



Family Support Resource Center

Serving Families and Educators
of Children with Disabilities in Kent County

Family Support Network
Preschool Partners
Partners for Success

What is the Family Support Resource Center?

We are an information and support resource for families and educators of children who receive special education services through Kent County Public Schools, including infants, preschoolers, and students who remain in high school until age 21. We are part of a network of centers around the state, supported by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Who are the children?

About 13% of Kent County students receive special education services. Their disability may be obvious, such as a physical disability, or hidden, such as a learning disability like dyslexia. The majority spends most of their time in a general education classroom but may spend varying amounts of time each week with one or more specialists – for occupational therapy or extra reading help, for example. Other specialists may visit the home of an infant experiencing developmental delays or the preschool of a toddler who has difficulty speaking.

The **Family Support Resource Center** assists families of these children by offering programs, resources, and other assistance that can help them to become effective partners with specialists and teachers in the education decision-making process.



Winter 2019

With the holiday season behind us, families are settling in to winter routines, which for many may involve hours of ‘screen’ time. Please be sure to balance that with time reading or doing other activities together, and send the kids to play and explore outdoors – their minds and bodies will both reap rewards!

In the next months, Kent County’s Special Education Citizens’ Advisory Committee and the Family Support Resource Center are continuing our series of presentations for families of students who receive special education services. Parents new to or confused by the world of special education should plan to attend the program **“Individualized Education: How Does the Special Education Process Work?”** on **Thursday, January 24**, to learn about the steps involved in developing and implementing an IEP. Learn how to recognize and help **“Smart Kids with Learning Difficulties”** with Rich Weinfeld on **Thursday, February 28**. See inside for more information.

We hope to see you at these or future programs, or schedule a visit to ask questions or browse the Family Support Resource Center resource library.

- **Nancy Martin**
Parent Coordinator

<p>Physical Location: Kent County Middle School Room 117 Contact Us: 410 778-5708 fsupport@kent.k12.md.us</p>	<p>Mailing Address: Family Support Resource Center Kent County Middle School 402 East Campus Ave Chestertown, MD 21620</p>	<p>Office Hours: Monday – 10:00 AM-12:30 PM Tuesday – 11:00 AM-3:30 PM Wednesday – 9:30 AM-12:30 PM Thursday – 12:30-4:00 PM Other hours by appointment</p>	<p>Team: Nancy Martin, Parent Wendy Keen, Supervisor of Special Education</p>
<p>Kent County Family Support Network helps families meet the needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays, birth to age three, by providing parent support as well as practical information about the benefits of early intervention services.</p>		<p>Kent County Public Schools’ Pre-school Partners/Partners for Success provides parent support; and helps families gain the skills and knowledge that will enable them to function as equal partners in the education decision making process for their children and youth, ages three to twenty-one, who have disabilities or delays.</p>	

You are invited to a Parent Workshop

Smart Kids with Learning Difficulties



Presented by
Rich Weinfeld

Thursday, 28 February

5:30 PM

Meet & Greet with
Special Education Supervisor Wendy Keen
5:00 PM

Kent County Middle School
Media Center

- How to identify and recognize smart kids with learning difficulties
- What programs and services can help these kids to reach their potential
- Practical actions you can take to ensure your smart kids will overcome their learning disabilities
- The roles and responsibilities of parents, students, and educators

Pizza and Childcare are available with RSVP

to the Family Support Resource Center at 410-778-5708 or fsupport@kent.k12.md.us

Sponsored by the Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC) of Kent County

PARENTS:



**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION**
PREPARING WORLD CLASS STUDENTS

Coming Soon! Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! YOUR OPINION
MATTERS!**

Each year, parents or guardians of children receiving special education and related services are mailed the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey from the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services. *Look for yours in early to mid-February.*

Parents are asked to complete the survey and return it in the postage paid envelope. *The survey may also be completed online at <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com>.*

Your feedback will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services in Kent County Public Schools. Your voice can make a real difference for your child and many other children across the state of Maryland.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com>.

Individualized Education: How Does the Special Education Process Work?

- Has your child been identified with a learning disability?
- Does the special education system feel like a maze?
- Are you confused by all the jargon and abbreviations?



Come get your questions answered and become a better-informed partner in your child's education.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24
5:30 PM

Kent County Middle School
Media Center

Light refreshments available

*For more information contact the Family Support Resource Center
at 410-778-5708 or fsupport@kent.k12.md.us*

Opportunities to Provide YOUR Input to Benefit Students in Kent County

Parents are invited to join one (or both) of two groups dedicated to improving services for Kent County children with disabilities. The Infants and Toddlers Program receives input from the Local Interagency Coordinating Committee (LICC), which meets four times during the school year.

The Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC) advises school leaders about programs for students receiving special education services and sponsors regular workshops and presentations on topics suggested by parents. By working together and sharing suggestions or concerns, families and educators can make our schools into caring communities where everyone succeeds and belongs.

For more information about upcoming meetings, contact the Family Support Resource Center at fsupport@kent.k12.md.us or 410-778-5708.

Cup of Caring



with the Arc Central Chesapeake Region

*Come for a cup of coffee and learn how
The Arc CCR can help you understand resources
available to your child with intellectual and
developmental disabilities.*

Local events – **KENT COUNTY** – Eastern Shore Food Lab, Chestertown, Tuesday 5 February, 11-1.

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY – Commerce St. Creamery, Centreville, Thursday 7 February, 11-1.

The Arc Central Chesapeake Region has been providing innovative support, solutions, and advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1961. The Arc Central Chesapeake Region serves families in Anne Arundel County and on the Eastern Shore.

Questions? Contact Linda Prochaska, Family Engagement & Navigation Coordinator at lprochaska@thearcctr.org or 410-770-2327.





Kent County Public Library Programs for Children

Beyond the books, e-books, and videos to borrow, the public-use computers and other resources, your local

Kent County Public Library offers weekly story times for young children and their parents/caregivers:

Baby & Toddler Story Time

An interactive program designed to encourage very young children and their accompanying adults to engage with books, rhymes, music, and each other. Ages 0 to 2 years.

Chestertown – Tuesdays at 11:00 AM.

Preschool Story Time

An interactive program designed to foster a love of books while also introducing early literacy skills and making the library a place where children, parents, and caregivers feel welcome. Join us to read stories, sing songs, dance, laugh, visit with friends, and have lots of fun! Held at all three locations. Ages 2 to 5.

Chestertown – Tuesdays 10:00 AM

Rock Hall – Wednesdays 10:30 AM

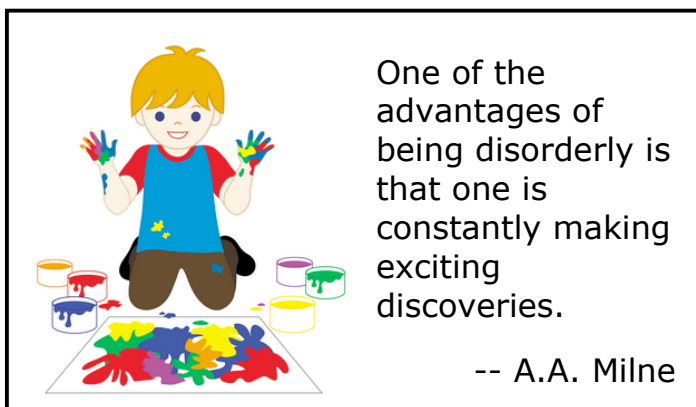
North County (Galena) – Thursdays 10:30 AM

Milk & Cookies Reading Club!

Kids can come and listen each week as we read a chapter book together and enjoy a snack. January & February. Pre-registration required.

Chestertown – Fridays 4-5 PM

Visit the library web site at kentcountylibrary.org to check their calendar for monthly crafting activities, family movies and special events.



One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries.

-- A.A. Milne

Transition Resources on the Web

Transition planning is an important part of the IEP process for students and families, beginning at age 14 (or before). These are some helpful online resources, whether your child is planning for further education, employment or independent living.

The ***Autism Speaks Transition Tool Kit*** was created to serve as a guide to assist families on the journey from adolescence to adulthood. Sections cover subjects such as Self Advocacy, Employment, Post-Secondary Education, Housing, Health, and Community Living, among others. Download the PDF at: www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/transition-tool-kit

Maryland Transitioning Youth.

This website was developed by the Maryland Department of Disabilities, in partnership with several other agencies. Its target audience is families of young adults with disabilities preparing to transition to adult services. Here you will find information and resources for transition planning, postsecondary education, employment services, health care and much more. www.mdtransition.org/

IEP Transition Planning

The parent pages at Understood.org have numerous resources for parents and students starting to plan for life after high school, whether it is further education or work (It's never too early to start planning!) as well as for students transitioning from kindergarten or to middle or high school. www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/ieps/iep-transition-planning-preparing-for-young-adulthood

TOTS OF FUN at the Kent County Community Center, Worton

Ages: Preschoolers

Days: Mondays & Wednesdays, through April 24

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Cost: Free with Facility Access Card

Need to get the little ones outside of the house during those cold and chilly months? Join other parents and children for drop in play time for preschoolers. It is the perfect opportunity to promote socialization, sharing, and fun! Some balls and scooters are provided but please feel free to bring your own *indoor* toys.

Get more information by calling 410-778-2083 or email info@KentParksAndRec.org.