

USD 232

Parent Resource Directory

Special Services Department

The websites listed in this guide as resources are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only. They do not constitute an endorsement or approval by USD 232 of any of the products, services, or opinions of the organizations that operate them. USD 232 bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality, or content of the external websites or for that of subsequent links. Please contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.

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State of Kansas

Locate your Kansas legislators

This site helps you to locate your legislators by typing in your home address.

<http://www.kslegislature.org/li/>

Families Together, Inc.

This organization is the Kansas Parent Training and Information (PTI) & Family-to-Family Health Information (F2F) Center. 501 (c)3 non-profit organization that provides support and information for families of children, from birth to age 26, with disabilities and/or special health care needs. Programs are offered at no cost to families, and are available in English and Spanish.

<https://famiestogetherinc.org/>

TASN Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN)

TASN provides technical assistance to support school districts' systematic implementation of evidence-based practices. While TASN is an organization supporting educators, their website contains valuable resources pertaining to parents and families.

<https://www.ksdetasn.org/search/resources>

Building a Life a transition guide

Building a Life is a guide for families of young adults with disabilities who are transitioning into adult life. Building a Life can help you help young adults move toward independence. The information on this site will assist with decisions ranging from where young adults can live, to how they will make a living, manage their own health and more.

<http://www.buildingalife.ku.edu/>

Self-advocate Coalition of Kansas

The Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas (SACK) website where we work to promote the Empowerment and Independence of Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities If you want to learn more about SACK, the trainings we offer, the annual SACK conference, or how to join or start a local self advocacy group in your area, just click on the buttons at the top of the page. We will be constantly updating our website to keep you informed about the self advocacy movement in Kansas.

<http://www.sackonline.org/>

Johnson County

Johnson County Developmental Supports

An agency of Johnson County government that facilitates career and personal development for JoCo residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Designated as Johnson County's Community Developmental Disabilities Organization (CDDO). JCDS is the single point of entry for those seeking DD services, determines eligibility for services and coordinates a network of providers. Contact JCDS to sign up for Medicaid or be put on the waitlist for the Medicaid Waiver.

<https://www.jocogov.org/dept/developmental-supports/home>

The Take Me Home Program

Sponsored by the Johnson County Sheriff's Department. This program is a database maintained by the Johnson County Sheriff's Office Communications Division of individuals with intellectual disabilities. Individual's information is updated every year and can be accessed by law enforcement in case of emergency.

<http://jocosheriff.org/divisions-units/dispatch/take-me-home>

Down Syndrome

The Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City

A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide support and resources for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the professionals who serve them. DSG seeks to provide the entire community with information and education to broaden awareness and foster positive attitudes regarding people with Down syndrome.

<https://www.kcdsg.org/>

Down Syndrome Clinic at Children's Mercy/The Down Syndrome Clinic

A consultative service and screening mechanism for children with Down syndrome ages birth through adolescence. This is done by addressing the medical and therapeutic needs of individuals with Down syndrome.

www.childrensmercy.org/Clinics_and_Services/Clinics_and_Departments/Down_Syndrome_Clinic/Down_Syndrome_Clinic/

LuMind RDS Down Syndrome Research Community

LuMind has a cutting edge online platform for the Down Syndrome Community to access the latest and most accurate information available nationally. This platform will allow you to connect with peers engaging in meaningful medical conversation, see accurate statistics on success with medicines and therapies and get matched to clinical trials.

www.lumindrds.org

Down Syndrome: Health Issues

A web site full of helpful articles regarding medically related topics related to Down syndrome. The site is authored by Len Leshin, M.D., F.A.A.P. who, in addition to offering general pediatric care, is a member of the Down Syndrome Medical Interest Group and is the father of a child with Down syndrome. The site includes printable record sheets based on Down Syndrome Health Care Guidelines. This is one of the most comprehensive, down-to-earth sites regarding Down syndrome on the Web.

www.ds-health.com

Down Syndrome Connect Registry

National Institutes of Health DS-Connect® is a powerful resource where people with Down syndrome and their families can:

- Connect with researchers and health care providers.
- Express interest in participating in certain clinical studies on Down Syndrome, including studies of new medications and other treatments.
- Take confidential health-related surveys. These surveys are aimed at better understanding of the health of people with Down Syndrome across their lifespans.

<https://dsconnect.nih.gov/>

Adults with Down Syndrome Specialty Clinic - KU Medical

This clinic coordinates primary health care for adults with Down Syndrome. This clinic is the only clinic specializing in Down Syndrome in the Midwest. Moya Peterson, Ph.D., APRN sees patients starting at 16 depending on circumstances.

<http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/family-medicine/adults-with-down-syndrome-specialty-clinic.html>

KU Medical Center Resource Page

Resources for Adults with Down Syndrome and their families for the many needs they may have. Supporting them and allowing them to function at their highest capacity in every area of their lives.

<http://www.kumc.edu/resources-for-adults-with-down-syndrome/services-information-by-topic.html>

Dyslexia

Dyslexia Johnson County

This is a local a parent-led advocacy and awareness group whose goal is to provide parents with a connecting point to share knowledge and resources for their kids with dyslexia.

<http://www.dyslexiajohnsoncounty.doodlekit.com/>

International Dyslexia Association – Kansas / Missouri

The mission of the Kansas / Missouri branch of the IDA is to give students with dyslexia a better learning experience through teacher training, parent support, and student empowerment.

<http://ksmo.dyslexiaida.org/>

LexiAbility

Founded in 2013 to provide resources for those with dyslexia.

<http://www.readkc.com/resources-for-dyslexia/>

ADHD

AHDHKC

Kansas City's Award Winning CHADD Chapter is committed to providing resources and current treatment information for local parents navigating the complex world of their ADHD child. We also support area adults thriving with ADHD.

<https://www.adhdkc.org/>

Impact ADHD

Helping parents help kids.

<https://impactadhd.com/>

Autism

Autism Navigator

Autism Navigator is a unique collection of web-based tools and course developed to bridge the gap between science and community practice.

<http://www.autismnavigator.com/resources-and-tools/>

Autism Society – The Heartland

We provide advocacy, education, information and referral, support, and community at national, state and local levels through our strong nationwide network of Affiliates.

<http://www.asaheartland.org/>

Children’s Mercy – Autism Services

Children's Mercy Kansas City provides services and resources for early diagnosis and intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Our comprehensive evaluation ensures an accurate diagnosis to provide each family with complete treatment recommendations. We then focus on connecting families to the best resources and therapies in the community.

<https://www.childrensmercy.org/autism-services/>

Autism Works, Inc.

Located in Liberty, Missouri, this organization serves individuals and families who are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders.

www.autism-works.org/

Infant-Preschool

Kansas Infant-Toddler Services (ITS)

ITS is a comprehensive, statewide system of community-based, family-centered early intervention services for young children, ages 0-3, with disabilities and their families. The services are provided through the implementation of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

www.itsjc.org

Lee Ann Britain Infant Development Center

A community outreach program of Shawnee Mission Medical Center provides vital support for children facing developmental disabilities. The center offers advanced therapy techniques to children, while providing support for the whole family.

www.shawneemission.org/lee-ann-britain-infant-development-center

Parents as Teachers

The Kansas Parents as Teachers Association (KPATA) is a 501© 3 statewide organization to support early childhood education programs in Kansas with a parent education component. The organization provides opportunities for networking, leadership, visibility, training, research and information to build quality programs throughout Kansas.

<http://www.kpata.org>

Behavior Help/Home Therapies

Project STAY

is a multi-disciplinary team that consists of behavior analysts, a licensed clinical social worker, a certified regular and special education teacher, and a data collector who all address children exhibiting challenging behaviors.

www.Greenbush.org

Summit Behavioral Services/Summit ABA

Kansas City's largest employer of Board Certified Behavior Analysts. SBS is able to offer families and schools an array of services with a diverse, experienced staff.

www.summitaba.com

Center for parent Information and Resources

A collection of positive behavior supports, functional behavior assessments, and school discipline.

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/>

Integrated Behavioral Technologies, Inc.

IBT is a non-profit 501 organization that serves children across the state of Kansas. Serving families of children with complex behavioral needs by providing information and support in order to help their children succeed. IBT can help navigate the winding road of intervention for your child with special needs.

www.lbt-inc.org

Behavioral Health Kansas City

Located in the Greater Kansas City area, Behavioral Health Kansas City is a comprehensive behavior analytic service provider committed to the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis and Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports. They provide services to individuals with a variety of disabilities varying from 18 months through adulthood. Our services address the needs of families, schools and agencies by conducting assessments, developing and providing intervention and providing training.

<https://behavioralhealth.org/kansascity>

Sports Opportunities

Special Olympics Kansas

KSSO provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities by giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

<http://kssso.org/>

Local district teams and contacts

Shawnee Storm serves the entire Desoto school district

Contact Debbie Dujakovich debbied.sos@gmail.com or Peggy Schmidt at peggyschmitt@kc.rr.com

Olathe Trailblazers

www.olatheks.org/government/parks-recreation/recreation/adaptive-recreation/trailblazers-special-olympics

KC Metro Challenger Football

A flag football league for kids with disabilities. League meets on Saturdays during the spring and fall at Blue Valley district high school stadiums.

<https://www.kcmetrochallenger.org/>

Challenger YMCA

The Y Challenger program for children and young adults with special needs shines as an example of how participating in healthy activities can result in not only improved physical fitness but also personal growth, fun and friendships. Individuals 4-30 years of age with physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities have the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive through recreational and social opportunities.

<https://kansascityymca.org/programs/adaptive-challenger>

National TaeKwon do

National TaeKwon-Do has been teaching the Chang Hun style of TaeKwon-Do to the community of Shawnee, Kansas since 1992. We have classes from beginning children to adults. Whatever your level, you will be challenged at your own pace. Studies have shown that children in TaeKwon-Do have an increased sense of responsibility, a decrease in the willingness to take foolish risks, and a higher sense of self-esteem. TaeKwon-Do gives a positive outlet for a child's energy. We promote good behavior through the tenets of TaeKwon-Do and we expect the same at home and in school. Shawnee Civic Center Master Suzan Crochet.

www.national-tkd.com

Due West Theapeutic Riding Center

13400 Donahoo Rd, Kansas City, KS

Founded in 2013 and as the first program of its kind in Wyandotte County, Due West Therapeutic Riding Center ("Due West TRC") provides therapeutic riding services to children and adults with disabilities and other therapeutic needs. Our program forms a connection between horse and rider that improves our clients' overall well-being.

<https://duewesttrc.org/>

Gaby Lucas House of Dance

18845 W. 158th St. Olathe, KS 66062 Studio: (913) 839-1962

We are currently recruiting dancers with Extra Ordinary abilities including Cognitive or Physical special needs. Meets every Friday at 5:30

<https://www.gabylucashouseofdance.com/>

Post Graduate Education

Think College

This site designed to share what is currently going on, provide resources and strategies, let you know about training events, and give you ways to talk to others. The information is for transition aged students as well as adults attending or planning for college. It provides resources and tools for students, families, and professionals.

<https://thinkcollege.net/>

Going to College

This site contains information about living college life with a disability. It is designed for high school students and provides video clips, activities and additional resources that can help you get a head start in planning for college.

<http://www.going-to-college.org/>

Local College programs

Propel - University of Missouri - Kansas City

Propel is a partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Psychology. It is made up of two separate programs available to high school students and young adults with intellectual developmental disabilities that allow students an opportunity to explore employment.

<https://info.umkc.edu/propel/>

THRIVE Program

The University of Central Missouri offers an outstanding program for young adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities in a 2-year residential college experience. With a focus on building the knowledge and skills to transition from home to independent living, and from school to the workplace.

Parents say, "that their students become more independent than they ever thought possible".

THRIVE's mission is to empower students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be an independent, participating members of their communities.

The philosophy focuses on self-determination as exemplified by the six threads of the THRIVE program.

<https://www.ucmo.edu/thrive/>

KU-Transition to Postsecondary Education (KU-TPE)

An inclusive postsecondary education program for KU students with intellectual disabilities. KU-TPE is a two-year non-degree seeking program that leads to a KU Career Development certificate. Students take regular KU coursework, participate in student clubs and activities, have the option to live in KU Housing and participate in career internships.

<https://tpe.ku.edu/>

Johnson County Community College Clear Program

Clear stands for College Learning Experiences, Activities and Resources and provides non-credit continuing education classes for adults with mild developmental disabilities or other cognitive disabilities.

www.jccc.edu/community-resources/clear

Mid-American Nazarene University

Offers a program in conjunction with Lakemary Center to meet the needs of students with disabilities. The program is a 2-year, cohort-model certificate program.

<https://www.mnu.edu/>

Post-grad working

Willowtree Supports

Located in Lenexa and provides adults with disabilities a variety of services including day services, residential services, transportation, wellness monitoring, and recreation.

<http://www.willowtreesupports.com/>

The Farmers House

The Farmer's House provides innovative community-based programs for youth and young adults with developmental disabilities (our Farmers) at one site in Westwood, Kansas and two sites in Weston, Missouri. A supportive, positive environment is the foundation of our structured programs which emphasize meaningful activities that support the identification, acquisition and retention of personal, social and vocational skills. Our goal is to empower each Farmer to live a meaningful life and encourage positive interactions through social, recreational, vocational and transitional services.

<https://thefarmershouse.org>

CLO Midnight Farm

Part of Community Living Opportunities (CLO), whose mission is to make a meaningful difference in the lives of adults and children with special needs. We have residential programs, case management, day services, therapeutic riding, and much more.

<http://www.midnight-farm.org>

Happy Hearts Working

Happy Hearts Working will provide Adult Day Support; including Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) and Activities of Daily Living (ADL) which are designed to further improve overall Life Skills. HHW offers Vocational Rehabilitation, a Supported Employment program; partnering with future employers to establish job descriptions for disabled applicants. HHW will arrange 1 - 1 job coaching for each employed associate. Personal Care Service will be provided to any associate in need and Wellness checks will be performed according to Kansas state guidelines by a HHW RN, on staff full time.

<https://www.happyheartsworking.org/services/>

Pawsibilities

Born out of a desire to provide meaningful jobs and independence for people with intellectual disabilities in Kansas City. Enter our popular array of handcrafted pet products, including PawsAbilities artisanal dog treats, hand-tailored doggie bandanas and handcrafted pet toys. We take our cues from the entrepreneurial spirit that has historically shaped Kansas City's reputation.

<https://ickc.org/ic-pawsabilities/>

Independent Living

The Mission Project, Inc.

A not-for-profit program designed to enable capable adults with developmental disabilities to live independently in a safe environment with minimal support.

<https://www.themissionproject.org/>

Willowtree Supports

Provides day/vocational residential supports for adults with disabilities and is located in the DeSoto USD boundaries. For more information, call 913-353-1970

<http://www.willowtreesupports.com/>

CLO Midnight Farm

An independent living opportunity located in Douglas County. The farm is an equestrian facility whose mission is to make a meaningful difference in the lives of adults and children with special needs. Midnight Farm provides residential programs, case management, day services, therapeutic riding and much more.

<http://www.midnight-farm.org>

Heartstrings Community Foundation

We are pleased to introduce you to a place where adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities are valued employees. Heartstrings Community Foundation assists adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities to live meaningful, productive and independent lives through successful employment in the business community. The staff and employees of Heartstrings Community Foundation (HCF®) operate five businesses, all of which are spotlighted in this website. You will also find links to recent videos and newsletters that offer more insight to our mission.

<http://www.heartstringscf.org/>

Financial Planning Resources

Mutual of Omaha

Comprehensive financial planning for families with special needs individuals. The program specializes in the creation and protection of family assets of families with individuals with special needs.

<https://www.mutualofomaha.com/>

Sound Stewardship

At Sound Stewardship®, our mission is to help our clients achieve their goals and make a meaningful impact with their wealth. We do that by understanding your needs, creating solutions, and inspiring results. We enjoy long-lasting relationships with our clients as we come alongside them to identify where they are today and where they want to go from here.

<https://www.soundstewardship.com/>

Special Needs Planning Center

This center was formed specifically to work with families who have children with special needs. The firm was created out of the need for a comprehensive planning service which would assist families in coordinating their legal and financial planning with the intent of preserving government benefits such as Social Security.

The planning process begins with a complete review of your dependent's needs, future care plans, assessment of government benefit eligibility, and finally a review of your family's current financial and legal plans. Critical areas that must be addressed are:

1. Government benefit eligibility requirements for Supplemental Security Income SSI and Medicaid
2. Types of special needs trusts and knowing which are right for you
3. Guardianship, Conservatorship and Client Self-Determination and Empowerment Issues
4. Appropriate funding vehicles – including life insurance, to help guarantee your child's future quality of life. Contact Heath Burch or Scott Adams.

<https://snpcenter.com/>

Special Education Law

WrightsLaw.com

The leading website about special education law and advocacy. Articles, blogs, newsletters, cases and much more.

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/>

NCLB and IDEA

What parents need to know and Do about IDEA and NCLB is a great booklet which informs parents about laws protecting and promoting inclusive education. Find the booklet here.

<https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY24000038/Centricity/Domain/31/SE.pdf>

Disability News

Disability Scoop

A premier source of national developmental disability news site covering autism, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, intellectual disability and more.

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/>

The Mighty

A digital health community created to empower and connect people facing health challenges and disabilities. The Mighty shares stories and videos that inspire people with the goal of improving the lives of people facing disease, disorder, and disability.

<https://themighty.com/>

Special Books by Special Kids

Stories shared to show the normal in the diversity of the human Condition.

<https://sbsk.org/>

General Resources

Beach Center on Disability at KU

The Beach Center on Disability focuses research, training, and advocacy on promoting abilities of people of all ages who experience disability in order to assure a self-determined, goal-driven, and self-selected quality of life within communities where everyone lives. The Beach Center is one of 15 centers within Life Span Institute.

<https://beachcenter.lsi.ku.edu/>

Life Course Tools

The Charting the LifeCourse Framework was created by families to help individuals and families of all abilities and all ages develop a vision for a good life. The core belief of LifeCourse is that all people have the right to live, love, work, play and pursue their life aspirations in their community. To request a LifeCourse toolkit or to find a workshop.

<https://www.lifecoursetools.com/>

We Rock the Spectrum Kids Gym

Committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and fun environment to foster learning, exploration and safe sensory experiences. Through our nonprofit My Brother Rocks, The Spectrum Foundation, we provide social skills groups and activities for children across the spectrum.

<http://www.werockthespectrumkansascity.com/>

Building a Life KU

Building a Life is a guide for families of young adults with disabilities who are transitioning into adult life. Building a Life can help you help young adults move toward independence. The information on this site will assist with decisions ranging from where young adults can live, to how they will make a living, manage their own health and more.

<http://buildingalife.ku.edu/>

Inclusion Connections

Transforming our community one person, one business at a time through advocacy, education, and conversation. We are focused on bringing to light the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, and working together to improve their lives. Using a model of peer mentorship, we are training the young people of our community to advocate for and serve those in need. As our clients and peers form real friendships, our community will become more inclusive and disability-friendly. Inclusion Connections' vision is to bring real and lasting change in the hearts and minds of our community.

<https://ickc.org>

Understood.org

Our goal is to help the millions of parents whose children, ages 3–20, are struggling with learning and attention issues. We want to empower them to understand their children's issues and relate to their experiences. With this knowledge, parents can make effective choices that propel their children from simply coping to truly thriving. Understood is a group of 15 non-profit organizations combining efforts to provide information to parents.

<https://www.understood.org>

Center for Parent Information & Resources

Your central “Hub” of information and products created for the network of Parent Centers serving families of children with disabilities

All the materials found on the CPIR Hub have been created and archived for Parent Centers around the country to help them provide support and services to the families they serve. The CPIR employs a user-centered process, gathering the perspectives of our experienced audience—Parent Center staff members and other experts—every step of the way, to create products and services that increase Parent Centers’ knowledge and capacity in specific domains.

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org>