

### March 2023 News...



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

I have served twenty nine 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 I'm 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

850-377-9991

Irma Cofield, Family Resource Specialist





## **Early Steps Western Panhandle**



# Playgroups & Chat Session Join in the Fun....

**CRESTVIEW LIBRARY STORY-TIME:** Stay tuned to April for our in-person playgroup, There are other public Story-times that are offered that you may be interested in at Crestview Library.

It is best to pre-register online at the website below to ensure your place. <a href="https://okaloosa.librarycalendar.com/events/upcoming">https://okaloosa.librarycalendar.com/events/upcoming</a>

#### MUSIC & MOVEMENT PLAYGROUPS: Monday & "New"

Tuesday; Monday, March 6th & Tuesday, March 14th & Monday, March 27th @ 10:00 am. Join our virtual musical playgroup from the comfort of home! Led by Elizabeth "Lizzy" Johnson, Instructor. This is a time for parent and child interaction using music & movement. We will follow instructions from our leader throughout the playtime. In order to fully participate, you will need wooden spoons or rhythm sticks, egg shaker, maracas, (empty spice jar filled with rice or dry beans), or bells, a bowl or drum, and a scarf or other lightweight material for movement time. We need you to put you or your child's names on your device for identification purposes. This is a safe and private space for our little ones to enjoy time together. We hope that you will join in our fun!

\*If you attend two playgroups with intentions to continue, we will give you a gift bad with the instruments that we use. \*

https://ascension.zoom.us/j/3176684962?pwd=OG4reGpvekFndU9QUVdVdkvbk1Jdz09

Meeting ID: 317 668 4962 Passcode: EarlySteps

### PARENT CHAT SESSION: Thursday evening, March 16th @ 7:00 pm

Hosted by Irma Cofield, Family Resource Specialist. This is a great time for parent connection and information sharing. We meet as parents that are in Early Steps and the Pensacola Exceptional Parent Connection (PEPC). The PEPC are parents who have graduated from Early Steps that stay connected in efforts to share their knowledge to assist parents who have a child in the school system. Come get empowered and connected! <a href="https://ascension.zoom.us/j/3176684962?pwd=OG4reGpvekFndU9QUVdVdkkvbk1Jdz09">https://ascension.zoom.us/j/3176684962?pwd=OG4reGpvekFndU9QUVdVdkkvbk1Jdz09</a>

Meeting ID: 317 668 4962 Passcode: EarlySteps

View Early Steps webpage for more info at **earlystepsatsacredheart.org** Also on Facebook **Early Steps Western Panhandle** 



# **Support Connections**



#### **Escambia & Santa Rosa Counties**

<u>Amora's Mission</u>: Our mission is to ensure no family family feels alone following a diagnosis of a child with Down Syndrome: Stephanie 850-287-6773 <u>amorasmission321@gmail.com</u>

<u>Autism Pensacola Inc.</u>: 850-434-7171 Website: <u>www.autismpensacola.org</u> Email: info@autismpensacola.org

<u>Emerald Coast Exceptional Families</u>: 850-396-1008 or <u>admin@emeraldcoastexceptionalfamilies.org</u> https://www.emeraldcoastexceptionalfamilies.org/

**Epilepsy Support**: 850-433-1395 Website: www.epilepsyfl.org

**Genes of Joy**: Parents of children with Down Syndrome, Christi 850-377-0018 <a href="mailto:genesofjoy@gmail.com">genesofjoy@gmail.com</a>; <a href="mailto:website:">website:</a> <a href="https://www.genesofjoy.org/">https://www.genesofjoy.org/</a>

<u>Mended Little Hearts of Pensacola</u>: On Facebook Parents of children with heart conditions: Ashley Baxley <u>AshleyBaxley@mendedlittlehearts.us</u>

<u>Pediatric Stroke Warriors of Pensacola:</u> Rebecca Scherer 352-572-9018 or <u>rebeccascherer84@gmail.com</u> for meetings and Facebook.

<u>Pensacola Exceptional Parents Connection:</u> Parents of Children with various exceptionalities: including Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Spina Bifida and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Angela <u>abeddy01@gmail.com</u> 850-384-7330 or Amy <u>amylmaxwell@att.net</u> 850-393-8808

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

<u>Pensacola Parents of Multiples</u>: Parents of twins, triplets and multiple births: <u>PensacolaParentsofMultiples@hotmail.com</u> or 850-384-1231 Find on Facebook too.

<u>Preemies of Pensacola on Facebook:</u> <u>Facebook.com/Groups/PreemiesOfPensacola</u> To connect with other families from the NICU at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital

Rockin' the 21/Rockin' 321 Social: Down Syndrome support connection on Facebook for activities and social events. Nicole Smith 251-458-0779 or <a href="mailto:Nnrenner@gmail.com">Nnrenner@gmail.com</a>

#### **Okaloosa & Walton Counties**

<u>Emerald Coast Exceptional Families</u>: 850-396-1008 or <u>admin@emeraldcoastexceptionalfamilies.org/</u> <u>https://www.emeraldcoastexceptionalfamilies.org/</u>

**Epilepsy Parent Support Group:** 850-433-1395 Website: www.epilepsyfl.org

<u>EPIC- Exceptional Parents Incredible Children, Inc.</u>: 229-854-1180 <u>rand.fernandez@gmail.com</u> Website: https://clicktime.symantec.com/3VqHLUkWc1zwCVozLcH5qwU7Vc?u=www.epicnwfl.org

<u>Rockin' the 21/Rockin' 321 Social</u>: Down Syndrome support connection on Facebook for activities and social events. Nicole Smith 251-458-0779 or <a href="mailto:Nnrenner@gmail.com">Nnrenner@gmail.com</a>

If you are unable to connect with a group contact me, Irma, Family Resource Specialist for assistance by emailing <a href="mailto:icofield@ascension.org">icofield@ascension.org</a> or 850-377-9991

