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One Step at a Time: Activities to Get ALL Involved



FLORIDA'S INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
for infants & toddlers

WWW.FLORIDAICC.ORG

State of Florida
Early Steps

FLORIDA INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DISABILITIES

One Step at a Time: Activities to Get ALL Involved

By authority of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Public Law 108-446 and by Federal Regulation, 34 CFR 303.600 State Interagency Coordinating Council, Subpart G State Interagency Coordinating Council, the Florida Interagency Coordinating Council is known as the Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (hereinafter, FICCIT).

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October 2013

Dear Local Early Steps Partners:

It is with great pleasure that we share with you the “One Step at a Time: Activities to Get ALL Involved” booklet, which is a compilation of initiatives being implemented by Florida’s Local Early Steps. It is our intent that this serve as a reference tool for activity sharing and dialogue amongst offices in implementing or replicating new and/or similar activities throughout the State. We, at the Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT), look forward to the ongoing expansion of this booklet.

Each section is designed to highlight activities and strategies such as communications/marketing, parent leadership, partnership and collaborations, training, and transition, to facilitate a more comprehensive, family-centered, and community-involved learning environment for Local Early Steps.

We would like to give special thanks to the Local Early Steps that contributed to this inaugural edition, as well as to the Early Steps State Office for their ongoing assistance and partnership on this project. We look forward to receiving more submissions in the future, as this booklet will be updated on an ongoing basis.

We commend your efforts in working with Florida’s families to help infants and toddlers develop to their fullest potential.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Fuller, Interim Chair
Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infant and Toddlers

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to express our appreciation to those local Early Steps that shared their activities for the inaugural issue of this booklet.

Bay Area Early Steps
Big Bend Early Steps
Central Florida Early Steps
Gold Coast Early Steps
Gulf Central Early Steps
North Beaches Early Steps
North Central Early Steps
Northeastern Early Steps
Southernmost Coast Early Steps
Early Steps Southwest Florida
Space Coast Early Steps
Treasure Coast Early Steps
Western Panhandle Early Steps
West Central Early Steps

We also would like to acknowledge the following members of the FICCIT Marketing Committee for bringing this booklet to fruition.

Lorraine Husum Allen
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Johana Hatcher
Sharon Paul
Deborah Russo
Eliana Tardio

We extend special thanks to the following staff at the Florida Department of Health, Early Steps State Office, for their valuable assistance in soliciting activities and communicating with local Early Steps staff, during the planning and development of this booklet.

Sue Cannon
Kelly Rogers
Katie Williams

One Step at a Time: Activities to Get ALL Involved

Definitions

COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING:

For Local Early Steps (LES), effective communication strategies are vital to ensure the messages about your work are successfully transmitted to your target audience. This means successfully conveying the purpose of your work, how your organization is run, and your organization's successes. Effective communication can be transmitted through a variety of marketing strategies such as 1) "Word of Mouth;" 2) news stories in both print and broadcast media; 3) social media; 4) press releases and press conferences; 5) posters, brochures, and fliers; and 6) Outreach and presentations to other health and community service providers and to community groups and organizations.

EVENTS:

Face-to-face experiences with families, outside the Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) process and service provision, can have a big community impact for your Local Early Steps. Successful events can expand awareness of your organization, increase family participation and satisfaction, enhance your image, and bolster your position as a go-to authority on early childhood development. Events can range in size, budget, and frequency, and need to be designed with specific goals in mind.

PARENT LEADERSHIP:

Family involvement and capacity building happens beyond the IFSP and service delivery process. The experience(s) of parents, family members, and advocates can greatly benefit the community, including Local Early Steps. Engaging parents as partners can help Local Early Steps gain honest and passionate feedback about what is working well within your system as well as opportunities for growth. Local Early Steps can empower families by encouraging them to get involved and fostering leadership through parent-to-parent mentoring and/or advocacy skill development. A variety of methods can be used at your Local Early Steps to enhance family involvement and leadership.

PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATION:

Forming partnerships and collaborations with other organizations/businesses in your community can enhance the services provided by your Local Early Steps. Try thinking outside the box when it comes to partnerships. For example, if you have a good relationship with a local ice cream parlor or gym, maybe they would be willing to provide your Early Steps families with a discount or free admission.

Collaboration is also an important tool for Local Early Steps. LESs can collaborate with other agencies/organizations to host events, provide resources and trainings to families, or create lending libraries, while at the same time ensuring that services do not overlap in your community.

Many of the activities described in this booklet were a result of forming partnerships and collaborating with others agencies and organizations.

PLAYGROUPS/FIELD TRIPS:

Playgroups can provide invaluable learning opportunities for both the child and family. Socialization, peer interaction, and networking between families are other benefits of playgroups. Playgroups can take place at a local park, a library, school, or an empty office space.

RESOURCES:

Local Early Steps families are eager to obtain new tools to help their child and family. Whether it is access to a resource library filled with research articles or to a lending library with adaptive toys and technology, having these tools available for parents can be an important service provided by your organization.

One Step at a Time: Activities to Get ALL Involved

TRAINING

By offering a variety of training opportunities, Local Early Steps can help parents successfully navigate the Early Steps system. Trainings can include topics such as child development, specific disabilities, early intervention, and parent involvement. Keeping parents informed of other training opportunities through the community is also important. Collaborating with other community organizations/associations can help share the costs of training events and reduce duplication of mutual training objectives.

TRANSITION

Transition can occur in different ways and times throughout a family's involvement in Early Steps. This can include transition from the hospital to home or from Early Steps into other programs at age three. Celebrating these milestones with families is an important part of any transition process. Transition is a time of pride, joy, and celebration, but can also be a time of uncertainty and worry about the road ahead. The LES should recognize these mixed emotions and try its best to address them. Graduation ceremonies and workshops/seminars are ways to celebrate successes and ensure appropriate next steps after transition.

Communications/Marketing

COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING

Central Florida Early Steps



Contact Information:

Rose Mary Lumm
Family Resource Specialist
601 West Michigan Street, MP 347
Orlando, Florida 32805
407-317-7430, ext. 2201
Rose.lumm@orlandohealth.com

Program Name: Central Florida Early Steps Newsletter

Basic Information:

This is a bimonthly newsletter that highlights family stories, upcoming Early Steps events, play dates, safety tips, etc.

Tell Me How:

1. The newsletter is created in Publisher.
2. All staff members gather resources and contribute ideas.
3. One staff member is the primary editor.
4. Rough drafts are reviewed a number of times prior to being sent for final approval.
5. The newsletter is uploaded to the following link:

<http://us5.campaign-archive2.com/?u=d3a291c4b6bb35bcd7e875&id=fe076f3943&e=97af1f01d4>

Program Benefits:

- Promotes positive Early Steps publicity
- Educates the public about the purpose of Early Steps and enlightens them about the wonderful families we serve
- Enhances Early Steps communication opportunities
- Connects families with local resources that are highlighted and educates about Early Steps

Program Partners:

- Review the newsletter for information on the myriad of partners highlighted

Central Florida Early Steps Newsletter

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What's new this Summer at your local Early Steps provider

Early Steps Family Story

Our daughter Kaetiana is two and has been diagnosed with Sturge Weber syndrome, which is a rare neurological condition, and causes seizures, glaucoma, and developmental delays. Kaetiana was diagnosed at 18M, and not only were we dealing with our only child and all the happiness that entails, but we had to grapple with the fact that Kaetiana would be a special needs child. Coping with the difficulty of having a new baby was that very few doctors even knew about or heard about Sturge Weber syndrome.

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Just the other day Kaetiana (development) is that she has been through numerous surgeries (over 22) and wanting to help (getting the glaucoma in Kaetiana's eyes, Kaetiana is in chronic pressure in the eye, and it left uncontrolled, leads to blindness. Just when we think her pressure is under control and that she can get on a regular schedule, her eye doctor reports her pressure is back up. This leads to surgery. Kaetiana's condition also causes her to have periods where, which is controlled by medication. Last 4 months ago, her medication was controlling her seizure well, but in February, Kaetiana had a seizure which caused her paralysis in her right side. Luckily, Kaetiana was diagnosed immediately with a previously unseen seizure, was put on a different medication, and has regained the use of her right side, and is blossoming.

We came to Early Steps seeking help with all of these conditions, because we've been told by all of Kaetiana's doctors and therapists that the earlier we can get her help to assist her in developing, the more productive she will be in later life. We could not be happier with the care and guidance everyone at Early Steps has provided to us throughout this journey. Kaetiana's Family Care Coordinator, Christina Conrad has been a pleasure to us in giving assistance. Christina has fought for Kaetiana's behalf by advocating successfully for (and getting) appropriate therapies, and providing us with additional resources outside of the Early Steps program where we could apply for grants and other additional therapies. In addition to the resources in the form of granting therapies to Kaetiana, Early Steps has also been invaluable in giving advice to us in helping Kaetiana transition to school as she turns three through the various workshops held throughout the year. The workshops are a wonderful place to meet other families who are going through similar experiences as us and gives the ability to exchange valuable information.

We will forever be grateful to Early Steps for giving Kaetiana a fighting chance to at least have a hope for a "normal" life. We are convinced that without the therapies and other information Early Steps has provided to us, Kaetiana would be nowhere near the blossoming condition she is currently in. Family, friends, and neighbors around 2 year old, and would in fact, be functioning at a normal level. We have made some really good things. Thanks to Christina, Rose, and everyone at Early Steps.

Early Steps is looking for Family Stories that share your positive experiences related to Early Steps supports and services. Family Stories will be used in public awareness materials and might be shared with other families, programs, newsletters, websites, and communities throughout Florida, and possibly nationally. These stories are also shared with publications as they can understand the importance of finding Early Steps.

Please submit your Family Story to Rose Loren at Rose.Loren@centralflorida.gov

Featured Family Care Coordinator:
Christina Conrad

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your wonderful daughter whose father (development) is that she has been through numerous surgeries (over 22) and wanting to help (getting the glaucoma in Kaetiana's eyes, Kaetiana is in chronic pressure in the eye, and it left uncontrolled, leads to blindness. Just when we think her pressure is under control and that she can get on a regular schedule, her eye doctor reports her pressure is back up. This leads to surgery. Kaetiana's condition also causes her to have periods where, which is controlled by medication. Last 4 months ago, her medication was controlling her seizure well, but in February, Kaetiana had a seizure which caused her paralysis in her right side. Luckily, Kaetiana was diagnosed immediately with a previously unseen seizure, was put on a different medication, and has regained the use of her right side, and is blossoming.

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These who accomplish things are not necessarily the most brilliant. No the most gifted. They are the ones that never give in. Inspiration is just the spark. Preparation is what brings things to fruition. Whenever the opportune. However long it takes. See it through.

Families, if you have a Family Care Coordinator who you would like to recognize for their outstanding care of your family, please e-mail Rose.Loren@centralflorida.gov with your recommendation and you may see their story featured in our next newsletter.

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Hearing Me
Health & Hearing Fair

A special opportunity to meet the professionals who can provide services and resources for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

DATE: Saturday, August 3, 2013
TIME: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
LOCATION: The Developmental Center for Infants & Children/Early Steps
601 W. Michigan St., Orlando, FL 32805

Space is limited to RSVP call 407 297-7330 ext. 2194 to schedule an appointment. Provider availability is subject to change.
The Developmental Center for Infants & Children - 601 W. Michigan St., Orlando, FL 32805

The purpose of "Hearing Me" is to educate and empower parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing or deaf parents seeking hearing solutions to seek quality educational, medical and technical services in order to optimize their child's overall potential.

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COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING

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Free Music Therapy Play Date!



Tamela Pomiles, ITDS, MT-BC—The Director and Founder of Joyful Music will host a fun, interactive **MUSIC CLASS!**

Wednesday, August 27th
from 12:00 to 12:30pm at
Early Learning Coalition of Seminole
200 Hunt Park Circle
Longwood, FL 32750-7567

Tamela specializes in working with children and young adults with autism spectrum disorder, down syndrome, and developmental delay. She has made it her life goal to teach, lend a hand about the healing powers of music. If a sibling will be coming along, please indicate that and their age in the RSVP.



You must RSVP to Rose.Lynn@orlandohealth.com or call 407.337.7430 x2202 to attend!

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Helping the Siblings of Special Needs Children

Tuesday, August 20th, 6PM-8PM
601 W. Michigan St.
Orlando, FL 32805

Leenies Quintana, Central FL Early Steps Director, along with a panel of parents and siblings will host an evening of learning about what it is like growing up with a sibling who has special needs. Tips will be shared to assist parents in helping all of their children. Information will be shared by a member of the Florida Alliance for Sibling Advocates and sib ship info will also be given. Questions will be welcome. Examples of children literature will also be shared that will help with family discussions.

Free childcare! Free dinner! Fun Give Aways!

RSVP to Rose.Lynn@orlandohealth.com or by leaving a message at 407.337.7430, ext. 2201



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P.E.E.P.'S
(Parents Educating and Empowering Parents)

August 23, 2013
6:00 pm - 7:00pm

For families currently enrolled in the Early Steps Program



Autism

Children are Welcome!

Howard Phillips
Developmental Center
601 West Michigan Ave
Orlando, FL 32805

Please RSVP Shirlette.navarro@orlandohealth.com to attend

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Early Steps Playdate

Alafaya Branch Library
located at 12000 East Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32826

Join FRS Rose for fun that encourages 18 months - 36 months in the development of verbal and listening skills. Afterwards, we will meet at a nearby location for lunch, resources and social time.

Friday, September 6th at 11:5am

*If a special accommodation is needed to participate, due to a disability, please let Rose know when you RSVP. Please RSVP to Rose.Lynn@orlandohealth.com by Thursday, August 29th or by leaving a message at 407.337.7430, x2201



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COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING

Central Florida Early Steps Newsletter

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How to Keep Your Little Ones Safe

Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families
601 West Michigan Street, Orlando FL 32805

Tuesday, September 27th
6pm - 8pm



Free Dinner! Free Childcare! Free Give Aways!

Carmia Johns, Occupant Protection Specialist will be speaking on the American Academy of Pediatrics Child Passenger Safety Guidelines including extended rear-facing, forward facing in an internal harness, booster seat use and when your child is ready for the adult safety belt. Geoff Dawson, known as the Pool Safety Resource, will be discussing the real risks of drowning for infants & children in Florida and show you how swimming lessons really help. His goal is to teach you how to build effective layers of protection to match your lifestyle. You will learn how parents and pool owners can assess their own pool safety at home.

Please RSVP to attend: Rose.Jurim@orlandohealth.com

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First Steps Parent to Parent Connection

Wednesday, August 21st from 10am-11am
Wednesday, September 18th from 10am-11am

Hart Memorial Central Library
211 East Dakin Ave
Kissimmee, FL 34741

RSVP-Glomaris.gonzalez@orlandohealth.com
or 407.317.7430 x2201

The purpose of this event is to provide an opportunity for families to connect with a Family Resource Specialist, other families and community supports.

An overview of Early Steps will be presented and questions will be addressed. A Spanish translator will be available.

Childcare will not be provided but toys will be available for those in attendance. You must RSVP to attend. Bring a dish to share if you'd like, but not required.

Refreshments will be provided.

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SAVE!!

Florida's Sales Tax Holiday!!

August 2-4, 2013

SAVE ON:
Clothing
Footwear
Certain Clothing Accessories
Certain School Supplies
Personal Computers and Certain Related Accessories*

*New for 2013!!

The Florida Legislature passed a law for a 3-day sales tax holiday to begin at 12:01 a.m., Friday, August 2, 2013, and end at midnight on Friday, August 4, 2013. No Florida sales tax or local option tax will be collected during this three-day sales of clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$75 or less per item, on certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item, and on computers and certain related accessories selling for \$750 or less per item when purchased for someone's retail home or personal use.

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Central Florida Early Steps Newsletter

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Autism Speaks
It's time to listen.

Orlando City vs. Charlotte Eagles
Saturday, August 17, 7:30pm
The Fifth Third Field @ The Florida Citrus Bowl

\$15 Sideline Tickets (with \$5 of each ticket going to Autism Speaks)

Participants will have the opportunity to go on the field during warm ups and meet the players after the game!



contact Brooke Hendry at 407-478-4026 or email bhendry@orlandocitysoccer.com

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ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Bubble Playtime!
Wednesday, September 4, 10:15 a.m.
Alafaya Branch
Alafaya - Meeting Room 1

Help your child with their motor development skills in this interactive bubble class presented by The UCF Sports & Exercise Science Club. Recommended for toddlers and preschoolers. Limited Space Available. Ticketing at door. Parent must have a library card in good standing to participate.

Bubble Playtime!
Wednesday, September 4, 10:45 a.m.
Alafaya Branch
Alafaya - Meeting Room 1

Help your child with their motor development skills in this interactive bubble class presented by the UCF Sports & Exercise Science Club. Room reserved for toddlers and preschoolers. Limited Space Available. Ticketing at door. Parent must have a library card in good standing to participate.

Click below for more information regarding story time at your local library:

Orange County: <http://www.ocpl.org/Programs/StoryTime.aspx>

Seminole County: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/libraries/StoryTime.aspx>

DeKalb County: <http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/libraries/StoryTime.aspx>

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SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

What we do:

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) now estimates that over 246,000 Americans are affected by Spina Bifida. The Spina Bifida Association of Central Florida (SBACFL) is a volunteer group of individuals living with Spina Bifida and their families, as well as professionals and members of volunteer, working to educate, advocate, network, provide resources and bring about public awareness of Spina Bifida.

The SBACFL is here to provide support and education to all who seek to learn as to its effects to make a difference in the Spina Bifida community.

Spina Bifida Association of Central FL Playdate

Saturday, Sept 7th
Refreshments will be served.
Magnolia Park
2225 S Birch Road
Aurora, FL 32703
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

For more information please contact Cheryl Freeston, info@spinafl.org or call 407-454-0854.

Spina Bifida Association of Central Florida
100 W Lucerne Circle
Suite 100-M
Orlando, FL 32801
407-245-0010 Office

Click here for more information: <http://spinafl.org>

miraclemiles Presented by **Tanera**

The Miles They Run.



Event Information

On Saturday September 21, 2013, nearly 4,000 dedicated athletes are expected to hit the streets of Lake Side for the 10th Annual Miracle Miles 15K, 5K, 10K Fun Run and Walk-for-Wisdom. Miracle Miles benefits the Alexander Center for Neurobiology at Wisdom Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies. Volunteer at this event!

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Event Schedule

Saturday, September 21, 2013

6:00 AM - Day of Race Registration
7:00 AM - 5K (0-1 mile)
7:30 AM - 10K (0-3 mile)
8:00 AM - 10K Fun Run
9:45 AM - Walk-for-Wisdom
10:00 AM - Awards Ceremony

Registration Fees:
Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Become a "Miracle Miles" (available in the 15K & 5K)
By paying an additional donation of \$10 at the time of registration, you will be recognized as a "Miracle Miles" with a special account race number exclusive. (available through Friday, September 21.) Note: This additional \$10 is a separate registration fee and will not be added to your online donation total.

15K September 14th
\$30 - 15k
\$22 - 5k

September 15th - 20th
\$30 - 15k
\$25 - 5k

Race Day at Lake Side*
\$40 - 15k
\$30 - 5k
*Cash or check only

Location & Parking
Lake Side Park, DeLand, Orlando
N. Side Dr & E. Central Blvd
Orlando, FL 32807
Need directions? [Click here for a map.](http://www.miraclemiles.com)

Limited parking is available along side streets, parking garages are located at the corner of Rowland St. and Robinson Street, as well as various other locations throughout downtown Orlando. Parking garage rates may apply. [City of Orlando Website](http://www.cityoforlando.net).

Packets Pick-Up
Race packets will be available at Track Shack (1704 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL) on Wednesday, September 18th - Friday, September 20th from 10 AM - 7 pm. Packets will also be available on race morning at Lake Side from 6 - 7 am.

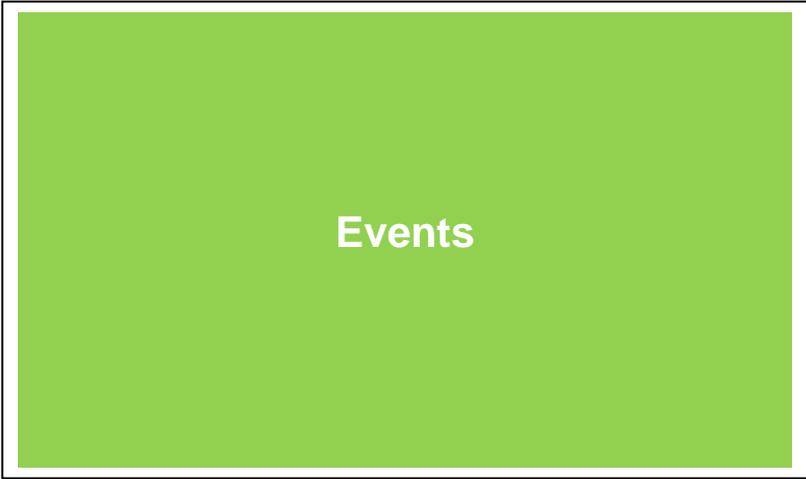
T-Shirts
All registrants receive a commemorative race t-shirt. Sizes not guaranteed on race day. The first 1,000 entrants in the 15k will receive a back tee.

Kids' Fun Run
Join us again this year for the FREE Kids' Fun Run, a race that is the no other child will receive a finished ribbon. NCFC Kids' Fun Run registration available day of race at race site ONLY.

Walk-for-Wisdom
All participants and guests now have the opportunity to visibly show their support for the babies. Walk-for-Wisdom is a FREE symbolic stroll around Lake Side. Join the fun, as we demonstrate our support for all the tiny babies and their families inside nursing their own race that morning. To donate to the NCFC, click here: <http://www.ncfc.org> No registration needed to participate.

Restrictions
For safety reasons dogs will not be allowed in the 5k or 10k races. The use of headphones is discouraged. All entrants in the 15k must be able to maintain a 15 minute per mile pace. All entrants in the 5k must maintain a 20 minute per mile pace. However, this is subject to change at the discretion of the Orlando Police Department, at which time you may be instructed to walk on the sidewalk. Participants in the 15k, 5k and Walk-for-Wisdom can use baby

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EVENTS

Central Florida Early Steps



Contact Information:

Rose Mary Lumm
Family Resource Specialist
601 West Michigan Street, MP 347
Orlando, Florida 32805
407-317-7430, ext. 2201
Rose.lumm@orlandohealth.com

Program Name: Central Florida Early Steps Fall Festival

Basic Information:

This was an event to allow Early Steps families to connect with one another, to connect with the Early Steps staff, to relax, and to learn about local resources.

How it Began:

We wanted to provide our Early Steps families with the gift of a day of fun. Once UCP informed us in July that we could use their venue free of charge for an event in November, we began making contacts with the community.

UCP of Central Florida was kind enough to provide us with a beautiful venue and many of their talented staff volunteered their services. The University of Central Florida (UCF) also provided many volunteers from the College of Education and their Speech and Language program (NSSLHA). The Kohl's Cares teams also volunteered for our event. Because we wanted our Early Steps Families to connect with resources that could help them, we asked Nathaniel's Hope, an organization that provides free respite in three-hour blocks for families, to attend. We also invited the Children's Safety Village of Central Florida to attend. The Costumers With a Cause also provided volunteers dressed as characters to pose with families and interact. Bright Feats and Florida Crossroads magazines provided publications, free of charge, for each family.

Program Benefits:

- The Fall Festival showed the families that Early Steps really cares about the whole family. Activities were planned for children of all ages.
- Community connections were strengthened.
- There was positive Early Steps publicity.
- The public was educated about the purpose of Early Steps and enlightened about the wonderful families we serve. (We know our college-age volunteers learned a lot by interacting with our families.)
- Communication opportunities between Early Steps and UCP were enhanced.
- Families connected with local resources that were represented and became educated about how to get involved.

Tell Me How:

1. Secure a location, date, and time as far in advance as possible. (Try to select a date that college students will be in session and not on a Saturday with a home football game.)
2. Go to Kohl's Cares page and complete the forms to request volunteers. If a specific number of Kohl's employees volunteer from a store, then Kohl's Cares will give a grant to the non-profit organization they are helping. For 2012, five employees working an Early Steps event equaled \$500 in grant money going to our program.
3. Request donations from local grocery stores and restaurants. Put a donation box out at work.

EVENTS

Central Florida Early Steps

Tell Me How, continued:

4. Create an invitation that requires an RSVP that promotes all the fun that will happen at the party. Get it printed and mailed to families about three weeks before the event. Promote the event by e-mail blasts, the newsletter, and Facebook. Post the post card/flyer in community locations where Early Steps families can be found.
5. Ask all Family Care Coordinators and Clinic staff to invite families to the Fall Fest. There is nothing like getting a personal invite!
6. Contact volunteers groups like UCF to work the event and help with setup/cleanup.
7. Confirm with local agencies who will be attending and ask what they will need.
8. Plan and coordinate age appropriate games. We found a rental company that had the most adorable themed games. Each game was in a tubby with laminated printed instructions on how to play the game.
9. Contact the local library to request storytellers for the event. They were unavailable on the date we needed, but they are free and trained to work with little ones. Because of this, we sought out educators who work with little ones and got a music therapist and two children's authors from the area, who were thrilled to come to our event.
10. See opportunities, not problems as you plan. Although multiple meetings had taken place to secure the date, we learned they were going to have a book fair over the time we were going to have our Fest. UCP rearranged where to put the books and Early Steps promoted the book fair to ES families.
11. Plan food that takes into consideration the needs of the families--sugar free, gluten free, etc. We had a separate table labeled Gluten Free with hot dogs and desserts. We had plain, buttered pasta noodles, with the option to sprinkle Parmesan cheese on them. We had Capri Sun and lemonade in a cooler, which we served in cups. Be sure to purchase sturdy plates. Publix donated all of the desserts and we had more than anyone could possibly eat.
12. Get in writing those who will stay to clean up so that a few poor souls are not left alone to finish all the work. Give them many reminders of their time commitment.
13. After the event, give all who helped a thank you card. List in the Early Steps newsletter about the event and highlight those who helped the event be a success. E-mail a thank you message also. (For photos, be sure you have families sign photo releases when they arrive at the party. If a family does not want to be photographed, have them wear a wristband.)

Program Cost:

- UCP Bailes Campus-Free venue was donated. It is a beautiful pre-school campus with accessible playgrounds. We were able to use the playgrounds along with a kitchen, classrooms, and the community area.
- Color postcard mailed to all Early Steps Families and posted in locations around the community. 1500 color postcards for \$150 (postage was paid through Orlando Health)
- Rental of Fall Carnival Games, hot dog cooker, bun warmer, cotton candy machine, popcorn machine and snow cone machine--\$160 (When doing this, ask how many servings the machines can serve in an hour.)
- We were given gift cards from Publix and Sam's Club for the food items. However, to help us have a record of the costs, I have listed food items below.
 - Hot dogs-\$81 for 320 hot dogs; (\$22 for 80 beef hot dogs; 240 purchased so \$66; 80 additional hot dogs purchased for \$15)
 - Hot dog buns-approximately \$60—(16 buns are \$3.18)
 - Gluten-free hot dogs and desserts-\$25.00
 - Chips-\$11.66-50 mini bags of chips \$11.66-The rest were donated, along w/pretzels.
 - Ice-2 bags \$5.09
 - Pasta; parmesan cheese; condiments-\$15.00
 - Craft supplies/prizes for games-\$100
 - Cups-\$10—Dixie cups and plastic cups
 - Ziploc bags and plastic ware/plates/gloves for serving food-\$40
 - Memory cards for cameras-\$23.00

EVENTS

Central Florida Early Steps

Program Partners:

- Volunteers from University of Central Florida (UCF) College of Education and NSSLHA worked the games and craft stations.
- Kohl's Cares Team-took photos of all families as they arrived.
- Publix donated a gift card and bakery items.
- Sam's Club donated a gift card.
- UCF College of Education majors had literacy stations for parents.
- UCP of Central Florida allowed us to use their school free of charge.
- UCP staff volunteered to work the book fair so families could look at books.
- Clifford the Big Red Dog mingled with students. (Clifford was with the book fair.)
- Two Sea Scapes authors read aloud books they authored for children.
- The UCP music therapist offered music sessions for the students.
- Creative Expressions donated the services of a magician and face painter.
- Costumers with a Cause came in costume and entertained the children as Super Girl, Aquaman, a prince, and a princess.
- Pirate Tom Grimmer brought his ship for the perfect photo spot.
- Nathaniel's Hope had a table with information and chatted with families about free respite.
- Children's Safety Village of Central Florida had a table with information and shared materials.
- Bright Feats and Florida Crossroads provided free publications for all ES families.

Fun Facts:

- We had over 150 Early Steps families attend. We had about 35 volunteers. Publix gave us so many bakery items that we were able to send baked goods home with families and volunteers. We made in advance plastic cups with trinkets and gave a thank you note to each volunteer as they left.
- Many of our Early Steps staff attended with their children. Families loved getting to meet the families of our Family Care Coordinators.
- Due to a generous donation, every child who left the party was given either a Disney book or a teddy bear.
- A photo of every family was taken when they arrived. It was amazing to hear how many of these families said they never had a family photo taken before. We brought a printer so we were able to print the photos at the event. Families had the opportunity to make a frame for the photo at the Fest.

EVENTS

Central Florida Early Steps

Early Steps Fall Festival 2012
 Saturday, November 3rd
 11am-2pm
 UCP Bailes Campus
 12702 Science Drive, Orlando FL 32826

Free Event!! Bring the Whole Family!!

Face Painting	Fingernail Painting	Goody Bags
Bubbles	Family Photo Keepsake	Food
Games	Magic Tricks	Music
Crafts	Aquaman, Superman, Princess and a Pirate	

Books available for purchase at the Scholastic Book Fair!!
 Stories read by children's authors! Tips on how to raise great readers!

Please RSVP by Saturday, Nov. 1st to Rose.lumm@orlandohealth.com or by leaving a message at 407.317.7430 ext. 2201. Provide the names of all attending, ages of children and your email/phone number.

Just for Early Steps Families

The Developmental Center
 for Infants & Children/early steps

THANK YOU

A note can barely express how much you have added to the happiness of our staff and families!

We would like to send our sincerest thanks for your kindness and generosity!

From the Staff and Families at Early Steps

The Developmental Center
 for Infants & Children/early steps




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Crafts	Superman, Aquaman, Princess and a Pirate	

Books available for purchase at the Scholastic Book Fair!!
 Stories read by children's authors!
 Parent Mini Lessons on how to raise great readers! (handouts to take home)

Please RSVP by Nov. 1st to Rose.lumm@orlandohealth.com or by leaving a message 407-317-7430 ext. 2201. Provide the names of all attending, ages of children and your email/phone number.

EVENTS

Central Florida Early Steps

Welcome to the Early Steps Fall Fest 2012

Please have a family photo taken as soon as you arrive by one of our volunteers. Look for your printed photo in the lobby area sometime today after 12:30PM. (Be sure to visit a craft station to make a frame to put your photo in.)

Be sure to do all of the activities in both hallways and outdoors at both playgrounds. Games, nail painting, crafts, Scholastic Book fair, UCF Literacy Stations and playground fun (small play ground and large playground) are ongoing from 11AM-2PM

Lunch will be served in the cafeteria, in the middle of the school, 11AM-1PM.

You can have desserts/snacks/drinks/etc up until 2PM!

A Magician will do tricks in lobby area from 11AM-12:30PM. He'll roam after that and leave around 1:30PM.

Face Painting will begin at 11AM and end at 1:30PM

Beginning at 11:30; 12 noon; 12:45 and 1:30PM there will be the following events:

(We need to keep these sessions to no more than 16 toddlers in the classroom.)
The doors will be marked for you to know where it is

“Fun with Music” instructed by UCP Music Therapist Kristin Bozard-in classroom # 132 ;on right closest to small playground. No more than 16 children in the classroom per session please.

“Read Aloud/Activities,” by Acclaimed Children’s Author and environmentalist Diahne Escue-in Rm 114

“Read Aloud/Activities,” by Acclaimed Children’s Author and environmentalist Suzie Caffery-in Rm 113

Be sure to find a Family Resource Specialist, Rose or Shirliene or Glomaris before you leave so your child can get a Good-bye item. 😊

EVENTS

Central Florida Early Steps

THANK you

A note can barely express how much you have added to the happiness of our staff and families!

We would like to send our sincerest thanks for your kindness and generosity!

From the Staff and Families at Early Steps



**The
Developmental
Center**

for Infants & Children/early steps



EVENTS

UF North Central Early Steps



Contact Information:

Dr. Sanjeev Tuli, Early Steps Medical Director
Sharon Hennessy, Early Steps Program Director
Department of Pediatrics
1329 SW 16th Street, Room 4160
PO BOX 100296
Gainesville, Florida 32610-0296
352-273-8555 or 1-800-334-1447



Program Name: Yearly Community Spring Festival

Basic Information:

Our Spring Festival occurs annually and is a community driven event for children with special needs or developmental delays and their families. We have representatives from more than 30 agencies and businesses in our community. We also provide entertainment, music, crafts, food, and lots of fun for every family member.

How it Began:

In 2009, North Central hosted a Fall Festival. It was a great success with support provided by our contracted providers, in-house staff, as well as other community agencies. In planning for the 2010 Fall Festival, due to budget issues, we were unable to support financially the same successful event we had the previous year. Because of our strong ties within our community, we were able to host another successful and well-attended Spring Festival in March of 2011.

We pulled together with Children's Medical Services (CMS) and Alachua County Public Schools. It was through this partnership that we were provided with numerous benefits. One benefit is that the location for the festival better serves all of our community. We now provide childcare, affording our families to better view all of the wonderful vendors that attend our festival. We also have turned to our local businesses, resulting in additional donations and increased participation from all.

Program Benefits:

- Access to firsthand information for parents and caregivers
- Opportunity to meet parents of children with similar diagnosis
- Access to recreation and diversion in a safe environment
- Networking opportunities for service coordinators and community partners

Tell Me How:

1. Reached out to organizations in our community that needed to provide a resource opportunity for their constituents or were already planning a community event
2. Discussed with prospective agencies the benefits of our collaboration
3. Established a common goal
4. Assigned responsibilities
5. Met after event to recap and start planning for following year

EVENTS

UF North Central Early Steps

Program Cost:

For the last two years, thanks to the support of our local businesses and partners, we have been able to host the festival at no cost to our program.

Program Partners:

- Children's Medical Services
- Alachua County Public Schools
- North Central Early Steps



EVENTS

Northeastern Early Steps

Contact Information:

Kimberly Belzer
Phone: 904-360-7022, ext. 251
Kimberly.Belzer@jax.ufl.edu

Program Name: Early Steps Fall Costume Festival

Basic Information:

This event brings Early Steps families together for fun and support and allows them to get to know the Early Steps staff that work with their families. Outside agencies participate in the festival and inform our families of additional supports in the community.

How it Began:

In previous years, the Northeastern Local Early Steps (NE LES) had very few activities for enrolled families. After organizing and developing several playgroups the need for additional opportunities for families to connect and feel supported through social activities designed specifically for their children was identified.

Program Benefits:

- Fun activities, face painting, arts and crafts, bounce house, fire trucks, and hot dog lunch with chips and treats to eat
- Opportunities to pretend play in costumes for the entire family
- Safe place to trick or treat
- Families decorate and take home their own pumpkin
- Families can meet other families in the Early Steps program for support in a relaxed environment
- Families have an additional opportunity to interact with Early Steps staff for support, questions and information
- Provides the children with opportunities for social interaction and awareness
- Gives families a break from their regular schedule of therapies and doctors
- Provides more exposure for Northeastern Florida Early Steps

Tell Me How:

1. Research costs required for the event
2. Prepare and submit to the administrator, for approval, a proposed budget to include possible dates and time for the event
3. Once approved, begin planning approximately ten weeks prior to the scheduled event
4. Seek out donations to fund the event.
5. Plan for 15 Early Steps providers and/or resource tables that double as activity stations at the event. Each provider should prepare an activity for the children to do and provide a treat for participation.
6. Chose the venue (a state park); initiate the process for getting a permit for the event.
7. Send a letter, via email, at least ten weeks in advance to providers and local resources requesting participation and outlining the procedure for participation. Contact providers throughout the process to ensure that there are enough stations.
8. Recruit and contract with vendors to provide a bounce house, tables, activities, etc.
9. Send letters, via email, requesting volunteer participation to set up a booth and activity
10. Ensure vendors submit the contract and proof of liability insurance to the City of Jacksonville. Submit your non-profit certificate, a parking plan, and other documentation required to obtain the permit as well.

EVENTS

Northeastern Early Steps

Tell Me How, continued:

11. Select a date that does not conflict with other activities in the city so that maximum participation is ensured
12. Explore food ideas and request donations to cover expenses. Requesting donations is a process that takes time and follow-up throughout the planning stage.
13. Purchase food and other festival items, once donations are received
14. Contact additional resources for donations to cover the cost of pumpkins. Each child will receive his/her own personal pumpkin
15. Advertise in the newsletter and distribute flyers to all enrolled families with an RSVP deadline
16. Mail a flyer to all enrolled children regarding the event with a contact number to RSVP
17. Have families contact the FRS to RSVP, after the flyer is distributed
18. Enter these RSVPs on a spreadsheet with the families names, number of adults and children attending, phone numbers and email addresses. Include a place for signatures. Have an item on the sheet for families to check whether they allow or decline photographing of their child. The spreadsheet will provide an estimate of the number of attendees and the quantity of supplies needed for the event.
19. Order tables
20. Order Bounce House
21. Make a list of items needed from Oriental Trading and submit it to the supervisor and office manager for purchase
22. Coordinate activities with participating providers
23. Schedule a volunteers' meeting, as the event requires many volunteers, including internal staff and external providers. Include on the meeting agenda an item to discuss assignments and responsibilities (review work stations and assign responsibilities)
24. Make volunteer sheet for Early Steps employees, assigning areas where volunteers are needed, the number in each area and the times each volunteer is needed
25. Have staff and volunteers arrive early to set up and then have a great day!
26. Meet early the day of the event and work with your many volunteers to decorate, coordinate the set up of the food, drinks, tables and chairs for booths, pumpkin patch, Bounce House and fire truck placement
27. Follow up with thank you notes to donors, agencies/programs in attendance, volunteers, law enforcement/fire station, those who did demonstrations/activities
28. Survey agencies, programs, and other represented groups for feedback about the event

Program Cost:

- Venue-Losco Regional Park - \$35 Permit
- Supplies for children to color their own trick or treat bags, decorations, stickers to decorate the pumpkins and paper products - \$250
- Hot Dog lunch to include chips and a sweet treat - \$500
- Drinks and ice - \$150
- Bounce House - 135
- Tables and Chairs delivered and set up - \$270

EVENTS

Northeastern Early Steps

Program Partners:

- Northeastern Early Steps
- Various volunteer agencies that provide the activity and treats at the booths
- Companies that provide gift cards such as Publix, Winn Dixie, K-Mart, Wal-Mart

Fun Facts:

- Had between 300-400 people attend this event
- Received positive feedback from the families that attended
- Provided opportunities for the FRS to meet and speak with many families



EVENTS

Early Steps Southernmost Coast



Contact Information:

Joan Holcomb
Family Resource Specialist
Southernmost Coast Early Steps
17615 SW 97th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33157
786-624-2612
Joan.Holcomb@mch.com

Program Name: Spring Eggstravaganza

Basic Information:

Southernmost Coast Early Steps in conjunction with the Miami Children's Hospital Palmetto Bay Outpatient Center hosts an annual spring event. All center events are planned through an events committee that meets to coordinate events and other center activities. In an effort to provide resources to our families, Early Steps contacts local agencies to participate based on families' requests for information and known community resources. Agencies contacted for the spring event included Children's Medical Services (CMS), Agency for People with Disabilities (APD), Department of Children and Families (DCF), SSA, amongst others. The outpatient center's administration provides food, music, and activities for the children, giving them an opportunity to have fun while parents receive important information.

This event was for our families to learn about the different agencies that work directly with families and their child with a disability or delay, and provide them with an opportunity to network with other Early Steps families and non-Early Steps families.

How It Began:

This is one of our annual events hosted by Miami Children's Hospital Palmetto Bay Center and Early Steps.

Program Benefits:

- Fifteen (15) local non-profit agencies and programs registered to provide information.
- Families were able to get information they needed.
- Families were given an opportunity to network.
- Children could be fingerprinted and documented by the Corrections Department. A fire station hook and ladder truck and an EMT/emergency vehicle were available for the kids to explore and inspect.
- Activities included face painting, arts and crafts, outdoor games, and an egg hunt. A DJ played music.

EVENTS

Early Steps Southernmost Coast

Tell Me How:

1. Shared cost with Palmetto Bay Center
2. Used outpatient Center park to host the event
3. Advertised through flyers and email blast
4. Gave information to ES families at evaluations, transitions, and exits
5. Contacted local community non-profit agencies/programs to attend and be a part of event
6. Coordinated games/activities and prizes for the children
7. Organized volunteers and scheduled times such as where to be, how many volunteers, shift changes and times, and details of what they were to do
8. Had enough personnel to staff event and ensure everyone there had what they needed
 - o Secured set up/tear down volunteers
 - o Reserved table sites for agencies/group
 - o Set up and staffed arts/craft area
 - o Staffed, supplied, and replenished refreshment station
 - o Staffed games/outdoor activities and maintained prizes
 - o Arranged for announcements to be made by DJ
9. Follow up with thank you notes to all agencies/programs in attendance, volunteers, law enforcement/fire station, those who did activities.

Program Cost:

- Venue - Free (outpatient center park)
- DJ - \$300
- Tents - \$300
- Supplies to make activities/games and flyers - \$300
- Food and refreshments for all in attendance - \$150

Program Partners:

- Southernmost Coast Early Steps
- Miami Children's Hospital Palmetto Bay Center

Fun Facts:

- We had over 150 people come to the event.
- Families had a great time and were able to get information they needed.
- Agencies expressed a desire to participate in any event we hold in the future.



EVENTS

Space Coast Early Steps



Kid Fest 2012



Contact Information:

Christy Baudek
321-409-2136, ext. 203
Email: Christy_Baudek@doh.state.fl.us

Program Name: Kid Fest 2012

Basic Information:

This was an event to inform and educate our local community, law enforcement, and other providers about agencies and support groups that provide services for children of all ages with a disability or delay and their families.

We had eight weeks to pull this together. Our goal was to make it happen with at least 30 agencies/support groups represented. There was relatively little time to 1) get all agencies/groups we wanted represented, 2) obtain a venue, and 3) solicit monetary donations from donors within their approval process. Our strategy included 1) securing a venue first, 2) inviting agencies/programs to participate in this first-time event (even though we had no idea how many people to expect), 3) generating public awareness to get people to come, and 4) scheduling activities to engage the children, so parents would be able to get needed information and not be rushed or pressured to leave by their children.

How it Began:

Sgt. Mark Bousquet, with the Brevard County Sherriff's Office, contacted Space Coast Early Steps, to arrange training for officers that addressed information about autism, including some red-flag warnings. A former Early Steps' mother approached him because she had been arrested for child neglect of her four or five years old autistic child. She expressed dismay that the officer who had come to her home to arrest her for neglect, did not understand that her child was autistic, and needed additional precautions. Her child would wander, was destructive, and experienced additional sensory obstacles.

The child was removed from his home for a period of time. While under foster care, he wandered from the foster home and demonstrated the same behaviors the mother reported. He is now receiving the support services he needs due to his mother's persistency and advocacy. Sgt. Bousquet was so moved by the mother's testimony and her positive comments about Early Steps that he felt he had to contact us for additional support and education.

EVENTS

Space Coast Early Steps

Program Benefits:

- Thirty-five local non-profit agencies/programs/support groups registered and provided information.
- Families received information they wanted and were provided with a directory that listed all groups represented and information about the.
- Children and families could touch and inspect law enforcement and fire rescue vehicles and talk to local law enforcement and fire rescue personnel. They were able to allay their fears and gain positive images to replace the negative ones they had. The police vehicles and demonstrations included a SWAT tank, bomb diffusion and robot, water rescue with Bobby the Boat, squad cars, helicopter, crime prevention display, and the K-9 and bloodhound unit's demonstrations. The fire rescue vehicles included a fire station-hook and ladder truck and an EMT/emergency vehicle.
- Participants were treated to clowns and balloon making, face painting, arts and crafts, a Zumba demonstration, a DJ playing music, a Home Depot activity, and a Gymboree activity and craft. Publix was there with coloring books and crayons and informational brochures for parents on different developmental stages and milestones. There were outdoor games and activities for children of all abilities
- The event addressed specific disabilities and delays affecting children, educating not only law enforcement and the community, but also other agencies who were unaware that certain programs/groups existed.
- The event gave more exposure to Space Coast Early Steps!

Tell Me How:

1. Find a partner to help offset costs
2. Find a venue and meet with venue personnel over the course of planning; ensure all needs can be met with tables, electric outlets, set up/tear down
3. Advertise, advertise, advertise (these are the ones we did)
 - Banner; signs; flyers; email blasts
 - Media--news articles, ads, radio/PSAs, community calendars (television) or free publications
 - Information given to ES families at intakes, reviews, evaluations
 - Distribution to schools and preschools
4. Contact local community non-profit agencies/programs/groups to attend and be a part of first time event
5. If possible get website for event--we had separate email account just for event
6. Coordinate games, activities, and prizes for the children
7. Contact donors to assist with funding, activities, giveaways, and refreshments
8. Get volunteers and schedule times--where to be, how many, shift changes/times, details of what they are doing
9. Complete directory, put together "goodie bags", map out location of where everything is going on the day of event
10. Get enough personnel to staff the event and ensure everyone has what they need
 - Set up/tear down, street and yard signs put out and brought in
 - Volunteers sign in, get badges and t-shirts, get to location assigned to them
 - Agencies/groups find table site and whatever help needed to set up
 - Art/craft area set up, staffed, supplies replenished
 - Hospitality room supplied and replenished
 - Refreshment stations--staffed, supplied, replenished
 - Games/outdoor activities--staffed, prizes maintained
 - Announcements made for demonstrations outside with law enforcement/fire rescue, Zumba demonstration and class, and other ongoing activities
11. Follow up with thank you notes to donors, agencies and programs in attendance, volunteers, law enforcement and fire station personnel, those who did demonstrations and activities
12. Send survey to agencies/ programs/groups for feedback on event

EVENTS

Space Coast Early Steps

Program Cost:

- Venue (Viera High School) - \$400
- Supplies to make activities/games, prizes, face paint, balloons, table clothes, paper for directories and flyers - \$266
- "Goodie Bags", outdoor signs/banner - \$380
- Snacks and drinks for all who came - FREE (donations)
- Breakfast items and lunch items for volunteers, staff, agency/program representatives - FREE (donations) and \$65
- DJ - FREE
- Thank you notes/cards and postage - \$30.74 + approximately \$25 (in postage)

Program Partners:

- Space Coast Early Steps and Brevard County Sheriff's Office
- Agencies and companies that donated items or monetary donations or an activity (were recognized in our directory for their contribution)

Fun Fact:

- Over 500 people came to the event! We are doing it again next year!
- Many parents repeatedly said (unsolicited) what a great time the kids had and they learned something new about our community that they did not know before.
- Agencies and those who provided activities reported that they have received calls from others wanting to be a part of their organization (i.e., join their support group, take classes with them, get involved with their agency).



EVENTS

Space Coast Early Steps



EVENTS

Space Coast Early Steps

Kid Fest 2012

(March 24, 2012)

An event informing and educating our local community on agencies and support groups that provide services for children of all ages and abilities and their families.



**When: March 24, 2012/Saturday
from 10am-2pm**

**Where: Viera High School
6103 Stadium Parkway
Viera, FL 32940**

Admission: FREE

- More than 30 local agencies offering information
- Police & fire rescue vehicles, crime prevention display, exhibits
- Clowns, games & activities for children
- Addressing specific disabilities/delays affecting children

Additional information, contact Christy Baudek (Space Coast Early Steps) at KidFest2012@gmail.com

**Festival is a joint effort of:
Brevard County Sheriff's Office
Space Coast Early Steps
Brevard Public Schools**



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EVENTS

Space Coast Early Steps

Kid Fest 2012



When: March 24, 2012/Saturday; 10am-2pm (set up 9am)

Where: Viera High School- 6103 Stadium Parkway in Viera 32940

Event is to inform & educate our community about local non-profit agencies/support groups providing services to children (of all ages) that are affected by a specific disability or delay & their families.

Table Space Form

Name of Agency/Support Group: _____

Address of Agency/Group: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact Email Address: _____

Agency Phone Number if different than contact: _____

Agency web address: _____

Brief info about agency/group, and who is served (or attach info): _____

Indicate if table is needed as there are a limited number but do have access to chairs. Tables will be provided on first come basis.

Need table: yes ___ no ___

*Registrations will not be accepted after close of business on March 9, 2012.

Additional information, contact Christy Baudek (Space Coast Early Steps):

KidFest2012@gmail.com, 409-2136 x 203, or fax- 409-2140

Festival is a joint effort of:
Brevard County Sheriff's Office
Space Coast Early Steps
Brevard Public Schools



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Parent Leadership

PARENT LEADERSHIP

Gulf Central Early Steps

Contact Information:

Gulf Central Early Steps
4630 17th Street
Sarasota, Florida 34235
941-487-5400/1-866-510-5594
www.hpcswf.com



Program Name: Family Involvement Committee

Basic Information:

The Family Involvement Committee (FIC) currently consists of two Family Resource Specialists (FRS), four Service Coordinators and one Infant and Toddler Developmental Specialist. The Program Director attends when able. The Committee meets usually once per month to discuss strategies for family supports and involvement, community collaborations, trainings and workshops, resources (including toys, equipment, education and information), and transition.

How It Began:

Local Early Steps (LES) staff members wanted to get more involved with families and took the initiative to create the committee.

Program Benefits:

- A diverse committee (demographically and professionally) ensure that members involved bring different views and ideas.
- The inclusion of parents and families ensures that the views of families are heard and their needs met.
- The committee allows for a collaboration of ideas on how families will best be served by family involvement (FI) funds, instead of one person making all the decisions.
- All members of the FI committee are able to provide support and information to families on applying for and receiving FI funding (reimbursement) to attend workshops, trainings, and conferences.

Tell Me How:

1. Notify all LES staff members about the new Family Involvement Committee and ask for volunteer members
2. Invite parents to become members via email, Facebook, Websites, FRS newsletter, and word of mouth
3. Set a consistent time and location for meetings (i.e., the third Monday of every month in the small conference room)
4. Have the current FI budget handy to refer to when brainstorming

Program Cost:

- The time for all attendees

Program Partners:

- Families, Service Coordinators, Family Resource Specialists, Direct Service Staff, Outside Providers, etc.

Fun Fact:

- Families are encouraged to join the Family Involvement Committee and attend meetings. All Early Steps staff members and providers are welcome to join at any time. Sometimes we like to have fun little science experiments while brainstorming strategies--it gets us thinking outside the box!

PARENT LEADERSHIP

Early Steps Southwest Florida



Contact Information:

Eliana Tardio
Marketing and PR Specialist
(239) 919-4295
elianatardio@hpcswf.com

Program Name: Down Syndrome Support Group

Basic Information:

This event was created to provide interaction opportunities for families of children with Down syndrome and also to empower them to socialize and be part of community events. Meetings are held in different parks, libraries, and other locations provided for local agencies, during the year.

We have 46 active kids with Down syndrome in the area; this is the reason why our Support Group for parents of kids with this condition is very important to us. We expect these families to interact, learn from each other, and, most importantly, find other parents living in their area who are raising a child with Down syndrome. They can become friends and face together the adventure of starting school and understanding services with the support of our program.

The invitation for this event is shared with community agencies, so families with older children with Down syndrome are welcome. They can offer their own experiences with services and resources in the area.

The event is held once a month.

How it Began:

It began by trying to provide families with a special environment to share, have fun, and receive education and resources from others who are living the same situation.

Program Benefits:

- There is social interaction among families.
- Information about resources and services is provided.
- Parents learn techniques on how to face challenges of raising a child with Down syndrome.
- Parents have the opportunity to ask questions and receive education about special stuff that only parents of older children may know based on their own experience.
- Parents feel comfortable and part of the community.
- Kids grow together; siblings interact and bond while sharing the same experience.

PARENT LEADERSHIP

Early Steps Southwest Florida

Tell Me How:

1. Mail or email invitations
2. Make phone calls to confirm people's participation
3. Bring information and resources
4. Collaborate with community providers for using community parks, libraries, etc.
5. Ask families to bring a snack for sharing
6. Give parents the opportunity to guide the meeting
7. Ask family to bring information that they want to share with other families
8. Request funding for refreshments from your local Publix, Target or Wal-Mart

Program Cost:

- Refreshments donated by Publix at no expense
- Community Park or library room provided for free
- Handouts printed at the office for free
- FRS time is three hours per group

Program Partners:

- Sometimes we invite agencies to participate or volunteer.

Fun Fact:

- Families have a great time with their whole family.
- There is no pressure since this is an informal event.
- Siblings have a lot of fun too, as they play while families are chatting and interacting.



PARENT LEADERSHIP

Early Steps Southwest Florida

Down Syndrome Flyer – Page 1 of 2



SUPPORT GROUP FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME - SWFL

My name is Eliana Tardio, I'm sure you have received communications from me before, but probably you don't know how I became a Family Resource Specialist for the [Early Steps program](#).

Well, I'm the mother of two children with Down syndrome, Emir and Ayelen. Emir is 8 years old, he's an exemplary student and wonderful friend. Every morning he takes the regular school bus to Pinewoods elementary. He's proud of himself, and his typical friends and classmates love him, as well as his teacher. He's always ready to help, despite he's still learning to talk and to put his needs and feelings into words.



Ayelen is my little princess, she's 5 years old. I didn't know she would be born with Down syndrome. I wasn't prepared for that, I never expected to have a second child with Down syndrome. However she has transformed my life and made me overcome my own prejudices, showing me that kids with special needs may be totally different, despite their condition or their family bonds. She's stubborn, bilingual, learns fast and stands for what she wants. She's always in trouble at school because she doesn't like PE and would do whatever needed to avoid it, lie, pretend that her tummy hurts or just get mad and say "no way". So, for me and for the world, she's a permanent reminder that kids with Down syndrome are not angels at all.

PARENT LEADERSHIP

Early Steps Southwest Florida

Down Syndrome Flyer – Page 2 of 2



Something and the most important thing that I have learned through the years is the importance of meeting and interacting with other families. Things look clearer when you talk to someone who has been there before or when you realize that it is not as complicated as it seems.

That's the reason why I would love to invite you to participate at our monthly support groups that will be held every 3rd Saturday of the month in different locations around the four counties: Collier, Lee, Hendry & Glades. We would love you to participate at all of them if you want, but we also understand nothing is more convenient than having them close to your home.

Support groups are just a reunion of families to interact, share and learn from others, so they can be held at different places. Our first meeting will be held NOVEMBER 17TH, 2012 at 10:00 at Estero community Park, located at 9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard Estero, Florida 33928

Pack your smile and a light snack. Bring your whole family and let's share a good time together.

Please RVSP sending me an email to elianatardio@hpcswf.com or call me at (239) 919-4295.

Sincerely,

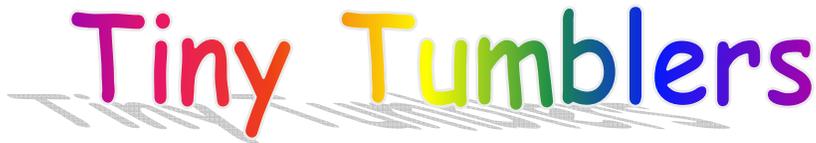
Eliana Tardio
Family Resource Specialist/ PR
Early Steps of SWFL

www.elianatardio.com

Playgroups/Field Trips

PLAYGROUPS/FIELD TRIPS

North Beaches Early Steps



Contact Information:

Carol Williams
1011 W. International Speedway Boulevard
Daytona Beach, Florida 32114
386-258-7434 or 1-800-439-6417

Program Name: Early Steps Tiny Tumblers Playgroup

Basic Information:

This Playgroup was formed to offer socialization for children and families so they can interact with other children and allow families to network. The Family Resource Specialist (FRS) and Family Involvement (FI) Group Members formed the Playgroup to provide a venue for support. The Playgroup is geared toward supporting children in their overall development and providing families with resources and strategies for working with their child, as well as enhancing social play skills.

How it Began:

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) teams would suggest to families the need for socialization and activities to help meet the child's needs. Family Resource Specialist solicited the Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist (ITDS) to form a Playgroup.

Program Benefits:

- Three to six (3-6) families participate in each monthly session.
- The Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist (ITDS) offers individual play as well as group play.
- Circle Time is offered--enhancing cognitive, speech, and peer interaction skills through songs, stories, and games.
- Gross Motor/Tumbling Time is offered. The child gets to stretch, run, jump, climb, slide, and use the multi-surface trail.
- The families get together and network.
- The families leave with resources and strategies for working with their child.

Tell Me How:

1. Found a venue
2. Solicited Early Steps Staff such as Case Coordinators, ITDS, etc.; found providers such as Physical Therapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Speech Therapy (ST), etc.
3. Obtained funding through Family Involvement Funds to purchase toys/equipment
4. Created flyers to inform families of dates, locations, and times
5. Advertised--passed flyers and newsletters out to families at clinic and gave newsletters to providers
6. Arranged for room setup and breakdown after session; obtained storage for play equipment.

Program Cost:

- Toys/Equipment - \$412.20

PLAYGROUPS/FIELD TRIPS

North Beaches Early Steps

Program Partners:

- North Beaches Early Steps
- Local Providers
- Families

Fun Facts:

- Had families participate consistently
- Had feedback from families regarding how they enjoyed coming to the Playgroup and how their child benefited from the group

Tiny Tumblers

A **playgroup** brought to you by Children's Advocacy Center Early Steps
Come join us for a monthly playgroup provided free to *Early Steps* children and their siblings.

Playgroup will consist of:



Circle Time - Enhancing cognitive, speech, and peer interaction skills through songs, stories, and games.

Gross Motor/Tumbling Time - Your child will get to stretch, roll, jump, climb, balance, and tumble during our tumbling time. There will be mats, slides, balancing beams, and balls to let your child have the most fun and gain a lot.

Tiny Tumblers will be hosted by:

Carol Williams - your local Family Resource Specialist

And

Allison Blodgett M.Ed. - Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist



Ongoing Schedule

A playgroup will be held for Early Steps families in Volusia County every second Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

****A caregiver must stay and participate with their child for the whole activity.**

****Please bring socks for you and your child to wear during the playgroup.**

Upcoming Activities in your area:

May 14th at 11:00 am - 12:00am

June 11th at 11:00 am - 12:00am

July 9th at 11:00 am - 12:00

we will be holding a playgroup at
The Children's Medical Services Building.
Address: 421 S Keech St
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

**-Space is limited, so please call
Carol Williams to sign up
at 386-258-7434 ext 208**

The playgroup will be ultimately geared toward supporting children in their overall development and providing families with resources and strategies for working with their child. Activities will be incorporated that will enhance cognitive, social, speech, and motor skills. Sensory integration strategies will be implemented.



PLAYGROUPS/FIELD TRIPS

Northeastern Early Steps

Contact Information:

Northeastern
Kimberly Belzer
904-360-7022, ext. 2351
Kimberly.Belzer@jax.ufl.edu

Program Name #1: Northeastern Early Steps Playgroups and Field Trips

Basic Information:

Presently, there are five (5) different playgroups. In addition, we periodically have themed playgroups and field trips.

- Museum of Science and History (MOSH) - two times a month at no costs
- Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) - once a month at no cost
- Ollie Koala - once a month at minimal costs
- Downtown Public Library Early Steps group - every other month at no cost
- O2BKIDS - two times a month at minimal costs

How it Began:

Being the mother of a child with special needs, I realized the importance of making connections with, and having the support of, other families. I began researching areas of town that had a regular coordinated group that would be beneficial to Early Steps families. We started with O2BKIDS and found it to be a great success, so we continued seeking out other locations for additional groups.

Program Benefits:

- Fun activities, both structured and free play, promoting social interaction with the other children
- Families making connections with other families for support
- Regular access to the Family Resource Specialist for support and questions
- Families can meet other families in the Early Steps program for support in a relaxed environment
- Families receive a break from their regular schedule of therapies and doctors
- More exposure for Northeastern Florida Early Steps

Tell Me How:

1. Research possible playgroup location and sites and look for possible venues
2. Call and request a meeting with the site administrators to discuss partnering with you to provide a safe place for your children to play on a regular basis at a donated or discounted fee
3. Request a meeting with community organization to discuss details regarding hosting the group
4. Request a proposal (request a written one-year cost proposal)
5. Submit cost proposal to administrator for approval
6. Once approved, distribute flyers via email and quarterly newsletter to enrolled families regarding available playgroups
7. Advertise in newsletters and through e-mail distribution
8. Have families sign up for a playgroup with the Family Resource Specialist
9. Send families reminders via email
10. Develop crafts to do at the groups and partner with venue to organize the groups

PLAYGROUPS/FIELD TRIPS

Northeastern Early Steps

Program Cost:

- Cost of group - varies from \$0.00 to \$500.00
- Cost of supplies (crafts and snacks) to host a group - \$500 per year for all groups

Program Partners:

- Northeastern Florida Early Steps
- Museum of Science of History (MOSH)
- Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)
- Jacksonville Downtown Library
- O2BKIDS Fleming Island

Fun Facts:

- Have had an average 15 to 20 families in attendance depending on the group
- Have had positive feedback from the families that attended
- Children ask their parents about the group because it has become part of their routine to attend



PLAYGROUPS/FIELD TRIPS

Early Steps Southwest Florida



Contact Information:

Imperia Torres
Family Resource Specialist
239-292-2995
imperiatorres@hpcswf.com

Program Name: Inclusive Playgroups for Kids 0 to 5 Years Old

Basic Information:

Over the last five years, Early Steps has been running different playgroups for Early Steps kids and the community. During the year, Playgroups are held in different parks, libraries, and other locations provided by local agencies and community partners.

Playgroups are held around the four counties (Collier, Lee, Glades, and Hendry). There is at least one monthly playgroup at every city we serve. We have a total of six playgroups in different cities of the area. One is held weekly, one biweekly, and the other four are held once a month.

Playgroups have been created to fill the needs of community activities for preschoolers, while we provide inclusion opportunities for children with special needs through Early Steps Southwest Florida. Playgroups provide an hour of play--music, physical movement, and appropriate activities for young children.

The Playgroup's main idea is to educate families on how to play with their children to get the best out of them, while taking advantage of their natural environment through play.

How it Began:

It began by trying to provide families the opportunity of socialization, interaction, and education. In addition, to create inclusion opportunities for kids with special needs at young age.

Program Benefits:

- Playgroups provide caregivers the opportunity:
 - to socialize with families that can relate to what they are experiencing
 - to gain information on community resources
 - to find support from other parents and caregivers
 - to exchange ideas and solutions to the many challenges that arise
- Playgroups offer children the opportunity:
 - to interact with peers
 - to participate in group play
 - to take part in activities that help to stimulate development

PLAYGROUPS/FIELD TRIPS

Early Steps Southwest Florida

Tell Me How:

1. Contact local agencies, parks administrator, or librarian to request a room year-round
2. Create calendars to share with providers and staff
3. Identify the family's need of participating at playgroups and include playgroups as a service at the child's IFSP
4. Send invitations to families and make phone calls to confirm their assistance
5. Bring information and resources
6. Partner with community providers to use community parks, libraries, etc. and to receive referrals for preschool children who are in need of recreation and socialization
7. Coordinate with program partners to provide playgroup's locations around the area
8. Work with partners to help spread the word with their preschool clients

Program Cost:

- Refreshments - are donated or covered by our local office
- Community park or library room - provided for free
- Handouts - are printed at the office for free
- INFANT TODDLER DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIST - guides the playgroup.
- FRS - helps with translation and set up

Program Partners:

- Grace Place in Collier County
- Assembly of God Community Church in Lehigh Acres
- Impact and Faith Academy in Cape Coral

Fun Facts:

- Families have fun and learn how to play with their kids.
- There is no pressure as this is an informal event.
- Families take home crafts and handmade toys to keep playing and interacting with their kids at home.



PLAYGROUPS/FIELD TRIPS

Early Steps Southwest Florida



PLAYGROUP



For more information

Eliana Tardio

239-919-4295

Mayor información

Location/Ubicación :
Karl Drew Community Park
18412 Lee Road
Fort Myers, FL 33967

Time/Hora : 9:00 to 10:00

January 2011

Every Tuesday / Cada Martes

4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

“Early Steps Playgroups in San Carlos are every Tuesday from 9 to 10 am ! Playgroups are **free** and specially designed for caregivers and their children from 0 to 5 years old! Join us and have fun while learning!”

“Los Grupos de Juegos de Early Steps en San Carlos son de 9 a 10 am todos los martes. Son gratuitos y especialmente diseñados para padres y sus hijos de 0 a 5 años de edad! Unete a nosotros y disfruta aprendiendo!”



PLAYGROUPS/FIELD TRIPS

Early Steps Southwest Florida



JUNE 2010 - Playgroups Schedule

SUN	MON 	TUE 1	WED 2 PINE MANOR 5447 10th Ave Fort Myers, Fl 10:00 to 11:00	THU 3	FRI 4 FORT MYERS SHANDLER HALL 419 Florence Ave Fort Myers, Fl	SAT 5
6	7	8	9	10 CAPE CORAL IMPACT 120 del Prado Blvd S 10:00 to 11:00	11 LABELLE Health Dept 1140 Pratt Ave Labelle, Fl 10:30 to 11:30	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 LEHIGH ACRES NEW LIFE 5146 LEONARD BLVD S 10:30 to 11:30	19
20	21	22	23	24 CAPE CORAL Church 4544 Coronado Pkw 10:00 to 11:00	25 San Carlos 18412 Lee Road 10:30 to 11:30 BONITA SPRINGS Library 1:30 to 2:30	26
27	28 	29	30			

PLAYGROUPS/FIELD TRIPS

Western Panhandle Early Steps

Contact Information:

Irma Cofield
Family Resource Specialist
5150 Bayou Boulevard, POB Suite 1-N
Pensacola, Florida 32503
Phone: 850-416-6789
Email: icofieldshhpens.org



Program Name: Seasonal Playgroups in Natural Environments

Basic Information:

The purpose of these events is to involve parents with activities to promote their child's development. The Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist (ITDS) and therapist will model appropriate play activities so parents may implement and use these strategies during every day activities and routines. Strategies include 1) focus on family involvement for opportunities in the natural environment and 2) family involvement for playgroups and activities in the community, such as Children's Museum, Fun-Plex and other seasonal activities such as the Pumpkin Patch. ITDSs and other Primary Service Providers collaborate for events in the community for these opportunities.

How it Began:

Collaboration began with the Family Resource Specialist (FRS), ITDS, and other team members. The team provided activities in the community, ongoing research of the community for places and activities, and informed and encouraged parents' participation.

Program Benefits:

- It promotes family involvement. Parents receive strategies and ideas to use to promote developmental play in their child's every day routines.
- Children learn to play together, share, and take turns to enhance social development.
- It promotes speech and communication.
- It offers fine and gross motor skills opportunities
- There are opportunities for parent-to-parent connections, friendships, and networking.
- Team provides family consultation.
- The Family Resource Specialist is introduced as a resource and ongoing support.

Tell Me How:

1. Research kid friendly community locations and opportunities
2. Collaborate with Primary Service Providers to scheduling events
3. Plan activities to be implemented in the community
4. Provide instructions and modeling strategies for parents
5. Inform families of the upcoming events
6. Use team efforts to make success for the families

Program Cost:

- Our last event was the Pumpkin Patch outing at the cost of \$16. Eight children and their parents attended. The cost covered a small pumpkin and supplies.

PLAYGROUPS/FIELD TRIPS

Western Panhandle Early Steps

Program Partners:

- Early Steps Team Members including Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist, Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist, and Family Resource Specialist
- Cokesbury United Methodist Pre-K staff for story time

Fun Fact:

It was a time enjoyed by all. Parents understood the benefits of an event as simple as decorating and choosing a pumpkin to support communication and fine motor and social skills. Children had fun filled learning and social opportunities. Parents were also able to connect and network with other parents.





Resources

RESOURCES

Bay Area Early Steps

Contact Information:

Liz Hudley
Hillsborough County
813-375-3980, ext. 129

Nicole Torres
Polk County
863-686-1221, ext. 228

Program Name: Adaptive Toys for Children with Special Needs Lending Library

Basic Information:

The Lending Library is a collection of adaptive equipment and toys that the families, therapist, teachers, and professionals can check out as needed. Infants and Young Children (IYC) has two Lending Libraries--one in Hillsborough and one in Polk.

How it Began:

Hillsborough County Public Library System received a grant a few years back and bought adaptive toys so families with special needs children could check them out, just as they do books. After having the program for a couple of years, the Library was not seeing families or therapists coming in to check out any toys. They felt these wonderful adaptive toys were just sitting and not reaching the intended audience. They asked Infants and Young Children (IYC) if we would be interested in taking all the toys to get them into the right hands.

Program Benefits:

- Adaptive toys enrich developmental skills through interactive play.
 - These toys encourage language development improve fine and gross motor skills and motivate sensory exploration.

Tell Me How:

1. The toys are available for loan, at no cost, to children with special needs and their families, therapists, teachers, and professionals.
2. Interested parties should contact Liz Hudley, for Hillsborough County, at 813-375-3980, ext. 129, or Nicole Torres, in Polk County, at 863-686-1221, ext. 228.

Program Cost:

- None

Program Partners:

- Early Steps
- Bay Area Providers



TRAINING

Treasure Coast Early Steps



Contact Information:

Thea Chimenti
Family Resource Specialist
Easter Seals Florida, Inc.
213 S. Congress Avenue
West Palm Beach Florida 33409
561-471-1688, ext. 127
Email: tchimenti@fl.easterseals.com

Natalie Eno
Family Resource Specialist
Easter Seals Florida, Inc.
10570 South Federal Highway, Suite 200
Port St Lucie Florida 34952
772- 380-9972, ext. 19448
nen@fl.easterseals.com

Program Name: Assistive Technology Solutions Workshop

Type of Strategy:

- Resources

Basic Information:

Interactive workshop sharing benefits and resources available on the iPad for children with special needs.

How It Started:

We met Margot Mueller, the owner/developer of iCan2, at a community outreach workshop.

Program Benefits:

- How-to Guide on accessing iPad applications (apps)
- Strategies to share with special needs children

Tell Me How:

1. Contact owner of iCan2 (Margot Mueller)
2. Negotiate cost
3. Reserve conference room and date
4. Invite families and providers

Program Cost:

- Facilitator - \$200 Facilitator
- Families and Providers Cost - Free

Program Partners: None

Fun Fact:

The families and providers really enjoyed the comprehensive workbook they were able to take home.

TRAINING

Treasure Coast Early Steps



Join us for an Assistive Tech Solutions workshop!

Learn about the numerous benefits and resources available on the iPad for children with special needs. This interactive presentation will feature a how-to guide on accessing apps for the iPad and strategies to implement with your family.

Where: Amar Child Development Center
213 Congress Ave
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

When: Wednesday, August 29th, 2012

Time: 9:30a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

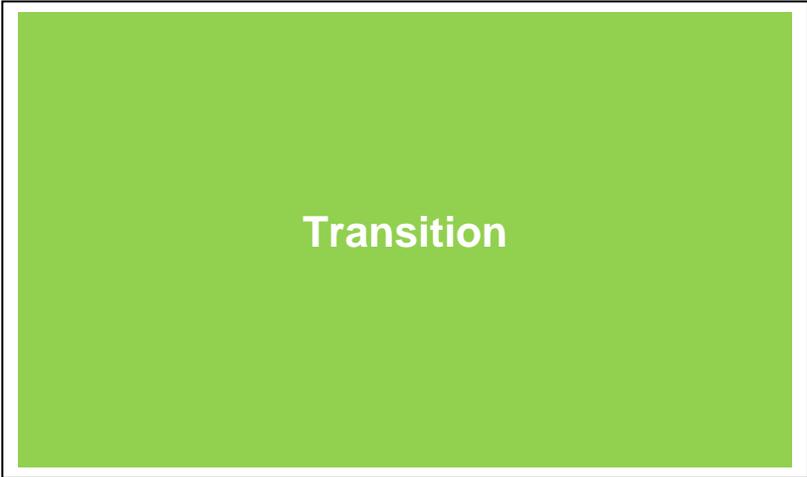
Presented by: Margot Mueller, founder of iCan2

If you have an iPad, bring it along with you

Please R.S.V.P by August 22nd

~Natalie Eno~Family Resource Specialist (Port St Lucie)
nenoe@fl.easterseals.com
(772) 380-9972 ext 19448





Transition

TRANSITION

Big Bend Early Steps



Contact Information:

Sue Loftis
Family Resource Specialist
Early Steps Big Bend
850-219-4275

Program Name: Transition Graduation Ceremony

Basic Information:

This event is to recognize the accomplishments and hard work of the children who transition from IDEA Part C to Part B out of the Early Steps (ES) program. We plan to host this event semiannually.

Family involvement dollars were used to finance the Graduation Ceremony. Families of children who were due to transition within three months or who had already transitioned out of the program were contacted to discuss the plans for a graduation and to inquire if they wished for their child to participate. Parents were given the option of inviting guest to help them celebrate this occasion with them.

Volunteers and ES staff members were helpful in preplanning for the event. Invitations were sent to families to give to their guest. Invitations were also sent to community leaders, organizations, and the Children's Home Society (CHS) staff. The CHS development department was helpful in acquiring media and newspaper coverage.

Family involvement dollars were used to purchase 50 caps and gowns with tassels and other supplies. Big Bend Community Based Care provided the venue to host the event free of charge. Families were asked to provide photos of their child to be used in a slide presentation. Supplies for invitations and diplomas were purchased and then designed and printed in the Local Early Steps (LES) office. A local childcare center lent us small child-sized chairs for graduates, a parachute, and dress-up clothes. Additional chairs for adults were borrowed from a local Middle school. Volunteers were provided by Alpha Phi Omega and the Florida State University (FSU). We purchased flooring for a dance floor, foam picture frames, and face-painting supplies. We also bought supplies to capture graduate handprints (which were placed on a fabric banner), non-toxic paint, and paintbrushes. We used donated refrigerator boxes from a local appliance store to create a crawl-through train that we titled, "The Early Steps Express." Paint, duct tape, and PVC pipe were also purchased for the creation of the train.

How it Began:

This idea was thought up by Carla Hall (Program Manager) who believes that children under the umbrella of Early Steps endure many life challenges from birth to age three. It is fitting to celebrate their accomplishments as they and their family work really hard to meet the goals identified as avenues to meeting their developmental level. Through numerous conversations, troubleshooting and feedback, Susan Loftis (Family Resource Specialist) took on the challenge of implementing and making this belief a reality.

Program Benefits:

- Exposure of Early Steps Program to the community
- Acknowledgement of the hard work and sacrifices of the family
- Opportunity to celebrate the children
- Cherished memories that last a lifetime

TRANSITION

Big Bend Early Steps

Tell Me How:

1. Obtain a list of transitioning Early Steps children
2. Contact families to acquire an estimate of interest, participation, number of invitations, etc.
3. Obtain a head count and confirm address for invitation delivery
4. Ask families to provide pictures of the graduates and sign a media release form
5. Decide what activities to include in the graduation after-party (face painting, dancing, dress-up, etc.)
6. Design and print programs, invitations, and diplomas
7. Purchase refreshments and supplies
8. Mail out invitations to families
9. Create activity stations for after-party
10. Establish a venue and decide how many chairs and extra supplies you will have to provide yourself
11. Contact local universities, groups, and organizations for volunteers
12. Set up venue with chairs for guests, mom and graduate chairs, refreshments, tables, and graduation podiums in the graduation area
13. Keep activity stations in a separate space to avoid distracting graduates during the ceremony
14. Send someone to develop graduation pictures to give to families
15. Insert pictures into handmade frames
16. Set up separate stations for face painting, dancing, dress-up, etc to avoid distractions
17. Recruit volunteers for setup and cleanup

Program Cost:

- 50 caps and gowns - \$899.40 (Note: gowns will be reused at each graduation.)
- Supplies - \$333.43

Program Partners:

- Local businesses, Family Involvement dollars

Fun Fact:

Around 150 people attended our first graduation. The enthusiasm of the families to participate was inspiring. Children loved being the center of attention and enjoyed the small stage to receive diplomas. The event was also attended by community leaders, CHS board members, Early Steps staff, and service providers.



TRANSITION

Big Bend Early Steps

Special thanks to all our volunteers that helped to
make this occasion possible:

Alpha Phi Omega
Brittany Berger
Charles McDonald, ED
Early Steps Program Staff
Megan Gitlin
Rebecca Amnott

early steps



Saturday, November 10, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
Leon Human Services Building



TRANSITION

Big Bend Early Steps

*“Nothing you do
for children
is ever wasted.”
-Garrison Kellor*

Program

Welcome

Carla Hall, Program Manager

Presenting Diplomas

Carla Hall, Program Manager

Charles McDonald, Executive Director

Shawn Seabrook, Supervisor

Sue Loftis

Recognition of planning committee

Sue Loftis

Refreshments and activities immediately
following the program-
face painting, disco, crafts, dress-up and
more fun stuff.

TRANSITION

Gold Coast Early Steps

Audrey Evans
(954) 728-1029
A1evans@browardhealth.org

Contact Information:

Fatima Rodrigues
(954) 728-1023
Frodriques@browardhealth.org

Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center

1401 S Federal Highway
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33316
Fax: (954) 779-3216

Program Name:

A Spectrum of Parent Instructions

- for Families of Premies and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Graduates
- for Transitioning Families whose Children have Medical Diagnoses (i.e. autism)

Basic Information:

Parents at each end of the Early Steps service continuum are often struggling with doubts and decisions about what comes next for their children and families. Gold Coast Early Steps' Family Resource Specialists (FRSs) have placed a great deal of emphasis on working with two populations that, as experience has shown, are exceptionally eager for support and guidance:

- the families of preemies and recent NICU graduates; and
- transitioning families whose children have exceptional medical conditions.

While the families of fragile neonatal infants (neos) are just entering the enriched cocoon of the Early Steps system, they are nonetheless adjusting to parenting medically complex infants. The emotional turmoil, medical scheduling, unique demands of daily care and the resulting physical exhaustion, are rarely skill sets for which they were prepared.

Those families leaving Early Steps are anxiously anticipating the loss of service coordination, and FRS support; they are confronting the mysteries of an unfamiliar educational system and fears of a reduction in services.

Over the past twelve months, the Broward FRS has cultivated referrals from our service coordinators focusing on these predictably anxious families. This effort has provided additional assistance from the service coordination staff and promoted stronger relationships with our families.

How it Began:

After many years of facilitating Transition Workshops (fashioned on the old New Star Module), it became clear that those families whose children are on the autism spectrum or have established conditions require a different level of information and guidance. This awareness motivated the development of additional programming through a specialized class for these EC families that concentrates on Part B services, Individual Educational Plans (IEPs), and service agencies within the community appropriate for discharge planning.

On the other end of the Early Steps Spectrum, families with fragile new babies who are coming to terms with the unexpected urgently need to avoid isolation, identify with other families, and experience the supports of Early Steps early in their role as parents of children with special needs.



TRANSITION

Gold Coast Early Steps

Program Benefits:

- Family Resource Specialists (FRSs) provide new parents the opportunity to meet with other parents whose children are also Preemie or NICU graduates.
- Caregivers begin a bonding experience and share their stories with each other.
- Caregivers begin to feel they are not alone with a special needs child.
- Caregivers receive group instruction and have the opportunity to observe other families and children practice strategies.
- Transition workshops help to defuse the uncertainty of sending a three-year old to “big school;” FRSs review the transition steps for parents.
- FRSs give parents information on community resources for children turning three years old.
- FRSs share their own personal experiences with families that create a personal, relatable, and engaging atmosphere. Many families have reported it inspires their hope.
- Caregivers are offered the opportunity to pre-plan for the impact of transition, after which their child’s services will be offered in a new environment and with a different focus.
- FRSs receive feedback through surveys about the caregivers’ experience in attending the workshops.
- Caregivers have the opportunity to ask questions in a personal setting, while FRSs have the opportunity to provide parent-to-parent support.

Tell Me How:

Families of Preemies and Recent NICU Graduates

1. Identify families whose newborns were admitted to the NICU (preemies, EC, CMS, substance affected)
2. Staff cases with service coordinator (knowledge of case, diagnosis, family background) prior to initial evaluation
3. Have FRS meet personally with these families in the Early Steps Developmental Clinic
4. Offer additional comfort and support throughout the evaluation and IFSP development
5. Follow-up by phone with each family within three weeks of Clinic appointment
6. Process their experience and satisfaction with the IFSP
7. Identify additional requests, questions, and referrals the families may need
8. Follow up periodically by phone with the more fragile families and schedule home visits as indicated
9. Facilitate interactive and educational workshops designed for these parents, accompanied by their neonatal infants (birth to six months)
10. Conduct classes two to three times annually for new clients:
 - Include as guest presenters Early Steps Team Members (pediatrician, physical and speech therapists, developmental specialists, etc.) as well as community providers
 - Provide hands-on activities and instruction on topics such as feeding issues, positioning, sleep and transport safety, nurturing/stimulation, infant massage, etc.
 - Address personal and home management such as medical appointments, stress/exhaustion, family dynamics, etc.
 - Provide Questions/Answer time, informational handouts, social interaction, and refreshments

TRANSITION

Gold Coast Early Steps

Tell Me How:

Transitioning Children with Exceptional Medical Conditions

1. Identify target families through prior relationships, service coordinator referral, and data reports
2. Schedule workshops at least four times a year for this population; mail invitations to all identified families whose child will transition within four months
3. Include as facilitators Early Steps Transition Service Coordinator and FRS; Part B and APD personnel; and guest presenters from other local programs, such as Early Head Start, Center for Hearing, Family Central
4. Provide extensive information regarding the transition process and participants; Part B eligibility and the local school system's Part B services; IEPs; rights and responsibilities under IDEA. I
5. Provide information designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with their children's schools as decisions are made regarding their child's eligibility and special education supports, as well as planning, decision making, and monitoring their child's progress
6. Discuss the importance of effective communication, proactive participation in the IEP process, advocacy skills
7. Link families with the local advocacy programs for training and continued support, post Early Steps
8. Attend (FRS) initial IEP meeting at the parent's request
9. Debrief service coordinators on their families' participation in the workshops
10. Have families complete an evaluation at the conclusion of each workshop

Program Cost:

- Printing and postage for mailing announcements/invitations to the families
- Printing for hand-outs
- Honorariums for guest speakers (non-staff)
- Educational materials for families

Program Partners:

- Broward partners with Broward Schools Preschool ESE Department
- Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Community organizations, including Advocacy and Legal Aide
- Network providers, developmental specialists, and nutritionists

Fun Fact:

- FRS began workshops with "Ice Breakers" to warm up the group and lighten the mood.
- FRS had raffles and door prizes, such as age-appropriate developmental toys, layettes, etc. for children (donated).
- FRS offered strategies and techniques for family relaxation.
- FRS provided "show and tell" as well as personal, inspirational experiences for transitioning families.

TRANSITION

West Central Early Steps

Contact Information:

Paula Keyser
Family Resource Specialist
paula.keyser@allkids.org
727-767-6705 or 800-374-4334

Program Name: Next Steps Seminar

Basic Information:

The Next Steps Seminar is an informational evening to present services available after Early Steps. Participants learn about transition service options for their children after they turn three years old. Representatives from Early Steps, Pinellas County Schools, Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS)/Child Find, Head Start, Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), Early Learning coalitions, and other agencies are available to answer parents' questions.

This is offered quarterly for families in Pinellas County and Hernando County.

How it Began:

There was a need for families to be better informed about transition services.

Program Benefits:

- Parents learn about the transition services options for their children after they turn three years old, that result, hopefully, in a smoother transition for the child and family.
- Parents receive information from numerous social services and other agencies about services available after Early Steps.

Tell Me How:

1. Schedule seminars (seminars are held four times per year; January and July in St. Pete and April and October in Largo)
2. Coordinate with representatives from the local school district, FDLRS/Child Find, Head Start, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Early Learning Coalition, and other agencies, to be part of the seminars
3. Establish reimbursement process
4. Arrange for limited child care at site
5. Arrange for travel reimbursement
6. Arrange for food for dinner (we served pizza)
7. Advertise seminars
8. Hold event
9. Solicit feedback

Program Cost: \$400.00

Program Partners:

- See flyer for agencies

Fun Fact:

Parents who attend fill out a 'Ticket Out the Door' survey and most of the feedback always says they have learned so much and connected with so many agencies that they did not know even existed.

TRANSITION

West Central Early Step



You're Invited!



NEXT STEPS SEMINAR

An informational evening to present services available after Early Steps



Wednesday, October 10th, 2012

6:00 – 7:30pm

Stavros Institute
12100 Starkey Rd.
Largo, FL 33773

Join us to learn about transition service options for your child after they turn 3 years old. Representatives from Early Steps, Pinellas County Schools, FDLRS/Child Find, Head Start, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Early Learning Coalition, and other agencies shown below will be available to answer your questions. Limited Childcare spots will be available on site if you RSVP as well as audiological screenings for Part C eligible children. Reimbursement for mileage and child care will also be available if needed. **Space is limited!**

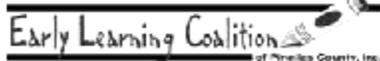
COME FOR DINNER, PIZZA WILL BE SERVED!

To make reservations for the seminar call or email:

Paula Keyser, Family Resource Specialist at (727) 767-6705 or (800) 374-4334

Email: paula.keyser@allkids.org

If you need special accommodations, please notify us in advance.



Next Steps Seminars are held four times per year. January and July in St. Pete and April and October in Largo. We strongly encourage you to attend one of the four opportunities closest to your home.

TRANSITION

West Central Early Steps

Transition Glossary continued...

Homebound or Hospitalized

An ESE program in Florida. A student in this program must be taught at home or in a hospital for an extended period of time because of a severe illness, injury or health problem.

Individual Educational Plan (IEP)

A written plan that describes the individual learning needs of a student with disabilities and the ESE services, supports, aids, and accommodations and modifications that will be provided to that student.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The most important United States law regarding the education of students with disabilities.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

The school setting (placement) that allows a child with a disability to be educated to the greatest extent possible with children who do not have disabilities.

Mediation

A process in which parents and school personnel try to settle disagreements with the help of an objective person who has been trained to resolve conflicts.

Modification

A change in the requirements of a course or the standards a student must meet. A change in what the student is taught or tested on.

Procedural Safeguards

Rules outlined in IDEA that give parents the rights to participate, have notice, and give consent. The procedural safeguards also determine how parents and schools can resolve disputes through mediation, due process, or complaint procedures.

Reevaluation

An evaluation that takes place after a student has already been receiving ESE services. Reevaluation decisions are made by the IEP team.

Related Services

Special help given to a student with a disability in addition to classroom teaching. Related services help a student benefit from instruction. Examples of related services include special transportation, social work services, physical and occupational therapy, and the services of readers for the blind.

Sunshine State Standards

A set of objectives that describe what Florida's students are expected to know and be able to do at certain stages of their school career.

Sunshine State Standards for Special Diploma

A set of objectives for students with disabilities in Florida who are unable to master the Sunshine State Standards.

8



early steps
Children's Medical Services

West Central Early Steps
Located at All Children's Hospital
Serving Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando & Citrus Counties
480 7th Avenue South
Dept. # 7470
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 767-4403

**NEXT STEPS
SEMINAR**

WELCOME

*Thank You To All Of Our Dedicated
Staff and Community Partners Who
Make This Event Possible!*

Sponsored by All Children's Hospital and the
State of Florida, Department of Health



Social Security Administration
may be able to provide Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments to caregivers who have a child under 18 with disabilities. SSI will consider income and resources of family members living in the child's household when determining eligibility for payments.

Social Security Administration
2340 Drew Street
Clearwater, FL 33765
(727) 797-0387
www.socialsecurity.gov



Born To Read Program. The joy of sharing books is a gift you can give children from the time they are born. Chanting nursery rhymes, singing songs, and reading stories can comfort and entertain even the youngest child. Listening to language lays the groundwork for reading. Parents, child care providers, teachers, and other adults interested in the development of young children have a wealth of good books from which to choose.

Born To Read
1330 Cleveland Street
Clearwater, FL 33755
(727) 441-8408
www.ppic.us



Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) is specifically tasked with serving the needs of Floridians with developmental disabilities. The APD works in partnership with local communities and private providers to assist people who have developmental disabilities and their families. APD also provides assistance in identifying the needs of people with developmental disabilities for supports and services.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities
1201 102nd Avenue N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33716
(727) 217-7016
www.apd.myflorida.com



Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health provides a broad range of community based programs for children and families designed to develop and enhance family support resources. Suncoast Center's mission is to strengthen, protect, and restore lives for a healthy community. Suncoast Center's mission is to strengthen, protect, and restore lives for a healthy community.

Suncoast Center, Inc.
4024 / 4010 Central Ave.
St. Petersburg, FL 33711
(727) 327-7656
www.suncoastcenter.org

Transition Glossary continued...

Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)

A plan that helps a student with a disability to decrease his or her problem behaviors.

Consent

Parents' agreement to let the school take an action that affects their child's education.

Developmentally Delayed (DD)

Program for children ages birth to six only. A child with a developmental delay is developing more slowly than his or her peers either mentally, emotionally, or physically.

Disability

A condition that makes it hard for a student to learn or do things in the same ways as most other students.

Discontinuation

A decision made at an IEP meeting for a student who is eligible for more than one ESE program but no longer meets eligibility criteria in one of the programs.

Dismissal

A decision made at an IEP meeting to dismiss a student from all ESE services because the student no longer needs those services.

Eligible

Refers to a student who meets the requirements for and is in need of ESE programs and services.

Eligibility Staffing

A meeting at which the parents and a group of school staff members decide if a student is eligible for ESE services. This decision is based on evaluation reports and other information.

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

Name given in Florida to educational programs and services for students with special learning needs (including those who have disabilities and those who are gifted). It is sometimes called special education.

Exceptionality

A disability or special learning need. Giftedness is also an exceptionality.

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

The words used in the federal law (IDEA) to describe the right of a student with a disability to special services that will met his or her individual learning needs at no cost to his parents.

Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)

The process of gathering data about problem behaviors of students with disabilities. The purpose of an FBA is to develop an individualized Behavior Intervention Plan.

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TRANSITION

West Central Early Steps

 <p>Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services</p> <p>Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services, Inc. provides Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) to Florida children who do not have easy access to these services. These services shall be provided in the patients home without regard to the ability to pay for such services. This program shall strive to render the highest quality services possible to this special population.</p>	 <p>CARD (Center for Autism and Related Disorders). Our work focuses on providing communities, organizations, agencies, service providers and families with the knowledge and skills to support children and adults in early intervention, school, community, work, and home settings. In our work, we address issues that impact individuals across the life span.</p>	 <p>PARC helps children and adults focus on what they can do, rather than what they are unable to do. Children receive early intervention services from an interdisciplinary team including teachers, social workers, nurses and therapists. PARC promotes a high level of support and services for each individual in 32 different programs.</p>	 <p>Pinellas County Schools is an award-winning, progressive school district on Florida's West Coast. We provide education for a changing world to approximately 152,000 Pre-K to 12 students, including adult education. The mission of Pinellas County Schools is to educate students by creating systems that align all resources to assure that each student achieves at her or his highest level.</p>
<p>Florida Elks Therapy 3194 Shoreline Drive Clearwater, FL 33760 (727) 532-9861 www.feika.org</p>	<p>CARD 13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. Tampa, FL 33612-3899 (813) 974-2532 http://card-usf.fmh.usf.edu</p>	<p>PARC 3190 Tyrone Blvd North St. Petersburg, FL 33710 (727) 345-9111 Respite Services: Ext: 5272 www.parc-f.org</p>	<p>Pinellas County Schools 301 Fourth St. SW Largo, FL 33770 (727) 588-6000 www.pcsb.org</p>
 <p>Florida KidCare is the state's children's health insurance program for uninsured children under age 19. It includes four different parts, or programs: MediKids, Healthy Kids, Children's Medical Services and Medicaid. When you apply for the Insurance, Florida KidCare will check which program your child may be eligible for based on age and family income.</p>	 <p>All Children's Hospital has been providing direct therapy services for more than 30 years. Thousands of children have been successfully treated in our centers. We provide "direct care" to children with disabilities to help them reach developmental milestones needed to function successfully in everyday environments like home, daycare and school.</p>	 <p>Pinellas County Head Start is a federally funded comprehensive child development program. It serves low income children from birth to mandatory school age, their families and expectant mothers. Families are served via a model that is both home-based and center-based. Pinellas County Head Start is pleased to also be a provider for Florida's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program also.</p>	 <p>Florida Medicaid provides Medical coverage to low income individuals and families. The state and federal government share the costs of the Medicaid program. Medicaid services in Florida are administered by the AHCA (Agency for Health Care Administration). Medicaid eligibility in Florida is determined either by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or the Social Security Administration (for SSI recipients).</p>
<p>Florida KidCare (800) 622-5437 www.floridakidcare.org Tampa Bay Outreach Project (863) 660-3047</p>	<p>All Children's Hospital OT (727) 767-4257 PT (727) 767-4257 Speech - (727) 767-4141 www.allkids.org</p>	<p>Pinellas County Head Start 2210 Tall Pines Drive Suite 200 Largo, FL 33771 (727) 547-5900 www.pinellascountyheadstart.org</p>	<p>Florida Medicaid Area 5 Medicaid Resource Unit (727) 552-1191 http://ahca.myflorida.com</p>

 <p>The Kidz Club is a full day program for children who are medically fragile and their families. The Kidz Club is a PPEC (Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care) program providing skilled nursing services in a daycare setting. The Kidz Club program allows children to get the education and socialization benefits of spending their day with other children while receiving the medical attention they need.</p>	 <p>Access Florida is an Automated Community Connection to Economic Self-Sufficiency. An online resource where you can pre-screen to see if you might be eligible for Food Stamps, Cash Assistance or Medicaid. You can then apply for benefits online.</p>	 <p>Directions for Living helps Pinellas County children with services ranging from prevention of emotional and behavioral problems to early professional intervention to school based and outreach programs. Child psychiatric treatment is offered to families and children with more severe problems. These services can prevent children from living a life of involvement with the criminal justice system, substance abuse and school failure.</p>	 <p>The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas provides assistance to families accessing Florida's School Readiness Program to fund child care scholarships, VPK Florida's FREE Voluntary Prekindergarten program for 4 year olds, training and technical assistance for child care providers, developmental, vision and hearing screenings, early intervention services, and resource and referral information for families seeking child care.</p>
<p>The Kidz Club 850 3rd Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33701 (727) 821-5439 www.thekidzclub.com</p>	<p>Access Florida 525 Mirror Lake Drive, Ste. 201 St. Petersburg, FL 33701-3423 (866) 762-2237 www.myflorida.com/accessflorida</p>	<p>Directions for Mental Health, Inc. 8823 115th Avenue North Largo, Florida 33773 (727) 547-4566 www.directionsmh.org</p>	<p>Early Learning Coalition 5735 Rio Vista Drive Clearwater, FL 33760 (727) 548-1439 www.elc.inellas.net</p>
<p>Transition Glossary</p>			
<p>Accommodation A different way of doing something that takes into account a person's disability. Accommodations are changes in how a student is taught or tested. They do not change the requirements of a course or the standards the student must meet.</p>			
<p>Annual Measurable Goal A statement in an IEP of what a student needs to learn and should be able to learn within one year.</p>			
<p>Alternate Assessment An assessment that is used for a student with a disability when a standard state or districtwide assessment is not appropriate for that student. Students working toward special diplomas take alternate assessments.</p>			
<p>Assessment A way of collecting information about what a student knows and can do and what a student still needs to learn.</p>			
<p>Assistive Technology Device Equipment that is used to help students with disabilities maintain or increase their ability to function.</p>			
 <p>Division of Blind Services is Florida's State agency responsible for ensuring that people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals. Also, its Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library administers a free library program of Braille and recorded materials for eligible readers.</p>	 <p>The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) provides diagnostic and instructional support services to district exceptional student education programs and families of students with exceptionalities statewide.</p>		
<p>Division of Blind Services 3637 4th Street North, #310 St. Petersburg, FL 33704 Tel: (727) 893-2341 http://dbs.myflorida.com</p>	<p>FDLRS Gulfcoast 2929 County Road 193 Clearwater, FL 33759 (727) 793-2723 www.fdlrs.org</p>		

TRANSITION

West Central Early Steps

Welcome



Next Steps Seminar



Please Place Cell Phones on Vibrate!



Restroom Locations

 Housekeeping Items

- Thank You To Agency Volunteers
- Hearing Screening Sign-Up
- Help Yourself To Pizza
- Please Be Courteous (Childcare Room Available)
- Please Clean Up (We Are Guests)
- We Need To Vacate By 7:30pm

 What Is Transition?

Transition From Early Steps Is:

- A period of change from one program to another
- A time for gathering information
- A time for making choices
- A time for celebration
- A time of mixed emotions

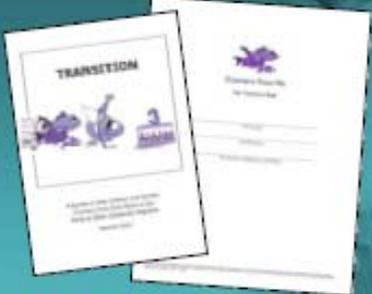


 Early Steps & Transition

- Make the transition as smooth as possible
- Assure parent involvement in team decision making
- Make the process child and family friendly
- Promote informed families

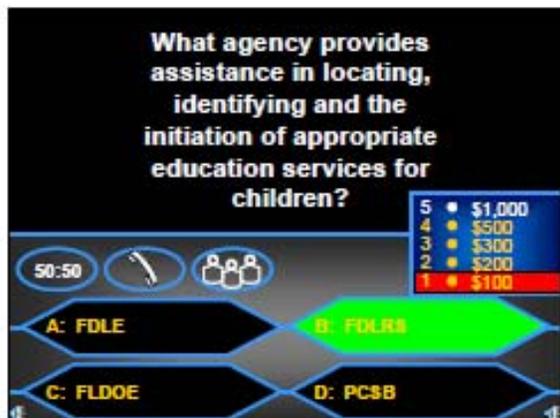
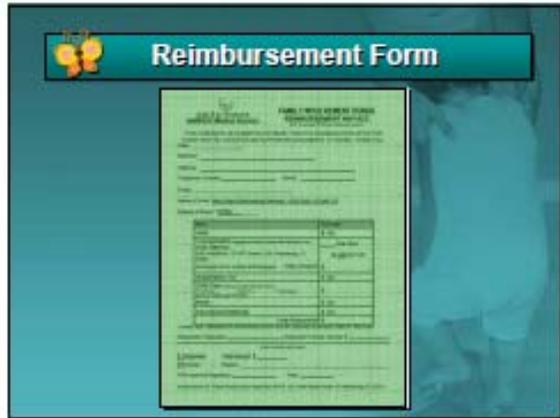
TRANSITION

West Central Early Steps

<p>Video from Florida Transition Project</p>	<p> Florida Transition Project</p> 
<p> Family Resource Specialist</p> 	<p> Family Resource Specialist</p> 
<p>Video of Jeremy in Pre-K and Now</p>	<p> Introductions</p> 

TRANSITION

West Central Early Steps



TRANSITION

West Central Early Steps

What Is FDLRS

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System

- Child Find
- Parent Services
- Lending Library
- Family Representative
- Make and Take Lab
- Technical Assistance / Training

What Is FDLRS



Who Wants to Transition?

5	•	\$1,000
4	•	\$500
3	•	\$300
2	•	\$200
1	•	\$100

What is the acronym IEP?

5 • \$1,000
4 • \$500
3 • \$300
2 • \$200
1 • \$100

50:50

A: Individual Eating Plan
B: Individual Education Plan
C: Immediate Education Program
D: None of the Above

What Is An IEP

Birth To Three (Part C)
IFSP
Individual Family Support Plan

After Age Three (Part B)
IEP
Individual Education Plan

What Is An IEP



TRANSITION

West Central Early Steps

Who Wants to Transition?

5	•	\$1,000
4	•	\$500
3	•	\$300
2	•	\$200
1	•	\$100

Who Should Be Invited to My Child's IEP Meeting?

50:50

5	•	\$1,000
4	•	\$500
3	•	\$300
2	•	\$200
1	•	\$100

A: Speech Therapist

B: Service Coordinator

C: Grandma

D: All Of The Above

Who Should Be Invited?

Anyone Familiar With Your Child
Who Can Provide Valuable Input

Please Remember
to Invite Them

Individuals Cannot Be Invited
Without Your Permission

What Is An IEP

Information Sheet

Comprehend the purpose of the IEP Meeting

Understand the role of each participant

Know the process of developing an IEP

Be able to ask questions and seek clarification

Be able to provide input and feedback

Be able to sign the IEP

Be able to understand the IEP

Be able to understand the IEP

Be able to understand the IEP

Who Wants to Transition?

5	•	\$1,000
4	•	\$500
3	•	\$300
2	•	\$200
1	•	\$100

What Are Some Of The Things Included On My Child's IEP?

50:50

5	•	\$1,000
4	•	\$500
3	•	\$300
2	•	\$200
1	•	\$100

A: Goals for the Year

B: My Child's Abilities

C: Accommodations

D: All Of The Above

TRANSITION

West Central Early Steps

About The IEP

- “Working Document”
- Even If Prepared Prior to IEP Meeting, It Is a DRAFT
- Annual Updates
- Updated As Needed

Who Wants to Transition?

5	• \$1,000
4	• \$500
3	• \$300
2	• \$200
1	• \$100

What agency can you sign your child up for the Medicaid Waiver?

5	• \$1,000
4	• \$500
3	• \$300
2	• \$200
1	• \$100

50:50

A: AARP B: AAA

C: APD D: None of the Above

APD Medicaid Waiver

- Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- Developmental Disabilities Waiver
- At least 3 years old, live in Florida
- Spina Bifida, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Prader-Willi Syndrome, Down Syndrome and Mental Retardation
- Provide critical services and supports to reach full potential

Medicaid Waiver

- Children ages 3-5 who are at risk may also be served
- Agency helps more than 35,000 Floridians each year
- Provides a variety of medically necessary services that may include occupational and physical therapy, nursing, mental health counseling, personal care assistance, transportation, behavior therapy and respite

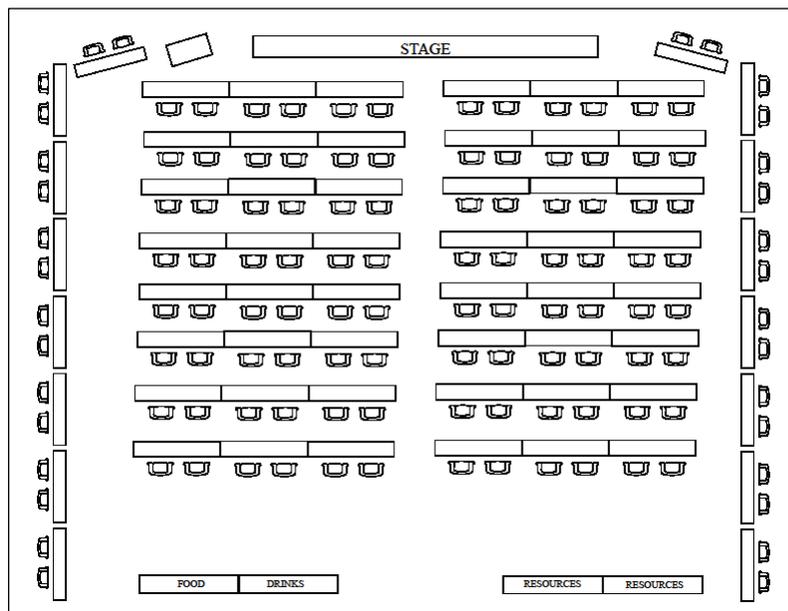
Medicaid Waiver

- You will hear 'wait list'
- Limited to availability of funding
- People in crisis receive priority
- Homeless, pose a danger to themselves or others, or no longer have a caregiver may qualify for crisis designation

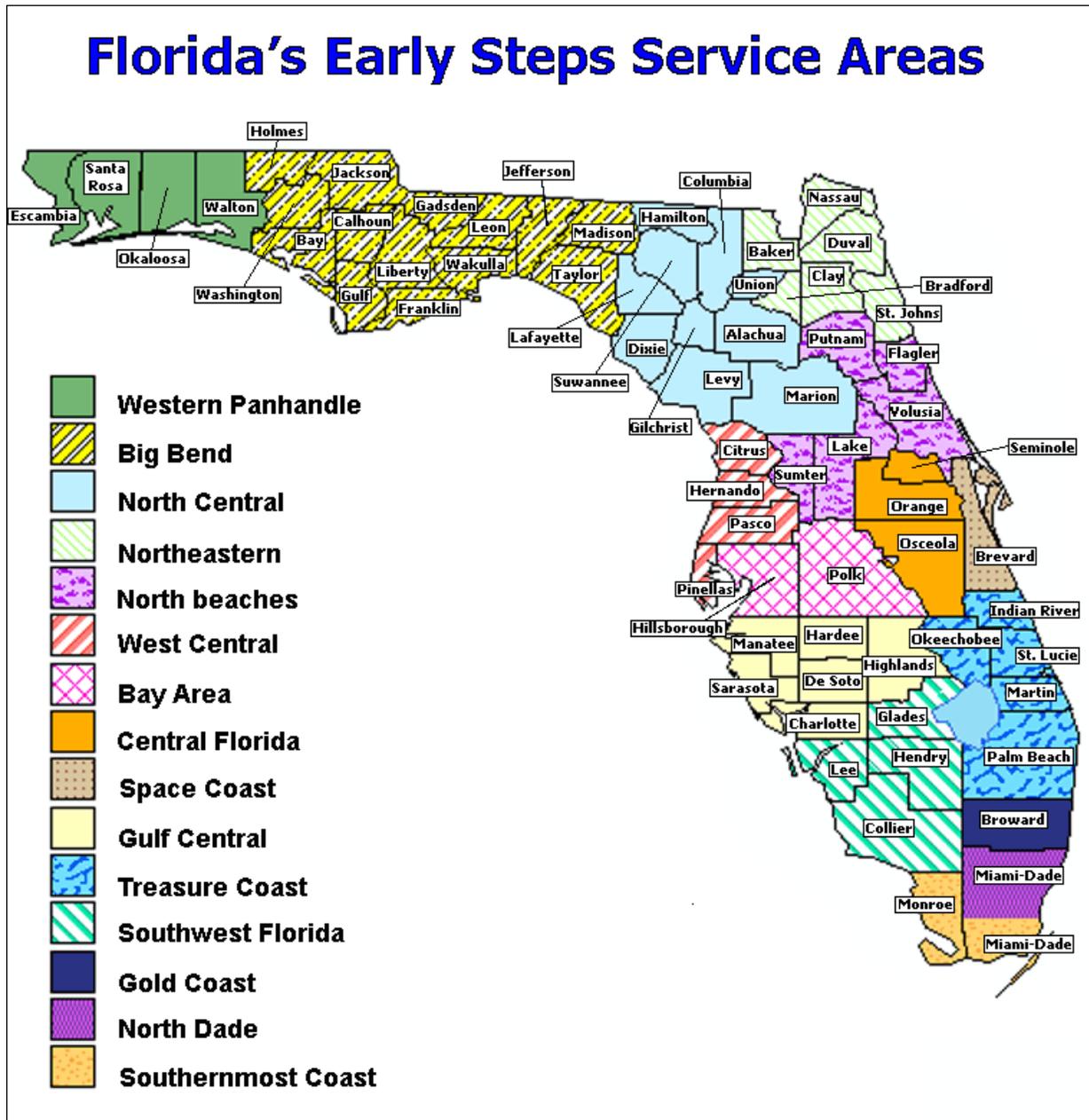
TRANSITION

West Central Early Steps

The top-left graphic is titled "Additional Information" and features a butterfly icon. It displays several overlapping documents in shades of pink, yellow, and blue. The top-right graphic is titled "Please Don't Forget!" and also features a butterfly icon. It shows a pink "TICKET OUT THE DOOR" form with the "NEXT STEPS" logo. The form includes fields for "Event Location" (WEST CENTRAL EARLY STEPS) and "Event Date/Time". The bottom graphic is a teal square with a cartoon superhero character and the text "DOOR PRIZES!" in large, bold, white letters.



Map of Florida's Early Steps Service Areas





FLORIDA'S INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
for infants & toddlers

This document will be updated periodically.
Local Early Steps are encouraged to submit program
activities using the FICCIT ActivitiesTemplate.
For more information, contact us at 1-800-654-4440.

WWW.FLORIDAICC.ORG

