

SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Parent Resource Center (PRC) provides resources, information, and consultations to support the success of all students. Confidential consultations, an extensive lending library, and a year-long calendar of workshops are offered for parents, educators, and community members. Contact the PRC by [phone](#), [email](#), or visit us Monday – Friday during the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm at the [Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services](#) . Follow us on [Twitter](#), like us on [Facebook](#), and tune into our [You Tube Channel](#) to see some of our recorded workshops. Bookmark our [PRC website](#) to stay up-to-date with all our workshops and resources.

**Important Dates:
World Autism Awareness Day
April 2, 2020**

Join Us for Our March Workshops:

Mind in the Making Series - Session 8: Self-Directed, Engaged Learning - Currently full but waitlist is available

Thursday, March 5, 2020, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

At this workshop you will learn the research behind the Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs. Learn strategies for improving these skills, the importance of them in children’s lives, and activities to promote these evidence-based executive functioning skills.

[Register for the Mind in the Making Series](#): Waitlist

Special Education: Understanding the Process and Collaborating with Your School

Friday, March 6, 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm (To be recorded for our YouTube Channel)

- What is Special Education?
- How do children qualify for services?
- What is Least Restrictive Environment?
- What is the difference between accommodations and modifications?
- What is an IEP?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of IEP team members?
- How can I work with the school team to develop an IEP?
- How do I advocate for my child at school and in the IEP process?

Presented by Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham, Manager of the FCPS Parent Resource Center and Susan Kannengiesser, FCPS Procedural Support Liaison.

[Register for Special Education: Understanding the Process and Collaborating with Your School](#)

Drugs, Alcohol, and Vaping, What Every Parent Needs to Know

Friday, March 20, 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Talking with your teen or young adult can be challenging. Having meaningful, ongoing conversations about drugs and alcohol, however, is key to helping keep your son or daughter healthy and safe.

Presentation Highlights:

- Current trends in substance use and abuse
- Image of substances on physical and emotional development
- Paraphernalia display and discussion
- Tools for parents

Presented by Brian Maslowski, FCPS Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Education teacher.

[Register for Drugs, Alcohol, and Vaping, What Every Parent Needs to Know](#)

Sibshops – Session 3 – An exciting workshop for brothers and sisters of children with special needs!

Saturday, March 21, 2020, 1:30pm – 4:30pm, at the Gum Springs Community Center and Providence Community Center

[Register for Sibshops](#)

Launching Your Adolescent into Adulthood

Friday, March 27, 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm (To be recorded for our YouTube Channel)

A recent survey of young adults in the US reported that nearly 45% of young adults between the ages of 18 and 34 now live with their parents - even though they are employed.

This session will provide:

- 10 Tips to help launch your young adult successfully into adulthood
- Strategies to teach your child “soft” employment, money management and communication/self-advocacy skills.

Presented by Dr. Amy Fortney Parks, LPC, ACS, Owner of The Wise Family Counseling & Assessment Services in Alexandria and Arlington.

[Register for Launching Your Adolescent into Adulthood](#)

Fitness Activities: A Parent’s Guide to Getting your Child Moving

Tuesday, March 31, 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Learn fun activities for the whole family to get your child moving while reinforcing a wide range of skills needed to participate in physical education.

You will learn how to:

- Motivate your child to be physically active
- Use provided games to enhance movement while reinforcing the adaptive skills students need to be successful in PE:
 - Taking turns and following rules
 - Participating in group games and interacting with peers

Presented by Phyllis Orner, FCPS Adapted PE Specialist, Manda Tirado and Christy Stone, FCPS Adapted PE Teachers

[Register for Fitness Activities: A Parent's Guide to Getting your Child Moving](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) to preview and register for our April workshops.

The Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD)

The Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD) is a local advisory committee for special education, appointed by each local school board, for the purpose of advising the school board via the division superintendent. The committee meets on a monthly basis. Its' purpose is to examine current FCPS practices regarding the communication/dissemination of information to parents related to supports and services provided to students with disabilities; and to make recommendations designed to improve and strengthen the relationship between parents of students with disabilities and FCPS school staff and central office staff.

The ACSD will hold its' next meeting on March 11, 2020, in room 108 at the Dunn Loring Parent Center located at 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027. (Please enter at door #2). Meetings begins promptly at 7 p.m. Those in need of accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in this FCPS activity should call (703) 204-3941, TTY (703) 204-3956. Calls should be made seven days prior to the activity so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Meetings are cancelled if school or evening activities are cancelled due to weather. For meeting dates, minutes, agendas, or additional information [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities website.

Applied Behavior Analysis Program (ABA)

The Applied Behavior Analysis Program of FCPS supports the special education instruction of students with autism and related disorders and meets on a monthly basis. Applied Behavior Analysis is a scientific approach to understanding behavior and refers to a set of principles that focus upon how behaviors change, or are affected by the environment, as well as how learning takes place. For more about the FCPS ABA Program and a complete list of meeting dates and times [CLICK HERE](#).



The Special Education PTA of Fairfax County

<https://fairfaxcountysepta.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FairfaxCountySEPTA/>

Empowering and connecting families, students and educators to ensure students with disabilities develop their full potential as individuals and community members.

Parents, professionals and educators of students with special education and disability needs have atypical circumstances, challenges and interests. Often, these special educational needs may not be the focus of programs designed for predominantly general education students. A SEPTA can supplement the educational experience for disabled students, families and professionals to support academic and social success. A SEPTA allows for these parents, students and professionals to:

- Connect with and support one another
- Fund, sponsor and provide special trainings, workshops and events unique to special education needs
- Understand and navigate the special education system and special education and disability rights under the law.

The SEPTA does not take the place of a local school PTA nor any other PTA organization. We encourage all SEPTA members to participate in their local PTAs. Participation in your local PTA(s) will provide general PTA and school-based programming and participation opportunities that our county-wide SEPTA may not.

[CLICK HERE](#) and scroll down for a full list of upcoming community events.

Best Buddies International

<https://www.bestbuddies.org/>

Best Buddies is the world's largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with Intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This vibrant organization has grown from one original chapter to nearly 2,900 chapters worldwide, positively impacting the lives of over 1.25 million people with and without IDD. Best Buddies programs engage participants in each of the 50 states and in 54 countries around the world.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Best Buddies in the Capital region.

State Headquarters 6231 Leesburg Pike, Suite 310 Falls Church, VA 22044
(703) 533-9420

The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center

<http://www.peatc.org/>

The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center builds positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools and communities in order to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life. Our special focus is children with disabilities. We do this by providing:

- Services and support for families and professionals;
- Easy-to-understand, research-based information and training; and
- Opportunities for strategic partnerships and advocacy for systemic improvement.

Twice-Exceptional (2e) Handbook

We are pleased to share that the [Twice-Exceptional \(2e\) Learners Handbook and Resources](#) were made available to the public on the FCPS website the first day of school, August 26, 2019. The handbook and resources were developed to provide schools and families with insight and guidance associated with the identification, instruction, and social-emotional wellness of students who are gifted and have learning challenges or disabilities. Please view this brief [video](#) to learn about the contents of the handbook.

For more about FCPS Special Education Instruction [CLICK HERE](#) .