

**DECEMBER 2024** 





#### We are here for you, as your Family Resource Specialists(FRS).

We work with you and your Early Steps team. We understand the importance of family involvement with early intervention services. We have experienced the joy and concerns that go with caring for a child with special needs. We are here to provide you with activities, support connections, and other community resources. Serving: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties.



icofield@ascension.org

850-377-9991

ashley.murray2@ascension. org 850-610-2012

Please call or email for assistance or to RSVP for playgroups!



## Early Steps Western Panhandle

Join in the Fun Activities...you will receive an attendance gift!

#### CRESTVIEW LIBRARY STORY-TIME: Thursday, December 5th @ 10:30am

**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 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, December 3rd & 10th &

**17th @ 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.\* <u>https://ascension.zoom.us/j/3176684962?pwd=OG4reGpvekFndU9QUVdVdkkvbk1Jdz09</u> Meeting ID: 317 668 4962 Passcode: EarlySteps

#### GROW YOUR GIFT PRESENT KINDERMUSIK PLAYGROUP: Thursday, December 12th @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am. 105-B Lewis St., FWB Join in with

Sarah Kent,OTR, presents Kindermusik classes that boost language, social, and emotional skills. These music classes are designed to target fine and gross motor skill development through interactive musical activities that engage both the child and caregiver. Please RSVP for your place.

**SOCIAL & SENSORY PLAYGROUP:** There isn't a schedule playgroup for December! Stay tuned until the January 2025 Newsletter.



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>

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Pediatric Stroke Warriors of Pensacola:** Rebecca Scherer 352-572-9018 or 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. 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

**Pensacola Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and other Relatives:** 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 <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 Nnrenner@gmail.com

## **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 <u>Nnrenner@gmail.com</u>

If you are unable to connect with a group contact Family Resource Specialist for assistance by emailing or phone <u>icofield@ascension.org 850-377-9991 or</u> ashley.murray2@ascension.org 850-610-2012

