



## March 2019 Early Intervention Family Newsletter

This month's **Resource Spotlight** shares information on *Bounce Children's Foundation*, an organization to support chronically ill children and their families. We've also included information on fun events and resources for all families.

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](#)

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### Upcoming Fun Family Events

[Free family swim at Goldfish Swim School](#) in Plainfield on March 15th from 7-8pm. Also check out their Mini Playdate during the week on March 20th from mom's and babies, free for members or \$5/swimmer.

The [Will County Forest Preserve online calendar](#) has fun events all month long including their Nature Play day on March 13th.

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

[Reels at the Rialto Movie series](#) is showing Bohemian Rhapsody on Thursday, March 14th at 7pm. \$5/ticket.

[2nd Annual Naperville Spring Kids Fun at Bowlero](#) Saturday, March 23rd 10am-12pm. \$3 for kids age 1 and up, adults and babies are Free. There will be vendor booth, raffle prizes and games for the kids.

[Brookfield Zoo goes blue for Autism](#) on Saturday April 6th. For this complimentary day at the Zoo check out their accessibility guide and care kits that can be checked out for use at the zoo.

[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.

[Play for All at Chicago Children's Museum](#) at Navy Pier. 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 see all upcoming dates and to register.

**[See below for links to park district events and info on your local park district](#)**



[Joliet Park District fun special events](#) include the from Sap to Syrup maple syrup making demonstration and breakfast at Pilcher Park Nature Center on March 16th \$8 for adults \$6/children 12 and under.

[Frankfort Park District](#) has several fun March events such as the Annual Spring craft show and free Clover Hunt on March 16th

[Bolingbrook Park District](#) has a Maple Syrup Daze event on March 16th

[Godley Park District's special events](#) include a fish fry each Friday in March with inflatables for the kids on March 29th.

[The Kankakee Valley Park District](#) offers Parent Tot time on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-11am at the Birth Park Meeting room. \$1/child

[Romeoville Park District](#) is hosting a Springtide Craft show on March 30th from 9am-3pm.

[Lemont Park District](#) has a Kids Rummage sale on March 16th.

[Naperville Park District](#)

[New Lenox Park District special events](#) include a Free Flashlight Cloverhunt on Friday, March 15th.

[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 Events**

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

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

[Sensory Sensitive Sundays at Chuck E. Cheese](#) 1st Sunday of the month, Joliet & Naperville locations.

[Sky High Sports Naperville](#) Special Needs Open Jump every Tuesday from 4-6pm

[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 1st & 3rd 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. Fridays 9:30-11am & Saturdays 9-10am.

### **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

[Imagine](#) in Frankfort -*click on the link and go to Sensory Friendly Movies for movies listings*

### **General Resources for loFun Events for all 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. They have a new [digital version of the Guide](#) out this month so you can read it online!

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## Parent & Family Support Events



[Share your Insights on Early Intervention](#) The Early Intervention Clearinghouse (EIC) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) is conducting focus groups with families of young children age 0-8 years who participated in Early Intervention. The focus group will be held on April 10th at 7pm at the Fox valley Dupage Easter Seals. To participate contact Meghan Burke, 217-300-1226 or [meghanbm@illinois.edu](mailto:meghanbm@illinois.edu)

[LaRabida Hospital's Child Passenger Safety Program](#) loans specialized car seats for children with special needs; offers help for those children who escape their car seats; and has car seat inspection clinics. Please contact the program manager Craig Sjogerman for more information 773-953-5123 or 1-877-277-6543.

[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](mailto:SPARK@rush.edu) or call (312) 563-2765.

[ACEs Parenting Program](#) is being offered through the Jump Start Program and Crossroads Counseling, for trauma impacted parents. This Free 5 week program begins April 3rd and meetings are held from 5-7pm at We Care of Grundy County. Sessions will cover topics such as childhood toxic stress, setting limits, regulation skills and more. Call 815-416-6410 to register.

[A Will County food access map](#) has been created by the Will County MAPP collaborative to help individuals and families in need connect to local food resources. Check out this great resource!

[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.

[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 to be taken to their website where you can subscribe to receive their quarterly newsletter.

[The Arc of Illinois Consumer Stipend Funds](#) help to cover costs so people with developmental disabilities and their family members can attend conferences 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. This 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](mailto: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.

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**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.**

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## Resource Spotlight: Bounce Children's Foundation

[Bounce Children's Foundation](#) is an organization created to support children living with chronic illnesses and their families. Through their five programming pillars they unite kids and families, both physically and virtually, to have fun, learn, reduce frustration, cope and thrive.

Their 5 main programs are:

- [Bounce Bash](#) - Fun & distracting family adventures, designed to include kids with complex medical needs, give families a chance to get out of the house, make friends, and feel 'normal' among those facing similar challenges.
- [Bounce it Forward](#) - Unanticipated fun for kids and families thanks to organizations and individuals who donate tickets to fun events such as sporting events, theatre, and concerts.
- [Bounce Back Kits](#) - These are family care packages, or boredom busters for when kids are 'stuck' at home.
- [Bounce Academy](#) - Education and information for kids and families to teach coping skills.
- [Bounce Net](#) - A private, online community of support, resources and education for parents that creates a virtual security net.

Their goal is to transform the lives of chronically ill children and their families shifting all

from surviving to thriving! For more information on Bounce go to their website at [www.bouncechildrensfoundation.org](http://www.bouncechildrensfoundation.org), email [info@BounceChildrensFoundation.org](mailto:info@BounceChildrensFoundation.org) or call 1-844-6 BOUNCE. They also have a [facebook page](#).



## 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

- [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: [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.\*\*