



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

Dear Families of ITC,
Thank you for taking the time to contact your local and state level legislators, asking them to support funding for Early Intervention Services. We have good news from both!



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

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APRIL/MAY 2013

From the state: The General Assembly completed the state budget. The budget includes \$2.25million for Early Intervention for SFY13 (this year through June 30, 2013) and \$6million for state fiscal year 2014 (begins July 1, 2013).

From the county: Fairfax County's 2014 Budget proposal includes an increase to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, of which \$1million is due to increased demand and rising costs of ITC anticipated for FY2014. The funding will be used primarily to support increased contractor expenses and additional services to provide clinical and therapeutic services to more eligible children.

Although further action and approval needs to happen by the Governor for the State budget and our Board of Supervisors for the County budget, this represents a true recognition of the importance of services for ITC and how no one wants eligible children to wait! Kudos to both!

As always, please let me know if you have program concerns, comments or compliments.

Thank you,
Allan Phillips, Director ITC

allan.phillips@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-246-7170

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.

Let's hope that Winter is gone and Spring is on it's way. Now is the time to get out and enjoy Fairfax County's many parks! A complete listing can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-glance003.htm. Good news! A new 22-space parking lot and scenic pull-off area at Langley Fork Park, located across the road from Clemyjontri Park at 6266 Georgetown Pike in McLean, has eased parking concerns. If you have never been to **Clemyjontri Park**, go visit daily 7am to Dusk. The park features a unique playground where children of all abilities play side by side. At Clemyjontri, ramps connect structures, swings have high backs, arm rests and special safety features, rubber surfacing allows wheelchairs to roll easily, lowered monkey bars provide easy access, equipment is sensory rich, wider openings allow easy access to play structures. Other features include a carousel and picnic pavilion. Enjoy!



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PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

Are you the parent or guardian of a young child with a developmental disability? If you are, now is the time to apply for a free training program called PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING (PIP). Only 30 people from across Virginia will be chosen to be Partners. Classes, held on Friday evenings and Saturdays, begin in September 2013 and conclude in May 2014. Eight sessions are held; lodging, meals, training and transportation (plus individual accommodations such as personal care attendants and interpreters) are paid for participants in Partners.

Topics covered in the sessions include independent living, assistive technology, supported employment, and history of the disability rights movement. Partners practice presenting testimony and learn about impacting the legislative process. Download the application at www.vaboard.org/policymaking.htm and include three letters of recommendation. Materials are accepted electronically, by fax, or by mail. If you have questions, please contact Rachel Loria at 1-800-846-4464 or Rachel.loria@vbpd.virginia.gov for more information. PIP is a training program for those who want to make a difference by becoming a skilled, informed advocate for people with disabilities. Deadline is April 30.

PROJECT LIFESAVER

Project Lifesaver assists families and caregivers of individuals with autism spectrum disorder, Down Syndrome, and related conditions and disabilities. Project Lifesaver clients wear a wrist or ankle band that emits a silent tracking signal. When caregivers notify the Sheriff's Office that a loved one is missing, a search and rescue team comprised of specifically trained sheriff's deputies responds to the area with state-of-the-art tracking equipment. The program has a 100% track record of locating wandering adults and children and bringing them home. If you are interested:

1. Download a Project Lifesaver Application www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/project-lifesaver-application.pdf on behalf of the potential client and caregiver.
2. Download a Caregiver Contract www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/caregiver-contract.pdf.
3. Complete both documents and mail them to: Project Lifesaver, Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, 10520-B Judicial Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030
4. Note that you may be put on a waiting list after you submit the above documents.

Websites and More ... You Can Use

Bridging Apps

www.bridgingapps.org

Many parents have found using mobile devices with their children who have special needs to be beneficial in numerous ways. However, finding appropriate apps for your child can be challenging and confusing. We view our website as a shortcut in that process. Get all the tools you need including new app reviews, a newsletter and more.

Social & Emotional Development

Zero to Three <http://tinyurl.com/axq6zc3>

This lengthy resource page offers many avenues to explore with respect to understanding and supporting healthy emotional development starting at birth.

TACSEI (Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children)

www.challengingbehavior.org/index.htm has taken the research that shows which practices improve the social-emotional outcomes for young children with delays or disabilities.

CSEFEL (Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning)

<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/> focuses on promoting the social-emotional development of children birth to age 5.

Early Intervention Support

www.earlyinterventionsupport.com

The website is a place for families who are facing challenges pertaining to their child's development and growth. It is a place to find answers and practical suggestions.

Toys for Different Developmental Stages

www.earlyinterventionsupport.com/parentingtips/products/toy-choices.aspx

Learn what toys are right for the different stages of development.

Coping with a Picky Eater

www.eatright.org/Public/content.aspx?id=6442474375

Children are often more open to new foods when everyone surrounding them is more relaxed about eating. Find out more at this from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Toddler Exercise: Five Tips to Get Moving!

www.whattoexpect.com/toddler-safety/toddler-exercise.aspx

Keep your toddler active with these simple strategies.

April 2013

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 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 		
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	

Early Childhood Development Survey Reminder—Deadline March 31

If you have not done so already, please take time to complete an anonymous statewide early care and education needs assessment, conducted by the Virginia Department of Social Services and JMU. The survey will capture the views of families and professionals working with young children on early childhood care and education. This information will help identify the most critical needs and services for children and families in Fairfax County. Participation will take approximately 20 minutes and is available in English, Spanish & Arabic at http://jmu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5p51beWYnOwlHec

Thursday & Friday, May 2 & 3 **FREE**

STOMP Training for Military Families

Langley, VA 
Regulations and services for special needs children vary from state to state. As a military parent, you may find it difficult to get current information that supports your child's education or health needs. Specialized Training of Military Parents (STOMP) is a Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center dedicated to empowering military families with the training and information they need to promote success for their child with special needs. Knowledge and skills you learn from STOMP can make you a more effective advocate for your child. STOMP staff present training workshops and conferences. The topics are unique to military families and tailored to the local installation and surrounding community. For more information, please contact your installation's EFMP or STOMP www.stompproject.org/events.asp

Upcoming Workshops/Events

Friday, April 5 10:00am-1:30pm FREE
Autism Awareness Day at FCPS Parent Resource Center (PRC) 

Our Autism Awareness Day will include a morning workshop, an afternoon workshop, resources, refreshments & door prizes!
FCPS Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services
2334 Gallows Road, Entrance I- Room 100, Dunn Loring
For more information and to register, call 703-204-3941.

Friday, April 19 3:00-9:00pm \$135/pp
Saturday, April 20 7:30am-3:30pm
Accessibility Summit 2013 

This is a national summit for individuals of all faiths and disabilities. There are two keynote speakers, four workshop sessions and over 40 presentations to choose from. More schedule and workshop information, as well as registration information is available at www.accessibilitysummit.org.

Monday, April 22 2:00-5:00pm \$5/pp
Sibshop 

Sibshop is an exciting program for siblings of children with special needs, 7 to 11 years old. They are a lively mix of new games, discussions, and guest speakers. Make new friends, and have fun! Registration is required. Download the form at <http://www.fcps.edu/ccopr/resources/events/documents/SibshopsRegistrationForm2013.pdf>

Contact Wanda Vander Nat at 571-226-8474 with questions.

Saturdays, April 27 9:00am-2:00pm FREE
& May 25

Safety Seat Saturday

Fairfax County Public Safety Center, Public Parking Garage
10550 Page Avenue, Fairfax 

Specially trained and certified sheriff's deputies will help parents and caregivers ensure that a child fits securely in the safety seat and that the safety seat fits securely in the vehicle seat. Bring your vehicle, safety seat(s) and child.

Sunday, May 12 11am \$12.00+
Imagination Stage: James & the Giant Peach Sensory Friendly Show 

Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD

Sensory-friendly performances are designed to be more accessible to those individuals on the autism spectrum or to others with sensory sensitivities. Our Box Office and Front of House staffs are trained to create an accessible and welcoming experience for your child and your family. To purchase tickets, or ask any questions about this event, please call 301-280-1660. Tickets may be purchased by phone only. For more information, go to www.imaginationstage.org.

Monday, May 13 7:30-9:00pm FREE
Access Lecture Series: Financial Planning Stages for the Special Needs Family 

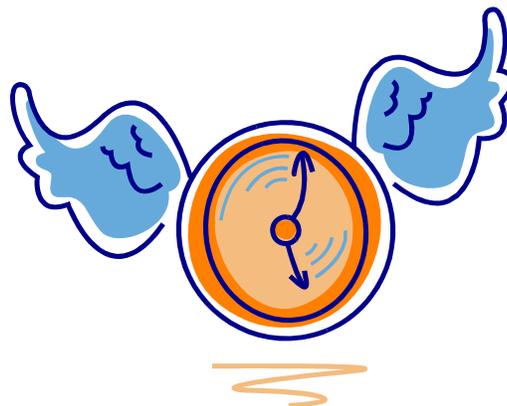
McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna

Lecture presented by T. Patrick Hammeke, The Washington Group. For more information, go to www.accessministrymbc.org. RSVP is appreciated but not required to erin.roundtree@mcleanbible.org.

Length of Service Awards

Infant & Toddler Connection has many long-term employees, who have dedicated themselves to the families of Fairfax County. Employees who were recently celebrated with Length of Service milestones include:

- Debbie Billodeaux, Service Coordinator - 20 years
- Meribeth Fannin, Intake Coordinator - 20 years
- Mary Hodapp, Speech Therapist - 15 years
- Tricia Hine, Speech Therapist - 10 years



Additional staff members with more than 10 years of service include among others:

- Wilma Bridget-Scott, Physical Therapist
- Rosario Costas, Service Coordinator
- Bonnie Kandel, Physical Therapist
- Susan Sigler, Director of Clinical Services
- Ana Catoni-Yildirim, Service Coordinator
- Susan Branner, Service Coordinator

And last but not least, our ITC Director Allan Phillips with well over 30 years of experience!

Ask your therapist and Service Coordinator how long each has been serving the children of ITC!

 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