



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

Will/Grundy/Kankakee/LaSalle Counties

July 26th was the 32nd Anniversary of the ADA

The [Americans with Disabilities Act](#), was signed into law on July 26th, 1990. This act "is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else." Here is a [video commemorating this historic day](#) for equity and inclusion.

Two organizations that support families who have a child with a disability are:

[Family Resource Center on Disabilities](#) which is Chicago's Metropolitan Area Parent Training and Information Center and supports families in 8 IL counties including **Will** and **Grundy** Counties. They can be reached at 312-939-3513, email: info@frcd.org, or [FRCD facebook page](#)

[Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center](#) supports families in 94 IL counties including **LaSalle** and **Kankakee** Counties to provide information, referral, linkages, and training to parents, students with disabilities, and special education professionals. They can be contacted toll-free: 1-866-4FMPTIC (1-866-436-7842), or [FMPTIC facebook page](#)

Both organizations help families to:

- Learn about your Rights and Responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Make informed decisions about your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Obtain appropriate services for your child
- Offer IEP support for parents and caregivers
- and more! Check out the website to learn about the supports they offer.



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

August is....

- [National Immunization Awareness Month](#)
- [Psoriasis Awareness Month](#)
- [Children's Eye Health and Safety Month](#)
- [Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month](#)
- [National Dog month](#)

- Family Fun Month - Check out these [20 Fun Family Weekend Activities](#)
- August 4th was National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day -[Check out this article from Betty Crocker with 20 chocolate chip cookies recipes!](#)
- August 10th is [National Smore Day](#)
- August 26th is [Women's Equality Day](#) which is the anniversary of the passing of the [19th Amendment](#).

Check out the [Action for Happiness Altruistic August 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.
-The staff at CFC 15



Fun Family Activities | August 2022



Will/Grundy County Events

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

[Unity Picnic](#) at Discovery Park Romeoville, August 11th

[Mokena Farm & Barn Fest](#) on August 13th

[Taste of Bolingbrook](#) on August 13th

[Romeoville Drive in Movie: Lilo & Stitch](#) on August 19th

[Bolingbrook Jubilee Craft Show](#) August 21st

[Reels at the Rialto Monthly Movie Series](#), August 18th is Bridesmaids. Movie time is 7pm and tickets are \$5

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

[Heaps Farm Sunflower Harvest](#) begins August 26th in Minooka

[Forest Preserve District Will County Fun & Food trucks](#) 5-8pm, August 26th at Hammel Woods in Shorewood

[Will County Forest Preserve District events calendar](#) with virtual & in-person events for children and families. [Breakfast with the Turtles zoom webinar](#) is August 12th. [Last Day of Summer Family Adventure](#) is August 14th



Kankakee County Events

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

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

[Momence Gladiolus Fest](#) August 10-14

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

[Family Night Out at Perry Farm](#) rescheduled for August 11th

[Family Picnic at Diamond Point Park](#) August 12th

[Free Back to School Bash](#) August 13th at St Rose Chapel Parking lot

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



LaSalle County Events

[Mendota Sweet Corn Festival](#) August 11-14

[Streator Downtown Farmers Market](#) now through October

[Ottawa's Music in the Park](#) every Saturday 6-8pm

[Bureau County Fair](#) August 24th-28th in Princeton

[Streator Labor Day Parade](#) Sept 4th

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](#).

[Frankfort Fall Fest](#) Sept 3rd-5th

[Calendar of Events.](#)

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](#).

If you are heading to Chicago this month, check out:

- [Bud Billikin Parade](#) on August 13th
 - [Chicago Air and Water Show](#) on August 20th & 21st
 - [Ribfest](#) on August 19-21
-
- [100 Free things to Do with Kids in Chicago](#) from Chicagokids.com
 - [27 fun things to do in August to celebrate the last month of summer](#) from kidslist.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](#)
 - Apple Picking is almost here! See this [list of places to pick](#) from Chicagoparent.com



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 [Fall Program Guide](#)
- [Northern Will County Special Rec Association](#) (NWCSRA) in Romeoville. Check out their [Fall 2022 brochure](#). Their **sensory room** is available to reserve for individual use located at 10 Montrose in Romeoville. 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 for more information.

Summer Meal Program 2022

The [Summer Meal Program](#) is open until August 19, 2022. All children under the age of 18 can get free 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



- [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



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 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](#).

Provider(s) to support your child. Please reach out to your service coordinator with any questions.

- 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 during 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 multiple 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.

Family Support Resources For All Areas

Parent/Family Support Programs:

Free [Spanish Parent Chat](#) for parents of children with cerebral palsy, neuromotor, neuromuscular disorders or motor delay. August 17th from 10-noon at 55th & Pulaski Health Collaborative. Childcare is provided. Click the link for more information.

[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 in Will County and is also available in Grundy, Kankakee, and LaSalle counties.

[9-8-8 is a new mental health suicide and crisis hotline](#) that is free, confidential and available 24/7 to anyone experiencing mental health related distress.

[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

Free [ACES Parenting class](#) 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 learn about upcoming dates.

[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. 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 month 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](#)

At [COVID.gov](#) you can enter your county and 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](#) has information on the current regional COVID 19 conditions.

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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