



Your February 2019 Early Intervention Family Newsletter

Happy Valentines Day on February 14th from Child and Family Connections #15, your Early Intervention provider for your child age 0-3 years.

This month's **Resource Spotlight** focuses on the Great Bike Give Away from Friendship Circle. We also included information on several upcoming conferences for families of children with hearing or vision loss.

Saturday February 2nd is **Take your Child to the Library Day!** Head over to your local library for some fun. 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.

Warmly,
-The Staff at Child & Family Connections #15

[Visit our Website](#)

Upcoming Fun Family Events

[Take Your Child to the Library Day](#) is Saturday February 2nd! Find your local Library on this [list of Libraries in Illinois](#).

[Free family swim at Goldfish Swim School](#) in Plainfield on February 8th, from 7-8pm. They also have a [Family Swim Valentines Event](#) on Sunday, February 10th.

The [Will County Forest Preserve online calendar](#) has fun events all month long including Turtle Time on February 6th where you will get to meet Taco the turtle at Isle a la Cache Museum in Romeoville; or the Little Explorer program at Four Rivers Educational Center in Channahon on February 13th

[Family Fest at Minooka Jr High School](#) Saturday, February 16th, 9am-1pm. Free Family Fun entertainment, food, & giveaways!

[Family Night out at DuPage Children's Museum](#) on February 16th, 5:30-8pm. For special needs children and families. Free admission but registration is required. Click the link to register. See their [calendar](#) for other great family events.

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

[Play for All at Chicago Children's Museum](#) at Navy Pier on Saturday, February 9th. The Museum opens one hour early at 9am on the 2nd Saturday of each month for children and families with a disability. Free admission for the 1st 250 families. Click the link to register.

[Reels at the Rialto Movie series](#) is showing Sleepless in Seattle on Thursday, February 21st at 7pm. \$5/ticket.



[Kids Expo Sponsored by Family Time Magazine](#) April 13th & 14th at Roma Sports Club in Frankfort. Click the link for details.

The Smith and Galowich Family YMCAs offer a Parents Night Out for children ages 2-12 on the first Friday of each month. Check out their [2019 Winter/Spring program guide](#) for details. The YMCA also has a kids corner so parents can use the Y while their children have fun. Fees vary based on membership.

See below for links to park district events and info on your local park district

Joliet Park District fun special events

Frankfort Park District

Bolingbrook Park District has their Free [Winterfest](#) on February 9th from 10am-2pm with tons of fun family activities!

Godley Park District's special events include the Super Hero Party on February 16th

The Kankakee Valley Park District has a Skate to Superpowers on February 2nd at the KVPD Ice Arena

Romeoville Park District

Lemont Park District

Naperville Park District offers Free Nature Discovery Days on February 2nd and 16th

New Lenox Park District special events such as their Family Prom on Sunday, March 10th \$5/per person. Register by Feb 25th

Channahon Park District

Crete Park District

Bourbonnais Township Park District

Click here to learn about [Fun Events in Kankakee County](#) all year long!

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

Gizmos in Orland Park Special Needs Family Time on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month 4-8pm

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

Second Sunday Sensory Swim at Galowich Family YMCA 2:30-3pm

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 -*click on the link and go to Sensory Friendly Movies for movies listings*

General Resources for Fun area Events for Families

Family Time Magazine is a great resource for families on fun local events and informative articles.

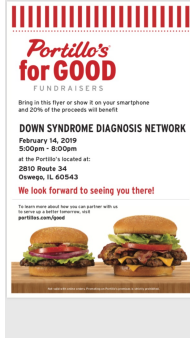
They also have a facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/familytimemag>

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

Help raise money for the [Down Syndrome Diagnosis Network](#) by eating at Portillos in Oswego on February 14th. Show the flyer to the left your phone when you order.

Rush Univeristy is looking for individuals to participate in SPARK, a study on the genetics of Autism. The study is looking for individuals of all ages with an Autism diagnosis. For more information click the link. To register email SPARK@rush.edu or call (312) 563-2765.



[ACEs Parenting Program](#) through the Jump Start Program and Crossroads Counseling, for trauma impacted parents. This Free 5 week program begins February 20th. Each session is 2 hours and will cover topics such as childhood toxic stress, setting limits, regulation skills and more. Call 815-416-6410 to register.

[Micro Pantries](#) have sprung up all over the Will and Grundy County areas. These small food pantries can be found at several places in the community and allows those in need to access non-perishable food items at all times. Take food when needed or leave food for others. Click the link to be taken to their facebook page for more info!

[Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) offers a Mobile Food Pantry with several dates in Will and Grundy Counties. To see the list of dates and locations please click the link to be taken to the website.

[Illinois Hands and Voices November Newsletter](#) has many great resources for families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Click the link to learn more about their **Mom's Night Inn** on February 9th & 10th in Lisle, and many other fun events!

[Joliet Junior College Child Care Center](#) is able to offer financial assistance to students for child care at the JJC childcare center. To learn more and see if you qualify call Beverly Cavanaugh 815-280-2280.

[The Disability Resource Center in Joliet](#) is a great resource for families who have a child or loved one with a disability Click the link above to be taken to their website where you can subscribe to receive their newsletter that is published quarterly.

[The Arc of Illinois Consumer Stipend Funds](#) help to cover costs so people with developmental disabilities and their family members can attend conferences of their choice that are directly related to developmental disability issues. Click the link for more information on this program.

[Sibling support group offered at Helping Hands Children's Therapy Services](#) in New Lenox. Group is for children ages 6 & up Call 815-462-4928 for more info or to RSVP.

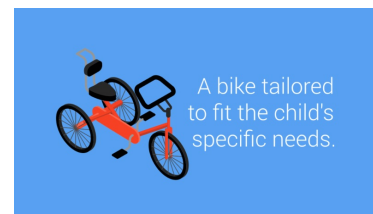
[Lincolnway Special Recreation Association](#) LWSRA hosts a parent group open to anyone with a child who has special needs and is interested in connecting with other parents. Child care is provided during the meeting for \$5/child. Please call 815-320-3507 or email kreczek@lwsra.org to register. Click to view the [LWSRA Winter/Spring 2019 Brochure](#)

[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. Upcoming meeting dates include March 20th, May 15th, July 17th. Call 815-933-7336 to register.

To view additional information and supports for families, please click here to visit the Early Intervention Links on the Family Resource Learning Center page on our website.

Resource Spotlight: The 2019 GREAT Bike Giveaway

The [Great Bike Giveaway](#) from [Friendship Circle](#) of Michigan provides a fundraising platform for friends, and family members to give a child with special needs the experience, joy, and independence of riding a special bike. The program allows you to fundraise for an adaptive bike at a discounted price. In the past six years, the Great Bike Giveaway has raised over one million dollars and provided over 1,000 adaptive bikes for children and teens with special needs. Click this link to [view the bikes available through this program](#).



What the Great Bike Giveaway Provides:

- A simple fundraising platform to help you raise money for an adaptive bike.
- Discounted pricing on adaptive bikes making it easier to fundraise.

- The potential for matching donations to make your fundraising even easier.
- Marketing support to help you get the word out

The program provides adaptive bikes in 3 ways:

- **Most Votes:** The registrant with the most votes for their selected bike type gets a free bike. (14 winners)
- **Drawing:** Everyone who registers and gets 50 or more votes is automatically entered in the drawing to win a bike in their chosen model. (14 winners)
- **Fundraising:** They work with adaptive bike builders to secure discounted pricing. Registrants that don't win with votes or the drawing, can raise money via fundraising to lower or defer the cost. You can find out more [here](#).

Fundraising and voting will start on **February 6th at noon and run through February 27th at noon**. This is your opportunity to get votes and raise money towards an adaptive bike for your child, someone else's child, or an organization.

Click this link [to learn more about the rules of this program](#) or to [Register](#)



Upcoming Conferences to check out...

[The Division of Specialized Care for Children](#) (DSCC), has information on several upcoming conferences for families of children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or have Vision Loss. To learn more about each of these conference please click on the links below

- [North of I-80 Conference for Parents of Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) on March 9th
- [South of I-80 Conference for Parents of Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) on April 27th
- [Chicago Conference for Parents of Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) on May 11th
- [Northern Conference for Illinois Parents of Children with Vision Loss](#) on April 20th
- [Southern Conference for Illinois Parents of Children with Vision Loss](#) on March 16th
- [Free Institute for Parents of Preschool Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#) June 9th -June 14th

REMINDER:

Effective January 1, 2019 the [Illinois Child Passenger Protection Act](#) now

requires:

- Children under the age of two (2) must ride in a rear facing car seat
- Children under the age of eight (8) must be secured in an appropriate child restraint system.

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:

****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