



Your October Early Intervention Family Newsletter

We have updated our newsletter to a more mobile friendly format and have focused on upcoming fun events for children and families. Information on many ongoing support programs can be found on our [website](#). This month our Resource Spotlight focuses on the wonderful story times and programs offered at **Your Local Library**, another great resource for families with children age 0-3, read below for more information and then plan to visit your library soon!

To find additional information on family support programs, or other resources for families in Early Intervention, please click the link below to be taken to the family resource information page on our website.

-The Staff at Child & Family Connections #15

[Visit our Website](#)

Upcoming Fun Family Events

[Free Inclusive Glow Art Experience](#) Saturday, Oct 6th from 2-6pm. Come create with the community, the **Bolingbrook Arts Council**, and **ZotArtz** in a safe and fun environment.

[Great Pumpkin Giveaway](#) October 6 10am-3pm Three Rivers Church, 23901 W. Rolf Rd., Plainfield EVERYTHING is free that day: hay rides, kids crafts, balloon art, puppet shows, carnival games, moon jumps, and more...and of course, your pumpkin!



[Chicago Parent Fall Playdate](#) at the Naperville Yard Sports Complex Saturday, October 13th from 10am -3pm for kids age 2-14. Bounce Houses, Character visits, trains rides, & obstacle courses. This year dress up for the costume parade and costume contest! Tickets for kids age 2-3 years cost \$4 and \$8 for kids over three. Adults are free with child.

Family Nights are back at the Joliet YMCA! Free & open to all. [Halloween Spooktacular/Trunk or Treat](#) **October 27th 1:30-3:30pm** at the Avery Family YMCA & a [Halloween Edition Outdoor movie night](#) on October 12th and [Trunk or Treat](#), October 26th at the Smith Family YMCA and October 19th at the Galowich Family YMCA.

The [Will County Forest Preserve online calendar](#) has several fun events scheduled for families and young children such as the Trick or Treat in the Woods on October 12th & 13th at Plum Creek Nature Center.

[Barnes and Noble storytimes](#) Saturdays at 11am in Joliet, Bolingbrook, Orland Park, Naperville, and Bourbonnais stores. Click the link to view October dates.

[#TBTuesday Summer Movie Series at the Rialto Square Theatre](#). The next movie is **Young Frankenstein** on October 30th at 7pm. Tickets are \$5.

[Minooka Community Bonfire](#) October 27th from 6:30-8:30pm. There will be FREE hot dogs, chips, marshmallows, and stories around the fire. Bring lawn chairs and hot dog sticks. Lakewood Ball Field, Ridge Road. For more information, contact 815-467-2151, ext. 5

[Haunted Museum Family Free Day](#) October 28th noon-5pm Get your costumes on and bring the whole family for a special day of activities, giveaways, and Halloween fun!

Pumpkin Farms and Fall Festivals

The [Dollinger Family Farm](#) in Channahon is open now through Oct 30th. Free Admission & parking. Playground, farm animals, pumpkins & more! Some activities & events have a fee.

[Heaps Giant Pumpkin Farm](#) in Minooka has a pumpkin patch, hayride, corn maze and more. Free admission & parking. Some activities have a fee.

[Siegel's Cottonwood Farm](#) in Lockport is open now through Halloween, with over 30 fun attractions! They are hosting a Special Needs weekend on October 27th & 28th.

[Bengstens Pumpkin Fest](#) in Homer Glen offers fun for all with a pumpkin patch, petting zoo, rides and more.

[Konows Corn Maze](#) in Homer Glen is open! With a pumpkin patch, rides, game and food!

[Pumpkin Daze at Abbey Farms](#) in Aurora open now through Oct 28th with fun for the whole family.

[Lincoln Park Zoo Free Family Fall fest](#) open Fridays-Sundays through Oct 28th with pumpkins, games, rides and attractions!

[Boo at the Zoo](#) at Brookfield Zoo Saturdays & Sundays October 13-28. Fun filled family event!

[Odyssey Fun Farm](#) in Tinley Park is open now through October 28th. They have a pumpkin patch, corn maze and fun games and activities!

[Festivals and Fun Events in Kankakee County](#) Check out the [Halloween Downtown](#) on October 21st with food, music, free activities for kids and a trunk-or-treat in the afternoon.

[The Promenade Bolingbrook Fall Festival](#) October 28 11-7pm The Promenade Bolingbrook, 631 E. Boughton Rd., Bolingbrook We will have fall and holiday items, crafters, handmade items, baked goods and trick or treating!

Park District Events

[Lemont Park District Fall Fest](#) October 6th, 3-6pm. FREE event with live music from Prairie Station, a scarecrow building contest, kids zone, amazing kiddie straw maze, snacks, hayrides and more!

[Joliet Park District has free fun family events](#) such as the Scarecrow making at Pilcher Park, Saturday October 6th from 11-1pm. Admission is Free, scarecrows cost \$5.

[Check out the fun events at Frankfort Park District](#) such as the Halloween Haunting with inflatables, DJ, hayride, games and crafts on October 19th 6-9pm. Wristbands are \$10

Check out the upcoming [Fun events at the Bolingbrook Park District](#) such as their Freaky Friday Fun on October 12th and Parkie's Floating Pumpkin Patch at the Aquatic Center on October 26th.

[Special Events at Romeoville Park District](#) include [Halloween Fest](#) on Friday October 26th!

[Naperville Park District](#) has several fun family events such as the [Halloween Happening](#) on Sunday, October 28th at the Naperville Riverwalk Pavillion

[New Lenox Park District offers fun special events](#) such as the Big Bad Pumpkin Party on Sunday October 14th with fun activities for the whole family.

Check out the upcoming [special events at Channahon Park District](#) such as the Harvest Fest on October 20th from 4-6pm.

[Godley Park District's special events](#) includes a Haunted Barn on October 19th & 20th.

[The Kankakee Valley Park District](#) has a [Spooky Skate](#) on October 26th at the KVPD Ice Arena.

[Bourbonnais Township Park District](#) has a Pumpkin Carving Oct 20th 11-1, \$34 per family.

Children's museums and Play areas with Sensory sensitive or Special needs Events

[Exploration Station](#) at the children's museum in Bourbonnais

[DuPage Children's Museum Calendar](#) 301 N. Washington in Naperville .

[Sensitive Sundays at Chuck E. Cheese](#) in Joliet, Naperville, and Tinley Park
[Sky High Sports Naperville](#) Special Needs Open Jump
[Pump It Up Sensory Jump](#) in Orland Park is the first Monday of every month
[Sky Zone Sensory Hour](#) in Orland Park every Sunday from 10-11:30am
[Airtastic](#) bouncy playland in Aurora has Music Free Mondays for kids with sensory sensitivities

[Sky Zone Toddler Time](#) in Joliet offers a special time just for the little ones, walking to age 5.

Theatres with Sensory Friendly Movie Times

[AMC Theatres](#) in New Lenox, Naperville, Lombard and Morris
[Marcus Theatres](#) in Orland Park and Chicago Heights
[Studio Movie Grill](#) in Wheaton
[NGC Cinema](#) in Yorkville
[Emagine](#) in Frankfort

General Resources for Fun area Events for Families

[Family Time Magazine](#) is a great resource for families on fun local events and informative articles. They also have a facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/familytimemag>

Check out [ChicagoParent.com/Calendar](#) for a list of fun events all year long! Also check out the [Chicago Special Parent Guide](#) that is published twice a year with resources and articles for parents of a child with a disability or special needs.

Parent & Family Support Events



[We Care of Grundy County's Christmas Assistance Program](#) for families with children will accept applications on only the following days: **October 10th & 11th and November 12th and 13th from 9am-noon and 1pm-3pm**. Applications must be completed and dropped off at the agency only on the dates listed. For more information click the link to go to their website.

[The Salvation Army of Joliet & Will County](#) will be taking applications for their Christmas Angel Tree Toy & Food Box assistance. Sign up is **October 8th to 12th from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm** at The Salvation Army, 300 Third Avenue,

Joliet. The program for residents of Will County provides a food box for families and toys for children age 14 and under. Any questions, please call 815-726-4834 x204

[Will County Center for Community Concerns](#) is now accepting applications for their Holiday Basket Program. Bring paperwork to their office at 2455 Glenwood Ave in Joliet. Click on the link for details or call 815-722-0722.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. [Guardian Angel Services](#) in Joliet is hosting many **events**, such as Take Back the Night, and a 5K run/walk on October 13th, to help bring awareness and end Domestic Violence in our community. For more info check out their [facebook page](#).

[Family Time Magazine's annual Autism and Special Needs Seminar](#), Saturday November 10th from 9am-5pm at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills. The Autism and Special Needs Seminar Showcases Expert speakers and vendors with tables displaying their products and services regarding Autism and Special Needs. Tickets cost \$45/person

[Trinity Family Counseling and Autism Center](#) located in New Lenox is looking for parents and caregivers of children age 3-10 years old with mental health challenges such as: ADHD, Autism, Anxiety, Depression, PTSD, or Global Developmental Disorder to complete a short survey about their feelings and experiences of disclosing your child's challenges to others. Participants will be entered to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Please email Marisa at IITParentstudy@gmail.com

[Parents and Caregivers Together \(PACT\)](#) Support Group for families of children with special needs in Kankakee, part of the River Valley Special Recreation Association. Group meets 6-7pm every other month at 1335 E Broadway in Kankakee and offers free childcare during the meeting. The next meeting date is 11/20. Call 815-933-7336 to register, or for more info click the link and go to page 10 of the Fall Brochure.

Check out the most recent [newsletter from the Early Intervention Clearinghouse](#) with information and resources to support all families in Early Intervention.

Resource Spotlight: Your Local Library

Did you know that your local library is an amazing resource for educational and fun activities and programs for young children and their parents? Many libraries offer lapsits, story times, play times, sensory story times, and bilingual story times that are free and often do not even require a library card. Check out this list of local libraries with links to their online calendar, so you can plan to attend a upcoming event with your little one. They also often have great programs just for parents, if you want to take some time to do something fun for yourself!



This month we are highlighting the Sensory Story time and Sensory Play date (for kids age 1-3!) at [Frankfort Library](#) hosted by Miss Sandy. Miss Sandy is wonderful! When my children were little they LOVED attending her library story times. Check out these great programs open to all!

[Joliet Public Library](#) Joliet has two library branches, one on Ottawa Street and another on Black Road. Both branches offer preschool story times, bilingual story times and Sensory Play times for kids age 0-3.

[Homer Township Public Library](#) offers several story times and play times for young children including a Polish speaking story time.

[Shorewood-Troy Public Library](#) has several story times for little ones

[Morris Library](#) Offers story times and wiggles worms

[Coal City Public Library](#) offers several fun preschool storytimes and playgroups

[Wilmington Public Library District](#) offers crafts & storytimes for little ones

[Fossil Ridge Public Library - Braidwood](#) offers several family storytimes and Toddler play time

[Three Rivers Public Library - Minooka & Channahon Branch](#) offers several fun baby and toddler story times and a story time with a certified therapy dog -Frog the dog!

[Plainfield Public Library](#) offers baby and toddler story times and a sensory story time.

[Fountaindale Public Library - Bolingbrook](#) offers lapsits for little ones.

[White Oak Library District - Romeoville](#) offers family story times and preschool events

[Frankfort Public Library](#) offers toddler and preschool story times as well as a Sensory Story time for kids age 3-8 on October 13th and Sensory Play date for kids age 1-3 on October 19th!

[Mokena Library](#) offers preschool story times and a sensory yoga class.

[New Lenox Public Library](#) has a great children's area with fun story times and events!

[Crete Public Library District](#) offers toddler, preschool and baby story times

[Manhattan- Elwood Public Library District](#) offers fun events and crafts for kids

[Peotone Public Library](#) offers baby and toddler story times and a sensory story time.

[Kankakee Public Library](#) offers baby open play events on Tuesday mornings

[Bourbonnais Public Library](#) offers baby, toddler and family story times.

Also don't forget to check out all the fun Halloween events that may be happening at the end of this month at your library!

If your local library is not in our list, go to <https://www.lib-web.org/united-states/public-libraries/illinois/> to find an alphabetical list of all libraries in Illinois.



About Us

***Child and Family Connections #15** is the regional office serving as the point of entry for children and families into the Illinois Early Intervention Program. CFC #15 serves children age 0-3 year and their families in Will, Grundy, Kankakee, and LaSalle Counties.*

For more information about the Illinois Early Intervention Program, please visit: [Illinois Department of Human Services](#) or [The Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse](#)

****The events and information contained in this newsletter are not sponsored by Child and Family Connections #15. This newsletter contains information from many different agencies and organizations and is provided to families as a resource.****

Child & Family Connections #15 | Phone 815-730-2617 | Fax 815-730-2650 | www.swgk.org
The Sooner We Start, The Farther They'll Go