



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

Will/Grundy/Kankakee/LaSalle Counties

Helpful information for families in Early Intervention...

Our thoughts go out to all of the children and families impacted by gun violence.

In the wake of recent gun violence and shootings in our country and most recently in Highland Park, we want to share with families resources on talking with young children about things they may see or hear that are scary or traumatizing.



- [How to Talk with Kids About Tragedies & Other Traumatic News Events](#) from the American Academy of Pediatrics
- [Supporting Families: Young Children and Gun Violence](#) from Zero to Three
- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network has resources on supporting children (and yourself) when traumatic things happen:
 - [Talking to Children when Scary Things Happen](#)
 - [After a Crisis Helping Young Children Heal](#)

We can all benefit from doing things that help us to feel calm and regulated, especially young children and their parents. Here is an article on [The Power of Mindfulness: Practical Tips to Help Children Feel Safe and Secure](#) from Brooks Publishing and Kristie Pretti-Frontczak.

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 July awareness days** (this is not a list of all Awareness days for this month).

July is....

- Independence Day on July 4th!
 - [World Chocolate Day](#) on July 7th. Celebrate by making this [recipe for 3 Ingredient Chocolate Dip](#)
 - [National Lollipop Day](#) on July 20th
 - National Blueberry Month! Blueberry picking season begins in July, here is a list of [places to pick blueberries around Chicagoland](#)
 - National hot dog month - See this list of [National Hot dog day deals for 2022](#)
 - National [Fragile X Awareness](#) Month Here is a [video where you can learn 10 things about Fragile X](#) from the [FRAXA Research Foundation](#)
 - National Cell Phone Courtesy Month - here are [8 Cell Phone Etiquette Tips to keep in Mind](#)
- Check out the [Action for Happiness Jump Back Up July 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 | July 2022



Will/Grundy County Events

[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. July 8th at Theodore Crossing, Sing 2 & July 22nd at Hegge Park, Encanto (shown in Spanish)

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

[Bolingbrook International Festival of Cultures](#) July 16th

[Village of Romeoville Park Parties](#) Free food & Fun! July 19th & 26th

[Channahon Touch a Truck](#) on July 21st at 9:30am and [Channahon Night Out](#) on July 27th

[Street Markets at the Promenade Bolingbrook](#) every Thursday through Aug 25th

[Forest Preserve District Will County Fun & Food trucks](#) 5-8pm. July 22nd in Bolingbrook & August 26th in Shorewood

[Storytime at the Bolingbrook Historical Museum](#) Aug 2nd 9:30am

National Night out is August 2nd! Join the fun in your community:

[New Lenox](#), [Romeoville](#), [Mokena](#), [Frankfort](#), [Plainfield](#), [Crest Hill](#), [Minooka](#)

[New Lenox Back to School Bash](#) August 3rd 4:30-7:30

[Romeofest](#) is August 4th-7th

[Will County Forest Preserve District events](#)



Kankakee County Events

[Kankakee Farmers Market](#) Saturdays 8am-noon May - October.

[Movies in the Park at Legacy Park Burke Amphitheater in Manteno](#) - July 7th Encanto, & August 4th Sing 2

[Yoga in the Park](#) in Manteno 8-9am 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month

[H.O.P.E. Fest](#) in Kankakee July 16th 1-3pm

[Bounce House Nights at Adventure Commons](#) for children with Special needs & their Families. July 21st and August 11th

[Merchant Street Musicfest](#) July 29th & 30th

[National Night out at Perry Farm](#) in Kankakee August 2nd 3:30-9pm.

[National Night out in Bradley](#) August 2nd at 4pm

[Kankakee County Fair](#) August 3rd-7th



LaSalle County Events

[Streator's 4th of July Celebration](#) goes all week long from July 4th -10th

[LaSalle County 4-H show and Junior Fair](#) July 14th - 17th

[Junior Ranger Day at Starved Rock](#) on July 30th 9am-noon. FREE fun event!

[National Night Out at the Marseilles Swimming Pool](#) August 2nd

[Spring Valley Police Dept National Night Out](#) Rubber Ducky Hunt begins July 2nd and ducks collected can be turned in for a prize at the National Night Out event on August 2nd at Kirby Park

[Touch a Truck](#) Free event on Main Street in Ottawa August 7th

For fun events and parenting tips in LaSalle County go to
[-Illinois Valley Area Parent References](#) Facebook page
[-LaSalle County Calendar of Events](#)
[-Ottawa IL Pick Us calendar of events.](#)

[calendar](#) for virtual & in-person events for children and families.

- [National Night out at the Monee Reservoir](#) August 2nd 4:30-7:30

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](#).

To find more fun events in Kankakee County go to the [Kankakee County Calendar of Events](#).

- [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
- 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 [July/August Issue](#)



Fun and educational places for families:

[DuPage Children's Museum](#) Pre-registration and masks for children age 2 and over are recommended.

[Kidsworld Children's Museum](#) in Frankfort

[Discovery Center Museum](#) in Rockford walk ins welcome and masks encouraged

[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

[Emagine](#) in Frankfort

Local **Special Recreation Associations** host virtual and in-person events for kids of all ages. 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

Summer Meal Program 2022

The **Summer Meal Program** is open June 6-August 19, 2022 to all children under the age of 18 for breakfast, lunch and snacks! 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



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.

reach out to your service coordinator with any questions.

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:

Free family event for Will County families on July 30th from 10 - 2pm at JJC main campus parking lot. School supplies will be

first contact service. Contact Amy Martin for information
ammartin@jjc.edu or 815-280-6717

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.



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. The 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

Free **ACES Parenting class** began on 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 began June 13th and run through 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 815-725-2194 and ask to speak to someone in the Jump Start Program, or in Kankakee County call Tyler at 815-600-9744. Families can also [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 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. The 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](#) offers webinars 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.

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 6 months 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 [vaccines.gov](#)

For more info see this [article from the FDA on the approval of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for children as young as 6 months.](#)

[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.

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.

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