Guide for Community Recreation, Activities and Resources

This guide was created as a resource for parents/caregivers of children with disabilities.

Activities

- **Easterseals Arc Community Recreation**: Activities are scheduled evenings and weekends for adults (18 and older) with an intellectual or developmental disability. You decide what activities you would like to participate in, such as bowling leagues, ballroom dancing, sporting events, dances, summer camps, and concerts; Special Olympic basketball, swimming, track and field, bocce ball; game nights, festivals and fairs. There is also the **Easterseals Arc Ballroom Dance Program**. This is weekly one-hour dance lessons at a local studio. Volunteer ballroom dancers without disabilities are paired with adults with disabilities throughout the duration of the program and participate in a competition. This program provides socialization, community integration, values, lifelong friendships and exercise. Ballroom dancing experience is not required. Sign up memos for each activity are mailed to individuals on the Recreation mailing list. Individuals that want to be on the Recreation mailing list can call (260) 456-4534, ext. 430 to sign up.

- **Adaptive programs through the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne**: The Y offers many different adaptive programs at different locations. Call the YMCA closest to you for specific programs or contact Rebekah Coffey at Rebekah_Coffey@fwymca.org.

- **Crazy Pinz Special Needs Bowling League**: Call (260) 490-2695.

- **Georgetown Bowl**: Call (260) 749-9610.

- **ADD Drumming 4 Joy**: This class is a six-week drumming class for young people with ADHD and their parents/caregivers. Kids will experience the cognitive benefit and joy of drumming while their parents gain valuable ADHD information on parenting. Call (260) 225-3435 or www.addjoyoflife.com

- **Meaningful Day Bell Choir**: Contact Alison Asbury, MT-BC at (260) 517-3811 or aasbury@meaningfuldays.net
• **The Summit Academy of Gymnastics**: Enables children to experience their own capabilities; many activities/stations with a wide range of abilities, so all can enjoy a feeling of success. Call (260) 482-2511 to register and visit website at [www.summitacademyofgymnastics.com](http://www.summitacademyofgymnastics.com) to download release form before class.

• **Tumble X**: Tailored programs. Call (260) 478-1709 or visit [stealthathletix.com](http://stealthathletix.com).

• **Sensory Friendly Showings for Project Lights up**: Select shows at the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. If you would like more information on "Project Lights Up!" contact: Eunice Wadewitz, music and education director, 260-422-8641 x226 or EWadewitz@FWCivic.org

• **Science Central**: Will adapt most any program to fit your needs, they have hundreds of different activities as well as several Special Abilities Days set aside to accommodate those with disabilities. Call 260-424-2400. [https://sciencecentral.org/](https://sciencecentral.org/)

• **My Way Matinee**: Lights up, sound down movies at Regal Cinema at Coldwater Crossing. Select movies and show times on Saturday mornings. [www.regmovies.com/promotions/my-way-matinee](http://www.regmovies.com/promotions/my-way-matinee)

• **Special Olympics**: Provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in more than 20 Olympic-type sports for people ages 8 and up with intellectual disabilities, reaching more than 11,000 athletes across Indiana. [www.soindiana.org](http://www.soindiana.org)

• **TOP Soccer Fort Wayne Sports Club**: Designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girls, age 8-19, who has an intellectual or physical disability. Call (260) 693-1921 or email info@fortwaynesportclub.com.

• **St. Joe Soccer**: A club for players of all abilities. [www.stjoesoccer.com](http://www.stjoesoccer.com)

• **Kiwanis International Aktion Club**: A community service club for adults with disabilities ages 18 and older. (260) 485-3200 or dfalk@esarc.org

• **Jesters**: Performing group composed of individuals with mild to severe developmental or physical disabilities ages 6 and older. [https://www.sf.edu/about/camps-and-community-programs/](https://www.sf.edu/about/camps-and-community-programs/)

• **Sky Zone**: Special Friends Night welcomes children and adults with special needs and their siblings, family and friends. (260) 483-JUMP or [www.skyzone.com/fortwayne](http://www.skyzone.com/fortwayne)

• **Turnstone**: Several different activities Call 260-483-2100.

• **Volunteer Center**: volunteering builds work skills, self-confidence and is fun. Contact the Volunteer Center at [www.volunteerfortwayne.org](http://www.volunteerfortwayne.org) or 260-424-3505.
• **Fort Wayne Curling Club**: The Curling Club is offering Special Needs Curling as an integrated activity for individuals ages 10 and up with physical or intellectual disabilities and their families, friends or peers. Curling is a sport ANYONE can play regardless of their disability and is a great family activity. Contact info@fortwaynecurling.com

• **Challenger programs, a division of Little League Baseball**: The programs include baseball and basketball for kids with special needs starting at age 6, depending on their skill levels and availability for that level. Contact Pat Reibs for baseball at (260) 484-1338 or Addie Colley for basketball at (260) 403-0513.

• **National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass**: This is a free, lifetime pass available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability. The pass provides access to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by five federal agencies. Learn more at http://store.usgs.gov/access-pass.

**Therapeutic Riding**

• **Magical Meadows Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center**: 4767 N. 375 E., Warsaw, IN 46582, (574) 265–3085 www.themagicalmeadows.org

• **Therapeutic Riding Center of Steuben County**: 8952 West 150 North, Angola, IN 46703, (260) 829–6519. Serves DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, and Steuben counties. Email: Trsc_03@yahoo.com

• **Red Cedar Camp**: Therapeutic Riding. Waiver provider. (260) 637-3608

• **Dare to Dream Youth Ranch**: Offering horseback riding lessons and therapy. http://www.daretodreamyouthranch.com/ or 260- 489-3859

• **Dusty Dreams**: Therapeutic recreation and certified riding instructors. Call (260) 349-3282 or check out www.dustydreams.org

• **Oak Hill Farm Therapeutic Riding**: Promoting horseback riding for people with disabilities. Contact (260) 672-8199 or www.oakhillfarm.org

• **Summit Equestrian Center**: Horseback riding and equine assisted learning. Call 260-619-2700 or www.summitequestrian.org

**Camps**

• **Red Cedar Camp**: Where individuals of all abilities come together to learn, explore, play and grow. www.campredcedar.com (260) 637-3608, 3900 Hursh Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46845
• **Camp REYOAD**: A place where volunteers, staff and campers with special needs come together for a special week each summer at Epworth Forest Conference Center in North Webster. Learn more about our ministry, facilities, resources, and Camp REYOAD at [impact2818.org](http://impact2818.org) or (888) 628-2818.

• **Camp Lutherhaven**: A 4-day/3-night camp designed for persons with a developmental disability, located in Albion, Ind. (260) 636-7101, [www.lutherhaven.org](http://www.lutherhaven.org)

• **Camp Lake Luther**: A 4-day/3-night camp is designed for persons with developmental disabilities located near Angola, Ind. [http://lakeluther.org/](http://lakeluther.org/) or (260) 667-7750.

**Ministry**

• **One Heart Disability Ministry**: Focusing on reaching people with disabilities and their families with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Weekly bible studies, game nights, bell and voice choir, 1400 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne, (260) 338-6608. [www.oneheartdisabilityministries.org](http://www.oneheartdisabilityministries.org)

• **Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend**: The Ministry with Persons with Disabilities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is committed to building inclusive parishes by ensuring meaningful participation for individuals with disabilities and their families in all aspects of the life of the church. [http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Ministry-with-Persons-with-Disabilities](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Ministry-with-Persons-with-Disabilities)

• **Our Life Special Needs Ministry**: Our Life Ministry is committed to opening doors and building bridges in life, community, and beyond so that all may worship, serve, be served, learn, and grow together in the presence of God as a valued disciple of our community. 7222 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne [www.lifefw.com/ourlife](http://www.lifefw.com/ourlife)

• **Grace Ministry**: A ministry for people with disabilities which provides a buddy system. Held at First Church of God Columbia City. Call (260) 244-5959.

• **Able Ministries**: A special needs ministry of Emmanuel Community Church, 12222 US Highway 24 West, Fort Wayne, IN 46814. Call (260) 672-3377. Host site of Night to Shine,

• **Countyline Church of God** 7716 N. County Line Road E, Auburn, IN 46706 (260) 627-2482 Children’s buddy system. [https://www.countylinechurch.org/kids/special-needs-ministry](https://www.countylinechurch.org/kids/special-needs-ministry)

• **The Chapel**: Love Works ministry designed for children with special needs and their families. 2505 W Hamilton Road S, Fort Wayne, IN 46814. contact Sarah McMillan at smcmillan@thechapel.net
Sensory Supplies

- **Sensory Critters**: Sells products for oral motor, language, apraxia, early intervention, literacy, motor planning, fine motor, gross motor, tactile, proprioception, visual, exclusive weighted hoodie, vests, lap pads, and blankets. Also creates multi-sensory environments. 4715 Lima Road, Fort Wayne, Ind. [www.sensorycraver.com](http://www.sensorycraver.com) or (260) 373-0900.

- **CapeAble**: An extensive and innovative offering of weighted garments, accessories, blankets, and toys. 260-494-7460 or [www.capeable.com](http://www.capeable.com)

Educational Advocacy

- **Insorce**: The mission of IN*SOURCE is to provide parents, families, individuals and service providers in the state of Indiana the information and training necessary to help assure effective educational programs and appropriate services for individuals with disabilities. [http://insource.org/](http://insource.org/) or (800) 332-4433

- **Easterseals Arc**: Article 7 and IEP guidance. Can meet one on one to go over questions and provided resources and information as well as attend IEP, 504 or case conferences. Contact Jamie Mann at (260) 456-4534.

Support Groups

- **Asperger's Social Group**: For adults with Asperger’s syndrome. Meets 6 to 7:30 p.m., the second Monday of each month at Lutheran Hospital, Special Function Room #4 in the cafeteria. Contact Jamie Mann (260) 456-4534, ext. 271 or John Graham at (260) 402-7591 On Facebook: [Asperger's Group at Lutheran Hospital](http://Asperger's Group at Lutheran Hospital). Parents, family members, and professionals are also welcome to attend.

- **Autism Society of Indiana**: Several different support groups offered for individuals and caregivers. Contact scrowell@inautism.org

- **Boundaries Crossed Asperger’s Youth Group**: This group is for parents and middle and high school youth with Asperger’s who want to have fun while forming new friendships. Meets the 1st Tuesdays of everything month from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. at Ivy Tech Community College. Contact Tommy Guest at (260) 446-6532 or tommy@partnersinautism.com

- **Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana (DSANI)**: For resources, family support, and advocacy services, prenatal to adulthood. Offers a number of different support groups and activities for its members. [www.dsani.org](http://www.dsani.org)

- **GiGi’s Playhouse**: GiGi’s Playhouse Fort Wayne provides free programs that are educational and therapeutic in nature to individuals with Down syndrome from
birth through adulthood, their families, and the community. (260) 482-7529 or [https://gigisplayhouse.org/fortwayne/](https://gigisplayhouse.org/fortwayne/)

- **Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Support Group**: For meeting information contact Danielle Brewer at fortwayneepilepsy@gmail.com

- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Family Support Groups**: [www.namifortwayne.org](http://www.namifortwayne.org)

- **Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana Support Groups**: info@mhaac.com

- **Sibshops**: A support group for brothers and sisters of children with disabilities/special health concerns. Grade school through High Schoolers. Meets six times a year on the Lutheran Campus. To register, contact Karin Brock at Easterseals Arc at (260) 456-4534 ext. 290.

- **Turnstone’s Parent Support Group**: Offered for primary caregivers of children with disabilities. The group provides the opportunity for parents to meet one another and share experiences. (260) 483-2100.

- **Parkview Brain Injury Support Group**: The group is designed for survivors of brain injury and their family, friends, caregivers and service providers. Located at Parkview Reginal Medical Center conference rooms A, B and C, on the first floor just past the cafeteria. Meetings are the first Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call (260) 452-4943

- **Easterseals Arc Family Supports**: Contact Ashley Gettys at (260) 456-4534 x 279

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*This list is for informational purposes only and not an endorsement of any organization or service provider.*