

Resources for Parents of Children with Disabilities or Special Needs

	<p>Ability 1st Tallahassee, the Center for Independent Living of North Florida provides a variety of services including access to independence through loans of medical equipment, community education for disability awareness and sensitivity training, a High School High Tech program for youth with disabilities, Independent Living resources, and more. Call 850-575-9621 or visit www.ability1st.info.</p>
	<p>Agency for Persons with Disabilities supports persons with developmental disabilities in living, learning, and working in their communities. It provides local resources and events in the community with a resource directory which includes 40 searchable topics. Call 850-488-6500 or visit apd.myflorida.com.</p>
	<p>Autism Navigator is a unique collection of web-based tools and courses that use extensive video footage to help identify individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Family resources, professional courses and a provider directory are available at www.autismnavigator.com.</p>
	<p>Big Bend Community Based Care serves as the Network Management agency for child welfare, substance abuse, and mental/behavioral health services in northwest Florida. Call 850-410-1020 or visit www.bigbendcbc.org.</p>
	<p>CAST is the expert organization on Universal Design for Learning (UDL). CAST provides many learning tools to help educators, parent/guardians, and students discover how to remove barriers and experience the power of flexible learning environments. Visit bit.ly/aboutUDL and for specific information on UDL tools visit bit.ly/FreeLearningTools.</p>



Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD) FSU provides families and professionals with training, free consultation, resources, educational support, individual client and family support, and technical assistance. Newsletter subscription and support groups are available. Family members must register their child to become a client. CARD cannot provide evaluations, diagnoses, therapies or respite care. For more information, call 850-644-4367 or 800-769-7926. Email CARD at autism@med.fsu.edu or visit www.fsucard.com.



Center on Technology and Disability (CTD) provides a family portal that contains a library and webinars on all aspects of assistive technology. Visit www.ctdinstitute.org.



Children's Home Society of the Big Bend provides services that include adoption, child welfare, Children's Advocacy Centers, counseling, Early Steps, and Independent and Transitional Living. Call 850-921-0772 or visit www.chsfl.org.



Children's Medical Services (CMS) provides special programs for eligible children with special needs. Qualified physicians, nurses, social workers, and other health providers are service providers. Call 800-226-2604 or visit www.cms-kids.com.



C-PALMS (Collaborate, Plan, Align, Learn, Motivate, and Share) provides the Florida K-12 educational standards and course descriptions, free vetted lesson plans, parent resources, professional development, and more. A video specifically for parents is included in the website. Visit www.cpalms.org.



The **Down Syndrome Association of Tallahassee** provides education, support, and resources for individuals with Down Syndrome, their families, professionals and the community. The association hosts an annual BuddyWalk, provides a lending library, events, and workshops. Email Dana Rainey (Executive Director) at ExecutiveDirector@dsatallahassee.com and/or visit www.dsatallahassee.com.

 <p>DifferentiationCentral Reach Every Learner Every Day Through Differentiated Instruction</p>	<p>Differentiation Central contains a variety of videos on topics relevant to educating students with disabilities. Visit differentiationcentral.com/videos.</p>
 <p>Disability Rights FLORIDA</p>	<p>Disability Rights of Florida provides a variety of services to advance the quality of life of persons with disabilities through advocacy, education, collaboration, and legal and legislative strategies. Information including videos, on a variety of disability related topics are available. Call 850-342-0823 or 800-342-0823 or visit www.disabilityrightsflorida.org.</p>
 <p>do2LearnTM</p>	<p>Do 2 Learn provides thousands of free pages with social skills and behavioral regulation activities and guidance, learning songs and games, communication cards, academic material, and transition guides for employment and life skills. Visit www.do2learn.com.</p>
 <p>elc Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region</p>	<p>Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend helps prepare children for success as they enter school offering assistance including childcare information and referral, Voluntary Pre-K (VPK), First Books, events to promote early literacy, and other resources. Call 850-385-0504 (Leon), 850-627-2924 (Gadsden), 850-666-3972 (Jefferson), 850-584-5679 (Taylor), 850-552-7377 (Wakulla) or visit www.elcbigbend.org.</p>
<p>Early Steps</p>  <p>Florida HEALTH</p>	<p>Early Steps is Florida's early intervention system offering free services to eligible infants and toddlers from birth-36 months with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay. If you have concerns about your young child, contact Sue Loftis at 850-219-4275 or email her at susan.loftis@chsfl.org.</p>
 <p>FIEP</p>	<p>Facilitated Individual Educational Plan Video provides information regarding the facilitated approach to conducting Individual Educational Plan (IEP) meetings which builds relationships as the IEP team works together to develop and IEP. View the 15-minute video at bit.ly/FIEPparentvideo.</p>



Family Café is a free conference for individuals with a disability and family members held annually in June in Orlando, FL. Breakout sessions and resource booths are available for all participants as well as opportunities to network with others. Financial assistance via a lottery is available. Call 850-224-4670 or visit www.familycafe.net.



Family Network on Disabilities (FND) & Parents Offering Parents Information and Networking (POPIN) provides support, resources, online trainings, workshops, tip sheets, and more. Contact Luciana Brown at luciana@fndfl.org, Call 800-825-5736 or visit fndusa.org.



First Words Project identifies early signs of developmental language disorders, autism spectrum disorder, and other communication delays in children from 9 to 24 months of age. Research and resources aim maximize the role of the family and help families support their child's development and access intervention services. Call 850-488-5780 or visit firstwordsproject.com.



Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST) provides increased access of assistive services and technology to individuals with disabilities in Florida through a statewide device loan program. Call 850-487-3278 or visit www.faast.org.



The **Florida Developmental Disabilities Council's** mission is to advocate and promote meaningful participation in all aspects of life for Floridians with developmental disabilities by providing research-based, innovative, sustainable solutions that address the critical needs and priorities of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Call 800-580-7801 or visit www.fddc.org.

**FDLRS Miccosukee
Associate Center
Child Find**



**FDLRS Miccosukee
website:**
www.fdlrsmicco.org

**FDLRS Miccosukee
Associate Center
Parent Services**



**FDLRS Miccosukee
website:**
www.fdlrsmicco.org

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Child Find

is a free service for children 3-6 years old who are not yet enrolled in school. Child Find provides free screenings to identify children who may have a developmental delay and benefit from early intervention services. A 5-minute informational Child Find video may be accessed at: bit.ly/ChildFindVideo.

FDLRS Child Find Specialists are available to assist with developmental screenings for children. Contact Mary Petrandis at petrandism@leonschools.net or 850-561-6548.

- Additional county specific contacts:
 - Leon- Brandie Taylor taylorb4@leonschools.net 850-922-2099
 - Gadsden- Armanda Smith smitha@gcpsmail.com 850-627-3861
 - Jefferson- Shirrie Barany sbarany@somersetjefferson.org 850-997-3555
 - Taylor- Betsy Stephens betsy.stephens@taylor.k12.fl.us 850-838-2536
 - Wakulla- Dee Ann Peeples deeann.hughes@wcsb.us 850-926-8111

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Parent Services

provides training, information, and support to parents of children receiving (or who may be in need of) special education services in the following areas:

- Navigating the school system and locating available for academic and/or behavior challenges.
- The Special Education Connection free online resource provided by the Florida Department of Education.
- FDLRS Parent Email List: bit.ly/ParentFDLRS
- FDLRS site: www.fdlrs.org

Contact Mary Petrandis at petrandism@leonschools.net or at 850-561-6548.



**Florida
Disabled
Outdoors
Association**

Florida Disabled Outdoors Association (FDOA) promotes health and wellness and enhances the lives of people with disabilities through programs such as SportsAbility, Miracle Sports, and many others. Contact David Jones or Laurie LoRe-Gussak at 850-201-2944, or visit www.fdoa.org.



The **Florida Division of Blind Services** helps individuals who are blind or visually impaired. They provide an array of services including Blind Babies Program, Children's Program, transition services, Independent Living Program, braille and talking books library. Call 850-245-0370 or 1-800-672-7038 or visit dbs.myflorida.com.



The **Florida Inclusion Network (FIN)** collaborates with all districts and schools to provide customized services and supports ensuring all students with disabilities have the same educational, social, and future opportunities as their peers. In partnership with districts, FIN facilitates the implementation of inclusive best practices through sharing information to build collaborative relationships between families, schools, and districts. Call Briant Rutherford at 850-561-6550 or Kelley Steinmetz at 850-561-6549. Visit www.floridainclusionnetwork.com.



The **Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired** provides services to students with visual impairments enrolled in Florida's public and private schools. Services include a loan library of large print, braille, and recorded books, consultation, workshops, events, and more. Video of the services provided: bit.ly/FIMCVI. Phone 813-837-7826 or visit www.fimcvi.org.



Florida KidCare provides quality, affordable health and dental insurance for children in Florida birth through 18. Coverage is free or low-cost. Call 1-888-540-KIDS or visit www.floridakidcare.org.



*A Multi-Tiered
System of Supports*

Florida's Multi-Tiered System of Supports provides a central, comprehensive, Florida-specific information and resources that promote system-wide practices to ensure highest possible student achievement in both academic and behavioral pursuits. Resources include:

- A Parent Guide to Multi-Tiered System of Supports: bit.ly/FloridaMTSS
- Introductory video explanation of Response to Intervention (Rtl): florida-rti.org/parentResources/videos.htm
- Website florida-rti.org



The **FSU Multidisciplinary Center** serves PreK-12th grade children that are experiencing severe and/or complex academic, medical, and/or behavioral/emotional concerns. They provide diagnostic evaluations and therapeutic interventions and consultations. Referrals may originate from Children's Medical Services and other community organizations. Call 850-644-2222, email mdcinfo@csu.fsu.edu, or visit mdc.fsu.edu.



The **FSU Psychology Clinic** offers a parent strategies group which meets once a week for 12 weeks. The target audience is for parents of children ages 4-12 years old. Call 850-644-3006 or visit <https://psy.fsu.edu>.

GaP
**Grandparents as
Parents**

Grandparents as Parents (GaP) is a program that provides information and support for grandparents, as well as other nonparent caregivers raising children. Contact Karen Boebinger at 850-891-4027 or email her at Karen.Boebinger@talgov.com.



Help Me Grow Florida provides parents of children birth to 8 years with free screenings for developmental milestones, social/emotional, and behavior, referrals and follow-up. Enrollment in community programs, information, and materials are also available. Visit www.helpmegrowfl.org.



Intervention Central provides free resources to assist struggling learners in the response to intervention (RTI) process. Academic and behavioral intervention resources are available. Although the target audience for this site is educators, parents may also find it helpful. Visit www.interventioncentral.org.



LDonline provides information on learning disabilities and individuals with attention disability with hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Articles and resources for families, teachers and children are available. Visit www.ldonline.org.



Learning Ally, in partnership with the Florida Department of Education provides no-cost audiobooks for Florida students with certified print and reading disabilities to access grade-level content. Call 609-651-8550 or visit www.learningally.org.



National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Tallahassee is an organization dedicated to building better lives for individuals affected by mental illness. They educate, advocate, listen, and lead. For local assistance call 850-841-3386 or email admin@nami-tallahassee.org. The national help line may be reached at 800-950-6264 or visit www.nami-tallahassee.org.



National Center for Pyramid Model Innovation Backpack Connection Series provides information for parents of young children on how to use a specific strategy or skill at home to develop social emotional skills and reduce challenging behaviors. Visit www.challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu.



Parenting Special Needs Magazine is a free and engaging magazine for parents of children with special needs filled with articles, tips, and resources such as “Why chores are good for kids-and how to get them to do them”. Subscribe by visiting www.parentingspecialneeds.org.



Pre-K Parenting Tips via Text by Ready4K is an evidence-based family engagement curriculum delivered via text messages. Every week parents and caregivers receive fun facts and easy tips on how to promote their children’s development by building on existing family routines. Visit bit.ly/READY4K.



Project 10 (Transition Education Network) provides information, support, and resources for individuals with disabilities transitioning from school to work and/or post-secondary education. Contact Tracy Dempsey at 850-294-8973 or tracydempsey@usf.edu or visit project10.info.



Reading Rockets offers research-based reading strategies, lessons, and activities designed to help young children learn how to read and read better. Resources assist parents, teachers, and other educators in helping struggling readers build fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Visit www.readingrockets.org.



The **Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing** provides onsite training and technical assistance to all Florida school districts and families serving students that are deaf/hard of hearing. They also coordinate accessible materials including captioned and signed videos, professional development books and other reference materials for the deaf/hard of hearing. Visit www.rmtcdhh.org,



SEDNET (The Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities) provides technical assistance and training to support the provision of a quality system of care for students with or at-risk of emotional and/or behavioral challenges. Visit www.sednetfl.info.



Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition for children and adults 8 years of age and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Contact Bridget Hawk at 850-597-5265 or email bridgethawk@sofl.org.



Technical Assistance & Training System (TATS) is a statewide project that supports programs serving pre-K children with disabilities by providing technical assistance and training. This support promotes high quality programs leading to positive outcomes for children and their families. Contact Anne Everett at 850-345-9342 or email at tats-fsu@ucf.edu or visit tats.ucf.edu.



Understood is a non-profit dedicated to serving the millions of families of children who learn and think differently working with educators, health professionals, researchers, and human resource professionals to provide proven, vetted information. Visit understood.org.



Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) helps individuals with disabilities find and maintain employment and enhance their independence. VR has an array of services for individuals 14 years old to adult. Visit bit.ly/VRVIDEO to view a 2-minute introductory video of their services. Call 850-245-3399 (in Leon, Jefferson, Taylor, and Wakulla) or 850-875-2949 (in Gadsden) or visit www.rehabworks.org.



WFSU-PBS offers parents the opportunity to explore and learn about a wealth of workshops, events, projects, and resources to help children and families become engaged and excited about the learning process. Email Hannah Power at hpower@fsu.edu or visit bit.ly/WFSUPBS.



Whole Child Leon is not another program, but a philosophy that uses strategic planning, web-based technology, performance measurement and broad-based community engagement to build communities where everyone works together to make sure children thrive. Whole Child Leon offers a list of community resources and hosts many community events. Call 850-692-3134, email info@wholechildleon.org, or visit wholechildleon.org.

Note: In Jefferson & Taylor counties, call 850-253-5355 or visit www.wholechildtricity.com.



Wrightslaw provides information about special education laws and advocacy for children with disabilities. Explore thousands of articles, cases, and resources as well as subscribe to the **free** Special Ed Advocate newsletter. Visit www.wrightslaw.com.



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