

APRIL 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 activities, support connections, and other community resources.

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 Activities....

CRESTVIEW LIBRARY STORY-TIME: Thursday, April 6th @ 10:15am 1445 Commerce Dr., Crestview. Led by Heather, Child Librarian Children learn from listening and active play through stories.

Doors open at 10:00 for social time then the playgroup begins at 10:15am. This story time is designed for you and your child to engage in story, music, and movement. Come join in the FUN!!! Please RSVP to Irma.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT PLAYGROUPS: Tuesday, April 4th, 11th & 25th @ 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! You must RSVP to Irma for our attendance list.

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

https://ascension.zoom.us/j/3176684962?pwd=OG4reGpvekFndU9QUVdVdkkvbk 1Jdz09

Meeting ID: 317 668 4962 Passcode: EarlySteps

GROW YOUR GIFT MUSIC PLAYGROUP: Thursday, April 13th & 20th at 10:00-11:00 am. 105-B Lewis St., FWB Join in our for circle-time playgroups with a variety of rhythm instruments for music, movement, singing and more. This is a parent/child interactive developmental playtime using music led by Ms Alisha White and Hosted by Irma-Family Resource Specialist. Please RSVP to Irma for your place.

PARENT CHAT SESSION: Thursday evening, April 20th @ 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!

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View Early Steps webpage for more info at earlystepsatsacredheart.org

Also on Facebook Early Steps Western Panhandle



More Fun Activities...

New-Play-Date at the Imagination Station: Wednesday, April 19th @ 10:00-11:00 am WSRE-Imagination Station at the Blue Wahoo Stadium 351 W. Cedar St. Pensacola

Play Time with other Children, Meet other Parents, Connect with your Family Resource Specialist

This will be an opportunity to get together for your child's social and developmental play and for you to connect with others. Hosted by Irma Cofield, Family Resource Specialist

The Imagination Station contains books, educational toys, touch screen technology and a chance for adults and children to enjoy playing and learning together in an activity center like no other in this region and unique to the PBS system nationwide.

Join in our fun...please RSVP to Irma @ icofield@ascension.org

Other community activity...



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: <u>www.epilepsyfl.org</u>

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

<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 Nnrenner@qmail.com

Okaloosa & Walton Counties

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

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: <u>https://clicktime.symantec.com/3VgHLUkWc1zwCVozLcH5qwU7Vc?u=www.epicnwfl.org</u>

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

If you are unable to connect with a group contact me, Irma, Family Resource Specialist for assistance by emailing icofield@ascension.org or 850-377-9991

