

Easterseals Regional Pediatric Center  
212 Barney Dr.  
Joliet, IL 60435  
June 2025

# Autism Newsletter

*A Manifesto Moment*

**IMAGINE A  
FUTURE WHERE:**

Autistics are celebrated for  
their unique strengths ...

**WELLBEING WINS**

for the autism community.

*A Manifesto Moment*

**IMAGINE A  
FUTURE WHERE:**

Receiving an autism  
diagnosis is met with  
hope, not fear ...

**WELLBEING WINS**

for the autism community.

*A Manifesto Moment*

**IMAGINE A  
FUTURE WHERE:**

Receiving an autism  
diagnosis is met with  
hope, not fear ...

**WELLBEING WINS**

for the autism community.

ALL  
COMMUNICATION  
IS VALID

CELEBRATE  
DIFFERENCES

BODY  
AUTONOMY

ALL PLAY IS  
VALID

NO FORCED EYE CONTACT

PRESUME COMPETENCE

PROVIDING SENSORY  
BREAKS WHEN NEEDED

# NEURODIVERSITY AFFIRMING GREEN FLAGS

STRENGTH BASED APPROACH

PROVIDE ACCESS TO SUPPORTS  
AND ACCOMMODATIONS

CONNECTION  
OVER COMPLIANCE

ALLOW STIMMING

INCORPORATING SPECIAL  
INTERESTS

CHILD LED AND PLAY  
BASED THERAPIES

ESJR Parents Raising Children with Autism

Support Group- English

*1st Wednesday, of each month. 5:00PM-6:00PM **VIRTUAL***

Free event. Come connect with other parents to share and ask questions. New PM schedule!

Email [erojas@joliet.easterseals.com](mailto:erojas@joliet.easterseals.com) for the NEW ZOOM link invitation.

ESJR Parents Raising Children with Autism

Support Group- Spanish

*1st Tuesday, of each month. 6:30Pm-8PM **VIRTUAL***

Free event. Come connect with other parents to share and ask questions. New PM schedule!

Email [alicia.hann@joliet.easterseals.com](mailto:alicia.hann@joliet.easterseals.com) for the NEW ZOOM link invitation.

*Easterseals Joliet Region provides exceptional services, education, outreach, and advocacy so that people living with autism and other disabilities can live, learn, work and play in our communities*

## IDD NAVIGATOR

Don't know where to turn? Having trouble navigating the state system on your own? IDD navigator is a free, public directory of Illinois service providers and other resources for individuals or families seeking services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). IDD Navigator makes it easier to identify and locate the right services for your loved one.

<https://iddnavigator.org/>





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75 WAYS TO PLAY



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RECREATION

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CHIROPRACTIC

**State Farm**  
Rigo Valls - Agent  
630.500.1000

**Friday, June 6, 2025**  
**6:00PM-8:00PM**

**Conservation Park/O'Hara Woods (524 W Belmont Drive)**

Kickoff the summer at Conservation Park & O'Hara Woods!

Enjoy live music, family-friendly activities, and delicious eats from some local food trucks while exploring the beautiful amenities of the park and woods. Whether you're enjoying the scenic trails, reeling in some fish, or just soaking up the summer vibes, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Don't miss this fun-filled celebration of sunshine, nature, and community!

The rock cover band **Don't Matter To Me** will be performing from the Fishing Pavilion, so bring chairs and setup along the trail around Lake Strini to enjoy the performance.

Parking is limited - car pooling is encouraged.

**Food & Beverages available for purchase**

# Play Day in the Commons



**Date & Time: Saturday, June 7, 2025 (10 am to 2 pm)**

## **The fun starts here!**

Play Day will include all sorts of exhibits and attractions set up throughout the Commons, including:

- Foam party
- Inflatable bounce houses
- Visits from Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, and Mickey Mouse
- Face painters
- Hair tinsel and mohawks
- Balloon artists
- Hands-on science demonstrations
- Exotic animal exhibits
- Arts and crafts from Crayola Imagine Arts Academy
- Inflatable playland for toddlers
- Roaming magician
- The Young Entrepreneurs Fair will also return to this year's Play Day in the Commons! Over fifty vendors will be on site showing off their talents and business skills, and we invite you to come out and support the young minds of our community as they bring their business ideas to life!



# MOVIE NIGHTS

**JUNE 4**

Inside Out 2

**JUNE 11**

Ratatouille

**JUNE 18**

Abominable

**JUNE 25**

Moana 2

**JULY 2**

The Lion King

**JULY 9**

Mr. Peabody and Sherman

**JULY 16**

The Little Rascals

**JULY 23**

The Wild Robot

**JULY 30**

Vivo

**AUGUST 6**

Onward

**AUGUST 13**

Mulan

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**FREE ADMISSION**

**ACTIVITIES AT 7:30 PM - MOVIE BEGINS AT 8:30 PM  
CONCESSIONS FOR SALE FROM THE NEW LENOX PARK DISTRICT**



*Thursday, June 26, 2025 9:00 – 10:00am (CDT)*  
*Virtual Webinar*

*Celebrate Juneteenth with a powerful conversation featuring acclaimed writer, scholar, and cultural organizer Eve L. Ewing. A Chicago native and New York Times and USA Today bestselling author, Ewing has written celebrated works of poetry, nonfiction, and several Marvel Comics, including the Ironheart series and Black Panther. Ewing also currently serves as an associate professor in the Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity at the University of Chicago.*

*In this free virtual event, we'll explore the intersections of education, culture, and superheroes through Ewing's unique lens as a storyteller and social thinker.*



# READY SET KAMP!

KANKAKEE VALLEY PARK DISTRICT SUMMER DAY CAMP

Get ready for the most action-packed summer ever! Our day camp is the perfect mix of outdoor fun, thrilling activities, and hands-on learning. Weekly themes to keep campers ages 6-12 engaged and excited. Whether swimming, ice skating, playing hockey, or going on exciting field trips, there's something for everyone. Camp meets Monday - Friday each session from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



Join us for our  
open house on  
Wednesday,  
April 23 at the  
Rec Center.

## ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

- ★ **Outdoor Games:** Enjoy team challenges, scavenger hunts, nature hikes, and fun in the great outdoors.
- ★ **Swimming:** Dive into the pool to cool off from the summer heat.
- ★ **Ice Skating & Hockey:** Glide on ice and learn new skating tricks, and the exciting game of hockey.
- ★ **STEM Projects:** Unleash your creativity and problem-solving skills with fun science experiments, building challenges, and more.
- ★ **Field Trips and Special Guests:** Explore local attractions, go on nature excursions, visit exciting spots, enjoy entertainment and learning opportunities by our special guests, and more!

## CAMP PRICING

- ★ **Resident Rate:** \$275.00 per 2 week Session
- ★ **Non-Resident Rate:** \$300.00 per 2 week Session
- ★ **Purchase all four session and receive the 4<sup>th</sup> session for \$200!**
- ★ **Before Camp Care:** \$50.00 per 2 week session (8:00-9:00 am)
- ★ **After Camp Care:** \$50.00 per 2 week session (3:00-6:00 pm)

## CAMP DATES

- Session 1: June 9 - 20
- Session 2: June 23 - July 3rd (No Camp on July 4)
- Session 3: July 7 - 18
- Session 4: July 21 - August 1

Camp meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the KVPD Rec Center (150 N. Indiana Ave., Kankakee). Camp meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at Ice Valley Centre Ice Arena (1601 River Road, Kankakee). For questions, please call (815) 929-1885.

**Camp registration opens at 8:00 am on Thursday, April 24 at [www.kvpd.com](http://www.kvpd.com).**