

**I am here for you,  
as your Family Resource  
Specialist (FRS).**

I have served twenty eight years with Early Steps, and understand the importance of family involvement with early intervention services. I have experienced the joy and concerns that go with caring for my child with special needs, and am here to provide you with community resources, support connections, and steps for transition to Pre-K

Serving: Escambia,  
Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and  
Walton Counties.  
Please email to RSVP for  
activities!

[icofield@ascension.org](mailto:icofield@ascension.org)  
My google phone number is  
1-985-259-6780

**Irma Cofield,  
Family Resource  
Specialist**



**Our Kindermusik Playgroups and Parent Chats Sessions will remain virtual group until otherwise decided by Sacred Heart and the Early Steps State Office.**

 **Early Steps Western Panhandle**

**Join in the fun for our Playgroups & Parent Chat Sessions...**

**KINDERMUSIK PLAYGROUPS: Monday, March 8th & 22nd @ 9:30 am**

Join a virtual Kindermusik class from the safety and comfort of home! This class will promote language, motor, and social skills through parent-child activities that are led by Sarah Lalic, Occupational Therapist and Kindermusik educator.

**You must RSVP to Irma Cofield Thursday Mar. 5th & 18th to receive the meeting link and password to enter the Kindermusik playgroup.**

**PARENT CHAT SESSIONS: Thursday evening, March 11th & 25th @ 7:00pm**

This is a great time of parent to parent connection and information sharing!

The Early Steps, the Empowerment Parent Resource Center is hosting Zoom Meetings with Pensacola Exceptional Parent Connection (PEPC). This is a group of parents currenting in Early Steps and graduates of Early Steps.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://clicktime.symantec.com/3Q5Ti9jz5wzgzBSCe8cGtov7Vc?u=https%3A%2F%2Fzoom.us%2Fj%2F97465999243%3Fpwd%3DaFiyTi91dCtzQ0puV3NFdUIKc1EwUT09>

Meeting ID: 974 6599 9243

Passcode: 850

**March 11th @ 7:00 pm:** Parent Chat Session for support and sharing various information. Join in to get empowered with information and meet other parents.

**March 25th @ 7:00 pm: Foundations Of Feeding Success**

Speaker: Dr. Neina Ferguson is a Speech-Language Pathologist who specializes in assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding and swallowing disorders. She has 20+ years working with medically complex children from premature birth through elementary school.

# Extra Extra - Read all about it...

**“Making the Most of Your Early Steps Journey”**

**Why do I need Early Steps?**

**What to Expect? Where do I start?**



Join in for our Welcome to Early Steps presentation on the

**3rd Wednesday of Every Month at 10:30 am starting March 17th**

To confirm you place please RSVP to Irma at [icofield@ascension.org](mailto:icofield@ascension.org)

- Overview of Early Steps services
- Meet your Family Resource Specialist
- Get Empowered with Information/Resources
  - Connect with other Parents

## **2021 FAMILY SURVEY - INSTRUCTIONS**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires lead agencies to report on family outcomes resulting from families' participation in early intervention. Specifically, states must report the extent to which families report that early intervention helped them.

To address this federal reporting requirement, Early Steps implements a process for families to submit a family survey. The results of the survey will be reported in Florida's Annual Performance Report to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on the Early Steps website, and to Local Early Steps to help improve the Early Steps system.

### **TIME PERIOD FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THE SURVEYS:**

The family survey process begins on **February 1, 2021** and concludes on **May 1, 2021**.

### **ELIGIBLE FAMILIES:**

Early Steps is surveying families who had an (IFS) Individual Family Support Plan on or before November 1, 2020 and are exiting Early Steps between February 1, 2021 and May 1, 2021 based on the following closure reasons:

**"Any family who leaves our program between February 1, 2021 and May 1, 2021 will be offered the opportunity to complete an exit survey."**

- If you fall into this category you will receive an email with more detailed information.
- If you fall in this category and do not receive information, please contact me or your Service Coordinator before your child exit our services.



# Support Connections



## Escambia & Santa Rosa Counties

**Autism Pensacola Inc.:** 850-434-7171 Website: [www.autismpensacola.org](http://www.autismpensacola.org) Email: [info@autismpensacola.org](mailto:info@autismpensacola.org)

**Emerald Coast Exceptional Families:** 850-396-1008 [ECExceptionalFamilies@gmail.com](mailto:ECExceptionalFamilies@gmail.com) or <https://www.emeraldcoastexceptionalfamilies.org/>

**Empowerment Parent Resource Center:** 850-444-8554 Website: [www.EPRCNWFL.com](http://www.EPRCNWFL.com)  
Facebook at Empowerment Parent Resource Center

**Epilepsy Support:** 850-433-1395 Website: [www.epilepsyfl.org](http://www.epilepsyfl.org)

**Genes of Joy:** Parents of children with Down Syndrome, Christi 850-377-0018, Katie 850-375-0800 or [genesofjoy@gmail.com](mailto:genesofjoy@gmail.com); website: <https://www.genesofjoy.org/>

**Mended Little Hearts of Pensacola: On Facebook** Parents of children with heart conditions:  
Ashley Baxley [AshleyBaxley@mendedlittlehearts.us](mailto:AshleyBaxley@mendedlittlehearts.us)

**Pediatric Stroke Warriors of Pensacola:** Rebecca Scherer 352-572-9018 or [rebeccascherer84@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccascherer84@gmail.com) for meetings and Facebook.

**Pensacola Exceptional Parents Connection:** Parents of Children with various exceptionalities: including Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Spina Bifida and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Angela [abeddy01@gmail.com](mailto:abeddy01@gmail.com) or 384-7330 or Amy [amyimaxwell@att.net](mailto:amyimaxwell@att.net) or 393-8808

**Pensacola Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and other Relatives:** Call 850-432-1475 ext.175 to confirm meeting date & location, child care provided, Reservations requested!

**Pensacola Parents of Multiples:** Parents of twins, triplets and multiple births:  
[PensacolaParentsofMultiples@hotmail.com](mailto:PensacolaParentsofMultiples@hotmail.com) or 850-384-1231 Find on Facebook too.

**Preemies of Pensacola on Facebook:** [Facebook.com/Groups/PreemiesOfPensacola](https://www.facebook.com/Groups/PreemiesOfPensacola) To connect with other families from the NICU at Children's Hospital-Sacred Heart

## Okaloosa & Walton Counties

**Emerald Coast Exceptional Families:** 850-396-1008 [ECExceptionalFamilies@gmail.com](mailto:ECExceptionalFamilies@gmail.com) or <https://www.emeraldcoastexceptionalfamilies.org/>

**Empowerment Parent Resource Center:** 850-444-8554 Website: [www.projectempowernwfl.org](http://www.projectempowernwfl.org)  
Facebook at Empowerment Parent Resource Center

**Epilepsy Parent Support Group:** 850-433-1395 Website: [www.epilepsyfl.org](http://www.epilepsyfl.org)

**EPIC- Exceptional Parents Incredible Children, Inc.:** 229-854-1180 [rand.fernandez@gmail.com](mailto:rand.fernandez@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://clicktime.symantec.com/3VqHLUkWc1zwCVozLcH5gwU7Vc?u=www.epicnwfl.org>

**Rockin' the 21:** Down Syndrome support connection on Facebook ; Jean Mitchell (850)582-0313 [jmmitch75@gmail.com](mailto:jmmitch75@gmail.com), Emily Lamberson [emily.lamberson@gmail.com](mailto:emily.lamberson@gmail.com)

*If you are unable to connect with a group contact me, Irma, Family Resource Specialist for assistance by emailing [icofield@ascension.org](mailto:icofield@ascension.org)*

