



## Early Intervention Child & Family Connections #15 June 2022 Family Newsletter

Will/Grundy/Kankakee/LaSalle Counties

### Helpful information for families in Early Intervention...

- Has your family been impacted by the formula shortage? Here is a link with [information and resources from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- **2-1-1 is now available in Will County!** 211 is a 24/7 resource/crisis line that families can call to get connected to local human services and crisis intervention resources in their area. 211 is new as of June 1st in Will County and is also available in Grundy, Kankakee, and LaSalle counties.
- Enjoy this article from the Child Mind Institute on "[Helping Toddlers with Language Skills: Tips for Encouraging Kids age 0-5 to talk](#)" written by an SLP
- **Reminder:** If your child qualifies for an IEP through their school district and turns three between May 1 - August 31, then you **have the option to extend your Illinois Early Intervention (EI) services through the summer months until the school year begins.** For more information view:
  - [Early Intervention Extended Services](#)
  - [Parent Information Notice on Early Intervention /Extended Services](#)
  - or contact your service coordinator.



Please enjoy the information on **fun activities** and **support resources** for all families in this newsletter. This month we have included information on **some June awareness days** (this is not a list of all Awareness days for this month).

#### June is ...

- [Vitiligo Awareness](#) Month & June 25th is [World Vitiligo Day](#)
- [Tourettes Awareness](#) Month
- [Pride Month](#) - See this Article from Chicago Parent on [29 LGBTQ children's books for families to read](#)
- National [Aphasia Awareness](#) Month
- National [Scleroderma Awareness](#) Month
- June 14th is [World Blood Donor Day](#) & [Flag Day](#)
- June 16th is [Rare Chromosome Awareness Day](#)
- June 17th is [National Eat your Vegetables Day](#) - here is an article on [6 Clever Ways to get your Toddler to Eat Vegetables](#)
- **Happy Fathers Day on June 19th!**
  - [Here are 50 Father's Day Activities to help celebrate Dad](#)
  - [15 Father's Day Crafts and Gifts Kids Can Make](#)
  - [Father's Day events for families in Chicago and the Suburbs](#) from Chicago Parent
- June 19th is [Juneteenth](#) -Here is an article from Parents.com on [8 Great Books to Teach Kids about Juneteenth](#)
- June 26th is [National Chocolate Pudding Day](#) - here is a [recipe for Hot Chocolate Pudding](#)
- June 27th is [National PTSD Awareness Day](#)
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Check out the [Action for Happiness Joyful June Calendar](#)

If you know someone who is concerned about their child's development please give them the number for the Child and Family Connections 15 Referral Coordinator, (815) 768-3730, or share these resources:

- [making a referral to Early Intervention](#)
- [video on the benefits of community screenings](#) created by Jumpstart, CFC 15, AOK, the Will County Health Department and Easter seals Joliet.

-The staff at CFC 15

## Fun Family Activities | June 2022

*See below for some fun family events in your area!*

Your local **Park District** and **Library** are great resources for fun events for preschoolers and families all summer long. Most libraries have Summer Reading Clubs for kids of all ages.

[100 Free things to Do with Kids in Chicago](#) from Chicagokids.com

[50+ Free things to do in Chicago this Summer with Kids](#) from mommypoppins.com

[Free Concerts on the Hill at Billie Limacher Park & Theatre in Joliet](#)- Every Thursday 6:30pm from June 2nd - Sept 1st

[Family Friendly Free Movies in the Park in Joliet](#). Movies start at dusk

- June 17th at Briese Park, Mitchell vs the Machines
- July 8th at Theodore Crossing, Sing 2

[Lockport Old Canal Days](#) June 10-12th, music, parade, carnival, fireworks and more!

[Ottawa Family Pride Fest](#) June 11th 10am-5pm

[Kankakee Neighborfest](#) at Pioneer Park June 11th 1-4pm

[Junteenth Parade and Festival](#) June 18th at Pioneer Park in Kankakee

[Zainy Zoo at Frankfort Square Park District](#) Wednesday, June 15th 6-7pm

[Lions Club Carnival](#) in downtown Ottawa June 15- 18

[STRIDES Family Fun Day on the Farm](#) in Manhattan June 18th 10am-1pm Petting zoo, pony rides, lawn games, and professional photos

[Reels at the Rialto Monthly Movie Series](#), June 23rd Toy Story 4, July 14th The Sandlot. Movie time is 7pm and tickets are \$5

[Taste of Joliet at Joliet Memorial Stadium](#) June 24-26 Live music, food vendors, & carnival

[Forest Preserve District Will County Fun & Food trucks](#) 5-8pm

- June 24th at Hickory Creek Preserve - LaPorte Road Access
- July 22nd at Whalon Lake in Bolingbrook
- August 26th Hammel Woods in Shorewood

**Fun and educational places for families to visit:**

[DuPage Children's Museum](#) Pre-registration is recommended and masks for children age 2 and over. See the website for details.

[Kidsworld Children's Museum](#) in Frankfort is open for in person play & masks are required for ages 2 and over.

[Discovery Center Museum](#) in Rockford is open and reservations are required.

[The Shedd Aquarium](#)

[Field Museum](#) masks are recommended.

[The Museum of Science and Industry](#) masks are required in certain areas. [Click here](#) to see their FREE days for Illinois residents!

[Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum](#) masks recommended, not required.

[The Art Institute](#) is open with advanced ticket purchase.

[Lincoln Park](#) and [Brookfield Zoo](#) are open!

[Cosley Zoo in Wheaton](#) is open with advanced registration.

[Sky Zone in Joliet](#) is open and has a Little Leapers program for kids age 7 and under on Saturdays from 10-11am. See their [calendar](#) for details.

[Starved Rock State Park](#) and [Matthiessen State Park](#) both located in LaSalle County are great places to get outside and enjoy nature!



Check out this article from [Kidslist.com](#) on Museums that have free days in 2022!

### Virtual Events

- **Michaels Crafts** stores are hosting free online events for children and adults. Check out their [Free Kids club zoom events for Mini Makers age 3 and up](#)
- **Barnes and Noble** has a [you tube channel](#) with virtual kids story times and many adult book club virtual events as well.

### Theatres with Sensory Friendly Movie Times

[AMC Theatres](#) in New Lenox, Naperville, Lombard and Morris

[Marcus Theatres](#) in Orland Park and Chicago Heights

[NGC Cinema](#) in Yorkville

[Imagine](#) in Frankfort

[Will County Forest Preserve District has an events calendar](#) with virtual & in-person events for children and families.

- On [July 9th they will celebrate the inclusivity initiatives for visitors with sensory or physical challenges at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon](#). A limited supply of buddy bags with sensory gadgets and noise-canceling headphones will be available for visitor use. Families will be provided with a social story prior to the program. Families can register for a timed session, at 10am, 11am & 12:30pm which includes a guided sensory hike and a sensory-friendly craft. Registration required by Tuesday, July 5. Call 815-722-9470 to register.

Check out the following websites to find fun family events in your area:

- For fun family events in the **Chicagoland** area go to [Chicago Parent.com](#) Check out the [Fun things to do with kids in Chicagoland this weekend](#) and read their latest magazine issue "[Summer Unleashed](#)"
- To find fun events in the south suburbs go to the [Chicago Southland visitors bureau](#)
- For events in Will County go to the [Visit Will County website](#).
- For fun events and parenting tips in **LaSalle County** go to the [Illinois Valley Area Parent References](#) Facebook page, the [LaSalle County Calendar of Events](#) and the [Ottawa IL Pick Us calendar of events](#).
- For fun events in **Kankakee County** visit the [Kankakee County Calendar of Events](#).

Local **Special Recreation Associations** are continuing to host virtual events and in-person events. See below for websites of some area Special Recreation Associations:

- [River Valley Special Rec Association](#) in Bradley
- [Lincolnway Special Rec Association](#) in New Lenox - Check out their [Spring-Summer Program Guide](#)
- [Northern Will County Special Rec Association](#) (NWCSRA) in Romeoville. Check out their [Summer 2022 brochure](#) and their [Summer Day Camp Guide](#) They have a sensory room that is available to reserve for individual use located at 10 Montrose in Romeoville. Check out this great resource! Email [Gina Petkus](#) for info.
- **SRJC** - Special Recreation of Joliet and Channahon
- [The NorthWest Special Recreation Association in Rolling Meadows](#) hosts online [sibshops](#) for siblings, who are ages 8-12 year old, of children with disabilities to meet other siblings for peer support and fun! Contact [ljevaney@nwsra.org](mailto:ljevaney@nwsra.org) for more information.

## Summer Meal Program 2022

Through the [Summer Meal Program](#), families can get access to breakfast, lunch, and snacks for their children at 119 sites across Northern Illinois. In 2021, the program served more than 265,000 summer meals to children in need.

**The Summer Meal Program is open June 6-August 19, 2022 to all children under the age of 18** though some site-specific requirements and restrictions may apply. Days and hours of individual sites vary.

The Summer Meal Program is offered in partnership with the USDA's Summer Food Service Program and administered by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Click here to go to the [Summer Meal Program website](#) and click on the map to locate programs near you! You can also call 800-359-2163 or text FOODIL to 877877



To find a site near you,  
CALL (800) 359-2163,  
TEXT FOODIL to 877877,  
or visit  
[SUMMER MEALS ILLINOIS](#)



## Important Information on Early Intervention In-Person Visits and Live Video Visits



Updates on In-person Early Intervention visits:

- [Illinois Early Intervention Covid 19 Protocols for Families](#) - updated February 2022
- [In-person checklists for Early Intervention providers and for families](#) to help determine if it is safe to have in-person visits.
- **Masks continue to be recommended for all in person visits.**
- Live Video Visits (LVV) remain an option for families who do not want to have in-person visits with EI service providers.

**If you or a member of your family is sick with any of the symptoms on the checklist please contact your Early Intervention providers and cancel any upcoming in-person visits.**

If you have to cancel your In-person visit for any reason, consider trying a Live Video Visit for that week so that you are still able to work with your Early Intervention Provider(s) to support your child. Please reach out to your service coordinator with any questions.



**Live Video Visits are an approved Early Intervention service delivery method,** and will remain an opportunity for parents to help their child learn and grow! If your child is waiting for In-Person EI services consider trying Live Video Visits.

The [Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse](#) continues to offer a device loan program for all families in Early Intervention. Available technology includes: Ipad, hotspots, & Ipad stands. To apply to receive a device from the EI Clearinghouse, please complete the [Device Loan Request Form](#).

[The Arc of IL has an Assistive Technology Consumer Stipend Program](#) which provides funds to pay for the assistive technology (Ipad, tablets, laptops etc) needed to attend virtual events and meetings for people with developmental disabilities and their family members.

- Click to [download the application](#).
- Any questions? Call 815.464.1832 ext 1010.

*If you are not sure what to expect during an Early Intervention Live Video visit, the [ETCA](#) (Early Childhood Technical Assistance) Center has videos of real families talking about their experiences with Live Video Visits.*

- [A Home visit with Zander's Family](#) 14 min
- [A Home visit with Sam's Family](#) 8 min
- [A home visit with Ares' Family](#) 9 min

## Is your Child Turning 3 soon?

Do you understand the Transition process out of Early Intervention when your child turns 3? Here are a few resources to help you better understand this process:

- [Transition: Understanding Family Rights](#) from the EI Clearinghouse
- ["When I'm 3, Where will I be"](#) Transition workbook for families from IL State Board of Education.
- The Parent Guide - [Educational Rights and Responsibilities: Understanding Special Education in Illinois](#) from the Illinois State Board of Education

## Do you know someone who needs help with groceries?



[My Pantry Express](#) is an online food pantry that gives those in need of food assistance, the opportunity to shop once a week for a variety of free grocery items. Items can be picked up from 3 locations in Will County. Please click the link for details.

**No income or residency restrictions apply.**



The Northern Illinois Food Bank has a list on their website of [upcoming Mobil Food Pantries and Pop up Markets listed monthly by county](#). Both types of distributions are currently using a drive-thru model. **Everyone is welcome – no ID or referral is needed.**



**Will County has created [Food Access Maps](#)** where you can locate food pantries, micro pantries, mobile food pantries, and community gardens in Will and some of the surrounding counties.

[Find Food IL Community Food map](#) allows you to search by zip code for food pantries, School meal sites, grocery stores, and SNAP & WIC offices.

To get information or help with your [SNAP \(supplemental nutrition assistance program\) application](#) click the link or call 844-600-SNAP.

Will-Grundy Counties



## Family Support Resources For All Areas

### **Parent/Family Support Programs:**

[Count the Kicks](#) is an app for expectant parents to help monitor their baby's movement in the 3rd trimester. The app is free and available in 12 languages! Click the link to learn more.

The [IL Cares for Kids website](#) was created to support all IL families with children from birth through school age. They offer a FREE text program called [Ready4K](#).

- Ready4K is a FREE researched-based text program for families with kids ages 0-11.

- Families can expect to receive 3 texts a week with fun facts and tips on ways to help their child learn and grow, as well as links to local resources.
- TEXT IL4KIDS to 70138 to register or visit [illinoiscaresforkids.org](http://illinoiscaresforkids.org)



Free [ACES Parenting class](#) is being offered starting June 29th at We Care of Grundy County in Morris. This 5 weeks session meets from 5-7pm, meals and childcare are provided. If your child has experienced trauma or trauma is impacting your ability to parent call 815-942-6389 to register.

[Easter Seals Summer Therapy Groups](#) begin June 13th - August 5th. All groups are \$150 for the summer. Call Alicia at 815-207-6071 to get registered today. They have a Mommy and Me Sensory group for ages 0-3 years and a Play Based group for ages 2-5. click the link for details.

[Star Net Region VI](#) offers workshops and information for parents & professionals who shape the lives of children age 0-5.

[Will County Center for Community Concerns](#) in Joliet has many supports for low income families. See below for information on some of their programs or call 815-722-0722:

- [LIHEAP](#) - utility assistance
- [Tax Preparation](#)
- [Case Management services](#)
- [Scholarship Program for low income students](#)

[The Jump Start homevisiting Parental Training Program](#) is a parenting enrichment program offered in Will, Grundy & Kankakee counties. It is a free program that offers parent education and family support services throughout pregnancy until their child is 3 years old. **In Will and Grundy Counties contact Alyssa at 309-370-9998 or in Kankakee County call Tyler at 815-600-9744 or [enroll online](#).** For more information on this great program check out their [facebook page](#). See their [current flyer here](#).

Easter Seals has a [Parent's Raising Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders Support Group or other Social Interaction/Communication Disorder](#) that meets the first Friday of each month 11am-12 pm via Zoom. Email Alicia [ahann@joliet.easterseals.com](mailto:ahann@joliet.easterseals.com) for the zoom link to join the group. They also offer [a Spanish Speaking group that meets weekly on Fridays at 3pm](#).

[Easter Seals is offering Free walk in mental health screenings for children](#) age 1-17 years old. Following the screening, families will be provided with information, resources, & tools if needed. Screenings are held the 2nd Friday of every month from 9am-11am, or to schedule a virtual appointment call 815-927-5466. [Screenings are also offered in Spanish](#).

[Erikson Center for Children and families](#) is offering **in-person and virtual mental health services** to parents, caregivers, and children focusing on prenatal to 5 years old. Services available in English and Spanish. For more information contact their intake line at 312-709-0508 for English and 312-934-6446 for Spanish.

[Chicago Feeding Group](#) is nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting families with children who struggle to eat. They offer workshops for parents and have several [Free on-demand webinars](#).

[The Special Fathers Network](#) is a Dad to Dad mentoring program for fathers raising children with special needs. They host zoom calls on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each months for Dads to connect. [Click here to view the list of previous and upcoming zoom calls](#).

### **Educational & Informative webinars for parents & caregivers:**

[Illinois School for the Visually Impaired has a listing of recorded zoom webinars](#). These webinars are free for families and professionals who are interested in learning more about children's eye conditions. Also check out their [facebook page](#) for info.

[Be Strong Families has a webinar series](#) for parents to help them stay strong and positive for themselves and their children. Past webinars are also available to view. Click the link for more

information or to register. Registration information is in English and Spanish.

To view additional informational online resources for families related to Early Intervention and Child Development please [click here](#).

## COVID-19 Information



All Illinois residents age 5 and over are eligible for the Covid vaccines. For those interested in learning more about the COVID-19 vaccine and its availability in your area, go to <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov>

[COVID.gov](https://covid.gov) is a new website where you can enter your county and then get information on nearby locations for masks and respirators, vaccines and boosters, as well as testing and treatment options.

The [Illinois Department of Public Health website](#) is a resource for information on the current regional COVID 19 conditions and the activities permitted within each region.

You may also access information on the vaccine from your local Health Department.

- [Will County Health Department](#)
- [Grundy County Health Department](#)
- [Kankakee County Health Department](#)
- [LaSalle County Health Department](#)

Information to support families:

- [Call 4 Calm](#) - text TALK to 552020 for English or HABLAR for Spanish if you or a loved one are struggling with stress related to the pandemic. Individuals can also text 5-5-2-0-2-0, with keywords such as "unemployment" or "food" or "shelter" and will receive information on how to navigate and access supports and services. This is free and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



### About Us:

Visit our  
website

*[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.\*\*