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

Will/Grundy/Kankakee/LaSalle Counties

Happy Halloween on October 31st

Did you know that **Halloween** is one of the most popular holidays in the US?

Enjoy some of these ideas for a fun Halloween:

- Fun Halloween Activities for kids of all ages from Today.com
- 48 Halloween Activities for Kids ranging from Cutesy to Spooky
- Considerations for Halloween for your Neurodivergent child

Be safe this Halloween with these Halloween Safety Tips from HealthyChildren.org

Reading together is a great way to spend time with and support language development for young children. Try some of these fun Halloween books for kids who don't like to be scared from Scholastic.com. Here is an article from Zero to Three on the Importance of Reading Early and Often to babies and toddlers and another on How to Introduce Toddlers and Babies to Books (it's ok if babies try to chew on the book, and toddlers may not sit through a whole story).
Your local library is a great source for free, fun books to read with your child. They also often have storytimes and fun events for young children and families.

Please enjoy the information on **fun activities** and **support resources** for all families in this newsletter. See information below on **Trunk or Treats** and **Pumpkin Patches** in your area, as well as **2022 Holiday Assistance Programs**, and some new initiatives to support Illinois families such as a 708 Mental Health Board for Will County and the opportunity to join the Birth to 5 Illinois family council in your county.

This month we have included information on **some October awareness days** (this is not a list of all Awareness days for this month).
October is....

- ADHD Awareness Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month - Groundwork Domestic Violence Program in Joliet has a 24 hour DV hotline (815) 729-1228.
- Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- Head Start Awareness Month - Learn more about head start and how to find a head start

program near you!
- National Bullying Prevention Month
- National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month
- National Spina Bifida Awareness Month
- Rett Syndrome Awareness Month
- SIDS Awareness Month
- Indigenous People's Day is October 10th
- Halloween is October 31st

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 | October 2022

Will/Grundy County Events

Reels at the Rialto 2022 Movie Series, Movie time is 7pm and tickets are $5. The next movie is Hocus Pocus on October 27th

The Channahon Library is hosting a presentation on October 22nd 6-6:30 Sensory Friendly Magic

Village of Bolingbrook Halloween Walk Oct 14th - 31st

Spooktacular Halloween Festival at Bolingbrook Promenade Oct 22nd

Romeoville Halloween Fest Oct 21st 4:30-7:30pm

12th Annual Men Who Cook Fundraiser Oct 22nd JJC Weitendorf Center Joliet

Will County Forest Preserve District events calendar has virtual & in-person events for children and families such as the Trick or Treat in the Woods on Oct 15th at Hidden Oaks Nature Center & 16th at Hickory Creek Preserve

Halloween Carnival at Grundy Family YMCA Oct 25th 5-7pm

Trunk or Treat at Joliet Jumpstart Oct 26th 4-6pm

Trunk N Treat at Joliet Presbyterian Church Oct 26th 6-7:30pm

Kankakee County Events

Kankakee Farmers Market Saturdays 8am-noon May - October.

Carnival/Craft Faire/Trunk or Treat at Brookmont Bowl, October 14th, 15th, and 16th

Route 102 Car Show Trunk or Treat on Oct 16th 10:30-4pm

Halloween Downtown in Kankakee on Oct 16th 10am-4pm

Fall Festival at Real Life Church Oct 16th

A Night in Sleepy Hallow at Perry Farm Oct 14, 15 and 21 & 22

Salvation Army Fall Fest on October 21st, 5-7pm. Food games, door prizes. 148 Harrison Ave, Kankakee

Free Fall Fest Family Skate Oct 22nd 12-3pm, at Community Cup Church

Fall Fest at Limestone Public Library Oct 22nd, call the library to sign up

LaSalle County Events

Streator Downtown Farmers Market now through October

Trunk or Treat at Starved Rock Regional Center Oct 15th 3-4pm Sensory hour, 4-8am.

Trunk or Treat at Starved Rock Harley Davidson Oct 22nd & 29th

Biggest Trunk or Treat in Town at Illinois Valley Auto Group Oct 22nd 4pm

Trunk or Treat on Court Street on October 29th 12-3pm.

*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.

Munchkin Masquerade at Louis Joliet Mall Oct 28th 3:30-7:30pm

The City of Joliet has information on Halloween happenings in Joliet

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.

Mall-o-ween at Northfield Mall in Bourbonnais Oct 28th at 6pm

Bounce House Nights at Adventure Commons for children with Special needs & their Families. $3/child Fall dates are Nov 21st, Dec 19th & Dec 26th

To find more fun events in Kankakee County go to the Kankakee County Calendar of Events.

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 September/October Issue

- Best Halloween Events for Kids in Chicago and the Suburbs from Chicago Parent.

Pumpkin Farms, corn mazes, and more Fall fun in all counties:

- Bengtson's Pumpkin Farm in Homer Glen
- Benoit Greenhouse in Kankakee
- Boggios's Orchard & Produce in Granville
- Bronkberry Farms in Plainfield
- Butterprint Farm Pumpkin Patch in Monee
- Cosley Zoo Pumpkin Fest in Wheaton
- Crosswind Farms in Manhattan
- Dollinger Family Farm located in Channahon
- Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch in Pingree Grove
- Heap's Giant Pumpkin Farm in Minooka
- Johansen Farms in Bolingbrook
- Koncow's Corn Maze in Homer Glen
- Kregels's Pumpkin Patch in Lowell IN
- Kuiper's Family Farm in Maple Park
- Odyssey Fun Farm in Tinley Park
- Puckerville Farms in Lemont
- Siegel's Cottonwood Farm in Lockport
- Tom & Zach's Pumpkin Farm in Lockport
- The Children's Farm at the Center in Palos Park

Where to go Apple Picking near you:
Apple Orchards in IL from the U of I Extension
9 Best Apple Picking Spots in IL
Best Apple Picking in Kankakee
10 Charming Apple Orchards in IL
U Pick Apples Near Chicagoland from mykidlist.com
Where to go apple picking near Chicago - Chicagoparent.com

Fun and educational places for families:
DuPage Children's Museum Pre-registration & masks for children age 2 & up recommended.
Kidswork 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 Zoo enjoy Fall Fest at the zoo weekends in October &Spooky Zoo on Oct 22
Brookfield Zoo has Boo at the Zoo starting October 8th
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.

2022 Holiday Program Information

Will County Center for Community Concerns has a Holiday Basket program for families in need. To register families must stop by WCCCC office at 2455 Glenwood Avenue, Joliet, and complete an application. **Apply now quantities are limited.** To apply bring proof of income for all household members for past 30 days, photo ID, proof of residency in Will county (utility bill), approval letter for any benefits received from DHS, Social Security cards of everyone in household, must have a birth certificate or proof of age for child under age 16. For more information call 815-722-0722

Salvation Army

The Joliet Salvation Army registration for the holiday assistance program ended the 1st week of October. Families register in person at 300 3rd Avenue, Joliet. Call 815-726-4834 for more information

In Ottawa the Salvation Army the Salvation Army contact # is 815-433-0798, 516 W Madison St. Ottawa. Families go into the office to apply, and **applications are being taken through the third week of October**. See the Angel Tree Program Flyer here

In Kankakee the Salvation Army contact # is 815-933-8421, 543 East Court, Kankakee.
https://www.facebook.com/salvationarmykankakee/
The angel tree program is online and families can go tohttps://www.saangeltree.org/ to register. They will enter "No" for invitation code, and then enter their zip code to apply for the local program for children under age 12.

We Care of Grundy County is hosting an income-based Adopt a Family Program for 2022.If you are in need of help, please plan to attend one of these days and bring the following required documentation: Photo ID for the Head of Household, Address Verification, Proof of Income. If you have any questions, please call We Care at 815-942-6389 ext 3.

Applications will be taken during the dates and times below.

Location: We Care of Grundy County, 530 Bedford Rd., Morris

- **October 11, 9-Noon**
- **October 21st, 9-Noon /1-3 pm.**
- **October 27th, 9-Noon /1-3pm**
- **November 3rd, 5-7pm**
- **November 11th, 2-6pm**

Operation Christmas Bolingbrook & Romeoville through the Community Service Council. This program supports families who reside in Bolingbrook and Romeoville. Accepted families with children aged newborn through 17 years old will receive new gifts and a food basket. Enrollment for the 2022 OCB program began on **Saturday, October 1 and will end Wednesday, November 30**. Due to COVID-19 precautions, OCB will be using contactless pickup of the gifts. Emails to schedule gift pickup will be sent out starting on December 1st. All gift/food pickups will be scheduled between December 10 and 20. If you have any questions, please email OCB at ocb2021bb@gmail.com or leave a message at 630.226.8599. Click here to complete the Enrollment form in English or Spanish

New Initiatives to Support Families

Birth to Five Illinois is an new statewide initiative with the goal of creating Birth to Five Action Councils and Family Councils in 39 regions of the state. **Illinois has a goal of becoming the best state in the nation for families raising young children** by improving and expanding the delivery of child care and early learning programs for children from birth until they start kindergarten.

The Birth to Five Action Councils will include parents and families, service providers, educators, and advocates who will be tasked with identifying service needs in each region. Information gathered by these Councils will be provided to the State in hopes of informing policy around birth-to-five programs over the next decade, and beyond.

Information on Family Councils:

They are currently looking for families to join the Councils! Families who:

- live across the region, especially areas that have been under-resourced
- represent the racial diversity of the region
- have at least one child age eight and under

Can submit a Family Council Interest Form

As part of the Family Council:

- You will be asked to serve a **full two year-term** if possible on the Family Action Council. You will have the option to commit for one year, with the opportunity to continue for the second year at a later time.
- You may need to **attend about two meetings per month.**
- If you serve on the Family Council, **you will receive a stipend for your time and experience.**
- Click here to view more information on joining a Family Action Council in your area.

Will County 708 Mental Health Board

In November 2022 Will County Residents will have the opportunity to vote for a small

property tax increase to establish a [Community Mental Health Board] to ensure all residents of Will County have access to high quality services for those impacted by mental illness, addictions, and developmental disabilities.

Is your Child Turning 3 soon and leaving EI?

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 time.

- [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

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

- [In-person checklists for Early]

Live Video Early Intervention Visits are an

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.

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: Ipads, 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 (Ipads, 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 ECTA (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

Family Support Resources For All Areas

Parent/Family Support Programs:

Star Net Region VI offers workshops and information for parents & professionals who shape the lives of children age 0-5. The are offering a Family Webinar on October 25th on Early Intervention to College, One Family's Encounter with Life and Special Education click on the link for more info or to register.

ParentEd talks from Chicago Parent are back! Click the link to register. The 2022-2023 series features experts sharing insights on parenting topics such as overcoming trauma, ADHD, understanding depression and anxiety, and more!

Free ACES Parenting class held at We Care in Morris. This 5 week program begins on October 12th and 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.

2-1-1 is now available in all counties 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.

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. 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

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. They also offer a Spanish Speaking group that meets weekly - 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.

Family Resource Center on Disabilities is Chicago's Metropolitan Area Parent Training and Information Center and supports families in 8 IL counties including **Will** & **Grundy** Counties. Call 312-939-3513, email: info@frcd.org, or go to the 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

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 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.

Chicago Feeding Group is dedicated to supporting families with children who struggle to eat. They offer workshops for parents and have several Free on-demand webinars.

To view additional informational online resources for families related to Early Intervention and Child Development please click here.

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.

The Salvation Army in Kankakee has a walk through family-choice food pantry open Tuesdays from 10:00am-12pm-1:00-3:00pm. 148 Harrison Ave in Kankakee.

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

COVID-19 Information

All Illinois residents age 6 months and over are eligible for the Covid vaccines. For more information 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.

Did you know that your private health insurance will cover the cost of home covid tests? For more information contact your insurance provider.

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.

IDPH
Illinois Department of Public Health

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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