

Williamson County Schools
Early Learning Programs

Community Connections

Resource Newsletter, May 2026

Compiled by Erin McCloud, WCS School Social Worker



Strengthening Children, Families, & Communities

WCS Early Learning Programs exist to provide all students with a quality education that supports their intellectual, physical, emotional, and social development. The school social worker often provides a link between the school, home, and community.

Local Summer FUN!

- [Williamson Co Parks & Rec Camps](#)
- [Kids Out and About Summer Camp List](#)
 - [Camps for Special Needs](#)
- [Pathfinder Summer Cam Guide](#)
- [Nashville Parent Events Calendar](#)
- **Area Parks: Pinkerton Park, Crockett, Sarah Benson, Etc. – enjoy playgrounds & shaded trails**
- [Parks & Rec Splash Pads & Pools](#)
- [Williamson Co Library Events & Activities](#)
- [Adventure Science Center](#) – hands-on learning
- **Inclusive Programs**
 - [Musical Bridges: Music Therapy](#)
 - [GiGi's Playhouse](#): Empowering individuals with Down syndrome of all ages to achieve their Best of All
 - [We Rock the Spectrum Kid's Gym](#) offers open play and planned care/respite.

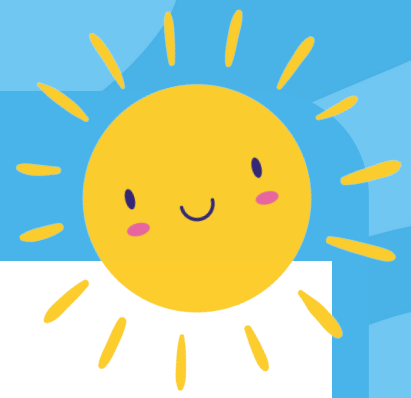
Parent Tip: Simple outings like parks, picnics, and water play build lasting memories without extra cost.





Community Connections

May 2026



Simple Summer Success Tips for Families

Keep a Flexible Routine

Children thrive on predictability—even in summer.

- Keep consistent times for waking, meals, and bedtime
- Use a simple visual schedule (pictures work great!)
- Build in both active time and quiet time each day

Practice Skills in Everyday Moments

Learning doesn't have to look like school.

- Count snacks, sort laundry, name colors during play
- Practice communication during daily routines (meals, bath, play)
- Use songs and repetition to build language skills

Support Communication

Model simple language and give wait time for responses.

- Use visuals, gestures, or communication devices consistently
- Celebrate all attempts to communicate

Encourage Play with Purpose

Play is powerful for development.

- Choose toys that match your child's abilities and interests
- Practice turn-taking and sharing during play
- Try sensory play (water, sand, playdough)

Build Independence

Small skills add up to big confidence.

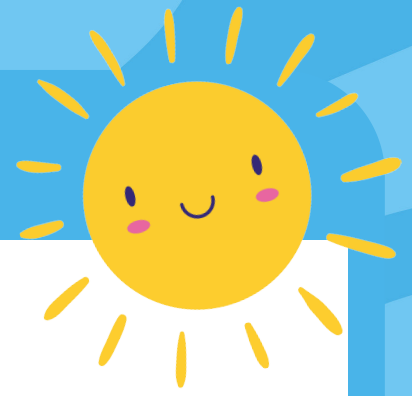
- Let your child help with dressing, cleaning up, or snack prep
- Break tasks into small steps
- Praise effort, not just success





Community Connections

May 2026



Simple Summer Success Tips for Families

Support Emotional Regulation

Summer changes can be overwhelming.

- Teach calming strategies (deep breaths, quiet corner, sensory tools)
- Label feelings (“I see you’re frustrated”)
- Keep expectations clear and consistent

Stay Social

Arrange playdates or small group activities.

- Visit parks, libraries, or community events
- Practice greetings, turn-taking, and sharing

Balance Screen Time

Set clear limits and routines for device use.

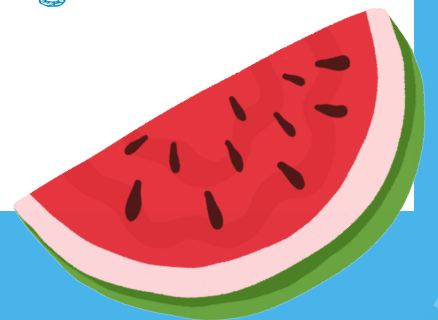
- Choose high-quality, age-appropriate content
- Watch and talk about shows together when possible

Take Care of Yourself, Too

Caregivers matter.

- Keep realistic expectations—summer doesn’t have to be perfect
- Celebrate small wins
- Reach out for support when needed

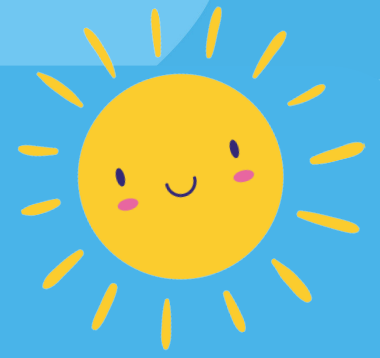
Small, consistent moments each day help build big skills over time. You’re doing important work—every single day.





Community Connections

May 2026

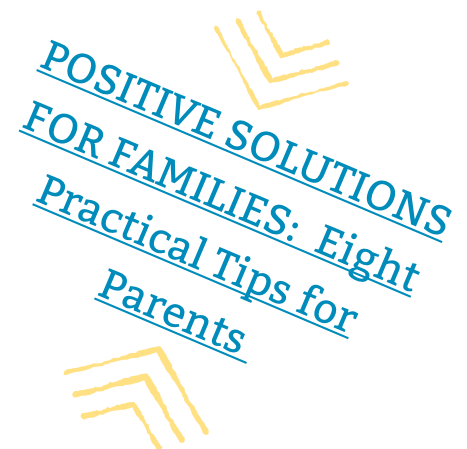


Disability Resources & Supports

- [The Arc of Williamson County](#)
 - **Family Support Program** provides financial assistance and community resource information to individuals with disabilities and their families.
- **Katie Beckett Waiver** provides services and/or helps pay for medical care not covered by insurance.
- [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#) monthly benefits for those with limited income/resources.
- [TN Disability Pathfinder](#) is a search engine of disability resources/services.
- [Kid Central TN](#) is an educational resource for families.
- [Autism TN](#) provides educations, support, and advocacy.
- [TN Caregiver Coalition](#) provides money for respite and summer camp tuition for children with certain disabilities.

Parenting Resources & Supports

- [TN Voices: Ready.Set.Grow](#)
 - [Family Coaching Program](#)
 - [Positive Solutions for Families](#): Learn how to use positive approaches and effective techniques to improve interactions with your child in the seven-part series
- [Regional Intervention Program \(RIP\)](#) is a parent-implemented, professionally-supported program for young children and their families who are experiencing challenging behaviors.





Help us Celebrate
Children's Mental Health Action
Week by

JOINING US FOR OUR
**SPRING
FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY,
MAY 9TH**

**THE REGIONAL INTERVENTION
PROGRAM (RIP)
5020 DARLINGTON DR. NASHVILLE, TN**

RAIN OR SHINE! 10:00AM - 1:00PM
IF RAINING, EVENT WILL MOVE INDOORS

FREE FAMILY EVENT



10:30a | NPL Puppet Truck
11:30a | Nashville Zoo

**Resources • Tours • Games • Food Truck • Face Painting
Live Music • Car Seat Checks • Touch a Truck • Balloon Artist**

Come see our new look! | Parenting That Works!



TN Department of
Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services

rip
REGIONAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM
**Parenting
that works**

615-963-1177
tn.gov/parenting-that-works



Community Connections

May 2026



Food, Clothing, Financial Resources

- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance \(SNAP\)](#)
- [Women Infants & Children \(WIC\)](#)
- [GraceWorks](#)
- [One Generation Away](#)
 - [Mobile Pantry](#)
 - [Doorstep Pantry](#)
- [Nolensville Food Pantry](#)
- [The Well Outreach](#)
- [Mid-Cumberland Action Center](#)
- [Goodwill](#)

Emergency, Crisis, and Resource Helplines

- **[Tennessee Crisis/Suicide Prevention](#)**: 24/7 Call or text 988 or dial 1-855-274-7471
- **[National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)**: call 1-800-799-7233, or if you are unable to speak safely, you can text LOVEIS to 22522.
- **[Crisis Text Line](#)**: Text HOME to 741741
- **[Autism TN Resource Helpline](#)**: Call /text 615-270-2077
- **[Report Child Abuse](#)**: 877-237-0004
- **[United Way Resource Line](#)**: call 211

Erin McCloud, LCSW, WCS School Social Worker
erin.mcloud@wcs.edu, 615-472-4998

