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
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
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?

Sabías 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 devuélvelo 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 basic 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.
Friday Night Fever!

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

**When:** Friday nights

**Register:** [CSH.recedesk.com](http://CSH.recedesk.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 the CDC and CSH guidelines at the time of the events. All new applicants must trial to insure they’re an appropriate fit.
Activity Connection

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.recedesk.com

Register over the phone:
908-301-5540

activityconnection@childrens-specialized.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
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.recesk.com
- 908-301-5548
- activityconnection@childrens-specialized.org

Opciones virtuales y presenciales!
En persona:
- Court Sports, Social Club, Individual Aquatics, Play Times y 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)
The 2nd Annual NJ Youth Transition Conference will be held virtually the week of October 3rd-7th, 2022!

One Zoom link for each day of the week! Starting on October 3rd, you can click on workshop titles to access the LIVE workshop on the day of the Conference.

Intended Audience Information:
* For Professionals indicates workshops were specifically created for professional development in mind.
* All inclusive indicates that youth who experience I/DD, their caregivers and professionals would find this workshop informative.
* Youth/young adults who experience I/DD, caregivers indicates a workshop that this audience would find most useful. Professionals are welcome to attend.

REGISTER HERE
Webinar on Assistive Technology for the Blind and Visually-Impaired

Click Here to Register
Virtual Yoga

Learn several different poses that will keep your body healthy and active.

REGISTER & CLICK HERE FOR VIRTUAL YOGA

This link will register you for all the sessions of this season – no commitment required. Drop in and regular attendance welcome. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

DSACNJ

Club DREAMS

Register at dsacnj.org/events
This dance class is designed for elementary and middle schoolers with any intellectual, developmental, or sensory impairments. Our beginner-level dance and movement classes currently take place through Zoom and provide a fun outlet for children to let out energy and meet new people.

The free class is also designed to help refine motor skills, concentration, social/communication abilities, and general happiness. Dance and movement therapy has been proven to have significant benefits for children with disabilities; it gives the children an immersive experience where they are challenged to carefully observe and imitate the movements of the instructor or based on the music.

This allows the children to develop greater awareness over themselves, their surroundings, and other people.

Come to one or both of our two weekly sessions!
77th National Disability Employment Awareness Month

About this event

You are invited to JEVS hireAbility's celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month with a theme of "Disability Part of the Equity Equation." We are back in person and excited to not only provide resources but to also recognize our employers!

Job Fair: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Employer Recognition and Luncheon
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

*Onsite parking is available
We look forward to seeing you there!

Date and Time
Tue, October 25, 2022
9:00 AM – 2:30 PM EDT

Location
Camden County College
(Connector Building Atrium)
200 College Drive
Blackwood, NJ 08012

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, October 16, 2022
2:00 PM – 3:30PM EDT

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

TO REGISTER
POAC Autism Services

POAC events are safe, welcoming environments where our children can be themselves in a non-judgmental setting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-8-22 5:00pm - 8:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Trunk or Treating with Classic Knights Car Club of Old Bridge</strong></td>
<td>Friendly's Parking Lot, Route 9 and Ferry Road, Old Bridge, NJ</td>
<td>Register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-9-22 11:00am - 1:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Epic Gymnastics Gym Party</strong></td>
<td>Epic Gymnastics 2351 NJ Highway 34 Manasquan,</td>
<td>Register</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Click here to learn more
Soccer in Montclair

Sundays 12:00 to 1:00pm
From September to December
Heningburg Field (behind MHS gym on Midland Ave)
146 Midland Ave, Montclair (GPS location)
Grades Pre-K through 12

NO SOCCER EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!
You only need sneakers & water and be ready to have a good time!
If you have a child with special needs interested in participating, you are a high school student interested in volunteering or you have questions about the program, please contact: MontclairTopSoccer@gmail.com
Any parent who would like more information about enrolling your child can e-mail us at TOPSoccer@montclairsoccer.com.
Research has shown that low executive functioning skills hamper school performance of children and teens with Tourette Syndrome and related disorders. In this webinar, we will discuss the assessment process and treatment strategies for youth that struggle with executive function. Training methods, including computer-based games, have shown some, but limited potential for impacting day-to-day behaviors at home and at school. In contrast, treatments in the form of training in organization, time management, and planning and motivational enhancement have demonstrated significant changes.

This presentation and discussion will discuss these treatment methods and their promise in working with children and teens with TS.
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.

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
Join our TS Community and Connect with Others!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH TS

Monday at 7 P.M. on the following dates: 10/17, 11/14, 12/12/2022.

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

NJCTS | Youth Development
October 1, 2022 SONJ Community Day

RWJBarnabas Health Field of Dreams
1511 North Bay Ave
Toms River, NJ 08753

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Please visit the SONJ website for more information and events.

CLICK HERE
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
About this event

In partnership with NJ Give A Kid A Dream, Caresparc Community Connections proudly presents the Sustainable Health and Wellness Village Festival - New Brunswick!

LIVE MUSIC, DJ's, BANDS, FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, AND MORE!!!
Virtual - Together in Song

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
Research Study – for children 6-9.5 years old, diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

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
Flag Football Details

WHEN
Saturdays from 10:00am-11:00am on these dates: 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8 and 10/15

WHERE
Count Basie Park
Henry Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701
(on the turf football field)

WHAT
RallyPlayers will learn the game of football under the direction of Red Bank Catholic head coach Mike Lange, along with his assistant coaches. Players from the Red Bank Catholic football team will volunteer and help teach skills and have fun with the RallyPlayers!

Register Here
Open Play at LifeTown in Livingston NJ

November 20, 2022
November 27, 2022

TO REGISTER

FAMILY FUN
at LifeTown

OPEN PLAY
AGES 1-15
$10 per participant

Sundays
10:00am-12:00pm
- Art room
- Gym
- Playground
- Sand room
- Sensory room
- Movie 11:00-11:25am

Pre-registration is required at
www.LifeTown.com/familyfun
NJSSAN Fall Conference

New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project
A program of The Arc of New Jersey since 1983
Promoting Advocacy and Independence for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Saturday, October 1, 2022
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Virtual Event on Zoom

To find out more and register, click HERE
Sexual Health Equity for People with I/DD

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.
Save the Date! NJ Youth Conference

2nd ANNUAL NJ YOUTH TRANSITION CONFERENCE
Save the Date
Monday, October 3 - Friday, October 7, 2022
12:00 PM - 12:00 PM

“The Annual NJ Youth Transition Conference was created for youth ages 14-21+ who experience I/DD, their families, caregivers, and the professionals who serve them.

This is a Virtual Conference

More info can be found on the conference website: https://www.njyouthtransition.life/

Brought to you in collaboration with: Values into Action, Coordinated Family Care, Camden County Partnership for Children, Camden County Family Support Organization, Partnership for Children of Essex, Ocean Partnership for Children, Monmouth Cares, and SPAN Parent Advocacy Network.”

Get More Information
The Family Resource Network will re-convene many of the nation's industry leaders and family caregivers for the National Caregivers Conference on October 16-17, 2022.

For the first time, NCC will be delivered in a hybrid format, combining an in-person conference experience in Philadelphia, PA with a virtual component.

The Conference Committee invites you to submit a session or workshop proposal for the National Caregivers Conference 2022.

Call for proposals will remain open through January 31, 2022.

More Information
Sports and Vocational Skills for 21+

Next date: Monday, October 3

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.
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
Upcoming Events

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)
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)
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
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

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
• HORESES 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- 5:30pm**  
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
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

TO REGISTER
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: https://bit.ly/33Kf8g3

For more information contact:
Felicia Frazier
Director of Community Engagement & Resource Development
Families & Communities Together
Feliciaf@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.” - Les 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

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/]
Art Therapy Group for Neuro divergent Young

- 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 support 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 an 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 person’s needs before appointing a guardian. An assessment is done on the individual to measure their capacity for self-determination or skills in making 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](http://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.PlanNJ.org](http://www.PlanNJ.org)
SPAN's Virtual Learning Opportunities and

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

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

Follow the QR code to view study website and access our secure online screener.

This study is funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGED, BLIND, OR DISABLED (ABD)</th>
<th>NJ FAMILYCARE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medicaid</strong>&lt;br&gt;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: <a href="bit.ly/ssaoffices">bit.ly/ssaoffices</a>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Medicaid Only</strong>&lt;br&gt;For individuals with IDD who do not receive monthly SSI, but meet SSI income and resource limits. <a href="bit.ly/medicaidonly">bit.ly/medicaidonly</a></td>
<td><strong>Also called Medicaid Expansion.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Eligibility is based on income, not on the individual having a disability.&lt;br&gt;The maximum monthly income limit increases each year.&lt;br&gt;The maximum gross income for a single adult in 2021 is $1,074/month.&lt;br&gt;The individual cannot be listed as a dependent on their parent’s tax return.&lt;br&gt;ABD is a better route if eligible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disabled Adult Child (DAC)</strong>&lt;br&gt;For persons whose SSI ended because they received benefits from a parent who retired, became disabled, or died. Request for information (RFI) is for people who have DDD. <a href="bit.ly/docmedicaid">bit.ly/docmedicaid</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Jersey Care... Special Medicaid Program</strong>&lt;br&gt;For individuals with IDD with income below $1,074/month. Contact your County Board of Social Services: <a href="bit.ly/njcss">bit.ly/njcss</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NJ Workability</strong>&lt;br&gt;Offers healthcare to individuals with IDD ages 16-64 who are employed and whose income would disqualify them from other forms of Medicaid. <a href="bit.ly/njworkability">bit.ly/njworkability</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long Term Services and Supports</strong>&lt;br&gt;Applies to younger individuals who need significant support, such as private-duty nursing, etc. <a href="bit.ly/longtermssupport">bit.ly/longtermssupport</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### HOW TO GET IT

**Apply for SSI at age 18** [bit.ly/Apply4SSI](bit.ly/Apply4SSI)<br>**ABD Medicaid Application** [bit.ly/ABDapplication](bit.ly/ABDapplication)

### QUICK FACT

Medicaid is an entitlement-based program. Anyone who is determined eligible by the Medicaid Office has the right to receive Medicaid and its related services. Eligibility is not guaranteed.

### 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 broberts@arcnj.org or 732-246-2567.

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### September 2021

**The Arc of New Jersey**

**Family Institute**

Advocacy - Empowerment - Resources - Education
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
Apply NOW for Help with Housing or Utilities!

Recently, the federal government issued a limited eviction moratorium beginning August 3rd through October 3rd for renters living in communities experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases.

In addition, Governor Murphy signed legislation that expands COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance and Utility Assistance Programs.

For more information, or to apply for rental or utility assistance, please use the following links to access the programs:

- First, know your rights: [https://legalfaq.org](https://legalfaq.org)
- For general assistance questions, call 211 or check the website: [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org)
- State Rental Assistance Application: [https://njdca.onlinepha.com](https://njdca.onlinepha.com)
- A video tutorial on completing the application: [https://njdca.onlinepha.com/en-US/Pages/View/152/how-tenants-can-apply-for-cverap](https://njdca.onlinepha.com/en-US/Pages/View/152/how-tenants-can-apply-for-cverap)
- Comprehensive Statewide Housing Resources: [https://www.housinghelpnj.org/](https://www.housinghelpnj.org/)
- Renters may also access assistance at both the County and City level using the federal database of rental assistance programs: [www.consumerfinance.gov/renthelp](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/renthelp)
- New Jersey Utility Assistance: [www.state.nj.us/bpu/assistance/programs](http://www.state.nj.us/bpu/assistance/programs)
- If you have children and didn’t automatically receive the federal Child Tax Credit, sign up for it: [www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-non-glier-sign-up-tool](https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-non-glier-sign-up-tool)
ESNJ Prescription Assistance Fund

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 have 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. There is a limit to the amount allowed.

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

Register READY

www.registerready.nj.gov

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
Providing Respite: Supporting People & Families Across the Lifespan

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 supported by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration; U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration; and the Social Security Administration.

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.

[Website Link: 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/
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

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