Family Centered Events, Information & Resources

Created for Families, by Families.
The Union Outpatient Center is Now Open!

Children’s Specialized Hospital (CSH) opened the doors of its newest outpatient center located at the Kenneth Esdale Pavilion at 2840 Morris Avenue in Union, NJ.

This new 66,000 square foot facility offers the latest technology and a full suite of therapy and physician services and encompasses all outpatient services from both the CSH Warren and Mountainside sites in one convenient location.

Learn More

Children's Specialized Hospital Locations

**New Jersey**
Bayonne, Clifton, East Brunswick, Egg Harbor Township, Hamilton, Jersey City, Mountainside, New Brunswick, New Brunswick - Plum Street, Newark, Somerset, Toms River - Stevens Road, Toms River - Lakehurst Road, Union, West Orange

**California**
San Diego
1-888-CHILDREN

[www.rwjbh.org/childrensspecialized](http://www.rwjbh.org/childrensspecialized)
We understand the complexities of raising a child with special healthcare needs. Our Special Needs Primary Care is proud to provide children with special healthcare needs, and their siblings, outstanding family-centered healthcare.

**As Your Medical Home, we will:**
- Take care of your child when he or she is sick
- Help you plan your child’s care and set goals for their care
- Discuss any testing or treatment that your child needs
- Coordinate care with you and other care providers
- Partner with you to help you live well and stay well

**Two Locations in Hamilton, NJ and Union, NJ**

[Click here to learn more.](#)
Does Your Child Struggle to Understand the Emotions of Others?

If your child:
- has sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) at least 1 year ago
- is between the ages of 9-17 years old
- is experiencing difficulties in understanding others emotions
- has no other neurological illness
- is able to speak and read English fluently
- is able to use a computer

They may be eligible to participate in a new study investigating whether an emotional processing program can improve the interpretation of others emotions in children and adolescents following traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Requirements:
- 45 minute screening evaluation for full study inclusion.
- 8 weeks total of participation broken down in the following:
  - **Week 1:** 3-hour visit for paper-and-pencil tests and questionnaires.
  - **Weeks 2-7:** 45-60 minute sessions twice per week for six weeks, during which your child has a 50/50 chance of either undergoing experimental treatment for processing emotions or participating in computer exercises.
  - **Week 8:** 3-hour visit for paper-and-pencil tests and questionnaires.

This study can be completed entirely remote! Testing will take place using a HIPAA compliant online platform.

Participants who complete this study will receive $300 for their time.

For more information, please contact:
Clarice Bourland
Kessler Foundation
973-323-3678, cbourland@kesslerfoundation.org
Need Medical Equipment or Have Some to Donate

Did you know...
The Medical Equipment Ministry collects and donates a variety of medical equipment at no cost to you!

How does it work?
The Ministry collects medial equipment donations and makes them available to those in need. The equipment is given out at no cost, for as long as it is needed. Simply return it or pay it forward and you are done.

What type of medical equipment is available?
Hospital beds, wheelchairs, scooters, motorized wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walkers, commodes, lifts, adult diapers, shower seats, bed rails, rolling tables, transport chairs, and more.

For more Information please contact the Medical Equipment Ministry:

ppch.org
908-396-6057
279 U.S. 202
Bedminster, NJ 07921

Children's Specialized Hospital does not endorse any commercial products or services.
Necesitas Equipo Medico
O Tienes Algo Que Donar?

Sabias Que...
El Ministro de Equipos Medicos recoge y dona una variedad de Equipos Medicos sin costo para usted!

Como Funciona?
El ministro recauda donaciones de equipos medicos y las pone a disposicion de los necesitados. El equipo se entrega sin costo alguno, durante el tiempo que sea necesario. Simplemente devuelvelo o pagalo y listo.

Que Tipo de Equipo Medico esta Disponible?
Camas de hospital, sillas de ruedas, scooters, sillas de ruedas motorizadas, muletas, bastones, caminantes, equipo basico para ir al bano, ascensores, panales de adultos, sillas de ducha, barandillas de cama, mesas rodantes, sillas de transporte, y mas.

Para mas Informacion Comuniquese con
Ministro de Equipo Medico:

ppch.org
908-396-6057
279 U.S. 202
Bedminster, NJ 07921

El Hospital de Children’s Specialized no respalda ningun producto o servicio comercial.
Research Studies
at Children's Specialized Hospital

The Research Center at Children's Specialized Hospital strives to advance pediatric rehabilitation by initiating and supporting evidence-based studies that explore innovative interventions, technologies and approaches to specialized care for children and adolescents.

View our current research studies in any of our five core areas by scanning the codes below with your mobile device or tablet.

- Autism
- Brain Injury
- Chronic Health Conditions
- Cognition
- Mobility
Friday Night Fever!

**WHAT:** A social group for teens ages 13-21 years old

**When:** Friday nights

**Register:** [CSH.recdesk.com](http://CSH.recdesk.com) or call 908-301-5548

Friday Night Fever is a membership-based social program for teens and young adults. This program provides monthly events virtually, on site and in the community to promote independence. Status of virtual/in-person events coincides with CDC and CSH guidelines at the time of the events. All new applicants must trial to insure they’re an appropriate fit.
Activity Connection provides recreational, sports and social activities for children, teens and young adults with diverse abilities. Our programs create an ideal environment for participants to make new friends and enjoy new experiences. All programs are led by Children’s Specialized Hospital’s therapists, certified program instructors, coaches and trained volunteers who provide age-appropriate and safe activities in an inclusive and fun environment.

Register for programs today!

Register online:
csh.recdesk.com

Register over the phone:
908-301-5510

activityconnection@childrensspecialized.org

Program Opportunities:

In-person Recreation Programs

Virtual Recreation Programs
- Weekly Zumba and Yoga
- Monthly Musical Me!

Summer Camps
- Camp Pal’s Paradise and Camp Chatterbox
CSH Activity Connection (in Spanish)

Activity Connection ofrece actividades recreativas, deportivas y sociales para niños, adolescentes y adultos jóvenes con diversas habilidades. Nuestros programas crean un ambiente ideal para que los participantes hagan nuevos amigos y disfruten de nuevas experiencias. Todos los programas están dirigidos por terapeutas recreacionales, personal de recreación comunitaria y voluntarios del Children’s Specialized Hospital y instructores certificados del programa, que brindan actividades seguras y apropiadas para la edad en un ambiente inclusivo y divertido.

Registrar aquí:
csh.recdesk.com
908-301-5548
activityconnection@childrensspecialized.org

Opciones virtuales y presenciales!
En persona:
- Court Sports, Social Club, Individual Aquatics, Play Times and Teen Nights!

Híbrido y Virtuales:
- Híbrido Zumba y Yoga
- Virtuales mensuales Musical Me!

Campamento:
- Camp Pal’s Paradise and Camp Chatterbox
Announcing 2022 Sessions!

This seven-week virtual parent workshop was developed by the pediatric psychotherapists at Children’s Specialized Hospital to help parents of children ages 2-10 years learn how to better manage their behavior.

This program is free, but registration is required.

For a full list of 2022 dates, please click below:

2022 Workshop Information

*Registration opens approximately 5 weeks prior to the start of date of each cycle.*
We are excited to team up, once again, with the Middletown Soccer Club this year! Please feel free to forward this email to any families of people with special needs who might be interested. We hope to see you on the field!

When you click "Register Now" the website is going to look a little different but will function the same way. Simply scroll down to find Soccer RallyPlayer Registration and click on the blue title link to see more info and to register.

**When:** Saturdays from 10am-11am on these dates: Oct. 22, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, Nov. 12, Nov. 19

**Location:** Nutswamp Elementary School in Middletown (Upper turf field next to school)

[Register for Soccer Here]
WE WELCOME ALL SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN IN GRADES K-5, PARTICULARLY THOSE STRUGGLING TO READ, TO OUR SEMI-MONTHLY PAWS TO READ PROGRAM!

Location
Montclair Township Animal Shelter
77 North Willow Street
Montclair, NJ 07042

TO SELECT A DATE & REGISTER
Date and time
Sun, December 4, 2022, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM EST
Location
Bell Works 101 Crawfords Corner Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733

Families will enjoy a day full of local vendors, food for sale, visits with Santa, character picture station, entertainment, and more!

Admission is free and gift bags will be given out to the first 250 attendees! Registration is required.

TO REGISTER
The CSH Family Advisory Council has created an online support corner for parents and caregivers of children with special healthcare needs. This page provides access to blogs, resources, support groups and monthly events to ensure families have the support they need on their healthcare journey. Check out all the page has to offer below and visit rwjbh.org/cshsupportcorner to learn more.
About this event
The brain has a direct effect on the stomach and intestines.
For example, the very thought of eating can release the stomach's juices before food gets there. This connection goes both ways. A troubled intestine can send signals to the brain, just as a troubled brain can send signals to the gut. Therefore, a person's stomach or intestinal distress can be the cause or the product of anxiety, stress, or depression. That's because the brain and the gastrointestinal (GI) system are intimately connected.

Mary Ellen Zung, BA is an Integrative Health Coach and works as a health educator with not for profit health care organizations to educate the community as well as health professionals about the importance of cancer screenings including addressing the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mary Ellen also teaches the CDC’s National Diabetes Prevention Program at the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA. Mary Ellen is a graduate of the Institute for Integrative Nutrition where she received her Health Coaching Certification, has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a concentration in Rehabilitative Counseling from Emmanuel College, earned graduate level credits in Industrial Psychology and Business from SUNY, Baruch College and holds a New Jersey teaching certificate.

Tuesday,
Dec. 6, 2022
2 PM - 3 PM

To Register
Autism Friendly Swim Hour

by Ocean County YMCA

About this event

Families of those on the autism spectrum are invited to join us for an hour of family swim fun. This after-business-hours event will be overseen by our Adaptive Learning Coordinator, Licensed Behavior Therapist Daniel Giacin.

To ensure our families have a pleasant experience, please note the following information:
• An adult needs to accompany the autistic family member in the pool.
• Come swim ready, with bathing suits on.
• Event takes place in the shallow-end only.

To accommodate auditory sensitivity, there will be no music and the number of attendees will be limited.

Date and Time:
Sun, December 11th, 2022
2:00 PM – 3:30PM EDT

Location:
Ocean County YMCA
1088 West Whitty Road
Toms River, NJ 08755

TO REGISTER
Swimming on the Spectrum

by Ocean County YMCA

1 on 1 Swim Lesson
The Ocean County YMCA is proud to offer our Adaptive Swim Program-SWIMMING ON THE SPECTRUM. Classes are open to children and adults with intellectual and/or physical disabilities.

SWIMMING ON THE SPECTRUM is an ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) inspired adaptive water safety/swim program for children and adults on the autism spectrum. The program offers an individualized curriculum, meeting each swimmer at their ability, as they work toward mastering water safety skills. Our Adaptive Swim Classes are designed to give each and every person the skill and knowledge to be safe in and around the water, but most importantly, to have fun and enjoy!

Ages Child to adult

Registration $25 per scheduled lesson

Contact to Schedule Daniel Giacin, Autism Programming Director, 732-341-9622 ext. 2278 dgiacin@ocymca.org
Teen and Parent Summit

Saturday, February 11  8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  St. Elizabeth University in Morristown, NJ

Targeted programming for both parents and teens will be offered, with breakout sessions for both groups.

Parents will have the opportunity to hear from and engage with other parents who have raised or are raising young adults with TS, talk to neurologists and psychologists who specialize in the treatment of TS, and chat with young adults in the workforce with TS to hear what was most valuable in helping them achieve success.

Teens will participate in activities to build confidence and form connections with their peers with TS, chat with young adults who recently graduated high school to hear what the transition to college or the workforce is like, and hear from other teens with experience in advocacy what it took to find their voice and advocate for themselves and others.

This event is completely free of charge, and lunch will be provided. Take advantage of the opportunity to actively participate in programming that supports parents AND teens and gives both groups the chance to come together in community!

REGISTER HERE
Sharing Possibilities in Self-Direction

The Byte Size Lunch Series: Making Assistive Technology work for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Presented in partnership with The Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center

From the smart phone in your pocket to smart home thermostats, assistive technology is everywhere! But it can sometimes feel hard to know how or where to start exploring all the options and putting them into practical use. Thankfully, we’re here to help people with and without disabilities explore high, low, and no-tech solutions

In easy-to-understand ‘bite size’ lunchtime conversations, we’ll show how to use these solutions in the home, the office, and in the community! Each 45-minute session will highlight one specific topic, demonstrate tools, and leave plenty of time to answer your questions.

Come explore the possibilities for yourself and others. You can register for one, two or more sessions.

Click Here to Register

SCHEDULE - All sessions are 12:00 - 12:45pm

October 6, 2022 - Supports for Individuals Who are Blind / Visually-Impaired

November 3, 2022 - Supports for Individuals who are Deaf / Hard-of-hearing

December 1, 2022 – AT for Medication

January 5, 2023 – AT for Physical Mobility

February 9, 2023 - Low Tech 3-D Printed Solutions / Non-3D Solutions

March 2, 2023 - Introduction to Augmented and Alternative Communication

Click Here to Register
A Support Group for Parents of Children with Tourette

Wednesday, October 12, at 8 p.m.
Wednesday, November 9, at 8 p.m.
Wednesday, December 14, at 8 p.m.

Our newest NJCTS support group is an avenue for parents who are new to a TS diagnosis to seek support and guidance from parents who have more experience, as well as an opportunity for parents with more familiarity in coping with TS to also learn and seek guidance. The group will be facilitated by Dr. Jeremy Lichtman, an expert in the treatment of TS, who is there to answer questions and provide guidance wherever you may be in your TS journey.

REGISTER HERE
Supporting Your Child with ADHD: How to Effectively Work With Them, Not Against
Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.

The Executive Function deficits that are at the core of ADHD impair planning, prioritizing, goal setting, task shifting, and emotion regulation to name a few. How can a child with these deficits expect to change behavior alone? They need a team, a parallel person who can teach them how to get the most out of their unique brain wiring.

In this Tourette Talk, learn how to effectively be on your child’s team. Join the discussion on December 8th at 7pm as ADHD Coach Jane Milrod provides education on the neurobiology of ADHD along practical techniques on strategies a parent can use to support their child with ADHD to encourage improvements in Executive Functioning.

REGISTER HERE
Join our TS Community and Connect with Others!

Calling all young adults with TS, age 18-35. Join us as we come together to build our community and connect with others navigating both the TS journey and adulthood - including college, work, relationships and family. Here you can comfortably discuss your experiences, share advice, and build a network with those who understand your unique challenges.

REGISTER HERE

Monday at 7 P.M. on the following dates: 10/17, 11/14, 12/12/2022.
Mondays with Michael is a weekly chat on Facebook Live about a topic related to special education.

December 5th - Writing SMART Goals in IEPs

December 12th - Accommodations and Modifications

December 19th - Resources to Help with Homework/Assignments

January 2nd - From Early Intervention to Preschool

January 9th - Requesting Evaluations and Re-Evals

There's no need to register. Tune in every Monday at 10am

https://www.facebook.com/thearcofnjfamilyinstitute
Research Opportunity for Kids & Teens at Kessler Foundation

Scientists are researching whether an emotional processing program can improve the interpretation of others’ emotions in children and adolescents following TBI.

Who is Eligible
- Adolescents who are 9-17 years of age
- Has sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury at least 1 year ago

Where
- This is a completely virtual study taking place using a HIPAA compliant online platform such as zoom health

Compensation
You will be compensated $300 in total for completing this study. $100 will be compensated after completion of baseline testing and $200 will be compensated for completion of follow up testing after the 12-week intervention.

If you have any questions or you think an adolescent may be a good candidate for this study, email jleddy@kesslerfoundation.org or call 973-324-8429.

Click Here to Learn More
Project SEARCH is a one-year, intensive employment skills training program based inside Overlook Medical Center in Summit, NJ. Students spend an entire school year on-site at the hospital rotating through three different internship experiences. They also receive 90 minutes of classroom-based instruction per day on topics related to employability and independent living. Students are strongly encouraged to take public transportation to and from Overlook, and the program offers comprehensive travel training the summer before the program begins in collaboration with the NJ Travel Independence Program at Rutgers.

Project SEARCH is accepting applications on a rolling basis. We will schedule interviews with students and their families after all application materials are received.

To learn more about SEARCH visit:
https://projectsearch.us/transition-to-work/

For questions, please reach out to Josh Bornstein at jbornstein@ucesc.org
Do you love to sing? Find the music in you! Together in Song is an all-inclusive community choir designed for individuals with or without disabilities. Sessions will take place online every Sunday at 2 PM. To register, get the song list and Zoom link, please email Together.in.song.CC@gmail.com

This event is sponsored by the Camden County Board of Commissioners for individuals with disABILITIES and special needs. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities or know someone who might be, please contact Karen Weidner at karen.weidner@camdencounty.com or by phone at 856-216-2127.

VIRTUAL MEETING
Sunday, Oct 2nd, 2022 @ 2:00 pm
Your child may qualify for a research study on behavioral therapies for children with Autism!

Eligible participants receive Autism diagnostic testing and assessments of functional skills and sensory behaviors.

Participants may be randomly selected to receive 30 one-hour sessions of Sensory Integration therapy or Applied Behavior Analysis. The goal of both therapies is to see improvements in a child’s functional skills and a reduction of maladaptive behaviors.

Sensory Integration Therapy (SIT) works to improve sensory-motor factors that affect a child’s functional skills. Children do sensory-motor play-based activities and apply skills to functional tasks.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) works to identify skills that impact a child’s every day functioning. The interventionist breaks down each skill into teachable steps, to facilitate learning. Participants will be compensated $250 throughout the course of the study and will receive a summary.

Contact for information:
Joanne Hunt 908-588-9738
jhunt@childrens-specialized.org

Location: Children’s Specialized Hospital 94 Stevens Road Toms River, New Jersey 08755
Suicide Prevention Training for Parents - Save the Date

This will be a virtual training for parents who wish to learn more about suicide prevention.

Please register to remain updated on this event's details or use the Upcoming Events tab on the Y.A.L.E. School website.

Date and time
Sat, January 7, 2023, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM EST
Managing Medical Care
– Hybrid Meeting

MANAGING MEDICAL CARE
HOW TO GET THE BEST CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE

Saturday, November 19, 2022, 10AM to 3PM
Register Here: bit.ly/3TBNEh4

Register Here

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities
Transition support in South NJ offered by YALE School

Y.A.L.E. School and Project SEARCH at Jefferson Health program partners invite parents, school district case managers and state agency representatives to learn about our award-winning work immersion program based at Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital and Jefferson Stratford Hospital, for students with autism and other disabilities entering their aging-out year.

Date and time
Thu, Dec 15, 2022, 7:00 PM EST

Location
Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital 2201 Chapel Avenue West Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
Join us for workshops about services for adults with disabilities and self-advocacy! Now is a great time to start planning for the future!

CAU’s transition fair is here to provide helpful workshops and information as you plan for the future with adult services for individuals with disabilities.

• Self advocacy and self-directed services workshop
• Learn about DDD services for adults
• Light refreshments will be served
Open Play at LifeTown in Livingston NJ

Tuesdays, 2:30-4:30pm
Tuesday: December 6
Tuesday: December 13
Tuesday: December 20

Thursdays, 2:30-4:30pm
Thursday: December 1
Thursday: December 8
Thursday: December 15
Thursday: December 22

TO REGISTER
Christmas Social Party
Sensory Santa in Millville

Ticket Deadline December 4th

Crafts-Food-Sensory Santa- Free Gifts
December 11, 2022

Wheaton Arts Village, Millville
11 AM - 2 PM
Separate Room for Santa

Children with disabilities encouraged; friends and family welcome. Complete accessible venue.
Did you know many people with disabilities do not receive access to sexual health education? This can be a difficult topic for some to navigate, but thankfully Oregon Health & Science University has put together a wonderful guide and resource portal on this topic, including how to help people with I/DD learn who they are, what their rights are, how to express themselves, and how to build healthy relationships.

Check it out
What Is Buddy Ball?
Buddy Ball is a year-round, non-profit, special needs athletic league. We strive to provide non-competitive sports and special events to individuals who have physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to give them an opportunity to play sports, regardless of their disabilities. There is a long list of sports that are part of the Buddy Ball program including bowling, street hockey, basketball, bowling, soccer, baseball and flag football. The nature of these activities teaches teamwork, promotes self-esteem, turn-taking, physical fitness, and social skills. The league also strengthens support networks for our athletes and their families.

The program serves adults and children ages 3 and up in Montgomery County and surrounding areas. There’s no charge for participating in any of the sports or activities. Featured sports are Basketball, Baseball, Bowling, Street Hockey and Swimming. Additional special events are the Buddy Ball Prom, Easter Egg Hunt, and a Christmas Parade.

https://www.buddyball.net/
Check it out
Start Date: 11/29/2022 12:00 PM EST
End Date: 11/29/2022 3:30 PM EST
Venue Name: PATTAN

Location:
333 Technology Drive
Malvern, PA United States

Organization Name: PASA
Contact:
Sherri Smith
Email: ssmith@pasa-net.org
Phone: (717) 540-4448

Federal Programs and Special Education Funding – Half-Day Workshop

Description:
Federal Funds come with their own set of rules and reporting requirements. A basic understanding of the parameters surrounding federal funding (ESSER, IDEA, Title 1, etc.) and reporting will be presented, including techniques on how to effectively embed the use of federal funds in your district’s overall budget.

Special Education Funds include Federal IDEA funds and state Special Education subsidies. A basic understanding of the formulas (including the state SEF formula and Act 16 reporting), appropriate uses for each type of funding, and specific reporting requirements will be discussed.

Half-day workshop schedule:
Check-in and lunch at noon.
Program begins at 12:30 p.m.
Program concludes at approximately 3:30 p.m.
Includes lunch
Sensory-Friendly Performance of The Nutcracker

November 26th – December 4th 2022

For More Information
Sports and Vocational Skills for 21+

Next dates: December 5, 12.

Join us for dinner followed by fun in the gym led by a sports coach and an amazing group of teenage volunteers. Participants have the opportunity to enjoy a selection of sports, as well as activities including floor bowling and scooters. Following the fun, participants will be assisting with a variety of goal-oriented projects, gaining practice listening to instructions about how to perform a task, completing the task together as a group, and delivering the finished product to the appropriate location.

5:00pm-6:30pm
10 Microlab Rd, Livingston

REGISTER HERE
We want to hear from Individuals with I/DD and their family members!

Participate in a Focus Group to share your perspectives on:

The ways in which people with I/DD from underserved communities and their families access information about services and supports.

Your feedback will help to inform the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities about the ways in which information about supports and services can be most effectively shared in underserved communities.

To register, fill out the [Pre-participation survey here](#)

Stipends will be provided to those who are selected to participate in the focus groups.
Infant Research Study at Rutgers

Institute for the Study of Child Development
Where Science and Baby Minds Meet

The Institute for the Study of Child Development at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School invites you and your infant (4 – 24 months of age) to participate in a free research study on how infants learn about their world through vision and hearing and interaction, and how this might identify at-risk infants.

You together with your baby will watch a few short videos of moving objects and talking faces, and also spend some time interacting with each other face-to-face.

We make appointments to fit your schedule
Appointments last approximately 45 minutes
Please contact Stacey at (732) 235-7700 Or napolisl@rwjms.rutgers.edu
SPAN offers a variety of learning opportunities for families and the professionals who work with them. Check out our Event Calendar here for details and registration links.

**Upcoming Events include:**

- Education and Health Care Rights in the Juvenile Justice System
- Empowering Women Resilience Information Session
- Starting and Running an Effective SEPAG
- Virtual Town Hall - COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Families
- Reunión Comunitaria Virtual Vacunas COVID-19
- Basic Rights in Special Education

**More events**
Teleplay Provides Live, Interactive Play for Children Affected by Rare Diseases

Project Sunshine's Rare Teleplay is a monthly virtual opportunity for children who have any rare disease and their siblings to enjoy Zoom activities and games. There is no talking about their condition or their sibling's condition. It's just about having fun and meeting other people who are living a life that's a little like theirs.

Check out the Telehealth Game Library here

Volunteers from California Polytechnic University entertain children from ages 5 to 18 for an hour each month. Parents don't need to be there but they can be if they want to be. This is all about the kids. It is free and it is fun.

Rare Teleplay meets via Zoom on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM Eastern

Download the Rare Teleplay event here from our website to join next month!
The purpose of the NJCTS Youth Advocate Council is to empower youth (ages 13-18) living with TS, tic disorders and the associated conditions, or some form of lived experience with TS, to educate, advocate and increase awareness of Tourette Syndrome and tic disorders.

The Youth Advocate Council will provide an open forum for communications where youth can share information and ideas, and discuss relevant topics inherent to the TS and tic disorder community. Through these conversations, making connections and participating in activities, teens will create and develop ways for increasing awareness and furthering the mission of NJCTS.

Did we mention it looks good on a college application?

If interested, please complete the form below and we will be in touch!

**YOUTH ADVOCATE COUNCIL APPLICATION**

Please note: Council meetings will be held once a month (mostly virtual and some in-person) and the Council term is for one year. (July-June)
What Does It Mean To Have ADHD?

December 7, 2022 7:30pm to 8:30pm Eastern Time

Presented by Eric Deibler, M.S. Ed., Psy.D

Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) is a developmental impairment of the brain’s self-management system known as executive functions. This disorder is one of the most commonly misdiagnosed disorders affecting both children and adults. In this webinar, we will delve into what ADHD is, the signs and symptoms, as well as the reasoning behind these misdiagnoses.

REGISTER HERE
Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD): When Everything Is Too Much

January 18, 2022 7:30pm to 8:30pm Eastern Time
Presented by Felicia Castagna, MS, OTR/L, C/NDT, CKPT, CBIS, SIPT.

This presentation will provide a basic overview of sensory processing disorder (SPD), discuss behaviors related to SPD, as well as interventions and strategies to address behaviors and self-regulation.

REGISTER HERE
The New Jersey Department of Education provided guidance to school districts, students, and parents/guardians of students with disabilities regarding the implementation of P.L.2021, c.109, which allows schools to provide additional or compensatory special education and related services to eligible students with disabilities beyond the age of 21.

The guidance includes information for school districts/LEAs about:
- The role of the IEP team in determining the need for additional services
- Sharing information with families about this legislation
- Dispute resolution

Reimbursements to school districts for providing additional services beyond age 21

Review the Guidance here

View additional Guidance regarding extending the period of time to file a due process hearing request

Contact the SPAN Warmline
via email for assistance related to these guidance documents or call 800-654-SPAN (7726)
The Seizure ID Program

Epilepsy Alliance America will be providing more than 2,000 Seizure ID products to people with epilepsy who need them through this one-of-a-kind campaign in the epilepsy community. The Seizure ID Program is made possible through a partnership with Greenwich Biosciences, now part of Jazz Pharmaceuticals.

Click here to learn more!
Learn about our 2022-2023 Group Programs!

Say & Play (Ages 1 to 6+ years)
SPOT On (Ages 7 to 12 years)
Teen Series (Ages 13+ years)
IT Works: Prevocational and Independent Living Skills Training Program

Services are provided at:
Intensive Therapeutics, Inc.
31 Fairfield Avenue
West Caldwell, NJ 07006
Financial Aid for Students with Intellectual Disability

Resources

Financial Aid for Students with Intellectual Disability*

There are college programs for students with intellectual disabilities that are not giving out a standard college degree. These are called Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary programs, or CTP programs. This Issue Brief is part of the 'Plain Language Series' from ThinkCollege.

It includes:
- Definition of federal financial aid
- Types of federal financial aid
- How to get financial aid

Plain Language Series: Federal Financial Aid (Link)
New Jersey Inclusive Higher Education Collaborative (Link)
Special Needs Vaccine Clinic Accepting Appointments in Red Bank, NJ

Autism New Jersey together with the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey (VNACJ) Community Health Center is open for all groups 12 and older.

We offer comprehensive information, support, and vaccine access through our special needs clinic. Learn more>>

- Extensive planning conversations with families and medical staff
- Individualized, on-site accommodations In-car vaccine option available

Pre-Register
OUR MISSION

is to improve the quality of life for individuals with physical, developmental, emotional, and medical challenges through a diverse program of equine assisted activities, therapy services, and educational initiatives.

Programs

- WHAT WE OFFER
- THERAPY SERVICES
- ADAPTIVE RIDING
- OPERATION: TAKE THE REINS
- HORSES FOR HEALING
- SUMMER CAMP
- FIELD TRIPS

Click here for more information
Our Mission
Special Strides is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the lives of individuals with special needs. With a unique combination of therapy, horses, and the natural environment, individuals achieve goals appropriate for therapy, recreation, and education. Special Strides provides all individuals an opportunity to “Improve their lives... one stride at a time” regardless of financial status.

Our Vision
Harvesting Hope...Breaking Boundaries...Realizing Potential

Our Values
Respect...Learning...Inclusion...Empathy...Possibility...Positivity...Teamwork

The values of diversity, inclusion, and equity are central to our mission.

http://specialstrides.com/
**Wednesday Programs**

**Academics (3) 4:15-4:45 pm**  
*Volunteer Instructor: Taylor*  
Areas of focus: weather, geography, grammar and punctuation, fractions, decimals, percentages  
(Virtual)

**Arts & Crafts + Guided Drawing 5:00- 6:30pm**  
*Volunteer Instructor: Taylor*  
(Virtual)

**Academics 4/Life Skills 5:45-6:15**  
*Volunteer Instructor: Abby*  
Areas of focus: time management, creating schedules, money management, value of money, leaving a tip at a restaurant, other life skills for teenagers/adults  
(Virtual)

**Register @ DSACNJ.ORG/EVENTS**
Wednesday Programs

Academics (3) 4:15-4:45 pm
Volunteer Instructor: Taylor
Areas of focus: weather, geography, grammar and punctuation, fractions, decimals, percentages (Virtual)

Arts & Crafts + Guided Drawing 5:00-6:30 pm
Volunteer Instructor: Taylor
(Virtual)

Academics 4/Life Skills 5:45-6:15
Volunteer Instructor: Abby
Areas of focus: time management, creating schedules, money management, value of money, leaving a tip at a restaurant, other life skills for teenagers/adults (Virtual)

Register @ DSACNJ.ORG/Events
Learn about parent rights related to education and health care in Child Protection Services System

About this event
Is a child with a disability who you care about involved in the Child Protection system?
Are you concerned about educational rights for a child with a disability who is engaged in the Child Protection System?
Join a WORKSHOP to learn about the Child Protection System, parent rights related to special education and health care resources!
After the workshop, families will be invited to schedule an individual 30 minute appointment to review their child’s IEP and/or health-related issues or concerns.

Presented by: Monique Dujue Wilson
More Information: Contact for more information jbrinkley@spanadvocacy.org
Multiple Dates Available

Click for Dates to Register
Join Club Dreams Virtual Yoga

Breaking down barriers for people with Down syndrome
Support Group for Caregivers

Support Group
For parents and caregivers of children with Special Needs

Join us virtually every other Thursday from 6PM to 7PM.
Supporting You on Your Parenting Journey

FACT and CAU are hosting
a biweekly parent support group to help you feel supported
and lifted as a parent. This effort is supported by
Union County Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council
(CIACC)
Scan the QR Code to register for the meeting

or click this link to register directly:

For more information contact:
Felicia Frazier
Director of Community Engagement & Resource Development
Families & Communities Together
felicia@factnj.org
or
Walter Kalman
Associate Executive Director
Community Access Unlimited
wkalman@caunj.org.

“Ask for help not because you’re weak, but because you want to remain strong.”
— Lee Brown
Our next meeting is Thursday at 6 pm. Join and connect with us!

Register for Family Support Group

Visit our website to learn more about CAU services

Community Access Unlimited | 80 West Grand St., Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Traumatic Brain Injury Board Members

Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor Board at the New Jersey Division of Disability Services

We are looking for a survivor of traumatic brain injury between the ages of 17 and 21 to serve as a member on the newly established survivor board. Please refer to the role and expectations outlined below to see if you or someone you know would be a good fit.

Role and expectations:
- Serve as a member on the NJ TBI Survivor Board and, along with the TBI Advisory Council, advise the NJ TBI Fund on pertinent issues and concerns.
- Contribute to discussions and activities in subcommittees based on experience and expertise. Subcommittees include:
  - Data Analysis and Evaluation
  - Consumer and Family Needs
  - Racial Equity
  - Resource Infrastructure and Service Providers Capacity.
- Assist in development of advocacy and prevention material and programs for TBI survivors in New Jersey.
- Convey the priorities and recommendations of the TBI Advisory Board to other relevant state or private boards, commissions, committees, or workgroups on which members participate.
- Update the TBI Advisory Board on the work of other relevant boards, commissions, workgroups, and committees.
- Contribute to discussions and implemented plans to coordinate services for individuals with traumatic brain injury.

If interested, please contact Sakina Ladha at: sakina.ladha@dhs.nj.gov
Two federal programs for low income individuals: Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity

The Lifeline program and the Affordable Connectivity Program help make phone and internet service more affordable for low-income individuals. Eligible individuals also qualify for a free smartphone through the Lifeline program. If you participate in certain assistance programs like Medicaid, NJ SNAP or SSI, you automatically qualify for both federal programs. For additional information, please see this link:

https://nj.gov/humanservices/home/digitalaccessforall.shtml
Looking for safe, at-home activities to keep you and your family busy?

Our virtual program library is a free hub of on-demand activities that can be done from home by people with disabilities, their families, and service providers.

The library is expanding all the time and has activities in a wide variety of areas, such as arts, life skills, health and wellness, virtual clubs, and more.

Browse listings to find activities like:

- Participating in dance, yoga, and other movement activities
- Learning about internet safety
- Virtually touring places like Disney World and museums
- Making your own Jeopardy templates
- Finding self-advocacy support

Browse Programs
Kessler Foundation Performing a Walking Study to Train the Hip and Knee

Eligibility

Children and young adults who may be eligible for the study:

are between 7 to 21 years old
are diagnosed with brain injury including but not limited to Cerebral Palsy, Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
have a walking pattern where the knee is straight when the foot is off the ground
are able to walk on a treadmill without assistive devices

Study Requirements

Children and young adults in the study will:

wear lightweight sensors on the waist, leg and shoe to measure movement
walk on a treadmill while watching a display that shows the walking pattern
try to change the walking pattern to score points

This study has two 1-hour (60 minute) treadmill walking appointments at either of the below locations:

Kessler Foundation
1199 Pleasant Valley Way
West Orange, NJ 07052

Children’s Specialized Hospital
150 New Providence Road
Mountainside, NJ 07092

Participants who complete this study will receive $50 for their time.

For more information, please contact:
Xuan Liu, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
Kessler Foundation
973-324-3561, xliu@kesslerfoundation.org
KIDZ KORNER AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

- KIDZ KORNER AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
- For more information:
  - WWW.FAMILYRESOURCENETWORK.ORG
  - MDAVIDSON@FAMILYRESOURCENETWORK.ORG
  - or call 609-331-1938
Gas Voucher Transportation Assistance

Medicaid Program (Non-Emergency Transportation: N.E.T.): N.E.T. is a free program that offers gas money or transportation to Medicaid recipients. It pays for the expenses of taking a child to Medicaid covered doctor visits. This program provides reimbursement for travel to any non-emergent appointments, basically anything but an ambulance visit to the emergency room. Contact the Medicaid office (number on the back of your Medicaid card) to find out if you qualify. This is a reimbursement program. That means you must attend your appointments first, before you are paid. After you have applied for the services and are approved, you will receive a debit card in the mail. The funds will be electronically deposited to your card. You should plan on paying for your own transportation for up to three months. After that, you will have money on your debit card. Steps to take for the program:

- Call the phone number on the back of your Medicaid Card
- Select the appropriate option to connect
- Tell the service representative that you want to apply for the N.E.T. program
- Have available: your Medicaid card, your doctor’s name, the date of your next appointment, and the doctor’s telephone number

Other Resources:

-Salvation Army- Free gas vouchers, free gas cards for low income individuals and more general transportation help are offered at most Salvation Army locations. However, only a small number of individuals who apply for these resources will be accepted. Funding is extremely limited, and varies based on the cost of gasoline. The most common reasons for releasing funds are for help reaching school, doctor’s appointment, job training, or an interview. Contact the Salvation Army or go into a local location to apply.

-Saint Vincent de Paul- Society of St. Vincent de Paul is one of the largest charity organizations. Contact the nearest Catholic Church in your town or county and inquire if they have a Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference near you, people of all backgrounds and religions can get help. As funding and resources allow, if someone needs a bus token or free gasoline to get to a job interview or appointment, then St. Vincent may be able to provide this. Funding is very limited so only certain centers or churches will be able to offer gas.

-Local charities and religious organizations may provide financial assistance for gas or transportation.
On Track Resources

We provide child study team services (case management, full child study team evaluations) to the Lakewood, NJ non public school system. We services 70+ schools through our contract with the Lakewood BOE.

Our Mission
To provide each child with a comprehensive evaluation in order to determine the best approach catered to each specific child.

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION
Understanding HIPPA: What Parents Need to Know About Privacy and Their Adult Child's Health Information

As your child grows into adulthood, both your rights and the rights of your child under HIPAA change.

This document answers frequently asked questions (FAQs) about when parents can access their adult child’s protected health information.

Readers are encouraged to view this resource on-line as it includes links to additional detailed information.

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Colleges and universities offer a wide range of services to ensure support to students with disabilities while providing certain basic disability access. However, the responsibility ultimately falls on the student to request the disability-related accommodations required. See the informative guides below developed by BestColleges.com to assist you in planning your post-secondary education.

**Overview of College Resources for Students with Disabilities**
**Financial Aid & Scholarships for Students with Disabilities**
**How to Access College Disability Services and Accommodations**

Please direct any questions regarding specific training/educational programs to the hosting agency.

**College Guides for Students with Disabilities**

**Physical Disabilities**

**Learning Disabilities**

**Visual Impairments**

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**Psychiatric Disabilities**

Department of Human Services Education & Training Page
[https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/hottopics/education/](https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/hottopics/education/)
Art Therapy Group for Neurodivergent Young Adults

Supportive & kind community
Coping skills, relaxation, enjoyable activity
Social support & peer connection
Skill building
Creative problem solving
Self-expression & self compassion
Wellness, positivity & quality of life enhancement

Embodied Art Therapy & Yoga, LLC
Cathy Rosa, MS, ATR-BC, RYT-200 Clinton NJ (732) 439-3385
WWW.ArtTherapyAndYoga.Com

The Family Resource Network | 50 Millstone Rd, Bldg 300, Suite 201, East Windsor, NJ 08520
The Family Resource Network is inviting you to nourish your mind with the Brunch for the Brain webinar series!

Focusing on mental health for the person with the disability and/or their caregiver. The year-long webinar series take place on the third Wednesday of every month at 12 PM (EST).

All webinars are being offered free of charge.

Click for more information
Facebook groups bring together individuals who share a common interest. When you join a group that's made up of people who share the same need, you'll have multiple opportunities to receive and offer support to individuals with IDD and their families.

CLICK HERE FOR A LISTING OF FACEBOOK GROUPS
NJ Human Services Announces Partnership with Community Health Law Project to Increase Access to Legal Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals with Lower Incomes

Human Services Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced on July 26th that the Department has partnered with the Community Health Law Project to increase access to legal services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals with lower incomes.

The partnership is a collaboration between Human Services’ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) and Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

Through the partnership, eligible deaf and hard of hearing individuals can receive legal assistance and supports with matters related to their public assistance, health insurance, social security benefits, landlord-tenant disputes, foreclosure defense, family law issues, consumer protection and debt collection and more. In addition, CHLP is able to meet communication access needs including ASL interpreting and captioning.

More Info
Why Guardianship Matters to You

In New Jersey, the age of majority is 18. This means that by this time an individual is presumed capable of making decisions as well as taking legal responsibility for those decisions. This law does not change if a child has a developmental disability. Parents do not automatically remain their child’s natural guardian. For some adults who are incapable of making decisions, guardianship may be an avenue for parents, family members, or caregiver to ensure/determine their best interest. Obtaining guardianship is a extensive process and should not be taken lightly. Guardianship entails making decisions about where a person lives, what care and supervision is required, how to interact with the medical community and if the person is deemed incapable of making decisions, they will lose rights to vote, to drive, and to marry. Only a judge can decide a person’s abilities and incapacitates and considers the persons needs before appointing a guardian. An assessment is done on the individual to measure their capacity for self-determination or skills in make decisions for themselves.
There are varying degrees of guardianship:

**Full Guardianship**
States that the individual cannot make decision on their own behalf. This allows for the Guardian to make all legal, financial, personal, and medical decisions for the individual.

**Limited Guardianship**
States that the individual may need some help in certain areas. This allows for the Guardian to help only in the areas determined by the court.

**Conservator**
States that the individual is not incapable of making decisions however, requires assistance in financial responsibilities. If an individual is capable of understanding what they are signing, there are options of assistance that does not require a judge.
Surrogate a substitute or person to carry out a certain duty or role instead of the individual.

**Representative Payee**
Allows for an individual or organization to be appointed to manage the Social Security and SSI for someone who cannot manage his or her money. A payee must use the benefits to pay for the current and foreseeable needs of the beneficiary and properly save any benefits not needed to meet current needs. Helpful Link: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10076.pdf

**Dual Power of Attorney**
Allows for an individual to choose a surrogate to make financial and legal decisions as well as access the persons records.

**Medical Power of Attorney**
Allows for an individual to choose a surrogate to make medical decisions and to access records.

**Advanced Directive/ Living Will**
This allows for the individual to choose a surrogate to make decisions on what medical/mental health treatments a person would accept or refuse if or when unable to communicate their choice.

**Helpful Links:**
www.Ganji.org
www.PlanNJ.org
Browse our newly updated resource collections for articles, briefs, fact sheets, checklists, short videos, webinars, and training materials.

**Inclusion Resource Collection**
Here you will find resources on the benefits of inclusion for students with and without disabilities, inclusion in education, strategies and tips for families, and inclusion webinars.

**Literacy Resource Collection**
Here you will find materials on supporting literacy achievement in the classroom, activities to promote literacy at home and in your school/district, as well as literacy webinars.

**NJTSS Resource Collection**
Here you will find basic information on multi-tiered systems of support, NJTSS framework and its components, practical strategies and tips for families and parents, as well as NJTSS webinars.
We are proud to share that The Collaborative for Citizen Directed Supports assisted in developing this new resource from The Boggs's Center on Developmental Disabilities for Self-Directed Services and Supports Brokerage!

Understanding Self-Directed Services in New Jersey and the Role of the Supports Broker serves as a guide for people with disabilities, families, Support Coordinators, and Supports Brokerage providers interested in learning more about Self-Direction in New Jersey and the role of the Supports Broker in supported self-direction. Available in English and Spanish.

Access New Resource
Curious About VIANJ?

Supporting People with Disabilities and Their Families Since 2007

Curious About VIANJ?

Learn all about us by scanning our new QR code with your smart phone!
Autistic Volunteers are needed for a research Study

Do you want help managing depression?

Autistic volunteers are needed for a research study!

Researchers at Rutgers University are recruiting autistic adults for a research study to evaluate the efficacy of a 12-week mental health treatment designed to help with symptoms of depression.

You may be eligible if you...
- Are at least 18 years of age
- Have a previous diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder
- Can understand English
- Have someone who will participate with you (e.g., parent, sibling, friend)

If you are eligible, you will be asked to complete:
- 12 therapy sessions (option online or in-person)
- Questionnaires and 4 assessment visits

If you participate, you will be compensated: Up to $150 for completion of assessment visits

If you are interested, please complete the screening form at:
redcap.link/depressiontreatment

If you have questions, email us at:
lifeSPANLab@gsapp.rutgers.edu

Date: 06/30/2021
Version: 1.0

Clinical Investigator: Vanessa R. Ph.D.
604 Allison Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Title of Study: Adaptation of a Behavioral Activation Treatment to Treat Depression in Autistic Adults

Click to complete the screening form
Your child may qualify for a research study on behavioral therapies for children with Autism.

Is your child diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Is your child between the ages of 6 and 9.5 years old?

Your child may qualify for a research study on behavioral therapies for children with Autism!

+ Eligible participants receive Autism diagnostic testing and assessments of functional skills and sensory behaviors.
+ Participants may be randomly selected to receive 30 one-hour sessions of Sensory Integration therapy or Applied Behavior Analysis. The goal of both therapies is to see improvements in a child’s functional skills and a reduction of maladaptive behaviors.
  - Sensory Integration Therapy (SIT) works to improve sensory-motor factors that affect a child’s functional skills. Children do sensory-motor play-based activities and apply skills to functional tasks.
  - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) works to identify skills that impact a child’s everyday functioning. The Interventionist breaks down each skill into teachable steps, to facilitate learning.
+ Participants will be compensated $250 throughout the course of the study and will receive a summary report of evaluations and a list of referred practitioners of ABA and SIT.

Contact for Information:
Lauren Laffoon
732-240-8621
llaffoon@childrens-specialized.org

Location:
Children’s Specialized Hospital
94 Stevens Road
Toms River, New Jersey 08755

This study is funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
Free At-Home COVID-19 Test Kits

From the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

Federal Government to Provide Free At-Home COVID-19 Test Kits

Residential households in the U.S. are able to order one set of 4 free at-home rapid antigen COVID-19 tests from USPS.com. There is a limit of one order per residential address and shipping is free. Eligible households are encouraged to obtain COVID-19 tests so they are available if needed.

Please visit https://www.covidtests.gov/ for more information.

Order COVID Tests
Updated Guide to Selecting a Support Coordination Agency

From The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

Updated Guide to Selecting a Support Coordination Agency Now Available

The Boggs Center has updated Selecting a Support Coordination Agency: Making Choices, Becoming Empowered, a guide for people with disabilities to use with the support of family, friends, and others close to them when choosing the agency they receive support coordination services from.

Download Resource
We're Recruiting!

Children’s Specialized Hospital’s Research Center strives to advance pediatric rehabilitation by initiating and supporting evidence-based studies that explore innovative interventions, technologies and approaches to specialized care for children and adolescents. See below for details on one of our current studies.

**Study: Characterizing Action-Control in Healthy Children**

This research study aims to understand how healthy children control their behavior and choose their actions. It involves completing paper-and-pencil measures, computer-based games, and brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). No contrast/dyes or injections will be used in the study. Results from this branch of the study will be compared to patterns of learning in children with ADHD to characterize any learning deficits in this population.

**Who's Eligible?**
- Healthy children with no prior medical diagnoses.
- Children between the ages of 6 and 10.
- Must be able to speak English well.
- Ability to play a computer-based game.
- Capable of undergoing an MRI scan (there will be a training session to make sure the child is able to undergo the actual MRI scan).

**Participation in this study will include 2-3 visits to the following Kessler Foundation locations:**
- 120 Eagle Rock Ave, Suite 100, East Hanover, NJ 07936
- 1199 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

**For more information, please contact:**

Dr. Joman Y. Natsheh  
Principal Investigator  
973-391-7858, jnatsheh@kesslerfoundation.org

Michael Dacanay  
Research Assistant  
973-324-8453, mdacanay@kesslerfoundation.org

Participants will be compensated for their time and children who complete the MRI scan are eligible to receive a copy of the images and a certificate of completion.

**About Our Research Center**
## Types of Medicaid Eligibility in NJ

### AGED, BLIND, OR DISABLED (ABD)

#### Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medicaid
Provided automatically when a person with IDD is approved for SSI benefits. Apply for SSI at age 18 or above through your local SSA Office here: bit.ly/ssaofficestx

#### Medicaid Only
For individuals with IDD who do not receive monthly SSI, but meet SSI income and resource limits. bit.ly/medicaidonly

#### NJ Workability
Offers healthcare to individuals with IDD ages 16–64 who are employed and whose income would disqualify them from other forms of Medicaid. bit.ly/njworkability

#### Disabled Adult Child (DAC)
For persons whose SSI ended because they received benefits from a parent who retired, became disabled, or died. Request for information (RI) is for people who have DDD. bit.ly/docmedicaid

#### New Jersey Care... Special Medicaid Program
For individuals with IDD with income below $1,074/month. Contact your County Board of Social Services: bit.ly/njcmass

### NJ FAMILYCARE

- Also called Medicaid Expansion.
- Eligibility is based on income, not on the individual having a disability.
- The maximum monthly income limit increases each year.
- The maximum gross income for a single adult in 2021 is $1,074/month.
- The individual cannot be listed as a dependent on their parent's tax return.
- The individual cannot receive Medicare.
- ABD is a better route if eligible.

### HOW TO GET IT

Applicants must have financial eligibility. NJ FamilyCare Quickstart bit.ly/njfamilycare

### QUICK FACT

Adults must have legal resident status for 5 years to be eligible. Children and pregnant women with legal resident status are eligible, regardless of length of residency.

### WHAT'S COVERED?

Doctor visits, prescriptions, x-rays, dental, lab testing, eyeglasses, mental health, hospitalization, specialist visits, hearing aids, Personal Care Assistant (PCA), Personal Preference Program (PPP)

For specific questions about Medicaid or the application process, contact Beverly Roberts at brobertsearcnj.org or 732-246-2567.

September 2021
Support Groups

Click below for more information on any of the following support groups available to families.

- New Dad Support Groups
- Moms Connection
- Weekly Parents Group
  Parenting Through the Pandemic; Creating Work/Life Balance at Home Through the Pandemic
REMINDER: ASCF Holiday Celebration

Some One Special is Coming to Town!
HO HO HO!

Bring your special children and siblings to see our special guest:
When: Saturday, December 3, 2022
Rain/Snow Date: Sunday, December 4, 2022
Time: 12:30-2:30

The Almond Branch Church
184 Marshall Hill Road
West Milford, NJ 07480

There will be music, crafts and PIZZA!!
Don’t forget! Please bring a gift for Santa to give to your children!

This event is FREE - but donations are accepted.
Please RSVP by emailing terry@ascfamily.org ASAP
The goal of ESNJ is to support you on your epilepsy journey by ensuring that you have continued access to treatment and care.

Through our Medication Assistance Program we has funds available for people with epilepsy who are temporarily unable to afford the purchase of their anti epileptic medication.

This fund is available one time, once a year. The is a limit to the amount allowed.

For more information, email info@epilepsynj.org.
Register Ready

Register today—be ready for tomorrow!

If you or a family member has a physical, developmental, cognitive or behavioral impairment, language barrier, or transportation challenge that may make it difficult to safely shelter in place or evacuate in a disaster, please register.

Register at:
www.registerready.nj.gov
or call 211 within NJ or 877-652-1148 toll free

- Free
- Voluntary
- Secure and confidential
- Protective of your privacy

Update your information at least annually. In a life threatening situation, don’t wait for help — call 911
As you know, BIANJ has been hosting virtual support groups, during the day and evenings to help you stay connected. Effective July 1st, BIANJ's support groups will follow this schedule:

**Caregiver Support Groups:**
Every other Wednesday at 11:00 AM
Second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM*

**Survivor Support Groups:**
Every other Wednesday at 11:00 AM
Third Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM*

**Virtual Happy Hours for Survivors and Caregivers:**
Last Wednesday of every month at 5:30 PM

*please note the evening groups will now be offered once per month

[Register Now]
In our Portal, you can...

- Get secure access to refill prescriptions and review medications any time
- View upcoming appointments and review past medical and therapy needs
- View, print, and share patient records at a moment’s notice
- Have 24/7 access so you can pay bills when it’s most convenient for you

Not signed up yet?
Email PortalHelpDesk@childrens-specialized.org to receive your access code.

Already signed up?
Access the portal at my.childrens-specialized.org
In partnership with the NJ Lifespan Respite Program, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at Rutgers University has published *Providing Respite: Supporting People and Families Across the Lifespan*.

This booklet offers an overview of respite and highlights the positive impact that respite makes in the lives of people with disabilities, seniors, and their families.

*To access, click here.*
Schedule a Virtual Telehealth Visit

What are benefits of receiving services through this platform?

• Quick access to your child's initial evaluations
• Eliminates any delay in beginning a beneficial treatment plan
• Provides an opportunity to meet and begin to develop a relationship with your provider allowing them to get to know you and your child
• Your child will be seen in the comfort of their natural home environment
• Doxy.me link allows for easy access using your smartphone, computer, or tablet

What can I use for my child's virtual visit?

Call 888-244-5373 to request an appointment.
Stay Informed on COVID-19: Disability Rights NJ

Stay Informed at DRNJ-COVID.org

Dedicated to providing resources during the coronavirus pandemic, this new site shares valuable information and the actions we've taken to protect and advocate for people with disabilities, along with important resources from our partners to help you navigate this crisis.

DRNJ is a private, non-profit, consumer-directed organization established to:

- Advocate for and advance the human, civil and legal rights of citizens of New Jersey with disabilities;
- Promote public awareness and recognition of individuals with disabilities as equally entitled members of society;
- Advise and assist persons with disabilities, family members, attorneys and guardians in obtaining and protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities; and
- Provide education, training and technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, the agencies that serve them, advocates, attorneys, professionals, courts and others regarding the rights of individuals with disabilities.
Fun Activities To Do at Home With Your Child

Fun Activities

- Play cards, go fish, war, solitaire, memory.
- Take turns reading to each other.
- Have a spa night.
- Look through old photo albums together.
- Watch your child’s favorite television show or movie together.
- Do a puzzle.
- Play a board game.
- Sit outside and look at the stars or clouds.
- Eat meals together.
- Help your child send an email to a grandparent, aunt, or uncle.
- Help your child write a letter to a friend or relative.
- Go bird watching. Try to identify the birds you find.
- Play a video game together.
- Pull out a box of toys they haven’t played with for a while.
- Plant seeds from something you’ve eaten, such as an apple or watermelon.
- Play I-Spy, hot or cold, mother may I, red light/green light.
- Sing Karaoke.
- Teach your dog tricks.
- Let your child teach you about something they know or do well.

Movement, Exercise & Outdoor Play

- Play hide and go seek.
- Workout together.
- Write down exercises on separate pieces of paper and put them in a box, shake it and pull one out at a time. Do what it says! 10 jumping jacks, jog in place, do a somersault, 10 sit ups, 10 touch your toes, 10 arm circles, 10 lunges, walk sideways, make up your own!
- Play hop-scotch.
- Ride bikes.
- Play Simon-says
- Take a walk in the woods collect acorns, pretty rocks, & leaves.
- Rake leaves together.
- Play tag.
- Wash your car together.
- Teach your child how to ride a bike.
- Learn a new dance, Chicken Dance, Electric Slide, The Hustle, The Macarena dance
- Help your child practice a sport they enjoy. Have a catch.
- Draw on the sidewalk with sidewalk chalk.
- Have a picnic outside.
- Have a dance party.
If you have been impacted by the pandemic and are in need of food, the Center on Nutrition and Disability is here to connect you to your local food resources.

www.nokidhungry.org

Or, text FOOD to 304-304 and you will receive a message with local sites to receive free summer meals. No paperwork to fill out. No income requirements.
Helpful Links & Resources

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities
https://www.parentcenterhub.org/nichcy-gone/

National Organization for Rare Disorders
www.rarediseases.org

New Jersey Department of Human Services
www.state.nj.us/humanservices

New Jersey Developmental Disabilities Council
www.njcdd.org

New Jersey Protection and Advocacy
www.drnj.org

Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (CICRF)
https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/cicrf/home/
Values in Action New Jersey

Our Values

Accountable to YOU and Yours
Dedicated to YOU and Your Ambitions
Empowering YOU to Live Your Life
Kind to YOU Without Exception
Open Minded to YOU
Respecting YOU and Your Choices
Transforming Services with YOU

Our Values Into Action NJ Team is at your service and always dedicated to your support!

Values into Action NJ provides Support Coordination in service for people with disabilities aged 21+ and their families, across the state of New Jersey.

Using a person-directed, family-centered approach, we structure our services to assist individuals through the process of self-direction and empower them to remain in charge of their plans (and their lives).

www.ValuesIntoActionNJ.org