

STAR NET Region VI Resources

Autism/Asperger Syndrome

The Asperser Syndrome Education Network

www.aspennj.org

This network provides information, support and advocacy for individuals and families affected by Asperser Syndrome, PDD-NOS, and High-functioning Autism.

Autism Community Connection

www.autismcommunityconnection.com

The Autism Community Connection was created for parents by parents to connect people with the community and resources they need in the state of Illinois. Information and resources are provided on the website.

Autism Network for Dietary Intervention

www.autismndi.com

This website was created by researchers Lisa Lewis and Karyn Seroussi to provide information and resources relating to research showing that the diagnosis of autism can be linked to an immune-system dysfunction that affects the body's ability to break down certain proteins and combat yeasts and bacteria.

The Autism Program of Illinois

www.theautismprogram.org

The Autism Program of Illinois provides the strategy and framework for the State of Illinois to address the complex issues involved in diagnosis, treatment and research for the thousands of children in Illinois with ASDs. Information and resources are provided on this website. Materials are also in Spanish

Autism Research Institute

(www.autism.com/ari/)

The Autism Research Institute is an information and referral clearinghouse for parents and professionals and publishes a quarterly newsletter on its website.

Autism Society of America

www.autism-society.org

The Autism Society of America offers resources for the entire autism community in education, advocacy, services, research and support. Materials are also published in Spanish.

Autism Society of Illinois

www.autismillinois.org

The Autism Society of Illinois provides educational and practical support for parents and offers a referral network of professionals.

Autism/PDD Training and Technical Assistance Project lending library

www.illinoisautismproject.org

The Autism Training and Technical Assistant Project lending libraries are housed at sites

across the state. The website offers a variety of resources. Some available to parents, professionals and the community through the lending libraries

Autism Speaks

www.autismspeaks.org

Autism Speaks is dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder.

Autism - Interactive Autism Network (IAN)

www.ianproject.org

The Interactive Autism Network (IAN) is an innovative online project bringing together tens of thousands of people nationwide affected by autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and hundreds of researchers in a search for answers. This network is designed so individuals with an ASD diagnosis and their families can share information in a secure setting to become part of the largest online autism research effort in the United States. The data collected by IAN both facilitates scientific research and empowers the autism community leaders to advocate for improved services and resources.

Behavior

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel

The CSEFEL network serves as a national resource center for disseminating research and evidence-based practices about children's behavior and the development of healthy social and emotional skills to parents and professionals.

Developmental Behavioral Pediatricians

www.dbpeds.org

The website is aimed at professionals interested in child development and behavior and it offers many handouts on young children's development and behavior for parent use.

Child Care

Action for Children

www.actforchildren.org

Illinois Action for Children advocates for quality child care and early education for families and children throughout Illinois. Action for Children administers the CCR&R network in Chicago and Preschool for All programs at sites in Chicago and south suburbs. The website provides information on child care and early education issues and links to CCR&R centers across the state.

Center for Inclusive Child Care

www.inclusivechildcare.org

The website provides information and resources on research and projects developed to encourage inclusion in child care settings.

Child Care Resource and Referral

www.inccra.org

The CCR&R networks educate, train and support early childhood professionals and enhances and promotes Child Care Resource and Referral Services throughout Illinois.

IDEA/ADA

American With Disabilities (ADA)

www.ada.gov

The website provides information and resources about the American With Disabilities Act

Building the Legacy of IDEA

www.ed.gov

This website is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education; Office of Special Education programs (OSEP). The site offers the entire Individuals with Disability Education Act , and breaks the act sections explaining specific sections of IDEA. There are links to information about topics such as No Child Left Behind and Evaluation and Re-evaluation. The Question and Answer document is very helpful. Parents can also submit questions.

Child Care Resource and Referral Network serving Will, Kankakee and Grundy counties

www.childcarehelp.com

Founded in January 1991, Child Care Resource & Referral serves Will, Grundy, Kendall and Kankakee counties as part of the Illinois Statewide CCR&R System of IDHS. CCR&R is a not-for-profit agency providing child care information and services to families, child care providers and employers.

Children's Disabilities Information

www.childrensdisabilities.info

The site includes articles and resources addressed to parents of children with disabilities and special needs. There are links to books about parenting children with special needs or disabilities, and a link to The Children's Disability List of Support Groups and Listservs ©. This link offers an annotated directory of internet support groups for families of children with disabilities and special needs. Each disability mailing list has been validated for usefulness and family orientation. Children's disability discussion forums, support groups, and listservs for parents of special needs children are grouped by general content in this directory.

Council for Exceptional Children

www.cec.sped.org

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is an international community of educators who are the voice and vision of special and gifted education. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families through professional excellence and advocacy.

Diversity

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services

www.clas.uiuc.edu

The website informs practitioners, families and researchers about materials and practices that are available and the contexts in which they might select a given material or practice. Materials are available in other languages, including Spanish, Malay, Chinese, Swedish, French and Portuguese.

Down Syndrome

National Association for Down Syndrome NADS

www.nads.org

The NADS organization provides direct support to families through their Parent Support Program, Mentoring Program, Work Experience Program, and other individualized services primarily within the Chicago Metropolitan Area.

Early Childhood

Child Trends

www.childtrends.org

Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center that studies children at all stages of development. Research and links are available through this website

Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children

www.dec-sped.org

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) is an international membership organization for those who work with or on behalf of young children with disabilities and other special needs. Their mission is to promote policies and advance evidence-based practices to support the optimal development of young children with special needs.

Early Childhood News

www.earlychildhood.com

Early Childhood NEWS is the online resource for teachers and parents of young age's birth to eight. The site addresses hot topics and current research and offers information and links to special education related products, and teacher, parent and professional resources.

Early Childhood Outcomes Center

www.the-eco-center.org

The Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Center provides national leadership in assisting states with the implementation of high-quality outcome systems for early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) programs. The website provides up-to-date information and resources for state and local administrators, technical assistance providers, teachers, and other direct service providers, and families.

Kids Health

www.kidshealth.org

Provides information, resources and links relating to children's health and development.

Early Intervention

Illinois Department of Human Services

www.dhs.state.il.us

The Illinois Department of Human Services is the lead agency for early Intervention. It is the state office for providing information to parents and professionals on a wide variety of family needs from early intervention to housing assistance and more.

Illinois Early Intervention Training

www.illinoiseittraining.org

The Illinois Intervention Training Program provides information regarding training opportunities for early intervention professionals in Illinois.

Provider Connections

www.wiu.edu/providerconnections

Provider Connections is contracted by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Bureau of Early Intervention to credential, enroll, and provide technical support to EI providers interested in the credentialing and enrollment process. Materials can be in other languages, including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, French, Spanish, Italian, German and Portuguese.

Zero to Three

www.zerotothree.org

ZERO TO THREE is a national, nonprofit organization that informs, trains, and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers. Information and links on Zero to Three research, studies and trainings are provided on the website.

Epilepsy

The Epilepsy Foundation

www.epilepsyfoundation.org

The Epilepsy Foundation of America® is the national voluntary agency dedicated solely to the welfare of the almost 3 million people with epilepsy in the U.S. and their families. The organization works to ensure that people with seizures are able to participate in all life experiences; to improve how people with epilepsy are perceived, accepted and valued in society; and to promote research for a cure. The website includes information, educational resources and legislative updates for professionals and families

Hearing/Vision

Hadley School for the Blind

www.hadley.edu

The Hadley School for the Blind is the largest worldwide distance educator of blind and visually impaired people, their families and blindness service professionals. Hadley School offers trainings and resources for parents who have young children with visual impairments and for professionals.

Hands and Voices

www.ilhandsandvoices.org

Hands and Voices is a parent-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families that have children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing without a bias toward communication modes or methodologies which provides families with resources, networking, and information in order to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children.

Hearing and Vision Connections

(www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc/index.aspx)

Hearing and Vision Connections assists individuals in locating appropriate services, assists in the development of Individual Family Service Plans, and provides ongoing training and technical assistance. Resources and links are available on the website

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Information Clearing House

www.nidcd.nih.gov

The agency supports scientific discovery and broadly disseminates research results to the public and to medical and health professionals.

Join Together Project Deaf Education

www.deafed.net

The website offers resources and collaboration links to enhance the field of Deaf Education

Illinois Resources

Action for Children

www.actforchildren.org

Illinois Action for Children has championed the cause of quality child care and early education for families and children throughout Illinois for 40 years. Illinois Action for Children provides access to resources, community, and advocacy – and represents an alliance of individuals and groups dedicated to empowering and supporting parents, child care providers and family service programs.

All Kids

www.allkids.com

The All Kids program offers Illinois uninsured children comprehensive healthcare that includes doctors visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, vision care, dental care and medical devices like eyeglasses and asthma inhalers. Parents pay monthly premiums for the coverage, but rates for middle-income families are significantly lower than they are on the private market. All Kids Hotline 1-866-ALL-KIDS (1-866-255-5437)

TTY: 1-877-204-1012

American Academy of Pediatrics

www.aap.org

This website offers information and links to information and resources relating to health issues for young children, legislation and parenting topics.

ARC of Illinois

www.thearcofil.org

The ARC of Illinois is committed to empowering parents with disabilities to achieve full participation in community life through informed choices. Information and resources provided through the ARC and its' links such as Illinois Life Span and Family to Family offer information and resources on initiatives that serve all ages and populations. The ARC also manages the Consumer Stipend Project and an application for a consumer stipend and information on this initiative is posted on the website.

Family Support Network

www.familysupportnetwork.org

The Family Support Network unifies individuals with disabilities and their families; advocates for funding, services, and community resources that strengthen and support the individual and the family directly by responding to their individual needs and empowering them to live in their own homes.

Gateways to Opportunity

www.ilgateways.com

Gateways to Opportunities is a statewide network designed to support Illinois early care and education, school-age, and youth development professionals like you. From credentialing to career guidance to education and training resources to peer networking and more, Gateways to Opportunity focuses on what helping young help children. The website provides a central resource to help professionals meet career development goals by providing services and unique benefits.

Illinois Head Start Bureau

www.ilheadstart.org

This website was created to make Illinois Early and Head Start program information accessible to the rest of the Illinois early care & education community and to the general public. The intent of the site is to have one central point of information about Head Start in Illinois. This site describes Early/Head Start programming, requirements, and provides links to partner sites. Individuals can also locate local Early/Head Start programs, using the Illinois Head Start Map & Head Start Programs by Zip Code sections, as well as access various resources and publications.

Illinois Autism/PDD Training Grant

www.illinoisautismproject.org

This grant provides training and technical assistance to schools in Illinois. Materials can be translated to Spanish, French or German.

Illinois Department of Human Services

www.dhs.state.il.us

The Illinois DHS is the state office for providing information to parents and professionals on a wide variety of family needs from early intervention to housing assistance and more. The DHS network is the lead agency for Early Intervention.

Early Intervention Clearing House

www.eiclearinghouse.org

The EC Intervention Clearinghouse provides information to parents and professionals involved in the lives of young children on topics related to health, education, development and disability through a free lending library, a parents newsletter, and extensive links.

Illinois Early Intervention Training

www.illinoiseittraining.org

The EI training program provides training opportunities for early intervention professionals in Illinois. The website provides resources on the Illinois Early Intervention System, information on area workshops and conferences and registration for workshops sponsored by the training program.

Illinois Early Learning Project

www.illinoisearlylearning.org

The Illinois Early Learning project is a source of evidence-based, reliable information on early care and education for parents, caregivers, and teachers of young children in Illinois. The Website offers printable Tip Sheets for caregivers and parents, Frequently Asked Questions (and their answers), a customized question-answering service, a statewide calendar of events for parents and caregivers, an easy-to-use database of links to "the best of the Web" on topics related to early care and education, and periodic Online Chats.

Illinois Network Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRA)

www.incra.org

The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) is a statewide organization which -- in partnership with its 16 partner Child Care Resources and Referral (CCR&R) agencies -- is a recognized leader, catalyst and resource for making high quality, affordable early care and education options available for children and families in Illinois.

Illinois Parents

www.illinoisparents.org

Illinois Parents links parents directly to local programs, services, and community agencies to support them in their roles as primary caregivers of their children and as major contributors to their children's growth, development, and learning.

Illinois State Board of Education: Early Childhood Division 866.262.6663 for Springfield 312.814.2200 for the Chicago office

www.isbe.net.illinois

Statewide Parent Consultant: Deb Kunz 217.782.5589 dkunz@isbe.net

Illinois Department of Human Services

www.dhs.state.il.us

A complete listing of resources, Illinois programs, news and information

The Special Education Advocacy Center

www.specialadvocacy.org

The Special Ed Advocacy Center ("SEAC"), is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization whose mission is to ensure that children with disabilities in the Chicago metropolitan area receive all appropriate educational services provided under current law. The SEAC service area includes: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties

The SEAC accomplishes its mission by providing free legal representation to low-income parents and caregivers of children with disabilities seeking to obtain appropriate educational and early intervention services for their children; educating parents and caregivers, school

personnel and others through conducting programs concerning their rights and responsibilities under current special education law; and increasing public awareness and understanding of special education law.

Project CHOICES/Early CHOICES

www.projectchoices.org

Project Choices provides collaborative support to schools, families, children, and youth to ensure that all learn in general education and community settings, and address and show progress toward the Illinois Learning Standards.

Voices for Illinois Children

www.voices4kids.org

Voices for Illinois Children examines conditions facing children and their families and proposes research-based solutions. The organization seeks the input of family and community members when determining policy initiatives. The website includes information and resources on reports, draft legislation, comment on rules and regulations, communications and deliberation with legislators and policymakers.

Illinois STARNET Regions

Northwest Region I and Central Region III

Western Illinois University

www.wiu.edu/starnet

27 Horrabin Hall

Macomb, IL 61455

309/298-1634 or 800/277-7537

Northern Region II

The Center

www.thecenterweb.org/starnet

2626 South Clearbrook Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 6005-4626

224/366-8579

Southern Region IV

St. Clair County ROE

www.row.stclair.k12.il.us/starnet

1000 South Illinois Street

Belleville, IL 62220

618/825-3966

618/825-3999 (Fax)

City of Chicago Region V

Chicago Public Schools

www.starnetchicago.org

125 S. Clark -8th Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60603

Phone 773-553-5596

773/553-5595 (FAX)

Region VI
Southwest Cook Cook County Cooperative

www.swcccase.org/starnet
6020 W. 151st Street
Oak Forest, IL 60452
708/342-5370
708/687-2247 (FAX)

Inclusion

Circle of Inclusion

www.circleofinclusion.org

Circle of Inclusion offers demonstrations of and information about the effective practices of inclusive educational programs for children from birth through age eight. ** Also in Spanish, Korean, Japanese and Chinese.

Learning Disabilities

All Kinds of Minds

www.allkindsofminds.org

All Kinds of Minds is a non-profit Institute that helps students who struggle with learning measurably improve their success in school and life by providing programs that integrate educational, scientific, and clinical expertise.

Early Identification and Recognition

www.recognitionandresponse.org

The agency supports a new systemic approach that can help early educators and parents ensure early school success for all children, including those at risk for learning difficulties.

Learning Disabilities Association of America

www.idanatl.org

The Learning Disabilities Association is a non-profit volunteer organization advocating for individuals with learning disabilities and has over 200 state and local affiliates in 42 states and Puerto Rico. The website offers information and research about learning disabilities, resources and listing of upcoming trainings and conferences that focuses on supporting children and adults with learning disabilities.

Schwab Learning

www.schwablearning.org

Schwab lists is a guide for helping kids with learning difficulties that emphasizes useful information and practical strategies for parents and professionals.

Literacy

Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement

www.ciera.org

The Center for the improvement of Early Reading Achievement (CIERA) is a national center for research on early reading, representing a consortium of educators from five universities (the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, with the University of Southern California, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Georgia); teacher educators; teachers; publishers of texts, tests, and technology; professional organizations; and schools and school districts across the United States.

National Center for Family Literacy

www.famlit.org

The National Center for Family Literacy works to improve family literacy programs. Resources, links and information on model programs are provided on the website.

www.colorincolardo.com

Colorin Colorado is a bilingual site for the parents and educators of English Language Learners.

National Organizations

Center for Universal Design - Education

www.washington.edu/doi/cude

The Center for Universal Design in Education (CUDE) develops and collects Web-based resources to help educators apply universal design to all aspects of the educational experience

Foundation for Early Learning

www.earlylearning.org

The Foundation for Early Learning is a non-profit organization that supports the learning of children, birth through age eight.

National Association for the Education of Young Children

www.naeyc.org

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8. NAEYC is committed to becoming an increasingly high performing and inclusive organization. The website offers information, resources, current research and a link to job postings.

National Center for Early Development and Learning

www.fpg.unc.edu/ncedl

The National Center for Early Development & Learning is a national early childhood research project supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES). The center was created to provide national leadership and advance new knowledge in the field of early childhood development and learning. The website offers resources, links and research updates.

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

www.nectac.org

NECTAC is the national early childhood technical assistance center supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. NECTAC serves all 50 states and 10 jurisdictions with an array of services and supports to improve service systems and outcomes for infants, toddlers, and preschool aged children with special needs and their families.

National Head Start Association

www.nhsa.org

The website offers links to Head Start workshops and conferences, articles on advocacy and education issues and links to area specific Head Start information

National Lekotek Center

www.lekotek.org

Information on Lekotek resources and services are provided.

National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)

www.rarediseases.org

The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), a 501(c)3 organization, is a unique federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with rare "orphan" diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them. NORD is committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of rare disorders through programs of education, advocacy, research, and service.

National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated (FCN)

www.fcnetwork.org

The FCN's mission is to raise awareness about the needs and concerns of the children of the incarcerated and their families by providing information that is informed by a combination of academic research and the experiences of the families and practitioners in the field.

Ounce of Prevention

www.ounceofprevention.org

The Ounce of Prevention provides direct services for at-risk children from birth to age five and for their families, trains early childhood professionals across the state who work with infants and toddlers, does research on what works and continuously incorporates that knowledge into programs, and advocates for sound public policies and sustained funding streams with bipartisan support so that more young children have access to experiences that enhance their early development. Based in Chicago information about the Ounce's programs, training, research and evaluation and advocacy efforts are available on the website.

Parents as Teachers National Center

www.parentsasteachers.org

Parents as Teachers provides parents with child development knowledge and parenting support. The organizational vehicle for delivering that knowledge and support is Parents as Teachers National Center. The program's goals are to: Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices; Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues; Prevent child abuse and neglect; and Increase children's school readiness and school success. Information on families and school related topics are offered on the website.

Technical Assistance Alliance for Parenting Center

www.taalliance.org

The Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers (the ALLIANCE) is an innovative partnership of one national and six regional parent technical assistance centers, each funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). These seven projects comprise a technical assistance system for the purpose of developing, assisting, and coordinating the over 100 Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) and Community Parent Resource Centers (CPRCs) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The national and regional parent technical assistance centers work to strengthen the connections to the larger OSEP Technical Assistance and Dissemination Network and fortify partnerships between Parent Centers and education systems at local, state, and national levels.

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families

www.acf.hhs.gov

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services for Children & Families is a division of the Department of Health & Human Services. ACF promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals and communities.

Zero to Three

www.xerotothree.org

ZERO TO THREE is a national, nonprofit organization that informs, trains, and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers. Information and links on Zero to Three research, studies and trainings are provided on the website.

Parent Training and Information Centers of Illinois

Family Matters

www.fmptic.org

Family Matters is a project of ARC of Illinois providing family support through information, a lending library and trainings.

Family Resource Center on Disabilities

www.frcd.org

The Family Resource Center offers various resources for parents and professionals involved in the lives of children and young adults with disabilities. Some resources are available in Spanish.

Parenting

Exceptional Parent Magazine

www.eparent.com

Exceptional Parent is a monthly magazine that focuses on issues, resources and information for parents and caregivers whose children have special needs. Exceptional Parent uses a multi-media approach to disseminate information including its monthly print publication, EP (Exceptional Parent) magazine; its Web site (www.eparent.com); clinical custom communications projects; the EP Bookstore (www.epbookstore.com) which offers books,

DVDs, and CDs on a wide range of disability related subjects; and online, interactive CME accredited seminars and teleconferences on a wide range of special needs topics.

Family Village

www.familyvillage.wisc.edu

Family Village is a global community that integrates information, resources, and communication opportunities on the Internet for persons with cognitive and other disabilities, for their families, and for those that provide services and support.

Financial Planning

www.specialneedsplanning.com

This resource provides information and resources on financial planning for families of people with special needs.

GiGi's Playhouse

www.gigisplayhouse.com

GiGi's Playhouses are Down Syndrome educational and awareness centers that provide resources, specialized teaching, and support to individuals with Down Syndrome, their families and the people who support them.

Information on Bullying (Barbara Coloroso)

www.kidsareworthit.com

This website provides information and resources for dealing with bullying in school and situations.

Mommies of Miracles

www.mommiesofmiracles.com

Mommies of Miracles is a peer-driven "virtual" support group of mothers who have children with special needs of any age (infant-adult). Mission Statement: The mission of Mommies of Miracles is to eliminate the isolation mothers of children with special needs experience on a daily basis by providing an extended network of resources, products and services, family matching, awareness initiatives, educational programs, compassionate emotional support, inspiration, understanding, and hope.

MUMS National Parent to Parent

www.netnet.net/mums

This is a not-for-profit agency which specializes in providing support networks for parents of children with all kinds of medical conditions and disorders. This site also provides much research and information about hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT.)

National Father's Network

www.fathersnetwork.org

The National Father's network celebrates and supports fathers and families of children with special health care needs by providing news, resources and event information.

One Place for Special Needs

www.oneplaceforspecialneeds.com

This website offers links and information to disability-related events and resources tailored to specific geographic areas. You need to register with the website and then information is sent to you on a regular basis on what is happening in your community and surrounding area.

Our Kids

www.our-kids.org

Our Kids is a site dedicated to fostering a community for parents of children with all kinds of special needs.

PBS Parents

www.pbsparents.org

This website offers resources which include advice, games, program and parenting information and interactive learning opportunities for all parents and children. ** Also in Spanish **

The Sibling Support Project

www.siblingsupport.org

The Sibling Support Project offers information and resources on support for the brothers and sisters of those who have health, developmental or mental health concerns.

Wright's Law

www.wrightslaw.com

The website offers information on special education laws and policies. Links are offered to address specific issues. Information on upcoming workshop and conferences is also offered.

Rett Syndrome

International Rett Syndrome Association

www.rettsyndrome.org

The website offers information and resources about Rett Syndrome for parents and professionals.

Sensory Integration

Sensory Integration Network

www.sinetwork.org

The primary internet portal for information about these commonly misunderstood disorders helps parents, professionals and others understand Sensory Processing Disorder. It has since become the primary Internet portal for information about these commonly misunderstood disorders.

Social Emotional

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

www.vanderbilt.edu/scefel

The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) is focused on promoting the social emotional development and school readiness of young children birth to age 5. CSEFEL is a national resource center funded by the Office of Head Start and Child Care Bureau for disseminating research and evidence-based practices to early childhood programs across the country.

Special Education Advocacy and Information

Council of Parents' Attorneys and Advocates

www.copaa.net

The Council of Parents' Attorneys and Advocates is a non-profit organization of parent advocates and attorneys.

Illinois State Board of Education Parent's Page

www.isbe.net/spec-ed/parents.htm

This website contains information for parents on topics including early childhood special education, Project CHOICES, parent training, and links to the document A Parent's Guide - The Educational Rights of Students with Disabilities. Some Resources available in Spanish

Family Support Network

www.familysupportnetwork.org

The Family Support Network works to unify families of children with disabilities to advocate for legislation, funding, services, and community resources. The website includes information and resources.

Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational rights (PACER)

www.pacer.org

The agency provides information, support, workshops and referrals to both families and professionals. Materials are available in Spanish and some other languages.

The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)

www.nichcy.org

The center is the national dissemination center for information on disabilities in infants, toddlers, children and youth; IDEA 2004; and research-based information on effective practices. Materials are also available in Spanish.

Wrights Law

www.wrightslaw.com

The website offers information on federal laws that effect children with special needs and their families as well as advocacy skills and strategies for parents. Materials are also available in Spanish.

Technology

Able Generation - Therapeutic furniture manufacturer

www.ablegeneration.com

The agency's mission is to provide products that support efforts to integrate children into everyday life. The target population is children birth to five, depending upon size. The website provides resources and information.

Equip for Equality

www.equipforequality.org

Equip for Equality is the statewide, cross-disability, comprehensive advocacy organization in Illinois that provides self-advocacy assistance, legal services, and disability rights education. The Legal Advocacy Program provides free, individual self-advocacy and legal services for people with disabilities and their family members. Information on the programs offered through Equip for Equality are available on the website in addition to resources for professionals and parents who touch the lives of young children with special needs.

Family Center on Technology and Disability

www.fctrd.info

The Family Center on Technology and Disability supports organizations and programs that work with families of children and youth with disabilities offering a range of information and services on the subject of assistive technologies. The resources are available in Spanish.

Illinois Assistive Technology project

www.iltech.org

The mission for the Illinois Assistive Technology project is to "Promote Independent Living Through Technology for All People with Disabilities in Illinois." IATP's primary focus is on education, employment, community living, information technology and telecommunications. Our mission is to enable people with disabilities so they can fully participate in all aspects of life.

Infinitec

www.infinitec.org

Infinitec is an agency that advances independence and promotes inclusive opportunities for children and adults with disabilities through technology.

Tourette Syndrome

Tourette Syndrome Association

www.tsa-usa.org

The website offers extensive information for individuals, families and professionals.

Tourette Syndrome Plus

www.tourettesyndrome.nete

The website offers information on and many other neurobehavioral conditions in a user-friendly environment.

Epilepsy

The Epilepsy Foundation

www.epilepsyfoundation.org

The Epilepsy Foundation of America® is the national voluntary agency dedicated solely to the welfare of the almost 3 million people with epilepsy in the U.S. and their families. The organization works to ensure that people with seizures are able to participate in all life experiences; to improve how people with epilepsy are perceived, accepted and valued in society; and to promote research for a cure. The website includes information, educational resources and legislative updates for professionals and families

Hearing/Vision

Hadley School for the Blind

www.hadley.edu

The Hadley School for the Blind is the largest worldwide distance educator of blind and visually impaired people, their families and blindness service professionals. Hadley School offers trainings and resources for parents who have young children with visual impairments and for professionals.

Hands and Voices

www.ilhandsandvoices.org

Hands and Voices is a parent-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families that have children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing without a bias toward communication modes or methodologies which provides families with resources, networking, and information in order to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children.

Hearing and Vision Connections

(www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc/index.aspx)

assists service coordinators in locating appropriate services, assists in the development of Individual Family Service Plans, and provides ongoing training and technical assistance.

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Information Clearing House

www.nidcd.nih.gov/

the agency supports scientific discovery and broadly disseminates research results to the public and to medical and health professionals

Join Together Project Deaf Education

www.deafed.net

The website offers resources and collaboration links to enhance the field of Deaf Education

Illinois Resources

Action for Children

www.actforchildren.org

Illinois Action for Children has championed the cause of quality child care and early education for families and children throughout Illinois for 40 years. Illinois Action for Children provides access to resources, community, and advocacy – and represents an alliance of individuals and groups dedicated to empowering and supporting parents, child care providers and family service programs.

All Kids

www.allkids.com

The All Kids program offers Illinois uninsured children comprehensive healthcare that includes doctors visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, vision care, dental care and medical devices like eyeglasses and asthma inhalers. Parents pay monthly premiums for the coverage, but rates for middle-income families are significantly lower than they are on the private market. All Kids Hotline 1-866-ALL-KIDS (1-866-255-5437)

TTY: 1-877-204-1012

American Academy of Pediatrics

www.aap.org

This website offers information and links to information and resources relating to health

issues for young children, legislation and parenting topics

ARC of Illinois

www.thearcofil.org

The ARC of Illinois is committed to empowering parents with disabilities to achieve full participation in community life through informed choices. Information and resources provided through the ARC and its' links such as Illinois Life Span and Family to Family offer information and resources on initiatives that serve all ages and populations. The ARC also manages the Consumer Stipend Project and an application for a consumer stipend and information on this initiative is posted on the website.

Family Support Network

www.familysupportnetwork.org

The Family support Network unifies individuals with disabilities and their families; advocates for funding, services, and community resources that strengthen and support the individual and the family directly by responding to their individual needs and empowering them to live in their own homes.

Gateways to Opportunity

www.ilgateways.com

Gateways to Opportunities is a statewide network designed to support Illinois early care and education, school-age, and youth development professionals like you. From credentialing to career guidance to education and training resources to peer networking and more, Gateways to Opportunity focuses on what helping young help children. The website provides a central resource to help professionals meet career development goals by providing services and unique benefits.

Illinois Head Start Bureau

www.ilheadstart.org

This web site was created to make Illinois Early and Head Start program information accessible to the rest of the Illinois early care & education community and to the general public. The intent of the site is to have one central point of information about Head Start in Illinois. This site describes Early/Head Start programming, requirements, and provides links to partner sites. Individuals can also locate local Early/Head Start programs, using the Illinois Head Start Map & Head Start Programs by Zip Code sections, as well as access various resources and publications.

Illinois Autism/PDD Training Grant

www.illinoisautismproject.org

This grant provides training and technical assistance to schools in Illinois. Materials can be translated to Spanish, French or German.

Illinois Department of Human Services

www.dhs.state.il.us

The Illinois DHS is the state office for providing information to parents and professionals on a wide variety of family needs from early intervention to housing assistance and more. The DHS network is the lead agency for Early Intervention

Illinois Early Childhood Intervention Clearinghouse

www.eiclearinghouse.org

The EC Intervention Clearinghouse provides information to parents and professionals involved in the lives of young children on topics related to health, education, development and disability through a

free lending library, a parents newsletter, and extensive links.

Illinois Early Intervention Training

www.illinoiseittraining.org

The EI training program provides training opportunities for early intervention professionals in Illinois. The website provides resources on the Illinois Early Intervention System, information on area workshops and conferences and registration for workshops sponsored by the training program.

Illinois Early Learning Project

www.illinoisearlylearning.org

The Illinois Early Learning project is a source of evidence-based, reliable information on early care and education for parents, caregivers, and teachers of young children in Illinois. The Web site offers printable Tip Sheets for caregivers and parents, Frequently Asked Questions (and their answers), a customized question-answering service, a statewide calendar of events for parents and caregivers, an easy-to-use database of links to "the best of the Web" on topics related to early care and education, and periodic Online Chats.

Illinois Network Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRA)

www.inccra.org

The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRA) is a statewide organization which -- in partnership with its 16 partner Child Care Resources and Referral (CCR&R) agencies -- is a recognized leader, catalyst and resource for making high quality, affordable early care and education options available for children and families in Illinois

Illinois Parents

www.illinoisparents.org

Illinois Parents links parents directly to local programs, services, and community agencies to support them in their roles as primary caregivers of their children and as major contributors to their children's growth, development, and learning.

Illinois State Board of Education: Early Childhood Division 866.262.6663 for Springfield 312.814.2200 for the Chicago office www.isbe.net Illinois State Board of Education

Statewide Parent Consultant: Deb Kunz 217.782.5589 dkunz@isbe.net

Illinois Department of Human Services

www.dhs.state.il.us

A complete listing of resources, Illinois programs, news and information

The Special Education Advocacy Center

www.specialedadvocacycenter.org

The Special Ed Advocacy Center ("SEAC"), is a non-profit, §501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization whose mission is to ensure that children with disabilities in the Chicago metropolitan area receive all appropriate educational services provided under current law. The SEAC service area includes: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties

The SEAC accomplishes its mission by providing free legal representation to low-income parents and caregivers of children with disabilities seeking to obtain appropriate educational and early intervention services for their children; educating parents and caregivers, school personnel and others through conducting programs concerning their rights and responsibilities under current special education law; and increasing public awareness and understanding of special education law.

Project CHOICES/Early CHOICES

www.projectchoices.org

Project Choices provides collaborative support to schools, families, children, and youth to ensure that all learn in general education and community settings, and address and show progress toward the Illinois Learning Standards.

Voices for Illinois Children

www.voices4kids.org

Voices for Illinois Children examines conditions facing children and their families and proposes research-based solutions. The organization all seeks the input of family and community members when determining policy initiatives. The website includes information and resources on reports, draft legislation, comment on rules and regulations, and communicate and deliberate with legislators and policymakers.

Illinois STARNET Regions

Northwest Region I and Central Region III

Western Illinois University
www.wiu.edu/starnet
27 Horrabin Hall
Macomb, IL 61455
309/298-1634 or 800/277-7537

Northern Region II

The Center
www.thecenterweb.org/starnet
2626 South Clearbrook Drive
Arlington Heights, IL 6005-4626
224/366-8579

Southern Region IV

St. Clair County ROE
www.row.stclair.k12.il.us/starnet
1000 South Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220
618/825-3966
618/825-3999 (Fax)

City of Chicago Region V

Chicago Public Schools
www.starnetchicago.org
125 S. Clark -8th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Phone 773-553-5596
773/553-5595 (FAX)

Region VI

Southwest Cook Cook County Cooperative
www.swccase.org/starnet
6020 W. 151st Street
Oak Forest, IL 60452
708/342-5370
708/687-2247 (FAX)

Inclusion

Circle of Inclusion

www.circleofinclusion.org

Circle of Inclusion offers demonstrations of and information about the effective practices of inclusive educational programs for children from birth through age eight. *** Also in Spanish, Korean, Japanese and Chinese ***

Learning Disabilities

All Kinds of Minds

www.allkindsofminds.org

All Kinds of Minds is a non-profit Institute that helps students who struggle with learning measurably improve their success in school and life by providing programs that integrate educational, scientific, and clinical expertise.

Early Identification and Recognition

www.recognitionandresponse.org

The agency supports a new systemic approach that can help early educators and parents ensure early school success for all children, including those at risk for learning difficulties.

Learning Disabilities Association of America

www.idanatl.org

The Learning Disabilities Association is a non-profit volunteer organization advocating for individuals with learning disabilities and has over 200 state and local affiliates in 42 states and Puerto Rico. The website offers information and research about learning disabilities, resources and listing of upcoming trainings and conferences that focuses on supporting children and adults with learning disabilities.

Schwab Learning

www.schwablearning.org

Schwab lists is a guide for helping kids with learning difficulties that emphasizes useful information and practical strategies for parents and professionals.

Literacy

Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement

www.ciera.org

The Center for the improvement of Early Reading Achievement (CIERA) is a national center for research on early reading, representing a consortium of educators from five universities (the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, with the University of Southern California, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Georgia); teacher educators; teachers; publishers of texts, tests, and technology; professional organizations; and schools and school districts across the United States.

National Center for Family Literacy

www.famlit.org

The National Center for Family Literacy works to improve family literacy programs. Resources, links and information on model programs are provided on the website.

www.colorincolorado.com

Colorin Colorado is a bilingual site for the parents and educators of English Language Learners.

National Organizations

Center for Universal Design - Education

<http://www.washington.edu/doi/CUDE/>

The Center for Universal Design in Education (CUDE) develops and collects Web-based resources to help educators apply universal design to all aspects of the educational experience

Foundation for Early Learning

www.earlylearning.org

The Foundation for Early Learning is a non-profit organization that supports the learning of children, birth through age.

National Association for the Education of Young Children

www.naeyc.org

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8. NAEYC is committed to becoming an increasingly high performing and inclusive organization. The website offers information, resources, current research and a link to job postings.

National Center for Early Development and Learning

www.fpg.unc.edu/ncedl

The National Center for Early Development & Learning was a national early childhood research project supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES). The center was created to provide national leadership and advance new knowledge in the field of early childhood development and learning. The website offer resources, links and research updates

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

www.nectac.org

NECTAC is the national early childhood technical assistance center supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. NECTAC serves all 50 states and 10 jurisdictions with an array of services and supports to improve service systems and outcomes for infants, toddlers, and preschool aged children with special needs and their families.

National Head Start Association

www.nhsa.org

The website offers links to Head Start workshops and conferences, articles on advocacy and education issues and links to area specific Head Start information

National Lekotek Center

www.lekotek.org

Information on Lekotek resources and services are provided.

National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)

www.rarediseases.org

The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), a 501(c)3 organization, is a unique federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with rare "orphan" diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them. NORD is committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of rare disorders through programs of education, advocacy, research, and service.

National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated (FCN)

www.fcnetwork.org

The FCN's mission is to raise awareness about the needs and concerns of the children of the incarcerated and their families by providing information that is informed by a combination of academic research and the experiences of the families and practitioners in the field.

Ounce of Prevention

www.ounceofprevention.org

The Ounce of Prevention provides direct services for at-risk children from birth to age five and for their families, trains early childhood professionals across the state who work with infants and toddlers, does research on what works and continuously incorporate that knowledge into programs, and advocated for sound public policies and sustained funding streams with bipartisan support so that more young children have access to experiences that enhance their early development. Based in Chicago information about the Ounce's programs, training, research and evaluation and advocacy efforts are available on the website.

Parents as Teachers National Center

www.parentsasteachers.org

Parents as Teachers provides parents with child development knowledge and parenting support. The organizational vehicle for delivering that knowledge and support is Parents as Teachers National Center. The program's goals are to: Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices; Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues; Prevent child abuse and neglect; and Increase children's school readiness and school success . Information on families and school related topics are offered on the website.

Technical Assistance Alliance for Parenting Center

www.taalliance.org

The Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers (the ALLIANCE) is an innovative partnership of one national and six regional parent technical assistance centers, each funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). These seven projects comprise a technical assistance system for the purpose of developing, assisting, and coordinating the over 100 Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) and Community Parent Resource Centers (CPRCs) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The national and regional parent technical assistance centers work to strengthen the connections to the larger OSEP Technical Assistance and Dissemination Network and fortify partnerships between Parent Centers and education

systems at local, state, and national levels

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families

www.acf.hhs.gov

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services for Children & Families is a division of the Department of Health & Human Services. ACF promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals and communities.

Zero to Three

www.zerotothree.org

ZERO TO THREE is a national, nonprofit organization that informs, trains, and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers. Information and links on Zero to Three research, studies and trainings are provided on the website.

Parent Training and Information Centers of Illinois

Family Matters

www.fmptic.org

Family Matters is a project of ARC of Illinois providing family support through information, a lending library and trainings.

Family Resource Center on Disabilities

www.frcd.org

The Family Resource Center offers various resources for parents and professionals involved in the lives of children and young adults with disabilities. ** *Some resources available in Spanish* **

Parenting

Exceptional Parent Magazine

www.eparent.com

Exceptional Parent is a monthly magazine that focuses on issues, resources and information for parents and caregivers whose children have special needs. Exceptional Parent uses a multi-media approach to disseminate information including its monthly print publication, EP (Exceptional Parent) magazine; its Web site (www.eparent.com); clinical custom communications projects; the EP Bookstore (www.epbookstore.com) which offers books, DVDs, and CDs on a wide range of disability related subjects; and online, interactive CME accredited seminars and teleconferences on a wide range of special needs topics (www.epliveonline.com).

Family Village

(www.familyvillage.wisc.edu)

Family Village is a global community that integrates information, resources, and communication opportunities on the Internet for persons with cognitive and other disabilities, for their families, and for those that provide services and support.

Financial Planning

www.specialneedsplanning.com

A resource that provides professional financial planning for families of people with special needs.

GiGi's Playhouse

www.gigisplayhouse.com

GiGi's Playhouses are Down syndrome educational and awareness centers that provide resources, specialized teaching, and support to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the people who support them.

Information on Bullying (Barbara Coloroso)

www.kidsareworthit.com

This website provides information and resources for dealing with bullying in school and situations.

Mommies of Miracles

www.mommiesofmiracles.com

Mommies of Miracles is a peer-driven "virtual" support group of mothers who have children with special needs of any age (infant-adult). Mission Statement: The mission of Mommies of Miracles is to eliminate the isolation mothers of children with special needs experience on a daily basis by providing an extended network of resources, products and services, family matching, awareness initiatives, educational programs, compassionate emotional support, inspiration, understanding, and hope.

MUMS National Parent to Parent

www.netnet.net/mums

This is a not-for-profit agency which specializes in providing support networks for parents of children with all kinds of medical conditions and disorders. This site also provides much research and information about hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT.)

National Father's Network

www.fathersnetwork.org

The National Father's network celebrates and supports fathers and families of children with special health care needs by providing news, resources and event information.

One Place for Special Needs

www.oneplaceforspecialneeds.com

This website offers links and information to disability-related events and resources tailored to specific geographic areas. You need to register with the website and then information is sent to you on a regular basis on what is happening in your community and surrounding area.

Our Kids

www.our-kids.org

Our Kids is a site dedicated to fostering a community for parents of children with all kinds of special needs.

PBS Parents

www.pbsparents.org

This website offers resources which include advice, games, program and parenting information and interactive learning opportunities for all parents and children. ** Also in Spanish **

The Sibling Support Project

(www.siblingsupport.org)

The Sibling Support Project offers information and resources on support for the brothers and sisters of those who have health, developmental or mental health concerns.

Wright's Law

www.wrightslaw.com

The website offers information on special education laws and policies. Links are offered to address specific issues. Information on upcoming workshop and conferences is also offered.

Rett Syndrome

International Rett Syndrome Association

www.rettsyndrome.org

The website offers information and resources about Rett Syndrome for parents and professionals.

Sensory Integration

Sensory Integration Network

www.sinetwork.org

the primary internet portal for information about these commonly misunderstood disorders helps parents, professionals and others understand Sensory Processing Disorder. It has since become the primary Internet portal for information about these commonly misunderstood disorders.

Social Emotional

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

www.vandrebilt.edu/csefel

The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) is focused on promoting the social emotional development and school readiness of young children birth to age 5. CSEFEL is a national resource center funded by the Office of Head Start and Child Care Bureau for disseminating research and evidence-based practices to early childhood programs across the country.

Special Education Advocacy and Information

Council of Parents' Attorneys and Advocates

www.copaa.net

The Council of Parents' Attorneys and Advocates is a non-profit organization of parent advocates and attorneys.

Illinois State Board of Education Parent's Page

(www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/parents.htm)

contains information for parents on topics including early childhood special education, Project CHOICES, parent training, and links to the document *A Parent's Guide - The Educational Rights of Students with Disabilities*. ** Some Resources available in Spanish

Family Support Network

www.familysupportnetwork.org

The Family Support Network works to unify families of children with disabilities to

advocate for legislation, funding, services, and community resources. The website includes information and resources.

Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational rights (PACER)

www.pacer.org

The agency provides information, support, workshops and referrals to both families and professionals. Materials are available in Spanish and some other languages.

The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)

www.nichcy.org

The center is the national dissemination center for information on disabilities in infants, toddlers, children and youth; IDEA 2004; and research-based information on effective practices. Materials are also available in Spanish

Wrights Law

www.wrightslaw.com

The website offers information on federal laws that effect children with special needs and their families as well as advocacy skills and strategies for parents. Materials are also available in Spanish

Technology

Able Generation - Therapeutic furniture manufacturer

www.ablegeneration.com

The agency's mission is to provide products that support efforts to integrate children into everyday life. The target population is children birth to five, depending upon size. The website provides resources and information

Equip for Equality

www.equipforequality.org

Equip for Equality is the statewide, cross-disability, comprehensive advocacy organization in Illinois that provides self-advocacy assistance, legal services, and disability rights education. The Legal Advocacy Program provides free, individual self-advocacy and legal services for people with disabilities and their family members. Information on the programs offered through Equip for Equality are available on the website in addition to resources for professionals and parents who touch the lives of young children with special needs.

Family Center on Technology and Disability

www.fctd.info

The Family Center on Technology and Disability supports organizations and programs that work with families of children and youth with disabilities offering a range of information and services on the subject of assistive technologies. The resources are available in Spanish.

Illinois Assistive Technology project

www.iltech.org

The mission for the Illinois Assistive Technology project is to "Promote Independent Living Through Technology for All People with Disabilities in Illinois." IATP's primary focus is on

education, employment, community living, information technology and telecommunications. Our mission is to enable people with disabilities so they can fully participate in all aspects of life.

Infinitec

www.infinitec.org

Infinitec is an agency that advances independence and promoting inclusive opportunities for children and adults with disabilities through technology.

Tourette Syndrome

Tourette Syndrome Association

www.tsa-usa.org

The website offers extensive information for individuals, families and professionals.

Tourette Syndrome Plus

www.tourettesyndrome.net

The website offers information on and many other neurobehavioral conditions in a user-friendly environment.

