



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,
Happy New Year! Thank you very much for supporting Infant & Toddler Connection in the recent budget hearings. It is essential that families' voices be heard and I encourage all of you to not only advocate for your own child, but all of the children receiving ITC services throughout the state. If you have not done so already, please take advantage of the webinars being offered by the Arc of Virginia to learn more. Sign up for New Path newsletter to be notified of upcoming events at <http://new-path.thearcofva.org/>. Finally, get to know other ITC parents and caregivers and share your experiences. Our staff puts together many fun events and I encourage you to participate. We have expanded the events to two locations in the county to make it more convenient for you. Please see the details in this newsletter. As always, feel free to contact me if you have a comment or concern about ITC.

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



Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church

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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.

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: GET TO KNOW OTHER FAMILIES IN INFANT & TODDLER CONNECTION

Having a child with special needs can often leave a parent or caregiver feeling isolated. Family members and parents of typical peers just may not "get it". Now is the time to meet other parents and caregivers who do get it! Join our ITC groups for child playtime and family socializing. Join us at either or both! Events are free of charge and siblings are welcome. RSVPs appreciated.

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS & FRIDAY FAMILY FUN MARTES GRUPO DE JUEGO & UNETE ITC PARA UN VIERNES DE DIVERSION FAMILIAR

Venga a disfrutar de una hora de socialización con niños de ITC y sus familias. No necesitamos confirmación, pero comuníquense con su coordinadora para más información.

Tuesdays— January 28, February 25, March 25 10-11am

ITC South County—8350 Richmond Highway, Suite 515, Alexandria

For information or to RSVP, contact Christina Huie at 703-704-5016 or christina.huie@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Fridays—January 31, February 28, March 28 10:30am-12N

ITC Fairfax—3750 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax

For information or to RSVP, contact Nistha Pokhrel at 703-246-7195 or nistha.pokhrel@fairfaxcounty.gov.

REMINDER: ITC INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

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

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



Despite the above announced closings, an interventionist or an ASP/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, **ITC offices REMAIN OPEN** for administrative purposes **AND FOR CENTER-BASED ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER SERVICES. THEREFORE, ASSESSMENTS SCHEDULED AT THE ITC OFFICE WILL TAKE PLACE REGARDLESS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL CLOSINGS.** If the Fairfax County Government CLOSSES, all assessments, reviews & sessions will be cancelled and ITC offices will be CLOSED.

Websites and More ... You Can Use

Center for Parent Information & Resources

www.parentcenterhub.org

This is your resource for finding parent supports in both English and Spanish. You can find links to local parent centers, current news on special education and early intervention, archived trainings and more.

Parenting Resources from Zero to Three

www.zerotothree.org/child-development/

Zero to Three is a national, nonprofit organization that provides parents, professionals and policymakers the knowledge and know-how to nurture early development. The first three years of life are a period of incredible growth in all areas of a baby's development. Check out the website for behavior and development topics, e-newsletters and more.

Preemie World Newsletter

www.preemieworld.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/PreemiePARENT012014.pdf

Preemie World publishes a free monthly newsletter. Go to their website www.preemieworld.com/blog/ for resources and to join the mailing list.

Dulles Moms Website

www.dullesmoms.com

Dulles Moms is your resource to family friendly events and activities in the Greater Dulles area. It includes a Special Needs section, calendar of events,

articles and more.

Find the Right App for Your Child

www.friendshipcircle.org/apps/

The Friendship Circle offers a database with over 1,000 Apple & Android apps for children with disabilities. You can search by platform, category, or price and see descriptions, costs, average ratings, and testimonials from users.

For Military Families: Pathways Autism Education Series

Monday & Tuesday, January 27-28 10-12:30pm

National Autism Center is providing free two-morning seminars designed for military parents or caregivers of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. Presented by Dr. Hanna C. Rue, Exec. Dir., National Autism Center and VP of Autism Services, May Institute. The first day will discuss assessing and managing challenging behaviors and the second day will be choosing and using evidence-based practices for the treatment of children. The seminar is made possible through the generous support of Autism Speaks. Free on-site childcare is available upon request. Limited space and pre-registration is required at 571-931-0524.

McHugh Woods Community Center
18005 Cutts Ave., Quantico

January 2014

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 2014

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 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	1/8 
9 	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 
23	24	25 	26	27	28 	29
30	31					

Upcoming Workshops/Events

Saturdays, January 25, February 15, March 22 **8:00am-12:00pm** **FREE**

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.

Saturday, February 1 **9:00am-4:00pm** **\$40**

2nd Annual "From PossAbilities to Practical Applications" Educational Conference, presented by DSAGR (Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond)



This full day conference for parents, educators and professionals will kick off with a keynote address by Patti McVay.

Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa at Short Pump
12042 West Broad Street, Richmond

For complete information and to register, go to www.dsagr.com/home/conference

Monday, February 3 **7:30-9:00pm** **FREE**

Access Community Lecture Series: Homeschooling Children with Special Needs

presented by Learn Differently, LLC

McLean Bible Church Tysons Community Room A
8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna

RSVP requested by contacting Erin Roundtree at 703-770-2938

Wednesday, February 5 **7:00-9:00pm** **FREE**

Introduction to Special Education—An Orientation for Parents NEW to the Process!

This orientation is appropriate for parents with children new to Special Ed or in the referral/eligibility phase.

FCPS Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services

2334 Gallows Road, Entrance I- Room 105, Dunn Loring
For more information and to register, call 703-204-3941 or register online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/IntroFebruary2014

Saturday, February 15 **10am**

AMC Sensory Friendly Films presents "The Lego Movie"

AMC Tysons Corner 16, 7850e Tysons Corner, Mclean
AMC 2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886, Woodbridge



The program provides a special opportunity for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums dedicated to the program have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members are invited to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing!

Saturday, March 1 **8am-2pm**

FCPS 9th Annual Special Education Conference

Woodson High School, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax

An exciting, informative event for parents and educators. Ellen Galinsky, President of Families and Work Institute and author of *Mind In The Making* is the keynote speaker. The conference program, list of workshops, exhibit hall details and registration information will be available online at

www.fcps.edu/dss/conference.



Celebrate World Down Syndrome Day at Great Wolf Lodge!

Friday, March 7-Sunday, March 9

\$169.00/night plus tax (min. 2 night stay)

Plus \$9.99 for resort fees, coving internet, towels, life jackets and parking

Includes 6 water park passes
Make a reservation in Williamsburg by calling 800-559-WOLF(9653) by 1/20/14. Identify yourself as an IDSC (International Down Syndrome Coalition) member with code 0314INTE



Congratulations to Pam Park!

On November 8, 2013, longtime Service Coordinator Pam Park was granted a Fairfax County OPA for her work. Outstanding Performance Awards (OPAs) provide recognition to employees who perform the duties and responsibilities of their positions in an outstanding manner, and whose work is generally well above expectations. Pam supervised the first regional office established by the Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church, developing an organization that modeled the teamwork necessary for providing excellent customer service in an extremely diverse environment. During this time, she was also integral in working with the Integrated Training Collaborative, established by the state to revamp their training regimen. Her work with this group resulted in much improved training for service coordinators and service providers. Over her illustrious career with ITC, she has worked as an Occupational Therapist, Service Coordinator, Service Coordinator Supervisor and Regional Manager.

Congratulations!



 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