down? Can he or she walk through the metal detector? If selected for AIT, can your child stand still with their arms raised for five to seven seconds? Children can be carried through a metal detector but not through AIT.

- ☉ Offer suggestions on how to minimize any confusion or outbursts from your child during the screening process.
 - ☉ Ask the security officer for help with putting carry-on items on the x-ray belt if needed.
- Mobility Aids** – If your child is unable to walk or stand, the security officer will conduct a pat-down search of your child while he or she remains in the mobility aid. A visual and physical inspection of the equipment will be conducted. You may choose to remove your child from the mobility device, however, this responsibility is solely yours as the parent. The security officer should never remove a child from a mobility aid.
- Private Screenings** – You will not be separated from your child at any time during the screening process. If a private screening is required, you should escort and remain with your child during the process.

Whether you will be flying this holiday season or in the near future, **knowing what to expect as you travel through our nation's airports** will help you to better prepare for your trip. For more information about TSA passenger screening, visit the [TSA website](#) where you can find a wealth of detailed information about procedures, rules, special considerations, and rights for all travelers including those with various disabilities and specific medical conditions.

Happy travels!

Content Source: *Transportation Security Administration*

Early Childhood Development, Birth-Age 5

www.countdownMD.org

Family friendly resource available in 17 languages, supporting **early childhood development in all areas. Go to "Tips for Parents" to view "Countdown to Kindergarten, Learning Begins at Birth."**

Social & Emotional Development, Birth-Age 5

www.i-Kan.org

Brief overview and checklist of milestones in social and emotional development. Click on **"Resources" along the tool bar, then click on "For Parents and Community" and go to "Your Child's Social and Emotional Well-Being."** Look at **Birth-Age 5 Resources for "Snapshots of Your Child's Social and Emotional Well-Being."**

EZ AT 2: Simple Assistive Technology Ideas for Children Ages Birth to Three

www.pacer.org/stc/pubs/EZ-AT-book-2011-final.pdf

The PACER Center, in collaboration with the Tots 'n Tech Research Institute, recently published EZ AT 2, a guide for parents and professionals interested in helping infants and toddlers with disabilities participate more fully in daily routines and activities. It includes a collection of "Ideas to Share" from the Tots 'n Tech Research Institute, as well as easy-to-follow directions, a glossary, and a list of vendors where materials, supplies and AT can be easily located.

Lillie's Pad

www.lilliespad.com

Websites You Can Use

This online resource provides information about how to use the iPad and the iPhone to support those with disabilities.

The site is managed by a parent of a now four year old daughter who was born prematurely. Blogs, resources, articles, and news of speaking engagements are featured.

Celebrating Special Children

www.celebratingspecialchildren.org

Check it out for lots of link information plus an article on establishing a special needs trust and inclusive schools week Dec. 5-9, 2011.

Tots-n-Tech Website & Helpdesk

<http://tnt.asu.edu>

Information about using technology in early intervention. Includes newsletters, resource helpdesk, research briefs and examples of low-tech and hi-tech put into practice. Created by Arizona State & Thomas Jefferson University.

PODCASTS

"Little Kids, Big Questions" Podcast Series

This podcast series empowers listeners to find their own way through, using research as their guide. Little Kids, Big Questions is a series of 12 podcasts with leading experts that translates the research of early childhood development into practices that mothers, fathers and other caregivers can tailor to the needs of their own child and family. Click here to listen to or download the podcasts, or visit

www.zerotothree.org/parentingpodcasts.

January 2012

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	31				

February 2012

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			

Information from NICHCY about Behavior

- ⇒ Visit ZERO TO THREE's set of resources designed to help parents better understand and cope with some of the typical challenges in children's early years: aggression, defiance, inconsolable crying, slow-to-warm-up children, and sleep. <http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/challenging-behavior/>
- ⇒ What does temperament have to do with behavior? Infants and toddlers have temperaments, just like older children and adults. This list of questions describe different child behaviors; the answers link parents to relevant resources. <http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/temperament-behavior/q-a-temperament.html>
- ⇒ Is your child's behavior caused by a disability? Read more about how problem behavior and disability may coincide. Another great Wrightslaw article. <http://www.wrightslaw.com/nltr/11/nl.0215.htm>
- ⇒ Sensory integration dysfunction checklist. Is a child's behavior due to, or affected by, a sensory integration dysfunction? Sensory issues are often an underlying component of AD/HD, learning disabilities, mental health issues, and autism spectrum disorders. http://www.childrensdisabilities.info/sensory_integration/sensorydysfunctionteachers.html

NICHCY's *Effective Practices in Early Intervention* page will connect you with 7 top-notch resources on addressing challenging behavior in young children.

<http://nichcy.org/babies/effectivepractices#behavior>

Upcoming Workshops/Events

Tuesday, January 17 11am-12N
Parent Resource Center Workshop



“Introduction to Special Education” FREE

PRC, 2334 Gallows Rd. Entrance 1, Rm. 105, Dunn Loring
Join us for this orientation for parents NEW to Special Education. An overview of the process, free CD of resources & more! To download the flyer & register online, go to www.fcps.edu/ccopr/resources/events/index.shtml

Wednesday, January 18 7:30-9:00pm
Auburn School Herndon Campus Speak-



er Series “Significant Tax Reductions for Students Attending Special Education Schools” with Matthew Miller, Educational Tax Advisor FREE

Auburn School, 13525 Dulles Technology Dr., Herndon
All evening speaker events are open to the public. For complete details and to register, go to www.theauburnschool.org/herndonspeaker

Monday, January 30 7:30-9:00pm



Access Community Lecture Series “From Chaos to Calm” with Author Sharon Weiss FREE

McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna
For more information, contact Erin at [@mcleanbible.org](mailto:Erin.Roundtree) or 703-770-2938.

The evening is open to everyone. RSVP appreciated, but not required.

Friday, February 17 8:30am-4:30pm



Auburn School Herndon Campus Speaker Series
“Understanding Neuropsychological Assessment of Learning Disorders for Non-Psychologists” presented by William R. Stixrud, Ph.D.

This full-day workshop is designed to help educators, other professionals, and interested parents better understand the results obtained from neuropsychological testing of students with learning difficulties. For details, cost, and registration information, visit www.stixrud.com.

Part C — Additional Information

In the last edition, we reported that the US Department of Education had released the final regulations under Part C of IDEA. Here are more details:
[Side-by-side comparison of the 2011 final Part C regulations to the 1999 regulations](#): This side-by-side comparison of the new regulations with the previous ones for Part C has been developed by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), its Division for Early Childhood (DEC), and the IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association. <http://tinyurl.com/4y73wgw>
[Companion slides with the side-by-side](#): The IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association also offers several companion slide sets that distill the side-by-side comparison by subject. At the link, these resources include the word "slides."

<http://www.ideainfanttoddler.org/regulations.htm>

Congratulations Cathie!

Cathie Blanton, an Infant Educator with ITC, was recognized by county executives for her contributions on November 15 and granted an Outstanding Performance Award. This is **why Cathie won:** “Cathie has been responsible for mentoring graduate-level interns at ITC. The field of early intervention is very specialized, and providers are often hard to find. Cathie takes the responsibility of training the next generation of interventionists to heart. She takes pride in ensuring that the requirements of the student program are met and that their experience truly prepares them for work in the field. She receives excellent reviews from the students and the advisors at the University. Past students have sought jobs as providers in the county; they report that their transition from student to employee was smooth due to the experiences that they received under Cathie.” **Way to go!**



- **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.

Infant & Toddler Connection
of Fairfax-Falls Church



3750 Old Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: 703-246-7121

Address Correction Requested