



Special Education Parent Resource Center Newsletter



Disability Resources and Awareness Fair Recap from October 25th

The in-person Disability Resources and Awareness Fair that was held on October 25th was a enormous success! We had a considerable number of families with disabilities attending and several educational support professionals, as well. We wish to thank the following resource organizations for participating in our event:

- Eggleston Services
- Independence Center
- Laura Hales, Author of Disability Awareness Books
- Our Brother's Keeper
- Parent Education Advisory Training Center (PEATC)
- Smart-One Inc.
- Social Security Administration
- Suffolk Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Suffolk Project Lifesaver
- Suffolk Parks & Recreation - Therapeutic Recreation
- SPS Special Education Parent Resource Center
- SPS Specialist Support Teams
- Western Tidewater Community Services Board (WTCSB)
- Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC)

Our resource partners embraced our theme of disability-friendly trick-or-treating and dispensed treats along with their crucial resources. We received nothing but positive feedback from attendees who appreciated the one-stop-shopping feature of attending our fair. As families discussed their concerns at the SPS Parent Resource Center booth, we were able to provide consultations and resources from the Center and direct the families to the booths of the organizations which could provide additional resources.

Disability Resources Virtual Fair

If you missed the in-person resource fair, don't worry!

SPS has got you covered!

The Special Education Department has created the Disability Resources Virtual Fair to help parents, educators, and students to locate, and easily contact, those organizations needed to help individuals with disabilities in our community. This virtual fair is open to the public at the following link: <https://spsk12.instructure.com/courses/17958>. You may access information and resources from each of the organizations who participated in our resource fairs in April and October of this year. If you have any difficulty accessing the page or would like to suggest additional resource organizations, please contact Vivian Evett at the Special Education Parent Resource Center at VivianEvett@spsk12.net or call (757) 925-5785.

You may also access the virtual fair on the Special Education Parent Resource Center webpage at https://www.spsk12.net/departments/special-education/parent_resource_center_-_special_education.



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Special Points of Interest

- Next **SEAC Meeting:** **November 16th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** at **KFMS** (also available virtually).
- **Special Education Parent Resource Center available by appointment. Regular hours: Monday - Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Additional hours available. Please call **925-5785** for an **appointment**.



Medicaid Changing to Cardinal Care

A message from Medicaid: Starting January 1, 2023, Virginia Medicaid members will be part of Cardinal Care - a single system of care for all of their 2 million members. Cardinal Care will connect members to the care that they need when they need it and reduce transitions between programs as their health care needs evolve. All managed care and fee-for-service Medicaid members will be part of the Cardinal Care program. The Cardinal Care program will combine the two managed care programs of Medallion 4.0 and Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus (CCC Plus) into one program. Medallion 4.0 serves children, pregnant women and adults. CCC Plus serves older adults, disabled children and adults, and individuals receiving long-term services and supports (LTSS). The fee-for-service program will continue to serve newly enrolled members for a short time as well as those with limited health coverage.

Cardinal Care will continue to offer members the same programs and services and will not reduce or change any existing coverage. Members in managed care can maintain their health plan and do not need to take any action to enroll in Cardinal Care. Some members may soon receive new cards with the Cardinal Care logo that will become active on January 1, 2023. Members can also continue to use their blue-and-white Medicaid ID cards. Both the old and new cards will be accepted by Medicaid providers. Transition to Cardinal Care will be automatic, as long as you are a current, eligible Medicaid member.

For more information on this change, please visit the Medicaid website at https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/for-members/cardinal-care/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Free American Sign Language Classes

November 21st, In-person at Nansemond River High School

SPS offers free in-person American Sign Language (ASL) classes with Kim Werner, SPS Educational Interpreter at Nansemond River High School. These classes are hosted monthly. All classes are scheduled for **5:00 p.m.**, typically on the fourth Monday of each month. The **next meeting is scheduled for November 21st**. The classes will be tailored to the attendees' needs, as much as possible. Attendees are encouraged to provide specific information on what they would like to learn in ASL.



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Teachers who attend these free American Sign Language Classes will receive one Star point for each class they attend!

For more information or to register for classes, please contact Kim Werner at kimwerner@spsk12.net.

Transition University - Fall 2022

October 10th - November 29th

PEATC, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education, presents Transition University - Fall 2022. This is a **free 5-week, self-paced, online course** that focuses on providing parent-friendly transition information to help make transition planning easier. This course is designed for parents/caregivers of elementary, middle, or high school students that receive special education services. The goal is to share factual information on transition services and to help make the transition from school services to the adult services world less confusing.

For more information on this online course, please visit their website at <https://bit.ly/3e5y51e>.

Festive Therapeutic Recreation Social Hours

November 15th and December 15th

The Therapeutic Recreation Department of Suffolk Parks and Recreation is offering festive social hours on November 15th and December 15th for individuals with disabilities ages 4 - 21. These events will offer activities, games, and refreshments designed for individuals with disabilities. The events are free and open to the public, but you must register before the event to ensure that all can be accommodated.

For more information and/or to register for these events, please contact Jaimie Belch at (757) 514-7264 or jbelch@suffolkva.us.





Tidewater Autism Summit 2022

November 12th, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Virginia Autism Foundation is hosting their 13th Annual Tidewater Autism Summit on Saturday, November 12th from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the YMCA JT's Camp Grom, 1181 Prosperity Road, in Virginia Beach. Admission is free and the best autism service providers in Virginia will be participating. This event will be kid-friendly with a de-stress area available. Free admission, free toys for all children, a petting zoo, bounce house, breakout sessions, free grants for Project Lifesaver bracelets, FACT Summer camp, and KelsKids swim lessons provided.

For more information and/or to register for this event, please call Melanie Miller at (757) 567-9805 or email her at melanie@virginiaautismfoundation.com.

IEP University

October 30th - November 20th

PEATC, in collaboration with VDOE, has developed IEP University (IEPU) to help provide families and professionals with accurate and useful information around IEP development and meetings. IEPU is a **free, self-paced online training** with easy-to-understand guidance on the special education process, the IEP document, and ways to develop collaborative relationships among schools and families. IEPU will target practical strategies aimed at helping future IEP meetings be more positive, productive, and collaborative for everyone involved. For more information or to register, please visit <https://IEPU-Fall2022.eventbrite.com>.

Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income 101

November 14th, 5:30 p.m.

The Social Security Administration is offering a free webinar on Social Security Disability (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) 101. This webinar is open to the public and will be available on November 14th at 5:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Learn about the application process and how to use your online account. Also learn about other SSA services. To pre-register, please visit <http://forms.gle/h7hNhcFwMfNweoVZ6>. For more information, please contact Thomas Sentz, Program Manager HRCAP Housing & Financial Literacy, at Thomas.Sentz@hrcapinc.org.

Successful Transition Planning and the IEP

November 14th (4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.) or 15th (5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)

PEATC offers two opportunities to access the Successful Transition Planning and the IEP workshop on November 14th at 4:30 p.m. and November 15th at 5:30 p.m. This workshop will encourage active participation in developing a meaningful and useful transition plan to help in preparing for life as an adult when they finish school. Attendees will learn what needs to be in the transition plan and what the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) says about transition services. A transition plan is part of the IEP for students in Virginia who are age 14 and older. For more information or to register, please go to the PEATC calendar of events at <https://peatc.org/events/>.

Autism 101 Online Meeting

November 9th 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

The Autism Society Tidewater Virginia offers an Autism 101 Online Meeting designed to provide attendees with an introduction to autism spectrum disorder, a basic overview of services and supports, and an introduction to resource navigation.

Their aim is to provide hope and guidance for the journey ahead. Their goal is to present a balanced, well-informed perspective on Autism related services, therapies, friendships, shared experiences, transition to adult life, and many more of the complexities life brings with this diagnosis.

For more information or to register for this online meeting, please visit https://tidewaterasa.formstack.com/forms/conference_registration_autism101.



Special Education Parent Resource Center

Located in:
Booker T. Washington Elementary School
204 Walnut Street, Room 305
Suffolk, VA 23434

Special Education Parent Resource Liaison:
Vivian Evett
Email: VivianEvett@spsk12.net
Phone: (757) 925-5785
Fax: (757) 925-5558



Have questions about the Special Education process, advocating for your child, and/or availability of resources and supports?

Contact Vivian Evett at the Special Education Parent Resource Center.



Special Education Parent Resource Center



The Special Education Parent Resource Center provides resources, supports, and private consultation to families of students receiving special education services in Suffolk Public Schools. For more information about the Special Education Parent Resource Center, please contact Vivian Evett - Special Education Parent Resource Liaison at (757) 925-5785 or send an email to VivianEvett@spsk12.net.

Check us out online at:

https://www.spsk12.net/departments/special-education/parent_resource_center_special_education.

Endeppendence Center, Inc.

The Endeppendence Center, Inc. (ECI) is the Center for Independent Living for South Hampton Roads. Their offices will be open under Covid-19 precautions during October for scheduled appointments only; however, ECI staff continue to be available by telephone and email, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. ECI will be closed on November 11th, 24th, and 25th.

ECI invites current and former center participants to attend their annual holiday party: **Winter Wonderland**, December 14th from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach-Norfolk Hotel & Conference Center, 5655 Greenwich Road in Virginia Beach. The cost is \$5.00 and there will be food, music, pictures, karaoke, door prizes, and dancing. RSVP no later than Friday, December 2nd with Sarah Bailey at (757) 351-1585 or sbailey@endeppendence.org.

ECI will host several in-person group activities in their facility including:

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|----------------------|--|
| November 8th | Independent Living Skills Training - Tenant Based Rental Assistance |
| November 19th | Independent Living Skills Training - Brainstorming Session |
| November 19th | Regional SEAC Meeting |
| November 22nd | Americans with Disabilities Act Training - Employment |

For more information concerning these and other events provided by ECI, please contact the Endeppendence Center at 757-461-8007, or email them at ecinorff@endeppendence.org. Please visit the ECI website at <https://endeppendence.org/>.

Moms In Motion/At Home Your Way

Moms In Motion/At Home Your Way is a Consumer-Directed Service Facilitation provider for individuals approved for Virginia Medicaid waivers. MIM/AHYW serves individuals and their families by providing resources and information, engaging in advocacy through community-wide and state-wide networks and by assisting people in navigating the waiver world's constant changes. In Consumer-Directed Services, the eligible individual with a disability is allowed to select, hire, fire, and train their own particular caregiver(s).

For more information on Moms In Motion/At Home Your Way, please visit www.momsinmotion.net.

Game Night for Teens with Autism

Bridging B.L.O.C.K.S. presents Game Night for Teens with Autism. Game night is held every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at 3105 American Legion Road, Suite A, Chesapeake, VA 23321. These game nights provide an opportunity for teens with Autism to socialize and have fun playing cards, board games, and more. For more information, please contact Bridging B.L.O.C.K.S. at bridgingblocks@gmail.com or call 757-575-1482.