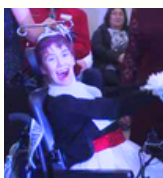


# THE COALITION

ESTABLISHED 1995

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

## Summer Fun in the Lowcountry !!



**INCLUSIVE PROM**  
**Saturday, August 12, 2023,**  
**6-8 p.m.**  
**R.L. Jones Center, 391 Egypt**  
**Road, Mount Pleasant, SC**

People with disabilities, their families & friends are invited to an unforgettable night! Come dressed in your favorite formal attire. Music will be provided by a DJ. Tickets are \$4 per person in advance, \$5 at the door if still available. Chaperones are required, but are free with a participant registration. Call 843-795-4386 to register for this program.

### Say Yes to the Dress!

Before the prom, ladies who plan to attend are welcome to "Say Yes to the Dress" on Sunday, Aug. 6, where women can pick out complimentary evening dresses to wear to the prom. This event will take place at Cypress Hall at North Charleston Wannamaker County Park from 1:30 – 4 p.m.



### GOOSE CREEK THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

The Goose Creek Therapeutic Recreation division, designed for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities, is passionate about inclusive lifestyles, providing resources, and serving our special needs community in diverse, fun, and intentional ways. Therapeutic Recreation is intended for individuals to participate in a variety of activities that are inclusive and adaptable to different needs. This program is a great way to explore interests, stay active, and socialize with peers. Locations vary depending on event. Find upcoming camps and events at:

<https://www.cityofgoosecreek.com/recreation/programs-classes-camps/therapeutic-programs>

## Get in the Swim of Things



**WEST COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER IN**  
**HOLLYWOOD, SC**  
**5156 HIGHWAY 165**  
**HOLLYWOOD, SC 29449**  
**JULY 15, 6:30-8:30 P.M.**  
**(RAIN DATE: JULY 22)**

\$2 per person (including chaperones and caregivers) and free for children 2 and under, West County Aquatic Center pass holders and Gold Pass holders. A paid chaperone is required for all participants. Register online at <https://ccprc.com/1788/Inclusive-Swim-Night> or call **843-795-4386**.

To avoid the line, advance purchase is recommended. If you purchase advance admission, you must keep and present your receipt to gain admission into the event.

Accessibility Features: Accessible parking & route to park office - Accessible restrooms and water fountains - Accessible picnic tables located on the pool deck - Two aquatic chair lifts available for accessible pool entry/exit - Wheelchairs available for checkout on a first-come, first-served basis.



Every 3rd Thursday between June and November, Central Creek Park welcomes the members of our special needs community to enjoy Debra's Playground and Splash Creek privately!

Friends and Family are welcome during this dedicated time in the park. For more info on this and other therapeutic rec fun contact Hanna Miller at: [hmiller@cityofgoosecreek.com](mailto:hmillerr@cityofgoosecreek.com) or 843-569-4242



## COMING SOON TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU

The South Carolina Department of Education's Office of Special Education Services, Disability Rights South Carolina, Family Connection South Carolina, Able South Carolina, and the Family Resource Center for Disabilities and Special Needs have been collaborating on developing a series of recorded presentations in the areas of dispute resolution and behavior to help parents, guardians, and students better understand these areas in relation to special education. Topics will include: parent advocacy, IEP team disagreements, dispute resolution options in special education, social emotional learning, and IDEA and behavior. Be on the lookout for more information as to availability and how to access. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!



**Did you know that families with children with special needs that live in the Tri-county can apply to a non-profit known as the Five Fish Foundation? Learn more at**

**<https://www.fivefishfoundation.org/>**

The Five Fish Foundation provides financial assistance to individuals with an intellectual disability and their families for approved therapies, programs, and products that promote their Support, Care, Acceptance, Life Quality, and Education in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties, South Carolina. The next grant cycle begins July 1, 2023 and ends July 30th. View the approved Providers of FFF. To apply visit:

**<https://www.fivefishfoundation.org/forms/>**



## Do you have Early Childhood Development Concerns?

Take the ASQ at:

**<https://helpmegrowsc.org/take-the-asq/>**

What is the ASQ? The **A**ges & **S**tages Questionnaire is a free developmental screening tool that measures developmental skills in five domains: communication, fine motor, gross motor, problem-solving and personal-social. Unlike other screening tools, the ASQ is strength-based—the emphasis is on what your child can do. It's the perfect way to keep track of milestones and celebrate them as your child grows.

Help Me Grow SC, a part of the South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association (SCIMHA), is a multidisciplinary association of professionals working to promote nurturing relationships for infants, young children and their families through resources, policies and practices to foster healthy social-emotional development and well-being.

If you are you a new parent looking for resources to support you in fostering your baby's development please explore their terrific website:

**<https://helpmegrowsc.org/>**

For more information call:  
(855) 476-9211 (toll free)

Email: [helpmegrowsc@scimha.org](mailto:helpmegrowsc@scimha.org)



The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the US Dept. of Education, # H328C210025.

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



## Available Tri-County Resources



FitCatZ is an aquatic & motor therapy program designed for children with unique abilities.

The program goal is to develop competent and confident movers in a fun and safe environment. Each child in the program is assigned a trained clinician who will work one-on-one with the child for the two-hour aquatic and motor program. FitCatZ is supported by The College of Charleston Department of Teacher Education and The College of Charleston First Year Experience Program.

A child's program may include:

- Physical fitness activities to improve muscular strength, endurance and flexibility.
- Sensory motor activities.
- Fundamental motor patterns & sport skills.
- Body awareness and spatial orientation.
- Swimming and water safety skills.

FitCatZ is open to children with a range of physical, intellectual, behavioral, and emotional challenges ranging in age from 2 to 21 years old. They are willing to work with parents to accommodate specific concerns and can provide additional assistance for children with more severe challenges.

### Program Dates:

Oct. 11th, 18th, & 25th & Nov. 1st, 8th, & 15th

**Times:** Wednesdays 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM.

**Applications Due: September 22, 2023**

**Place:** St. Andrews Fitness Center  
1642 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.  
Charleston, SC 29407

For more information & to download an application contact: Susan Flynn  
**flynns@cofc.edu**

JOIN RONALD MCDONALD  
HOUSE CHARLESTON FOR  
BABYBLOOMS CLASS



### BabyBlooms

**Bond - Learn - Observe - Organize - Monitor**

Through weekly learning and activity sessions, BabyBLOOMS seeks to enhance the parenting experience using evidenced-based practices, while creating an opportunity to enrich bonding, infant care, and development.

**\*Referral from a medical provider is required to join**

Sessions are held every Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Dining/Living Room area at RMHC Charleston at 81 Gadsden Street, Charleston, SC 29401

For more information

**<https://www.rmhcharleston.org/stay-with-us/baby-blooms/>**

**Open NOW!**

### Central Creek Accessible Park

Park hours are dawn-10 PM.  
Debra's Playground hours: dawn-dusk.

### Splash Creek Splash Pad

Splash Creek hours are DAILY  
10am-6pm, 05/29-09/04

Special **Toddler & Tot Time** Hours:  
Wednesdays & Saturdays, 9-10am

147 Old Moncks Corner Road,  
Goose Creek, SC 29445  
(843) 797-6220



## LOWCOUNTRY MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

**July 26 – 28, 2023,  
Gaillard Performance Hall  
95 Calhoun Street, Charleston**

The Lowcountry Mental Health Conference promises to be one of the very best mental health conferences of the year! The conference is being offered as both an **in-person** and **virtual** event experience! Conference fees vary based on continuing education credits. Community rate for those who don't need credits is \$52 for a day or \$68 for 2 days.

The Conference is a fundraising event providing professional development training to mental health professionals from across the country. The money earned from the event goes to Mental Health Heroes, a private non-profit organization committed to offering support and crisis care for adults, children, and families who are suffering from mental illness.

For more information visit:  
**[www.lowcountrymhconference.com/](http://www.lowcountrymhconference.com/)**

The **MIRACLE LEAGUE** is an organization that helps those with disabilities play baseball. Fall Game Schedules for each of the 3 locations (Charleston, Summerville, & Moncks Corner) are coming soon. Stay tuned by checking your local websites.



## 5K PARTIAL TRAIL RUN AND FAMILY FUN WALK

**Saturday, Sept. 23  
Palmetto Islands County Park  
Mt. Pleasant**

**Join the fun** with jump castles, local mascot appearances, live music, food truck, ice cream truck, games, and sponsor tables with special goodies. The 5K starts at 9 a.m.

Online registration ends Tuesday, September 19th at 5 pm. Register online at  
**<http://www.carolinachildren.org/runwalk/>**

With the help of Lowcountry firefighters, local businesses, sponsors, and many other groups, Carolina Children's Charity is able to provide assistance to so many special children in our community. Learn more at **<http://www.carolinachildren.org/>**



**Charleston Miracle League**  
**<https://www.charlestonmiracleleague.org/>**

**Summerville Miracle League**  
**<http://www.summervillemiracleleague.org/>**

**Moncks Corner Miracle League**  
**<https://www.monckscornersc.gov/miracle-league>**

**CHECK OUT THIS WEBSITE: <https://www.belikebuddy.com/>**

**You'll find fun videos for social skill building & other helpful resources. Although aimed for those with Autism, the info can help many others. There's even a link for sensory friendly activities in South Carolina**  
**<https://www.belikebuddy.com/sensoryfriendly/southcarolina>**



## Get Out Your Calendars for More Events

### Down Syndrome Association of the Lowcountry Buddy Walk

**October 15, 2023**

**12 - 4 PM**

Etiwan Park  
453 Seven Farms Drive  
Daniel Island

Join the fun with Jump castles, face painting, arts and crafts, food, and live music for entertainment

If you would like this year's Buddy Walk T-shirt, please register by 9/30/23 at <https://www.classy.org/event/lowcountry-buddy-walk-2023/e469704>

To be eligible for prizes, you may register through 10/11/23

### AN OPEN CONVERSATION WITH TEMPLE GRANDIN FREE LIVE WEBINAR ON AUG 1ST 1:00 PM EASTERN

Temple Grandin, Ph.D., an outspoken proponent of autism rights and acceptance of neurodiversity, as well as a prominent author, scientist, and esteemed professor at Colorado State University, will talk about her journey growing up with autism in an era when children were routinely institutionalized following a diagnosis — and what helped her to follow her passions to world renown.

This webinar is sponsored by ADDitude. Visit their website [www.attitudemag.com](http://www.attitudemag.com) to learn more about other webinars and resources. If you register for Dr. Grandin's talk, but can't attend live, it will be archived for later viewing. To register, go to:

[https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1619996&tp\\_key=da1e5513aa](https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1619996&tp_key=da1e5513aa)

### OR Create Your Own Event With Us



Did you know the Parent Training and Resource Center (PTRC) offers free training workshops for both parents and professionals? We like to have a *minimum* of 5 attendees and we can accommodate large groups. We will come to your location and provide workshop materials. You can choose from a wide variety of workshops topics such as:

Crash Course in Special Education  
504 Plans

Transition Planning

Positive Behavior Supports

Getting/Keeping a Job

Partnerships in Education

Family Engagement

Discipline Procedures for Students with Disabilities

Understanding ADHD

Working for Change

To request a training workshop please call the Family Resource Center at 843-266-1318 or email Lisa Riddle at: [lisariddle@frcdsn.org](mailto:lisariddle@frcdsn.org)  
or  
[frc@frcdsn.org](mailto:frc@frcdsn.org)

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## Upcoming Fall Events

### Pre-Teen/Teen Social Skills Group



The group will meet Tuesdays from 4-5 PM beginning Sept 5th and continuing to Oct 24th. A mandatory parent group will meet concurrently in an adjoining room. This group's curriculum will focus on asserting rights and avoiding conflict with self-calming exercises for self-control. Admissions criteria for the Pre-Teen/Teen Group are:

- Teens and parents must be able to commit to the full 8-week program
- Note that this Group has more opportunities for movement based activities, but teens must be verbal and able to sit and listen to a lesson for periods of approximately 15 minutes at a time
- A parent or parent representative must be present at either group
- Teens are encouraged to complete computer-based homework to practice the skills at home

Also note that with parent permission, video modeling will be used in group as a learning tool. Participant role plays will be videotaped, shown to participants, and shared with parents as well.

**A Project Rex intake is required prior to group participation. Please call Ashley at 843-792-4113 to schedule the initial intake. Once the intake is complete, call Ashley again at 843-792-4113 to register to attend.**

Project Rex is a treatment initiative dedicated to providing services, support, and treatment to children and young adults who struggle with high functioning autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, social anxiety, and more. Project Rex is affiliated with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

<https://www.projectrex.org/groups/>

### HOW ABOUT SOME SUMMER SESSIONS?

We here at the Parent Training and Resource Center (PTRC) LOVE our friend, Dr. Mitchell Yell. Mitch, a professor of special education at the University of South Carolina, has written several books related to special education and the law, as well as other useful topics on educating students with special learning needs. Since the PTRC was first funded in Oct 1999, Mitch has provided mandatory training for our staff each year yet we don't think you need to be one our staff to benefit from his knowledge. Mitch is no stranger to Youtube and one can find several of his workshops on that site. Here are a few of special interest and you can find plenty more by searching his name. Open the Youtube app and copy the links below. Learn and Enjoy:

*Special Education Legal Implications and Actions*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuQpTylmM98>

*Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BP2jGBMjpt4>

*Creating Educationally Meaningful and Legally Sound IEPs*

(presented with Dr. Kurt Hulett, Nat'l Director of Special Education Services)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PR5GOJspK4s>

## ADULTS-ONLY HIGH SCHOOL SET TO OPEN THIS FALL IN NORTH CHARLESTON

Much like any other high school, the **Palmetto Excel Center** will open its doors to students this August, but with one catch – all of the students will be 21 years old and older.

The Palmetto Excel Center will be a tuition-free public charter high school designed for adults without their GED or high school diploma. The school is the result of a partnership between Palmetto Goodwill and Trident Technical College. The program will operate on the Trident Technical College Campus, with classes set to begin August 28.

The program will operate much like a typical high school with terms throughout the year—similar to a semester scheduling system.

However, students may complete their classes in back-to-back terms or take terms off in between. Palmetto Goodwill said the Excel Center is designed to break the barriers some adults may face in finishing their education, such as transportation and childcare.

Applications for the program are available now for the fall term. After the August 28 start date, applications will remain open for future terms.

For more information visit:  
<https://palmettoexcel.org/>

Or call **Palmetto Goodwill: 843-566-0072**

### **Tax Free Weekend** is returning this August.

Shoppers will have 72 hours to capitalize on the temporary removal of the state's 6% sales tax, along with the absence of local taxes, from items that include computers, printers, school supplies, clothing & accessories, and shoes. Tax Free shopping begins midnight on Friday, Aug. 4 and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6.

## More Summer Session Learning Opportunities Continued

Some of the Youtube webinars that are linked here were developed for an audience of school district personnel. Sometimes it's helpful to know what they are hearing.

More from Mitch and others:

*Leading FAPE (Free & Appropriate Public Education) Issues*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbhhomAyTd0>

*Most Common IEP Legal Errors and How to Avoid Them*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSdgRsnzMeI>

*"The Dirty Dozen: Twelve Legal IEP Do's and Don'ts" with Julie Weatherly, Esq.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05pqYUEKyaE>

## Do you know about

### **THE RED BOOK** **A Guide to Work Incentives**

The Red Book serves as a general reference source about the employment-related provisions of the Social Security Disability Insurance and the Supplemental Security Income Programs for educators, advocates, rehabilitation professionals, and counselors who serve people with disabilities.

Find it at:

[www.ssa.gov/redbook/index.html](http://www.ssa.gov/redbook/index.html)

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**NOTICIAS MARAVILLOSAS!! - WONDERFUL NEWS!!**

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**TENEMOS UN NUEVO PADRE MENTOR BILINGÜE  
EVELINA DIAZ - 843-499-0704**

**WE HAVE A NEW BILINGAL PARENT MENTOR**

Tiene su hijo un IEP? Usted esta enterado de lo que esta disponible en las escuelas publicas para estudiantes con discapacidades?

Usted necesita ayuda para entender los servicios de educacion especial?

A traves de el programa de Mentores Companero-Padre , El PTRC prove de individualizado soporte y entrenamiento para padres dando acceso a servicios de educacion especial para ninos con discapacidades. En el programa Mentores Companero–Padre son quienes trabajan con las familias y han recibido entrenamiento especializado en areas relacionadas con la Leyes Federales como por ejemplo (IDEA) y la Seccion 504, las politicas y procedimientos de educacion especial en el distrito escolar asi tambien en la efectividad en tecnicas de comunicacion para personas con discapacidades. Los mentores de el programa Companero–Padre estan dispuestos a atender reunions con las familias para asistirlas en defensa de los derechos de sus hijos. En suma los padres reciben una comprensiva ayuda en educacion especial y los recursos de los manuals para futures referencias. Los servicios de mentor los cuales incluyen atender en las reuniones de IEP estan disponibles para familias en los condados de Charleston, Berkeley y Dorchester.