



Newsletter
Nov/Dec 2024

**IN THIS ISSUE:
SENSORY SANTA, AMAZON
SMILE, AN INDEPENDENT
LIVING CHECKLIST, AND
SENSORY CINEMA!**

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[The Center for Exceptional Families](#)

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<https://thecenterforexceptionalfamilies.org/>



Sensory Santa

Sensory Santa Events in Arkansas

Create Holiday Magic for All

The holiday season is a time of joy and togetherness, but for children with sensory sensitivities, traditional Santa visits can be overwhelming. Sensory Santa events in Arkansas aim to provide inclusive, calm environments where all children can experience the magic of meeting Santa Claus.

This year, two events stand out as must-attend for families:

1. Sensory Santa in North Little Rock

- Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024
- Time: 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- Location: 1922 Topf Rd, North Little Rock, AR
- Designed for children with sensory needs, this event offers a quiet and welcoming atmosphere. Families must register in advance to secure a time slot and reduce wait times.

2. Sensory Santa with Ag for Autism in Jonesboro

- Date: Monday, December 2, 2024
- Time: TBA
- Location: TBA, Jonesboro, AR
- Check out the Ag for Autism Facebook page for more details!

These events ensure that children of all abilities can enjoy the magic of the season in a way that is comfortable and inclusive. Families are encouraged to register early and prepare for a memorable experience tailored to their child's needs.



Support The Center for Exceptional Families with AmazonSmile!



Did you know you can make a difference in the lives of families with disabilities every time you shop on Amazon? By selecting The Center for Exceptional Families as your charity through AmazonSmile, 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to support their mission of empowering families and educators across Arkansas.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support your favorite charity every time you shop at no extra cost. You'll find the same prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your chosen organization.

How to Sign Up:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com.
2. Log in with your Amazon account credentials.
3. Search for "The Center for Exceptional Families" in the charity search bar.
4. Select it as your preferred charity.
5. Start shopping! Make sure to always shop through smile.amazon.com to activate the donations.

Every small contribution adds up to create meaningful support for rural families and communities in Arkansas. Thank you for helping The Center for Exceptional Families make a lasting impact!



"Building Independence Over the Holidays"

Holiday breaks are the perfect time to work on skills from the "Living Independently, Here We Come" checklist, preparing youth with disabilities for adulthood. With extra downtime, families can focus on practical learning in everyday settings. For example, practice meal preparation skills by planning and cooking a simple holiday meal together. Teach budgeting by comparing prices at the grocery store. Engage in self-care tasks like establishing morning or evening hygiene routines or sorting and washing laundry.

These activities provide hands-on experience while strengthening independence, helping youth approach adulthood confidently.

Take a look at the "Independent Living, Here We Come" Checklist to learn more!

Download [HERE](#)




Meal Preparation Skills
Skills needed for planning and preparing meals

- Plans meals
- Completes a grocery shopping list
- Buys/shops for meal ingredients
- Prepares simple meals
- Turns off stove after use
- Uses kitchen electronics safely
- Discards old/expired food
- Washes fruits and vegetables before eating them
- Recognizes common measurements
- Understands need for avoiding certain foods
- Identifies supplemental nutritional programs (i.e., Meals on Wheels, food banks, etc.)
- Sets table

Financial Management Skills
Skills needed to understand and manage one's money

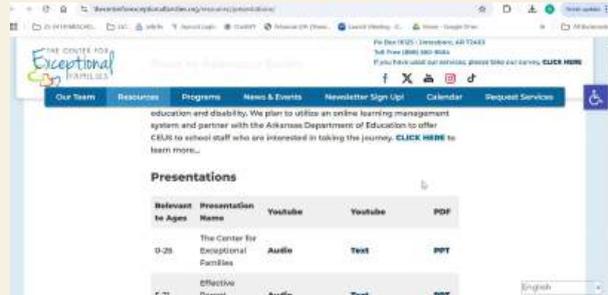
- Uses coins and bills appropriately
- Opens and maintains a checking and/or saving account
- Uses a debit and/or credit card appropriately



Resources & Information

DID YOU KNOW?

We have tons of information
and trainings on our
website.



Find it all [HERE!](#)

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

Join TCFEF on Wednesdays at 12 PM for presentations and information to help you in your journey advocating for your child, client, or student!

Click [Here](#) to access our calendar for dates and topics for Webinar Wednesdays!





FALL MOVIES 2024



sensory cinema
sensory friendly movie event

- Moderately dimmed lighting
- Lowered volume
- Concessions available for purchase
- Tickets available day of event only in theater lobby

\$8.68

(includes tax; per person)
CASH ONLY

All movies start at

9:30 A.M.

(no previews)

OCT 5



TRANSFORMERS ONE
THE WILD ROBOT

NOV 30



WICKED
MOANA 2

DEC 21



MUFASA: THE LION KING
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3

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