

# Talbot County Public Schools Family Support Resource Center

Summer 2022 Newsletter



The Family Support & Resource Center is designed to offer support to families of children that receive Special Education Services in Talbot County. We offer parent trainings, presentations, access to our Lending Library where we have multiple books appropriate for children, staff and parents, IEP support and don't forget about our family fun activities!

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

~ Stacey Behrens at [sbehrens@talbotschools.org](mailto:sbehrens@talbotschools.org) or 410-822-0330, ext. 179

## **Quarterly Special Education Citizen's Advisory (SECAC) Meetings**

Members, TCPS families & community partners are always encouraged and welcome to attend our quarterly SECAC meetings. This is an opportunity to become a part of a committee that shapes the activities and events available to children with special needs. We plan fun social events, excellent seminars, webinars, training events and help find funding for activities geared towards children in Talbot County that receive special services. Our next SECAC meeting will take place on September 13, 2022 at 5pm. More information will be sent to families once the 2022/2023 school year begins.

***Save the Date~ September 10<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30am (Virtual Workshop)***

### **“A New View of ADHD: What Works, What Doesn't and Why”**

Presented by: Frank Kros, Career Child Advocate

Description of the Workshop: ADHD is a disorder of the brain with predictable behavioral consequences. While the focus is often on the negative aspect of these behaviors, developing minds with ADHD have a lot of positive behaviors. Frank provides interventions for enhancing ADHD strengths and meeting ADHD-inspired needs for learning and behavior. If you care for someone with ADHD, you do not want to miss this workshop!

# IEP Team Meeting Tips for Parents

**Be prepared to describe your child.** You know your child best. Tell the IEP team what you think your child is capable of doing now and what you see your child doing in the future.

My child's strengths are...

My child needs the most help with...

At this time, it's really important to me that my child work on this over the next year...

**Bring someone who knows your child.** If you plan to bring someone who knows your child or whose input you feel may be helpful, tell the IEP Chairperson before the meeting.

**Stay focused on your child's needs.** Stick to matters that relate to your child's educational needs and the development of your child's IEP.

**Write down your questions and comments.** Bring them with you. You don't want to forget any of your thoughts.

**Use other IEP Team members as resources for you and your child.** In addition to you, as the parent or guardian, the IEP team includes: at least one general education teacher, at least one special education teacher and the IEP Chairperson. If there is another school-based staff member that you would like to attend the IEP meeting, contact the IEP Chairperson to discuss whether their attendance would be possible.

**Understand your options about attending the IEP meeting.** If you are unable to attend an IEP meeting, other methods such as video conferencing or teleconference calling can be used to ensure your participation.

## **What to do if you have questions about the Special Education Process:**

- Attend quarterly SECAC Meetings
- Attend Parent Workshops
- Check out the Lending Library at the Board of Education Office
- If you are interested in anything listed above or if you are looking for resources or information on a specific special education topic or the Parent Coordinator to attend an IEP with you, contact:

Stacey Behrens, Parent Coordinator at [sbehrens@talbotschools.org](mailto:sbehrens@talbotschools.org) or 410-822-0330, ext. 179

# **FUN FREE ACTIVITIES**

## **Free Port Discovery Passes!**

We have Free Passes to visit Port Discovery Children's Museum in Baltimore, MD. These passes are available to residents of Talbot County. Each laminated pass admits four people, age 1 and older. We have 5 laminated reusable passes. This is a great experience and a wonderful way to spend time with the family. Please email or call Stacey Behrens at [sbehrens@talbotschools.org](mailto:sbehrens@talbotschools.org) or 410-822-0330, ext. 179 to reserve the passes. The passes may be returned to the Talbot County Education Center (TCEC) within 3 days of your visit to Port Discovery, to make them available for other families. **Make sure to call Port Discovery Museum and reserve a spot prior to your visit!**



## ***SOS Sink or Swim***

### **FREE Swim Lessons**

**REGISTRATION** ~ To register, you must complete the entire registration form and return the form by the deadline for each session. Class sizes are limited and registrations are taken on a first come, first serve basis!

REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO:

Talbot County Community Center  
10028 Ocean Gateway  
Easton, MD 21601  
Email: [parks@talbotcountymd.gov](mailto:parks@talbotcountymd.gov)  
Fax: 410-822-7107

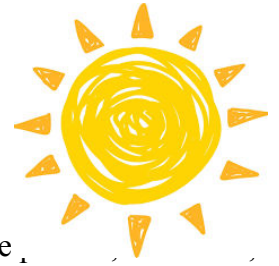
**FORMS WILL NOT ACCEPTED AT THE POOLS**

[GEORGE MURPHY COMMUNITY POOL](#)  
(EASTON)  
**REGISTRATION FORM**

[BAY HUNDRED COMMUNITY POOL](#)  
(ST. MICHAELS)  
**REGISTRATION FORM**

[Online registration is also available through Talbot County Parks & Rec by clicking here.](#)

Click [here](#) to view the full 2022 Swim Schedule or visit the [Talbot County Parks & Recreation website](#). Sessions are conducted Mondays–Thursdays, with make-up days on Fridays. Each registrant may sign up for two SOS Swim Sessions.



## **Fun Ways to Beat the Heat in Summertime!**

### **Water Balloon Pinatas**

For a summertime spin on a party classic, try filling water balloons and hanging them like featured on [Milk Allergy Mom](#). Your kids can take turns batting them down one at a time, or all at once for a splashing good time.

### **Water Balloon Sports**

Got a baseball fan? This game will be a home run. Fill a large tub of water balloons and let your kids hold their own "batting practice" session on a hot day. It's one of our favorite water activities for kids who are itching to get back onto the field in the fall.

Another way to keep up on those sports skills sharp during the hot weather months is to gather the kids for a little bit of pigskin—water balloon style! They're sure to get the giggles as they "go long!" just knowing they're about to get splashed.

### **Fill the Bucket**

If you're in search of a super inexpensive water activity, here's one you can pull together with just a few plastic buckets and sponges. There are tons of different ways to play this game, but essentially, split everyone into two teams and nominate one person from each to hold a bucket on their head. Then let their teammates race to be the fastest to fill the bucket. How they fill it is up to them—they can race with wet sponges, carry cups of water on their own heads, or anything they can dream up.

### **Beach Ball Blaster**

Break out the beach balls and the squirt guns! Host a challenge to see how many different water activities for kids they can come up with. Who's the best at keeping the ball in the air using only a squirt gun?

<https://www.parents.com/fun/activities/outdoor/water-activities-for-kids-to-beat-the-heat-at-home/>

## **TCPS LENDING LIBRARY**

**Feel free to call, email or arrange a visit to check out any books that you may be interested in reading. There will be a check out form as well as a two-week limit for all books. There are some great books that are appropriate for children of all ages, teaching staff and**

parents. Please take advantage of this great opportunity! Listed below are a few of our most popular book titles.

**The Sibling Survival Guide ~ Indispensable information for brothers and sisters of Adults with Disabilities.**

**Now I Get It!! ~ Social stories that build confidence & demonstrate appropriate behavior. Two stories: The Playground & The Beach**

**A Little Spot of Emotion ~ Anger, Happiness, Confidence, Love, Sadness, Anxiety and Peaceful**

## **Resources**

Most of these websites now offer free resources, literature and virtual/In-person training opportunities on various topics.

Parent's Place - <https://www.ppmid.org/resources/>

Maryland Coalition Foundation - <https://www.mdcoalition.org/what-we-do/the-mcf-difference/>

Kinera Foundation - <https://www.kinera.org/>

Pathfinders for Autism - <https://pathfindersforautism.org/>

Kennedy Krieger - <https://www.kennedykrieger.org/about-us/at-a-glance>

The Arc - <https://www.thearc.org/>

Feel free to reach out at any time with questions or concerns!

Stacey Behrens at [sbehrens@talbotschools.org](mailto:sbehrens@talbotschools.org)



**HAPPY  
SUMMER**