

Exceptional Children Information for Parents

February 20, 2020



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov>

Spotlight on First in Families of North Carolina

First In Families of North Carolina has been supporting individuals and their families to meet self-defined opportunities of health throughout North Carolina since 1995.

Mission

We are a catalyst for families in North Carolina to meet their self-determined needs by leveraging relationships and resources and encouraging reciprocity in their communities.

Vision

Individuals and families will have the wellness resource required to believe in their dreams, achieve their goals, connect in their communities and give back to others.

We support individuals and families in a variety of ways, including to:

- meet current goals and plan for the future,
- acquire needed goods and services, and
- find opportunities to give back to others.

Direct Family Support

We oversee fourteen regional First In Families Chapters across NC. The First In Families local Chapters offer support to families and individuals according to their self-defined needs. Examples of supports include computers, home furnishings or modifications, childcare or respite, or repairs to vehicles. Support can also be the connecting of an individual to vocational, social, and educational opportunities in the community; whatever it takes - for people to live and participate fully in their community. Find your local chapter by visiting:

<http://fifnc.org/programs/local.html>.



Upcoming

March 2020

- Brain Injury Awareness Month
- Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month
- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month
- Trisomy Awareness Month
- 1st: Self-Injury Awareness Day
- 16th: Brain Awareness Week
- 21st: World Down Syndrome Day
- 26th: Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness Day

PACER Center

- This parent training and information center offers many sessions for parents of children with a disability. Visit their workshop site to see all of the options:
<https://www.pacer.org/workshops/?fltr=Streaming>.
- Assistive Technology to Support Social-Emotional Development for Young Children (March 3)
- Being an Active Partner in Your Child's Transition from Early Childhood Special Education to Kindergarten (March 5)
- Advocating for My Child & Family (March 9)
- We have a communication device; now how can we use it? (March 17)

Contact: Alexis Utz, Parent Liaison
Exceptional Children Division, NC DPI
Email: alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov
Phone: 919.807.3264