



Charlottesville Region Autism Action Group

Connect, Engage, Learn, Change

Read the [February 2021 newsletter](#) published monthly by the **Adaptive Recreation Department** at **Charlottesville Parks and Recreation**.

Virginia Institute of Autism (VIA) has two updates – one for families and one for job seekers.

1. On March 20th **VIA** is sponsoring a ***Day of Fun at Wildrock*** in Crozet for families with loved ones with ASD. There are reserved slots on their playscape and trails. VIA staff and Wildrock staff will be on-site to welcome you and your family during the time of your reservation. Pack a snack or bring lunch to enjoy some extra time at the Picnic Pavilion. Wildrock's indoor Discovery Center is currently closed due to COVID, but the restrooms will be available. Masks are required when inside or when guests cannot maintain 6 foot distance. Please join VIA for a [Day of Fun - Information and Reservation Links](#).
2. There is an **immediate opening** for an *Adult Services Program Coordinator*. [Job announcement and job description](#). Applicants with questions should [email Carole Nelson, VIA's Director of Human Resources](#). VIA will begin offering **Sponsored Residential**, a residential waiver option, to a few current VIA families. Eventually VIA will expand these services to other families in our community who qualify and would benefit from this service. They anticipate that families who participate in VIA Sponsored Residential services will have access to VIA's current CAAAS activities including: day support, community coaching, and/or community engagement day services, as well.

UVA STAR has two research studies this month. Researchers at the University of Virginia are recruiting families for the following studies:

1. **IEP Services During Covid-19:** The pandemic has changed how many students are receiving their special education services. STAR is currently enrolling parents/guardians of children in 2nd-12th grade receiving services through an IEP. Families may be eligible to participate in this brief online survey and a chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. [More information.](#)
2. **Parent-Child Brain Synchrony Study:** STAR is seeking families with children aged 6 to 11 years old to participate in a study exploring how children and caregivers relate to each other during social activities. Participation involves attending two to three study appointments at UVA, during which you and your child will play games and complete some testing. Families can earn up to \$100 for participation. [More information.](#)

PREP and the Parent Resource Center provide free information and support to families of children with disabilities or special needs in Charlottesville City, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Madison School Districts. The February newsletter offers information on workshops and meetings, including the dates and registration information for the Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC) in Charlottesville City, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Madison County Schools. [Read the PREP-PRC February Newsletter.](#)

The [Youth Leadership Academy](#) is a program of the **Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**. This highly competitive, all-expenses-paid opportunity for high school students takes place July 12-15, 2021. The deadline to submit an application is Friday, April 2, 2021. [Apply today!](#)

[ASAN](#) has released an easy to read [Covid-19 vaccine fact sheet](#). Because Covid-19 is so dangerous to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, ASAN is working to make sure the facts get out to this vulnerable population.

Read the [December 2020-January 2021 IFSP Digest](#) published by **DBHDS Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP)** for individuals on the DD Wait List. To begin receiving in your personal inbox, [join the IFSP Listserv.](#)

DBHDS Department of Community Housing is offering a free virtual three-part series *Housing Exploration Series* targeted to adults with

developmental disabilities who want to move out of their group home into the community. It should be informative for others who are hope to move out of the family home into the community. The sessions are: "*Where People Live*," "*Housing Panel Interviews and Discussion*," "*My Dream Home*." Dates: March 17, 24 and 31. [More information](#).

February 8, 2021