



THE COALITION

Parent Training and
Resource Center (PTRC)

ESTABLISHED 1995

LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE FAMILY
RESOURCE CENTER FOR DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS
WWW.FRCDSN.ORG

We've Received The Best News!

The Family Resource Center for Disabilities & Special Needs is pleased to announce the receipt of a new Community Parent Resource Center (CPRC) grant from the US Department of Education.

Currently, there are only 21 CPRCs located in 15 states. Our Parent Training and Resource Center (PTRC) has been the only CPRC in South Carolina since funding began in 1999. We are extremely honored to continue to serve families in Berkeley, Dorchester, and Charleston Counties whose children have special learning needs through our Parent Training and Resource Center (PTRC).

We are funded through August of 2026.

CCSD Increases Mental Health Initiatives for Students and Staff

The Post and Courier reports (1) that during a CCSD Board of Trustees meeting, the district has started implementing plans to increase mental health initiatives. The district hopes to address students' mental health needs through calming kits and calming rooms, as well as hiring temporary employees to serve mental health professional roles that are much needed in schools.

The calming kits include items such as a rug, manipulative coloring activities, and books on topics such as breathing. The request for kits are coming in daily. Kits have been ordered for each classroom in 15 elementary schools, as well as for all school counselors and social workers.

The calming rooms have also been highly requested. They can be set up based on each individual school's needs. They can include music, ball pits and other tactile activities to help students work through their emotions. Currently 8 schools are working on creating these rooms in their buildings.

In addition to the calming kits and rooms, CCSD offers a "virtual calming room" you can visit at:

<https://sites.google.com/charleston.k12.sc.us/ccsdvirtualcalmingroom/home>

Why do I need a Parent Mentor?

The Parent Mentor Program at the Parent Training and Resource Center (PTRC) provides direct support to parents/guardians accessing special education services or supports for children with disabilities in public schools. Parent Mentors are individuals who have children, or close family members, who have (or have had) special education needs or they are individuals with professional experience in the field of special education. Parent Mentors receive extensive and specialized annual training from Mitchell Yell, Ph.D., Professor in Special Education in the College of Education at the University of South Carolina.

The purpose of a Parent Mentor is to improve a parent's understanding of special education and to strengthen their ability to advocate for their child. Parent Mentoring is a no-cost service available to families in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties with children birth-26. Parent Mentors do not act as lawyers, social workers, service coordinators, physicians, or mental health professionals. Attend the **FREE** training on April 27th below.

Effective Parent Advocacy Training

The Goose Creek Recreation Center is hosting the PTRC's **free** training workshop.

When: Wednesday April 27th 6 pm-7:30 pm

Where: Goose Creek Rec Center- 519A N Goose Creek Blvd, Goose Creek, SC 29445

Registration: Please call Hanna or Lisa at 843-266-1318 or email at hannamayfield@frcdsn.org

(1) Turcotte, M. (2022) Calming Kits, corners and rooms: CCSD increases mental health initiatives for students and staff

Informal Removal of Students

Our parent center receives a disturbing number of calls from parents concerning their child's behavior at school. Parents are reporting that they are being asked to pick their child up early due to the child's behavior in the classroom or around the school campus. It may seem like an easy solution to let "Johnny" go home for the afternoon- perhaps he was tired or just had an "off day". According to the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) "Informal removals not only hurt children academically and emotionally, but also harm their families, communities, and society at large. Parents are often left scrambling to make arrangements in the middle of the workday because their child, with a disability, is suddenly sent home."

Furthermore, in August of 2021 the Protection & Advocacy Agencies (P&As) conducted an informal poll and found the following issues to be the most common in their discipline work:

- Repeated or long-term use of a shortened school day, as a result of behaviors related to the child's disability. In these cases, the child is generally sent home at a fixed time every day.
- Sending children home frequently in the middle of the school day, as a result of behaviors related to the child's disability. These removals tend to be at irregular times and may not occur daily, but occur often enough to cause harm to the child.
- Placing children on homebound instruction almost always with fewer than ten hours (often only 1-5 hours) of in-person tutoring per week due to behaviors related to the child's disability. A typical public-school calendar requires about 30 hours of in school time per week.
- Placing children on virtual or remote education due to behavior related to the child's disability (rather than contagion prevention), even after other students have returned to in-person schooling (following COVID-19 pandemic building closures or restrictions.)

These are examples of what is considered "Informal Removal" and NDRN defines "informal removal" as: "...Any time a child with a disability is removed from school for a sufficient period of time to constitute a "change of placement".

With the return of face-to-face instruction, children are having difficult times transitioning back to longer days of instruction, often while still on virtual platforms. Factors such as frequent changes, anxiety, and depression, mixed with over extended school personnel, impact a successful return to the classroom. Where does one even start to exercise their parental rights, maximize their child's Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) AND make sure "Johnny" continues to learn?

If a parent is frequently called from the school, ask if the student is being suspended and request documentation. While suspension may have a stigma attached, it is one way to assure that Due Process is being followed.

As a parent, you should read the Procedural Safeguards provided to you by the school district. Also you should read "Out of the Shadows" by following this link:

https://www.ndrn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Out-from-The-Shadows-1.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0br3VMSXF8qfOF_OYv7YGRx-jjxxBSw1AoFEy153r8xad7LHhm-Gs2n1E

Of course visit our website www.FRCDSN.org to view the Parent Resource Manual found under the Resource tab to find accurate, impartial information regarding behavior challenges and disciplining children with disabilities.

If those three suggestions do not address your concerns, or if the school is non responsive to your requests for help, then make a call to the PTRC for free assistance at 843-266-1318. When you call, plan to spend a few minutes explaining your concerns, your child's challenges, and begin the intake process. Once the intake process is complete, you will be asked to sign and return a release of information so that we can request your child's educational records. Once we receive and review the record, a Parent Mentor will be assigned to work directly with you as you navigate this complex process.

ADHD And Trauma Could They Be Related?

ADHD and trauma are “buzz words” these days. On social media, you may often see a post relating to one, the other, or both. According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V) people with ADHD show “a persistent pattern of inattention, and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity that interferes with functioning or development”. Other symptoms that may be seen are distractibility, racing thoughts, and emotional reactivity (Staniland, 2019).

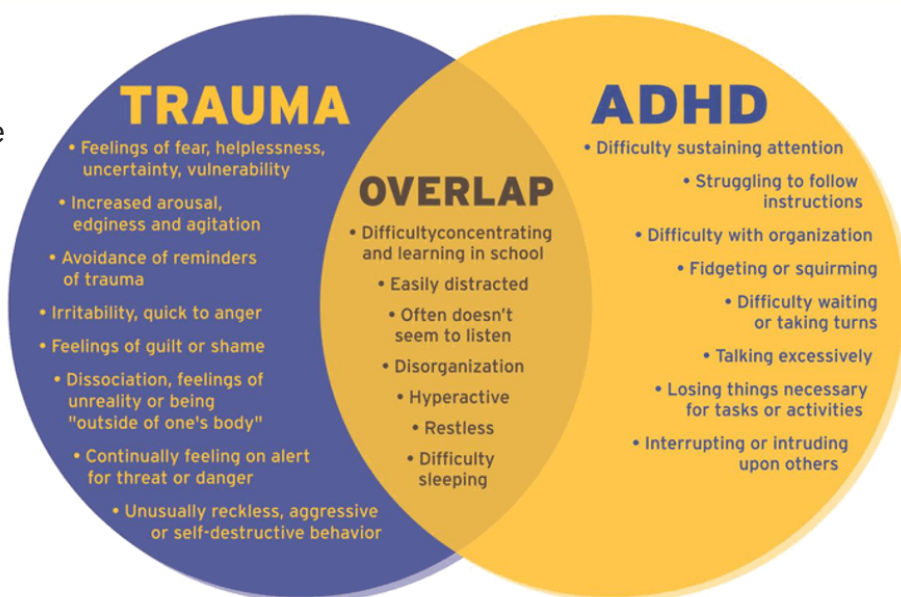
While all of these may be symptoms that are seen with ADHD, they can also be seen after a person has been through a traumatic experience. To make things more complicated, an event that may not seem traumatic to one person, may be seen as traumatic to another. According to Staniland in 2019, how a person responds to an experience depends on their temperament, developmental age when the event occurred, the intensity and length of the event, other risk factors such as an unstable home environment, and any protective factors that the person may have such as a consistent home, school, and family environment. Due to these responses, even siblings can have very different reactions to the same event.

When a person experiences a traumatic experience, their brains and bodies can program themselves to be in a hyper-vigilant state and perceive “normal” events as threatening. This state can cause behaviors related to ADHD such as inattention and daydreaming. Due to the behaviors being so overlapping, complex trauma can often be misdiagnosed as ADHD.

So what can you do if you feel that your child may have ADHD or Complex trauma?

- Keep routines consistent and simple
- Build a network where your child has support
- Talk to your child's teacher or pediatrician.

References: American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition. Arlington, VA., American Psychiatric Association, 2013.
Staniland, J. (2019, December). The Inattentive, Impulsive and Hyperactive Child: Is Childhood Trauma Buried Amongst ADHD?



Ref: Childsavers

Ways To Help The FRC

Your Amazon purchases can help! The Family Resource Center can receive donations every time you make a purchase at Amazon- at no cost to you. Just designate the Family Resource Center for Disabilities & Special Needs as your charity of choice. It's that easy!! Click [HERE](#) to help.

You can donate through PayPal at [THIS](#) link.

As always, sharing your experience with us is the best way to help with our mission. Letting other families know the services we provide and how we have helped your family is what we love most.

Welcome our Newest Parent Mentor



Carrie Dannelly is a SC native originally from Sumter, SC. She moved to Charleston in 2013. She has her Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling and has worked with a variety of state agencies. Along with her professional experience, Carrie is also a parent of a child with a disability.

Inclusive Super Hero Dance Party

Charleston County parks is hosting an inclusive dance party on May 11 from 6-8 pm at the Mt. Pleasant Waterfront Memorial Park in the Cooper River Room. Please visit www.charlestoncountyparks.com or call 843-795-4386 for more information.

April is Autism Awareness/Acceptance Month

In 1972, the Autism Society of America launched the first annual National Autistic Children's week, which evolved into Autism Acceptance Month (AAM). We strive to continue the efforts to spread awareness and promote acceptance of people with Autism. Caregivers and community members are encouraged to reach out to South Carolina Autism Society (SCAS) or Lowcountry Autism Foundation (LAF) for partnerships, networking and events.

To view the World Health Organization's (WHO) online training for children with developmental disabilities, please visit:
<https://www.hpnonline.com/patient-satisfaction/patient-engagement-educational-programs/article/21262752/who-releases-online-training-for-children-with-developmental-disorders>

Autism SPARK Study Opportunity

SPARK study seeks to enroll people with autism and their families. MUSC is participating in a nationwide study designed to develop personalized medicine for people with autism and strengthen support for families.

"We want to figure out the various pathways that lead to autism" Dr. Carpenter says. "Right now, the medical community has the same recommendations for nearly everyone, but autism appears in multiple forms. If we can figure out all the pathways that lead to autism, we can offer better therapy and support."

The study is collecting genetic information from people with autism, their biological parents and 1 sibling. Over 35000 people with autism have already participated.

"That will give us the richest information about what might be causing autism," she says. "We know close to 200 genes are associated with autism, but we believe there are hundreds of genes that haven't yet been identified."

SPARK also has a program, Research Match, that links researchers with families who want to participate in other research studies.

A recent Research Match study conducted by MUSC examined access to parent behavior training. An upcoming study will focus on sexual health in autistic young women with the goal of designing better sex education programs for girls.

Interested people can call or text 843-714-1352 and visit [SPARK](http://www.sparkforautism.org) for more information at www.sparkforautism.org

Artist Spotlight



Artwork by a youth client Gwen Lawton Age: 18

Local Events

Walk & Roll Parties for Healing Farms

At the Walk Parties you will be provided the opportunity to walk alongside local supporters, Healing Farms staff, and the families they serve. Each Walk Party will provide a unique opportunity to come together, raise awareness, and celebrate ability!

When: Saturday, April 23rd

Where: Walk party locations will be held at the following locations.

- Sullivan's Island Baptist Church
- West Ashley-City Church of Charleston
- Goose Creek- John McCants Veterans Park
- Moncks Corner- First Presbyterian Church

For Registration, event addresses and more info-
<https://www.healingfarms.com>

Surfer's Healing

Surfer's Healing provides children with autism a surfing experience. Their mission is to give families an engaging, revolutionary day at the beach by challenging preconceived notions of capability.

When: August 25- This is an all day event.

Where: Folly Beach

Registration: April 23rd-29th

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

NYAP Community Resource Fair

National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP) invites you to attend their Community Resource Fair raising awareness for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Connect with people and organizations in your community who want our children and families to thrive.

When: Thursday, April 28 3pm-6pm

Where: 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 300 North Charleston, SC

Unified Sports & Programs

The City of Charleston Recreation Department offers therapeutic programs and unified sports such as basketball, swimming, cheerleading, cooking, gymnastics, pottery, dances, and more. Unified sports are inclusive programs that combine an approximately equal number of Special Olympics athletes with non disabled partners. The rec department is always searching for more volunteers to keep this program going. If you'd like more information about volunteering, or having your child attend these events, please call Taylor O'Connor at 843-724-7397 or email at oconnort@charleston-sc.gov

IEP/Transition Training Opportunity

Transition from high school to adulthood for a student with a disability takes planning that involves many steps and many paths. It's a complex but rewarding journey as you hear about your child's goals and help them achieve their dreams. Family Connections of SC is providing information on transition planning and the importance of the Transition IEP in helping students be successful in their education, future employment, and independent living.

When: Wednesday May 4th 10:30am-11:45am

Where: Zoom

Registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/transition-planning-and-the-individualized-education-program-iep-tickets-292938174967>

2022 Summer Camps

Jolly Geese Summer Camp and Joyful Gosling Summer Camp

Activities will include crafts, outdoor leisure, sports (open gym time, kickball, etc.,) gymnastics play time and more!

When: June 13-17, 9am-3pm (For ages 16+), June 27- July 1, 9am-3pm (For ages 7-15).

Where: Goose Creek Recreation Complex (519A North Goose Creek Blvd, Goose Creek, SC)

Cost: Residents of Goose Creek- \$60.00, Non-Residents of Goose Creek- \$70.00

Restrictions: No restrictions in regard to disabilities or gender.

Registration: Begins April 4th. Contact Hannah Miller at hmillers@cityofgoosecreek.com or 843-569-4242 Ext 5286 with questions. Contact Hannah or visit the Goose Creek Rec Center to register.

Summer Camps Continued

Mount Pleasant Recreation Department

Activities will include crafts, swimming, outdoor activities, and special field trips. Campers will travel by bus to a different area destination daily.

Who: Middle School aged (generally 10-13)

When: June 27- July 1, 9-5pm.

Where: Park West Recreation Complex

Cost: Residents-\$200, Non-Residents-\$230

Restrictions: Teens needing one-on-one assistance will need to bring their own adult helper

Beyond BASIC Jr. Summer Camp

This camp will focus on different skills and activities such as social skills, home skills, and daily music therapy. They will also work on movement and sensory movement at the YMCA.

Who: Adolescents aged 14-20

When: June 16- August 5, Wednesday- Friday from 8am-2pm (Broken into four 2- week sessions.)

Where: Beyond BASIC Life Skills 406 N Gum St, Summerville SC

Cost: \$520.00/2 week session

Registration: Please click the following link.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVlrm02O2Txvs7bO3jkg3HHJgt6jVHm5IPWOCjMlbUPhOSMw/viewform>

Camp Rise Above Summer Camps

Camp Rise Above provides free camp experiences for children with serious illnesses, disabilities, and life challenges. They offer several overnight and day camp sessions. To see if your child may qualify for any of their camps please click this link

<https://campriseabove.org/summer-camps/>

or contact Erin@campriseabove.org or call 843.300.9100.

Camp Wonder

Camp Wonder provides a high quality summer camp experience for children with autism or other related developmental disabilities. Their mission is to create a learning environment where uniqueness is celebrated, instruction is tailored to meet camper's individual needs, and pivotal social skills are acquired through play and social interaction.

When: June 13-30th and July 11-28th Mondays through Thursdays 9am-2pm

Where: Armory Park Community Center (5000 Lackawanna Boulevard North Charleston, SC)

Cost: \$1,200 per 3-week session or \$2,000 for all 6-weeks. (limited scholarships are available)

Food Pantries

Bethel United Methodist Church

843-723-4587

57 Pitt Street

Tuesdays-Thursdays 10 am- 1pm

Morris Street Baptist Church

843-697-5820

25 Morris Street

3rd Saturday of the Month 10am-12pm

Ebenezer AME Church

843-534-3696

44 Nassau St

2nd Saturday Month 9am-12pm

Church of the Holy Communion

843-722-2024

218 Ashley Ave

2nd Saturday of the Month 8am-9am

New Cannon St Baptist Church

843-566-4398

46 Cannon St.

Tuesdays 11am-2pm

The Community Out Reach Center

843-579-4020 ext 300

405 King Street

Wednesdays 10am-12pm

Utility/Rent Assistance

Palmetto Community Action Partnership

1069 King St.

1-844-769-6448

Appt. required. Assists with rent, electric and water.

Neighborhood House of Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services Inc.

77 & 79 America Street

843-508-8019

Appt. required. assists with rent, electric, electric, and water for residents of 29401, 29402, and 29403.

Blessing Boxes and Little Libraries

Blessing Boxes are stocked with non-perishable food items, basic toiletries, baby supplies, and other items that might be considered a blessing. Items are received and available at any time day or night.

Please visit the link below:

<https://www.chsblessingbox.org/who-we-are.>

Also please look for little free libraries around our community.

<https://littlefreelibrary.org>

Do you know about SuperStar Sundays?

The Children's Museum of the Lowcountry (CML) believes that play is learning, and learning is play. They believe that play is essential to development of ALL children. CML's Education Committee developed the SuperStars program with the assistance of special education teachers, hospitals, and organizations that help improve the overall wellness of special needs children. There is a multi-story medieval castle, a shop for where children can shop for "real" groceries and many other play environments. On SuperStar Sundays Children are able to explore and play in the museum for FREE without crowds and over-stimulation. SuperStars Sundays are held on the second and fourth Sundays from 10:00am – 12:00pm at no cost to families.

While the event is free, registration is required. Please contact Chrissy Schoenberg at 843-853-8962 x 221 or email her at chrissy@exploreCML.org

Recipe for Sensory Summer Fun Homemade Playdough

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour.
- 1/4 cup fine table salt (I like to blend it to a powder first.)
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar.
- 1/2 tablespoon vegetable oil.
- 1/2 cup boiling water.
- Food coloring (about 15-20 drops for bold colors and half for pastels)

Directions:

1. In a plastic bowl, whisk together flour, salt, and cream of tartar.
2. Make a well in the center of the bowl and add vegetable oil, boiling water and food coloring.
3. Using a rubber spatula, stir until a dough forms, add a little bit more flour if needed. (It's ok to add in more food coloring at this point if needed just be sure to really work it into the dough)
4. When the dough is cool enough to touch, use your hands to further incorporate the flour and knead until all flour is incorporated and dough is soft and uniform in color. (Wear latex gloves if desired)

Local Facebook Support Groups

Our Special Little Ones

This is a closed group for caregivers of special needs children to connect with one another. Local resources are also provided.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/136055530060544>

Our Special Little Ones (Parents Only)

This group is an offshoot of OSLO intended for parents only. The purpose of this group is to provide a safe place for parents to discuss, vent or ask advice of other parents with a greater degree of confidentiality.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1860577074051268>

Charleston SC Special Needs Community

This group is an online resource for parents of children with special needs in the Charleston, South Carolina area. The purpose of this group is to share resources, information, and support with each other in an open and non-judgemental forum. They welcome any parent of a child with special needs, young adults with special needs, service providers, and support professionals to join in the discussions.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1258973094116382/about>

Facebook Support Groups- Worldwide

P.A.D.D Parents of Adults with Developmental Disabilities

This group has been created to support and advocate for parents who have adult children who are developmentally disabled.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1042902422509969>

Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation of Smiles

The Cleft Lip and Palate Association is a registered charity supporting all those with and affected by cleft lip and/or palate. See www.clapa.com for more information.

This is CLAPA's official Parent Support Group for parents and caregivers of children with a cleft.

The group is a place for you to interact with the CLAPA Community, share stories, photos and discuss any aspect of cleft lip and/or palate. However, please keep in mind that what works for one child will not work for everyone, and you always should talk to your Cleft Team in the first instance if you need any medical advice.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Smiles2009>

Executive Director's Message

Bev McCarty

Many of you may have heard that I am retiring and this is true. Beginning last October, with the FRC's most recent federal award, Shea Likens took on the role of Project Director for the PTRC, previously serving as Assistant Director and Parent Mentor. During my tenure, I have met so many wonderful people. The FRC Developed collaborations that continue to this day. Crucial to establishing the organization and lending credibility to a grass-roots parent group were the Medical University of South Carolina and The Citadel (the Military college of South Carolina). We definitely could not have done many of the things we have accomplished without the valuable expertise of their faculty and staff. The four school districts in our service area have been supportive and respectful as we assist families in understanding the rights and responsibilities afforded to parents of children with disabilities.

I'm appreciative of the various agencies, organizations, and support groups who have requested our training, workshops, made referrals to the PTRC, and joined us on planning committees. The role Dr. Mitch Yell has played in the success of the PTRC can't go unacknowledged. Dr. Yell has provided annual training and consultation for our staff and mentors for the past 21 years. I still can't believe how lucky we are to have such an esteemed professional as Dr. Yell as a friend of the family. Mitch has made us all so much smarter. I'm especially honored to have been joined by so many talented staff, mentors, and board members whose caring work has supported parents throughout the tri-county in meaningful and productive ways... Under Shea's guidance, with the help from the FRC Board of Directors and me, the PTRC will continue to be the go-to agency for your information needs.



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However, contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. This program is monitored by Project Officer, Yolanda Lusane



Vamos a Prepararnos para la reunión del IEP

<https://youtu.be/0UFNC-eTrNY>

Este webinar en español ha sido especialmente diseñado para el personal bilingüe de centros de apoyo, y padres líderes en su comunidad, y será presentado por personal de tres centros para padres con amplia experiencia en el tema.

Sobre el seminario web: Los Centros de Padres a lo largo y ancho del país están asistiendo a padres de familia cuyo idioma no es el inglés para que se preparen para las reuniones del IEP de sus hijos. El personal que atiende a estas familias necesita información y recursos que sean lingüística y culturalmente apropiados para explicarles a los padres su papel en el proceso del IEP y guiarlos sobre cómo participar de manera más efectiva. Este webinar en español ha sido especialmente diseñado para el personal bilingüe de centros de apoyo, y padres líderes en su comunidad, y será presentado por personal de tres centros para padres con amplia experiencia en el tema. Participe y aprenda estrategias y recursos que pueda añadir a sus herramientas de trabajo.

Fomentando Esperanza

Un espacio dedicado a familias Latinas con niños con necesidades de salud especiales.

Donde se ofrecen recursos, información, capacitación, y apoyo mutuo

Unase a la reunión virtual por Zoom

Hora: 7:00 pm a 8:30 pm EST

Registración: Para registrarse puede contactar a Jenny Nuwan al 803-995-9124 or al correo electrónico: jnuwan@familyconnectionsnc.org o en la línea de Family Connection en Español al 1888-808-7465

Fecha: April 18, and May 16