



# 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,

The General Assembly is in session to decide the budget for the next biennium for Virginia. The first step of this process is for the Governor to release his planned budget for spending. Governor McDonnell did this at the end of December 2012. The good news is that he proposed an additional \$3 million of one time money for 2013 to address the tremendous growth in Early Intervention Services across the state. He also proposed an increase of \$3 million added to the base for 2014.

The issue we face is that the estimate of what is needed in Virginia to serve all eligible children is \$8.5 million. An amendment will be introduced to increase the onetime money by \$5.5 million to be added to the Governors proposed \$3 million for 2014.

Please take a moment to write to your legislators, asking them to support the amendment to increase funding for Early Intervention Services. The \$8.5 million is needed so all eligible children across Virginia will get the services they need through their local Infant & Toddler Connection. See below for tips from Voices for Virginia's Children. As always, please let me know if you have program concerns, comments or compliments.

Thank you & Happy New Year,

Allan Phillips, Director ITC

[allan.phillips@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:allan.phillips@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-246-7170

### **Tips for Sharing Your Early Intervention Success Story—Writing a Letter:**

**Audience-** Your legislative representatives and the members of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees. If you need help finding your legislator visit: <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/VGAMain?openform> or [www.vakids.org](http://www.vakids.org)

**Format-** A typed or handwritten letter is great, but even an email will work! If you have time to write and mail a letter, check out the Advocacy Tools on [www.vakids.org](http://www.vakids.org) for helpful tips.

**Focus-** The most important thing to share is how early intervention services impacted your child. Please use specific examples of milestones achieved, or progress made, to demonstrate the outcomes. If early intervention also had an impact on how you approach your role as a parent, please share that information as well.

**Ask-** The increase in infants identified for early intervention services has created a budget shortfall of over \$8 million in early intervention (Part C) funding. Please ask to ensure that Virginia's budget includes enough funding to cover this shortfall and serve all infants and toddlers identified as needing services. Acknowledge and thank the Governor for providing an additional \$3 million as a start.

**Share-** If you have time, it would be great to forward individual copies of your letter to the entire Appropriations or Finance committees. You can also send a copy to [Emily@vakids.org](mailto:Emily@vakids.org) and we will make sure that committee members receive a copy of your letter.



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

Volume 18, Issue 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/  
MARCH 2013

### **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.

### **Inside this issue:**

Share Your ITC Fairfax Story	2
Websites & More	2
Upcoming Events/ Workshops	3
Lots of them, mostly free!	3
Congratulations to Bonnie & Belkis!	4

## TIPS FOR SHARING YOUR EARLY INTERVENTION STORY (Cont. from Page 1)

### Talking Points on Early Intervention

- Thank the Governor for including an additional \$3 million to early intervention services. This provides a start to meet the \$8 million shortfall, however additional funds will be needed to ensure that all infants and toddlers identified for needing intervention can be served.
- Since 2007, the number of children receiving early intervention services has increased 52% to 15,676 children being served in 2012. This increase is a good sign that more parents are becoming aware of early intervention services.
- Despite the increase in infants and toddlers served, Virginia still falls well below the estimated number of children that could benefit from services. Studies in the Journal of Pediatrics show that delays are likely prevalent in 13% of infants and toddlers, even though current services only reach less than 3% of infants and toddlers.
- Reaching infants and toddlers during those most critical years of development from 0-3 means that they can avoid additional special education or intervention services later on. This also saves parents, insurance companies and the state from covering expensive health interventions or special education when delays are not identified early on.
- If due to funding restrictions, infants and toddlers must wait to receive services, or do not receive a full complement of services, they may miss the window of opportunity to benefit from services. The longer children and parents must wait to get help addressing these developmental concerns, the longer that both the child and parents will be frustrated and experience stress.
- 1 out of 5 infants and toddlers identified with delays graduates from early intervention before they reach age 3. The average length of time that children are served is 9 months. Few other interventions will see that level of success in a short time frame. The individualized services that are provided through early intervention foster these successes.
- Fully funding these services will allow Virginia to be in compliance with federal requirements to provide early intervention services for all infants and toddlers identified as needing services. If Virginia falls out of compliance, the federal funding could also be at-risk.

Questions? Please contact Emily Griffey at [Emily@vakids.org](mailto:Emily@vakids.org) or (804) 649-0184

## Websites and More ... You Can Use

### **WINTER 2013 Parent Connection Resource Guide,**

[http://www.scanva.org/downloads/ParentConnection\\_Winter2013.pdf](http://www.scanva.org/downloads/ParentConnection_Winter2013.pdf)

Tool for finding local classes, support groups and more for parents and families.

### **Grant Sources for Special Needs Kids**

[http://www.hannahshopefund.org/files/1513/4206/3270/grant\\_sources\\_2011.pdf](http://www.hannahshopefund.org/files/1513/4206/3270/grant_sources_2011.pdf)

Listing from the Kaufman Children's Center

### **AbilityPath** [www.abilitypath.org](http://www.abilitypath.org)

Support for parents of children with special needs, including child development information, health and daily care, tools & resources, expert tips, etc.

### **NAEYC** <http://families.naeyc.org/>

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has developed a collection of resources. The new page features "Families Today", a column by Doctors T. Berry Brazelton and Joshua Sparrow, information on quality child care and preschool programs, and resources to support development.

### **Tots 'N Tech Newsletter** <http://tnt.asu.edu/newsletters>

December's Newsletter: Using AT to Promote Literacy in Infants and Toddlers—This edition contains a guide to using AT to incorporate literacy into everyday activities and

routines. Check the website for December's issue or previous issues chock full of useful information.

### **Friendship Circle Blog: Managing Challenging Behavior**

<http://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2012/10/22/special-needs-parenting-12-tips-for-managing-challenging-behavior/>

12 Tips written by Gina Skourti, a Behavioral Support Practitioner

### **GoGoGames** <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/go-go-games/id565022507?ls=1&mt=8>

GoGoGames is a suite of games on iTunes that helps children to learn to notice multiple features of the objects in the world around them. Improvements in this critical ability lead to gains across a broad range of skills.

### **Parent Review** <https://www.theparentreview.com/DoD/>

for military families is a free email newsletter service available to new or expecting parents. Newsletter content includes current, research-based health, safety, and parenting tips, answers to frequently asked parenting questions and developmental stages, and parenting news. The information that parents receive each week reflects pregnancy or the child's age. Registration is free and simple.

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 
27	28	29	30	31		

February 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		

March 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
31						

**Saturday, March 2 8:00am-2:00pm FREE**  
**8th Annual Special Education Conference**  
 Hayfield Secondary School,  
 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria   
 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Robert Brooks  
 The conference program, list of workshops and online registration will be available at [www.fcps.edu/dss/conference](http://www.fcps.edu/dss/conference).

**Monday, March 11 7:30-9:00pm FREE**  
**Access Lecture Series: The Care and Nurture of Siblings of Children with Disabilities**   
 McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna  
 Lecture presented by Wanda VanderNat, Psychologist, Kilmer Center. For more information, go to [www.accessministrymbc.org](http://www.accessministrymbc.org). RSVP is appreciated but not required to [erin.roundtree@mcleanbible.org](mailto:erin.roundtree@mcleanbible.org).

**Wednesday, March 13 7:00-8:00pm FREE**  
**Auburn School Speaker Series: Executive Functioning**   
 Lecture presented by Dr. Laura Kenworthy, National Children's Medical Center, Author of *Unstuck and On Target*  
 For information and registration, see February 13 listing.

Upcoming Workshops/Events

**Saturdays, January 26 9:00am-2:00pm FREE**

**February 23 & March 23**

**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.

**Wednesday, February 6 7:00-8:30pm FREE**

**Introduction to Special Education**

FCPS Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services 

2334 Gallows Road, Room 100, Dunn Loring

Join us for this orientation for parents NEW to special education. Learn about the process and the resources available to help your child be successful. For more information visit [www.fcps.edu/ccolprc](http://www.fcps.edu/ccolprc), or call 703-204-3941. Register online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/introductiontospecialeducation-february2013>

**Saturday, February 9 9:00am-4:00pm \$30**

**PossAbilities to Practical Applications Conference,**

presented by the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond 

Sheraton Richmond Park South, 9901 Midlothian Parkway, Richmond, VA

This full-day conference will kick off with a continental breakfast and Keynote address, by nationally-recognized inclusion specialist, author, parent, and educator, Michael Remus. Morning and afternoon breakout sessions and lunch included. For more details, including our schedule and accommodations, and to register, go to <http://www.dsagr.com/home/conference>

**Wednesday, February 13 7:00-8:00pm FREE**

**Auburn School Speaker Series: Technology for Autism Spectrum Disorders** 

Auburn School, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Suite 101, Herndon 703-793-9353

Lecture presented by Joan Green, Author of The Ultimate Guide to Assistive Technology in Special Education

The Auburn School runs a free speaker series open to current and prospective parents, professionals and members of the community. To register, go to <http://www.theauburnschool.org/forms.cfm?myForm=11022>

**Thursday, February 14 10:00am-12n FREE**

**Brain Development & Learning in Children with Down Syndrome**

FCPS Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services 

2334 Gallows Road, Room 100, Dunn Loring

The National Institute of Mental Health will present this workshop about current research studies and findings on children with DS, including brain development, cognitive development, language skills and executive function skills. For more info. go to [www.fcps.edu/ccolprc](http://www.fcps.edu/ccolprc), or call 703-204-3941. Register online at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/down\\_syndrome](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/down_syndrome)

## Outstanding Performance Awards for Bonnie & Belkis

November 9, 2012 marked a double celebration at Infant & Toddler Connection. Two long time Pediatric Physical Therapists, Bonnie Kandel and Belkis Negron were honored by Fairfax County with Outstanding Performance Awards. This is what was written about them:

### Bonnie Kandel, Physical Therapist

Bonnie is always positive and embraces change. She brings a "can do" attitude to all aspects of her job. Whenever there is a change, she leads the way by example. When she finds the best way to implement change, she shares her strategies with others. Kandel is willing to change her work hours to help out with needs across the program. She is passionate in her belief that early intervention matters and is an excellent physical therapist who makes a significant difference in the lives of children and families.



### Belkis Negron, Physical Therapist

Belkis is always ready and willing to help her families and co-workers. Some of her families work long hours, so she changes her day in order to see their children. Bilingual, she utilizes her skills to help her families communicate with physicians. She is often sought out by other employees because she is a supportive, caring interventionist who develops a strong rapport with families. Negron is an extremely talented physical therapist.



*Congratulations to both women. So glad to have you as part of our ITC-FF team!*

 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