

## JUNE 2023 News...



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

I have served thirty 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**



#### Join in the Fun Activities...Playgroups

CRESTVIEW LIBRARY STORY-TIME: Thursday, June 1st @ 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. Join in the fun !!! Please RSVP to Irma.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT PLAYGROUPS: Tuesday, June 6th & 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 the 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, June 8th & 15th @ 10:00-11:00 am. 105-B Lewis St., FWB Join in our 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.

LIBRARY SOCIAL & SENSORY PLAYGROUP: Monday, June 5th at 10:30-11:30, 1200 Langley Ave., Pensacola led by Kimberlee Spencer, ITDS-PhD and Hosted by Irma Cofield, Family Resource Specialist Join us for a sensory filled play group! Jumping, climbing, scooping, and pouring provide safe sensory input that supports communication skills and brain development. Follow your child's lead while bonding over bubble tubes and fairy lights and promoting early play skills. There will be an air track (an inflatable track for jumping), a crash pad, infant soft mats, toys, books, a sensory table, a tent with fairy lights, a bubble tube, parachute and fiber optic lights. We hope you will join in the fun!

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

**Emerald Coast Exceptional Families**: 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>; website: <a href="mailto: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. Tammy Lunsford <u>countrygirlt2@hotmail.com</u> 850-910-3745, 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>
<a href="https://www.emeraldcoastexceptionalfamilies.org/">https://www.emeraldcoastexceptionalfamilies.org/</a>

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/3VqHLUkWc1zwCVozLcH5gwU7Vc?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 <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

