

Illinois State Board of Education: Early Childhood Division
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www.isbe.net

Illinois State Board of Education
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Illinois Department of Human Services
www.dhs.state.il.us

Able Generation - Therapeutic furniture manufacturer
www.ablegeneration.com

Mission: To provide products that support efforts to integrate children into everyday life.
Target population: Early Intervention, and the preschool ages (about one to five plus years old, depending upon size): children with mild to moderate involvement. Contact us with any questions: 800.875.2457, or E-mail: information@ablegeneration.com

Action for Children
www.actforchildren.org

Illinois Action for Children has championed the cause of quality child care and early education for families and children throughout Illinois for 40 years. Illinois Action for Children provides access to resources, community, advocacy – and represents an alliance of individuals and groups dedicated to empowering and supporting parents, child care providers and family service programs.

All Kids
www.allkids.com

The All Kids program offers Illinois uninsured children comprehensive healthcare that includes doctors visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, vision care, dental care and medical devices like eyeglasses and asthma inhalers. Parents pay monthly premiums for the coverage, but rates for middle-income families are significantly lower than they are on the private market. All Kids Hotline 1-866-ALL-KIDS (1-866-255-5437)
TTY: 1-877-204-1012

American Academy of Pediatrics
www.aap.org

This website offers information and links to information and resources relating to health issues for young children, legislation and parenting topics

ARC of Illinois

www.thearcofil.org

The ARC of Illinois is committed to empowering parents with disabilities to achieve full participation in community life through informed choices. Information and resources provided through the ARC and its' links such as Illinois Life Span and Family to Family offer information and resources on initiatives that serve all ages and populations. The ARC also manages the Consumer Stipend Project and an application for a consumer stipend and information on this initiative is posted on the website.

Autism Speaks

www.autismspeaks.org

Autism Speaks is dedicated

to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder. We are committed to raising the funds necessary to support these goals.

Autism - Interactive Autism Network (IAN)

www.ianproject.org

The Interactive Autism Network (IAN) is an innovative online project bringing together tens of thousands of people nationwide affected by autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and hundreds of researchers in a search for answers. This network is designed so individuals with an ASD and their families can share information in a secure setting to become part of the largest online autism research effort in the United States. The data collected by IAN both facilitates scientific research and empowers autism community leaders to advocate for improved services and resources.

Building the Legacy of IDEA

www.ed.gov

This website is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education programs (OSEP). Parents will find the Individuals with Disability Education Act in its' entirety, but also broken down into sections explaining specific sections of IDEA. There are also links to information about topics such as No Child Left Behind and Evaluation and Re-evaluation. The Question and Answer document is very helpful. Parents can also submit questions.

Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement

www.ciera.org

The Center for the improvement of Early Reading Achievement (CIERA) is a national center for research on early reading, representing a consortium of educators from five universities (the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, with the University of Southern California, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Georgia); teacher educators; teachers; publishers of texts, tests, and technology; professional organizations; and schools and school districts across the United States.

Children's songs

<http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/musicchild.htm>

This website is sponsored by National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences National Institutes of Health (NIH) Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Songs and lyrics appropriate for young children are available in addition to links for art activities.

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

www.vandrebilt.edu/csefel

The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) is focused on promoting the social emotional development and school readiness of young children birth to age 5. CSEFEL is a national resource center funded by the Office of Head Start and Child Care Bureau for disseminating research and evidence-based practices to early childhood programs across the country.

Child Care Resource and Referral Network serving Will, Kankakee and Grundy counties

www.childcarehelp.com

Founded in January 1991, Child Care Resource & Referral serves Will, Grundy, Kendall and Kankakee counties as part of the Illinois Statewide CCR&R System of IDHS. CCR&R is a not-for-profit agency providing child care information and services to families, child care providers and employers.

Children's Disabilities Information

www.childrensdisabilities.info

The site includes articles and resources addressed to parents of children with disabilities and special needs. There are links to books about parenting children with special needs or disabilities, and a link to [The Children's Disability List of Support Groups and Listservs](#) ©. This link offers an annotated directory of internet support groups for families of children with disabilities and special needs. Each disability mailing list has been validated for usefulness and family orientation. Children's disability discussion forums, support groups, and listservs for parents of special needs children are grouped by general content in this directory.

Circle of Inclusion

www.circleofinclusion.org

The Circle of Inclusion Web Site is for early childhood service providers and families of young children. This web site offers demonstrations of and information about the effective practices of inclusive educational programs for children from birth through age eight.

Council for Exceptional Children

www.cec.sped.org

the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is an international community of educators who are the voice and vision of special and gifted education. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families through professional excellence and advocacy.

Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children

www.dec-sped.org

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) is an international membership organization for those who work with or on behalf of young children with disabilities and other special needs. Their mission is to promote policies and advance evidence-based practices to support the optimal development of young children with special needs.

Early Childhood Outcomes Center

www.the-eco-center.org

The Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Center provides national leadership in assisting states with the implementation of high-quality outcome systems for early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) programs. The website provides up-to-date information and resources for state and local administrators, technical assistance providers, teachers, and other direct service providers, and families.

Early Childhood News

www.earlychildhood.com

Earlychildhood NEWS is the online resource for teachers and parents of young ages birth to 8. The site addresses hot topics and current research and offers information and links to special education related products, and teacher, parent and professional resources.

Early Intervention Training Program

www.illinoiseittraining.org

The Illinois Early Intervention Training Program provides training opportunities for early intervention professionals in Illinois. The training program is part of United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Chicago funded through a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Early Intervention. Information on the Illinois Early Intervention system, trainings and initiatives for EI providers and resources are available on this website.

Epilepsy Foundation of America

www.epilepsyfoundation.org

The Epilepsy Foundation of America® is the national voluntary agency dedicated solely to the welfare of the almost 3 million people with epilepsy in the U.S. and their families. The organization works to ensure that people with seizures are able to participate in all life experiences; to improve how people with epilepsy are perceived, accepted and valued in society; and to promote research for a cure. The website includes information, educational resources and legislative updates for professionals and families.

Equip for Equality

www.equipforequality.org

Equip for Equality is the statewide, cross-disability, comprehensive advocacy organization in Illinois that provides self-advocacy assistance, legal services, and disability rights education. The Legal Advocacy Program provides free, individual self-advocacy and legal services for people with disabilities and their family members. Information on the programs offered through Equip for Equality are available on the website in addition to resources for professionals and parents who touch the lives of young children with special needs.

Exceptional Parent Magazine

www.eparent.com

Exceptional Parent is a monthly magazine that focuses on issues, resources and information for parents and caregivers whose children have special needs. Exceptional Parent uses a multi-media approach to disseminate information including its monthly print publication, EP (Exceptional Parent) magazine; its Web site (www.eparent.com); clinical custom communications projects; the EP Bookstore (www.epbookstore.com) which offers books, DVDs, and CDs on a wide range of disability related subjects; and online, interactive CME accredited seminars and teleconferences on a wide range of special needs topics (www.epliveonline.com).

Family Village for information about specific disabilities

<http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/new.html>

The Family Village is a web site for children and adults with disabilities, their families, and their friends and allies. Family Village brings together thousands of online resources in a organized, easy-to-use directory. The centerpiece of Family Village is the library, where visitors can find information on over 300 diagnosis. Visitors can also learn about assistive technology, legal rights and legislation, special education, leisure activities and much more.

Family Resource Center on Disabilities (serving the Chicago Metropolitan area)

www.frcd.org

The Family Resource Center on Disabilities is a parent training project that offers information, support, training and resources to educate families who have children with special. The website provides information about the types of trainings offered through FRC and available resources.

Family Matter Parent Training and Information

www.fmptic.org

the Family Matters Parent Training and Information center offers its services to families and professionals who live outside the Chicago Metropolitan area. Its mission is to build upon families' strengths, empower parents and professionals to achieve the strongest possible outcomes for students with disabilities, and to enhance the quality of life for children and young adults with disabilities

Gateways to Opportunity

www.ilgateways.com

Gateways to Opportunities is a statewide network designed to support Illinois early care and education, school-age, and youth development professionals like you. From credentialing to career guidance to education and training resources to peer networking and more, Gateways to Opportunity focuses on what helping young help children. The website provides a central resource to help professionals meet career development goals by providing services and unique benefits.

GiGi's Playhouse

www.gigisplayhouse.com

GiGi's Playhouses are Down syndrome educational and awareness centers that provide resources, specialized teaching, and support to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the people who support them.

Hadley School for the Blind

www.hadley.edu

The Hadley School for the Blind is the largest worldwide distance educator of blind and visually impaired people, their families and blindness service professionals. Hadley School offers trainings and resources for parents who have young children with visual impairments and for professionals.

Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse

www.eiclearinghouse.org

The Early Intervention (EI) Clearinghouse offers a free lending library of materials related to early childhood, parenting, and young children with special needs, including books, audiovisual materials, and periodicals. The Clearinghouse also publishes a quarterly newsletter, Early Intervention, for parents and families taking part in the Illinois Early Intervention program. The newsletter contains up-to-date information and news about early intervention issues in our state.

Illinois Head Start Bureau

www.ilheadstart.org

This web site was created to make Illinois Early and Head Start program information accessible to the rest of the Illinois early care & education community and to the general public. The intent of the site is to have one central point of information about Head Start in Illinois. This site describes Early/Head Start programming, requirements, and provides links to partner sites. Individuals can also locate local Early/Head Start programs, using the Illinois Head Start Map & Head Start Programs by Zip Code sections, as well as access various resources and publications.

Illinois Assistive Technology project

www.iltech.org

The mission for the Illinois Assistive Technology project is to "Promote Independent Living Through Technology for All People with Disabilities in Illinois." IATP's primary focus is on education, employment, community living, information technology and telecommunications. Our mission is to enable people with disabilities so they can fully participate in all aspects of life.

Illinois Early Learning Project

www.Illinoisearlylearning.org

The Illinois Early Learning Project Web site is a source of evidence-based, reliable information on early care and education for parents, caregivers, and teachers of young children in Illinois. The Web site offers printable Tip Sheets for caregivers and parents in English, Spanish, and Polish; answers to Frequently Asked Questions; a customized question-answering service; a statewide calendar of events for parents and caregivers; an easy-to-use database of links to "the best of the Web" on topics related to early care and education; activities related to the Illinois Early Learning Standard Benchmarks; the Illinois Projects in Practice Web site; and periodic "Ask an Expert" events.

Illinois Network Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRA)

www.inccra.org

The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRA) is a statewide organization which -- in partnership with its 16 partner Child Care Resources and Referral (CCR&R) agencies -- is a recognized leader, catalyst and resource for making high quality, affordable early care and education options available for children and families in Illinois.

Learning Disabilities Association of America

www.idanatl.org

The Learning Disabilities Association is a non-profit volunteer organization advocating for individuals with learning disabilities and has over 200 state and local affiliates in 42 states and Puerto Rico. The website offers information and research about learning disabilities, resources and listing of upcoming trainings and conferences that focuses on supporting children and adults with learning disabilities.

MUM National Parent-to-Parent network

www.netnet.net/mums

MUMS is a national Parent-to-Parent organization for parents or care providers of a child with any disability, rare or not so rare disorder, chromosomal abnormality or health condition. MUMS' main purpose is to provide support to parents in the form of a networking system that matches them with other parents whose children have the same or similar condition. Through a database of over 21,200 families from 56 countries covering over 3500 disorders, very rare syndromes or conditions can be matched. MUMS networks with other organizations which do matching, thus expanding the possibilities of finding a match. MUMS also connects parents with support groups dealing with their child's specific disability or assists them in forming a group

National Association for the Education of Young Children

www.naeyc.org

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8. NAEYC is committed to becoming an increasingly high performing and inclusive organization. The website offers information, resources, current research and a link to job postings.

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

www.nectac.org

NECTAC is the national early childhood technical assistance center supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. NECTAC serves all 50 states and 10 jurisdictions with an array of services and supports to improve service systems and outcomes for infants, toddlers, and preschool aged children with special needs and their families.

National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)

www.rarediseases.org

The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), a 501(c)3 organization, is a unique federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with rare "orphan" diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them. NORD is committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of rare disorders through programs of education, advocacy, research, and service.

One Place for Special Needs

www.oneplaceforspecialneeds.com

This website offers links and information to disability-related events and resources tailored to specific geographic areas. You need to register with the website and then information is sent to you on a regular basis on what is happening in your community and surrounding area.

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts. This is an extensive website that offers information, resources, and research about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Ounce of Prevention

www.ounceofprevention.org

The Ounce of Prevention provides direct services for at-risk children from birth to age five and for their families, trains early childhood professionals across the state who work with infants and toddlers, does research on what works and continuously incorporate that knowledge into programs, and advocated for sound public policies and sustained funding streams with bipartisan support so that more young children have access to experiences that enhance their early development. Based in Chicago information about the Ounce's programs, training, research and evaluation and advocacy efforts are available on the website.

Parents as Teachers National Center

www.parentsasteachers.org

Parents as Teachers is the overarching program philosophy of providing parents with child development knowledge and parenting support. The organizational vehicle for delivering that knowledge and support is Parents as Teachers National Center. The program's goals are to: Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices; Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues Prevent child abuse and neglect; and Increase children's school readiness and school success

Project Choices

www.projectchoices.org

Project CHOICES, is a Least Restrictive Environment initiative of the Illinois State Board of Education. Project CHOICES partners with school districts in an integrated systems approach. As a partner in the Illinois Statewide Technical Assistance Center (ISTAC), CHOICES collaborates with other state board funded ISTAC projects to provide access and equity for all students through general education. Currently, any district in Illinois can request services from Project CHOICES by committing to work within two or more schools.

Technical Assistance Alliance for Parenting Center

www.taalliance.org

The Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers (the ALLIANCE) is an innovative partnership of one national and six regional parent technical assistance centers, each funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). These seven projects comprise a unified technical assistance system for the purpose of developing, assisting, and coordinating the over 100 Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) and Community Parent Resource Centers (CPRCs) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The national and regional parent technical assistance centers work to strengthen the connections to the larger OSEP Technical Assistance and Dissemination Network and fortify partnerships between Parent Centers and education systems at local, state, and national levels.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

www.hhs.gov

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

Voices for Illinois Children

www.voices4kids.org

Voices for Illinois Children champions the full development of every child in Illinois to assure the future well-being of everyone in the state. We work with families, communities and policymakers on all issues to help children grow up healthy, happy, safe, loved, and well educated.