

# JUNE 2024 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...you will receive an attendance gift!

CRESTVIEW LIBRARY STORY-TIME: Thursday, June 6th @ 10:30am

<u>1445 Commerce Dr., Crestview.</u> Led by Heather, Child Librarian *Children learn from listening and active play through stories.* 

Doors open at 10:00 for social time 10:15 then the playgroup begins at 10:30am. This story time is designed for you and your child to engage in story, music, and movement. Playtime is offered after the storytime. Join in the fun !!! Please RSVP to Irma.

#### MUSIC & MOVEMENT PLAYGROUPS: Tuesday, June 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 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=OG4reGpvekFndU9QUVdVdkkvbk1Jdz09 Meeting ID: 317 668 4962 Passcode: EarlySteps

GROW YOUR GIFT MUSIC PLAYGROUP: There will not be a playgroup this month due to GYGM busy summer schedule. Stay tuned for July playgroup.

Social & Sensory Playgroup: Monday, June 17th @ 10:30-11:30am Salute Academy 9326 Pensacola Blvd., Pensacola 32526 with Kimberlee Spencer, ITDS-PhD and hosted by Irma Cofield, Family Resource Specialist. Join us for a sensory filled playgroup. Jumping, climbing, scooping, and pouring provided safe sensory input that supports communication skills and brain development. Follow your child's lead while bonding over bubbl 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 mates, toys, books, a sensory table, a tent with fairy lights, a bubble tube, parachute, and fiber optic lights.

We hope you join in the fun! Please RSVP to Irma.

<u>For Summer Fun and Camp Ideas:</u> see the Greater Pensacola Parent magazine for ideas in all our local areas. <u>www.GreaterPensacolaParents.com</u>

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>; website: <a href="mailto:https://www.genesofjoy.org/">https://www.genesofjoy.org/</a>

Mended Little Hearts, Inc. International Headquarters & Resources: 1-888-432-7899

info@mendedhearts.org Resource Center 229-518-2680

<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> <u>https://www.emeraldcoastexceptionalfamilies.org/</u>

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

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 <a href="mailto:icofield@ascension.org">icofield@ascension.org</a> or 850-377-9991

