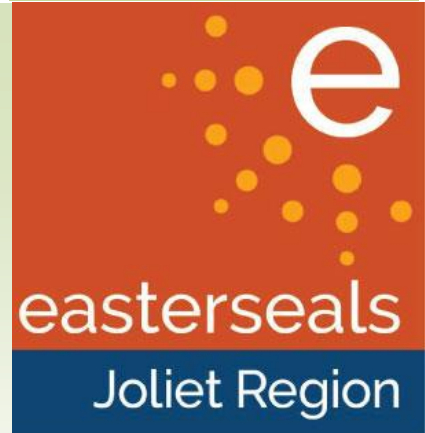


Monthly Newsletter



Easterseals

April Monthly Newsletter

Contents

Easterseals Services	2
Autism Month	5
Community Resources	
Financial	8
Mental Health	10
Online	11
Baby Corner	12
Screenings	13
Educational & Recreational Resources	
Joliet Public Library	14
Cantigny Park	14
Contact Us	



Easterseals Services

Easterseals Joliet Region has served the community since 1949. Easterseals Joliet Region is an agency of the [United Way](#), affiliated with National Easterseals. Licensed by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Programs [CARE](#) for the following: Community Services, Child and Youth Services, Personal and Social Services, Foster Family Services, Foster Family Services for Children and Adolescents and Community Living Services.

[Easterseals Parent Support Group](#) - for parents raising children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or any other social Interaction/Communication Disorder.

Wednesday, April 14th via Zoom from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Guest Speaker: Kristen Anderson – Speech Language Pathologist

Do you wish you had the opportunity to ask a Speech Language Pathologist questions you have about your child with ASD? Come join us! We are featuring a Q & A with Kristen!

Email ahann@joliet.easterseals.com for the free Zoom link!

[Easterseals Regional Medical & Autism Diagnostic Clinic](#)

For families concerned about their child’s development our diagnostic team provides a series of thorough evaluations carefully chosen to provide a comprehensive picture of each child. The diagnosis of developmental concerns, including Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), is a complex process. Easterseals uses the gold standard method of diagnosis recognized by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Our clinic is uniquely designed to meet the needs of children and families:

- We provide at least eight hours of intensive one on one evaluations spaced out over four different days for more than just a “one time snapshot” of child’s abilities
- We have an Autism Coordinator who is the point of contact throughout the entire process
- We have a pediatrician as part of our team so the child receives a medical diagnosis
- The entire team meets with the family to explain the diagnosis and recommendations
- We provide follow up services through our Medical Consult Clinic, family support services and outpatient rehab therapies

NOW OFFERING AAC EVALUATIONS



Easterseals Joliet Region has begun offering AAC Evaluations! AAC is short for augmentative and alternative communication which is a method of communication that involves all forms of communication (other than oral speech) that are used to express thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas.



WHO?

Any person who is unable to reliably use verbal speech to communicate.

WHAT?

Any no-tech (pointing, signing), low-tech (picture book, core board), or high-tech (voice output device) communication is considered AAC.

WHY?

Communication is a fundamental human right. AAC is a powerful, meaningful tool.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Katie Shank
(815)927-5460
kshank@joliet.easterseals.com

Contact us today to find out if your child can benefit from AAC!



Easterseals Joliet Region Presents

[Celebration of Giving Regional Telethon 2021](#)

April 17, 2021 12pm - 6pm

Live on our website and local channels.

If 2020 taught us anything, it is that there is power in a community and that our community is stronger than we ever realized. It transcends limitations, finds ways to adapt to seemingly impossible situations, and lifts people up when they need it most.

The Celebration of Giving Telethon will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021. Even though the Telethon will look slightly different this year, our goal is the same - provide services to children and adults with disabilities, those with special needs, and their families that we serve annually in Joliet, Kankakee, and surrounding areas.

Since 1995, the Telethon has helped young children, people with disabilities, their families, and caregivers get the services and supports they need to reach their full potential. Over the years, the Telethon has raised over \$4 million to ensure that Easterseals Joliet Region can continue to provide life-changing direct care, and support to so many who call upon us.

We realize that these are uncertain times for all of us, but they are especially daunting for the vulnerable people we serve. Easterseals Joliet Region looks forward to a year full of impact, innovation, support, and empowerment for individuals with disabilities, and their families.

Please help keep Easterseals vital and strong in 2021 by supporting our programs and services with a donation to our annual community event. We hope that you will consider a sponsorship/donation for our annual event.

[Donate to Easterseals Joliet Region today](#)

Together, we can expand possibilities for people of all ages and abilities - including children, veterans and seniors.



April Autism Month

April is known as *Autism Awareness Month* or *Autism Acceptance Month*! Here are a few articles, virtual events, and studies related to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Why Your Child Repeats Things: Echolalia

The Goldman Center of Chicago

What is echolalia?

What does it mean when your child keeps repeating words, phrases or sounds? This is called echolalia. Children may do this when they do not know how to effectively communicate or lack communication skills. Many times, echolalia is used to practice or learn language. Repetitive speech is common for children in their early childhood and also common for children with autism or developmental delays to carry it further into their childhood.

There are several different reasons why your child keeps repeating words, phrases or sounds. For example:

- They may be using it as a sensory outlet or way to calm themselves when they get anxious or upset.
- It could be used as a form of communication when it is too difficult for them to form their own words or ideas.
- They may be trying to take their first steps of communication.
- They are exploring a form of ‘self-talk’ or talking to oneself when experiencing difficulty or frustration.

Types of echolalia

There are several different types of echolalia and each play a particular role in a child’s way of communicating or learning how to communicate.

Immediate

Oftentimes, echolalia can be an immediate response. An example of this would be, “Lauren, do you want a snack?” and Lauren responds, “Want a snack.” In this case, Lauren is immediately echoing the language spoken to her to communicate that she wants a snack or is hungry.

April Autism Month

Delayed

Similarly, Lauren may repeat a phrase or song from a show earlier in the day, as a way to respond to a situation that reminds her of that show. This delayed response may seem as though it does not relate to the situation at hand, but in fact, it is her way of making sense of the situation and using her own way of communicating.

Non-functional

For some kids, echolalia may be the repetition of meaningless sounds. This would be considered a form of non-functional echoing. A child may be able to reiterate words or phrases, but have no understanding of what they are saying. For example, a child may be able to reiterate an entire scene from their favorite show, but has no understanding of the characters or events happening. This can cause confusion and can be misleading to parents as they think their child understands more than they do.

Functional

When a child uses functional echolalia, however, they use memorized words or phrases in a purposeful way. For example, a child watches a commercial for cookies and later on when they get hungry, they repeat the word “cookies” in the same tone or accent, in order to communicate that they are hungry.

For more information and articles like these, visit the [Goldman Center website](#).

Questions about Diet and Nutrition for Children with Autism?

Rush has a list of resources available on their website. Click on the specific age group below for more information.

 Birth to Age 3	
 Preschool	
 Elementary School	

Capper Foundation

2021 Virtual Autism Summit

April 9, 2021 11:00 am – 1:00 pm



Summit Topics

NAVIGATING CHANGE

Strategies for individuals with autism & their families to handle today's ever-changing societal expectations.

SOCIAL SKILLS STRATEGIES

Reviewing skills and norms in preparation for increased interaction with friends and family.

COPING WITH EMOTIONS/ANXIETY


Sharing methods to help individuals cope with emotions for return to public settings.

HEALTH/SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Guidelines to consider for peace of mind during these ever-changing times.

[Click here or visit the website to register!](#)

MIRROR ME: AN ONLINE EARLY INTERVENTION STUDY



WHY?
.....
We want to figure out different ways to use the internet to help parents learn early intervention strategies.

WHAT?
.....
Participation involves:

- 3 research visits to Rush (study start, 10 weeks and 15 weeks)
- 6 video chats with Rush staff (study start, 5 weeks, 10 weeks, 15 weeks, 20 weeks, and 30 weeks)
- Use a website to learn about early intervention strategies
- Participation in weekly remote coaching session as needed

WHO?
.....

- Children ages 16 months to 5 years old
- Diagnosed or suspected Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Parents/guardians that can speak and understand English

COST?
.....
There is no cost to participate in this study. Qualifying families will receive \$50 for completing all study activities.

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

Please contact Sarely Licona at (312) 942-6331 or Sarely_Licona@rush.edu.

Community Resources: Financial

THANKS TO WILL COUNTY, IHDA, HUD, DCEO, AND CITY OF JOLIET, ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THESE AGENCIES.

REQUIREMENTS AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS VARY PER AGENCY.

NEED MORTGAGE, RENTAL OR UTILITIES ASSISTANCE IN WILL COUNTY?



WILL COUNTY CENTER FOR COMMUNITY CONCERNS

2455 Glenwood Ave.
Joliet, IL 60435
Phone: 815-722-0722



COMMUNITY SERVICE COUNCIL
Bolingbrook Location:
440 Quadrangle Dr.
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

SPANISH COMMUNITY CENTER

309 N Eastern Ave.
Joliet, IL 60432
Phone: 815-727-3683



Dedicated to the PROGRESS of the Community

Joliet Location:
309 N Eastern Ave.
Joliet, IL 60432
Phone: 815-886-5000

CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF JOLIET DAYBREAK CENTER

611 E Cass St.
Joliet, IL 60432
Phone: 815-774-4663



Community Resources: Financial

[Home Energy Assistance Program and Percentage of Income Payment Plan \(PIPP\)](#)

The Will County Center for Community Concerns (WCCCC), as administrator of the Home Energy Assistance Program helps income-eligible households with their utility bills and furnace assistance. Assistance is available to household’s whose 30-day gross income is at or below 200% of the poverty level. Assistance for utilities will be available from July 27, 2020 through May 31, 2021, or until funds have been exhausted, whichever comes first.

[Click HERE](#) for more information or call (815) 722-0722

 <p><u>Workforce Center of Will County</u></p> <p>On-The-Job Training Virtual Job Club Monday at 11am</p> <p>Register in advance for this webinar: https://www.eesforjobs.com/calendar.html</p> <p>Questions Contact: Tiana Griffin (815) 724-1546 ~ Tiana.griffin@eesforjobs.com</p>	<p><u>Grundy County Workforce Services</u></p> <p>(815) 942-0566</p> <hr/> <p><u>Kendall County Workforce Development</u></p> <p>(630) 553-8303</p> <hr/> <p><u>Kankakee Workforce Services</u></p> <p>(815) 802-8963</p> <hr/> <p><u>Ford County Office</u></p> <p>(217) 579-1010</p>
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Community Resources: Mental Health

Jump Start Parent Cafe



When a crisis strikes, many of us rely on relatives and friends for support. For some parents, this is not an option. Safe Families seeks to come alongside parents in crisis and help them get on their feet by providing a family friend and mentor to support them and/or short-term care for their children for as little as a couple days to several months.

Intake Line: 217-361-4964

- Safe Families is NOT a foster care or adoption service.
- Parents maintain full custody of their children when they are in temporary care and can request their return at any time.
- Parents have regular visits and contact with their children.
- Children ages 0-18 years old can be hosted, including parenting teens.
- Children can be hosted for as short as a couple of days to several months.
- Safe Families is committed to reuniting parents and children as soon as possible.

Community Resources: Online

Check out all these online/virtual resources available!

[Child Mind Institute Symptom Checker](#)

Click on the image and answer a series of questions. →

Call 212-308-3118

Symptom Checker

Are you worried about your child?

[Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group](#)

Support Groups, counseling, legal counseling, respite care

Call 312-744-4016

[Family Bridges Parenting Podcast](#)

Put on you earbuds and tune into:

The Struggle is Real: Modern Parenting →

Tune in

[Jump Start ACES Parent Group](#)

Virtual parent group focusing on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) →

Friday, April 16th 10:00 am

Friday, April 23rd 10:00 am

Friday, April 30th 10:00 am



[Rockin' the Spectrum Parent Support Group](#)

April 8th – Via Zoom

Contact rockingthespectrum@yahoo.com for the Zoom link.

Call 224-538-9736

[Rockin' the Spectrum Sibling Game Night](#)

Contact rockingthespectrum@yahoo.com for the Zoom link.

Siblings Game Group is for ages 10+

Call 224-538-9736

Online!



Online!

Community Resources: Baby Corner

Fussy Baby Network

Erikson Institute’s Fussy Baby Network helps families struggling with their infants’ crying, sleeping, or feeding.

Call (888) 431-2229

Mothers and Babies Group

Jump Start’s Mothers and Babies Group

Tuesday, April 20th 10:00 am – 12:00 pm



BREASTFEEDING NURSE-IN GROUP

“LUNCH HOUR LACTATION”

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT NOON

JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT. IF YOU NEED HELP, OR IF THINGS ARE GOING GREAT! ALL LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE ARE WELCOME!

WE WILL HAVE AT LEAST ONE CERTIFIED LACTATION COUNSELOR AVAILABLE EACH WEEK.

MEETING ID: 289 214 7793

PASSWORD: BFSUCCESS



CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF JOLIET IS A FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION PROVIDING SERVICE TO PEOPLE IN NEED AND CALLING OTHERS OF GOOD WILL TO DO THE SAME.

Community Resources: Screenings

[Jump Start Virtual Screenings](#)

Open to the public! This questionnaire screens your child (aged 1 month – 5 years) for developmental delays.

Thursday, April 15th 8:00 am to 3:30 pm

Call 815-725-2194 or visit <https://parentasexpert.com/events/>

Preschool Screenings

Did you know that if your child is between ages 3- 5 years old you can contact your designated school district for a preschool screening? Many schools offer walk-in services or a preschool program to children who qualify for no fee. Most schools offer screenings year round. Here is a list of a few locations with contact information. Not sure which school to call? Enter your zip code and “preschool screenings” in a search engine to see which school district to call.

Bonnie McBeth Early Learning Center
Plainfield, IL 60544

815-577-4114

Cherry Hill Elementary and Early Childhood Education Center
New Lenox, IL 60451

815-485-2169

Coal City Early Childhood Center
Coal City, IL 60416

815-634-5042

Dr. James Mitchem Early Childhood Center
Romeoville, IL 60446

815-886-7827

Grundty County Special Education Cooperative
Morris, IL 60450

815-942-5780

Marycrest Early Childhood Center
Joliet, IL 60436

815-725-1100

OES 141 Early Childhood Preschool
Ottawa, IL 61350

815-313-3203

P.H. Miller Elementary
Plano, IL 60543

630-552-8504

SOWIC
Channahon, IL

815-741-7777

Woodridge School District
Woodridge, IL

630-795-6830



Community Resources: Educational & Recreational

1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

1,000 Libros Antes del Kinder



Visit jolietlibrary.org
815-740-2660

How does the challenge work?

You can register by visiting either Joliet Public Library location. You can also register online or through your smartphone.

- At your first visit, your child will receive a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten lanyard for registering and a paper log.
- Start reading! You can count books you read more than once as well as books read during storytime, by older siblings and at daycare.
- Track your books online or on a paper log.
- For every 100 books read, stop back by the library to get a special keychain for your lanyard and another reading log.
- At 500 and 1,000 books read, children get a book to keep, and parents also get a treat!
- Enjoy making memories and a difference in your child's life.

CANTIGNY
PARK

Inchworms

Online Program
Parent/Child Program
18-36 months, with adult

Theme: Earth Day, Every Day!

Introduce your little one to nature through songs, books and simple crafts. Choose morning (9:30 – 9:45 am) or afternoon (1:30 – 1:45 pm) sessions. Registration is required. Questions? Please call 630-260-8162 Free event.

Easterseals

Regional Pediatric Center
212 Barney Dr.
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-2194 Phone
815-725-5150 Fax

Find us on the Web:

<https://www.easterseals.com/joliet/>