



## CHESTER COUNTY EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

Chester County MHIDD provides this resource list as a convenience to families but does not provide specific endorsements.

### AUTISM RESOURCES

#### **Arc of Chester County (Building Better lives) – [www.arcofchestercounty.org](http://www.arcofchestercounty.org)**

The mission of *The Arc of Chester County* is to advocate, educate, and provide services to empower individuals with disabilities and their families to enhance the quality of their lives.

Programs offered are Early Intervention Services, Autism Services, Summer Camps, Life Skills, Fun Club, Housing etc.

#### **Assorted supplies – [www.autismshopper.com](http://www.autismshopper.com)**

**Visual Arts for Visual Kids-** For the visual thinker who translates words into pictures in their mind, it is only natural that they would learn better using visual aids. Presenting visuals during the learning process helps them retain information quicker and for longer periods of time. Using this concept when presenting unfamiliar information has been proven so effective that schools, therapists, educators and parents consider it crucial in their teaching practices.

#### **Autism Alliance of Chester County – [www.autismallianceofchestercounty.org](http://www.autismallianceofchestercounty.org)**

The mission of the Autism Alliance of Chester County is to work with the community to help put the pieces together for families and individuals living with autism, through education, awareness and support.

#### **Autism Society of America (ASA) – [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)**

The Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We do this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

#### **Autism Speaks – (100 day kit) - [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)**

At Autism Speaks, our goal is to change the future for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders. We are dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder. We are committed to raising the funds necessary to support these goals.

#### **Autism for the Spanish community - [www.manitasporautismo.com](http://www.manitasporautismo.com)**

#### **Global Autism Collaboration – [www.autism.org](http://www.autism.org)**

The goal of the GAC is to disseminate information to organizations, which may, in turn, choose to distribute this to their members. Such topics will include early diagnosis/intervention, treatment (e.g., behavioral, biomedical, education, and sensory), and adult issues (e.g., employment, law enforcement, and residential). We also plan to set up free webinars to provide various forms of support, such as how to plan conferences and walks and conduct fund-raising.

### **NIH Infant Brain Imaging Study – [www.ibis-network.org](http://www.ibis-network.org)**

This study of very early brain development in autism has the potential to provide important clues relevant to early detection of autism and discovering the early changes in the brain for young children with autism

### **EZ learning tools – [www.eztools4autism.com](http://www.eztools4autism.com)**

At EZ Tools 4 Autism we try to assist you in the journey of Autism, we also understand that every child's needs are different, that is why along with customizing some of our orders we would like to hear from you and how we can comply to your individual needs.

### **Fun and Function- therapeutic play and education – [www.funandfunction.com](http://www.funandfunction.com)**

Launched in 2005 by pediatric occupational therapist Aviva Weiss and her husband, Haskel, Fun and Function LLC has been lauded for “normalizing” the experience of being different, and helping children achieve their fullest potential. Weiss was inspired to start her own company when she discovered that one of her children had sensory processing disorder. She was frustrated by the lack of kid-friendly products, inconsistent quality, and high pricing.

### **Interactive Autism Network – [www.iancommunity.org](http://www.iancommunity.org)**

The IAN Community is an online environment designed to act as an inviting library and meeting place where everyone concerned with autism spectrum disorders can learn more about autism research. Everyone can participate and benefit from the IAN Community.

### **K-9's for Kids with Autism - <http://k9sforkids.webs.com/>**

K-9s for Kids philosophy is this: We place one of our puppies in your home and train you, the family, to train the pup. The child in need is the one who will care for the pup, the one who feeds and waters the pup, and the only one the pup will be trained to find. We will create a strong bond between your child and dog by having the child as the primary care giver.

### **National Autism Association – [www.nationalautismassociation.org](http://www.nationalautismassociation.org)**

The mission of the National Autism Association is to respond to the most urgent needs of the autism community, providing real help and hope so that all affected can reach their full potential.

### **Prizant, Barry – [www.barryprizant.com](http://www.barryprizant.com)**

Barry and his colleagues' recent work has focused on developing the SCERTS® Model (Prizant, Wetherby, Rubin, Laurent and Rydell, 2006) for children who have or are at-risk for social-communicative difficulties including autism, and their families. The SCERTS Model is now being adopted nationally and internationally, and has provided many unique opportunities for international collaboration and travel.

### **Pyramid Educational Consultants – [www.pecs.com](http://www.pecs.com)**

Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc offers a wide range of consulting services and products for educators and parents of children and adults with autism and related disabilities. Pyramid is a consortium of highly trained professionals dedicated to providing the highest quality service. Pyramid also offers a variety of training opportunities and products that focus on the initiation of communication and the design of effective educational environments. We present a unique blend of broad spectrum applied behavior analysis, in conjunction with the development of functional communication skills. Our philosophy emphasizes the individual needs of each learner.

### **Sensory Friendly Movies - <http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/events/sensory-friendly-films>**

AMC has partnered with the Autism Society in creating showtimes for a more comfortable experience for families with children who have autism. The movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing - in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden®" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned.

**Social Stories – [www.thegraycenter.org](http://www.thegraycenter.org)**

The Gray Center For Social Learning and Understanding is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to individuals with **autism spectrum disorders (ASD)** and those who work alongside them to improve mutual understanding. We approach the social impairment in ASD as a shared impairment. We work to improve social understanding on both sides of the social equation, helping both persons with ASD and those who interact with them to be able to communicate more effectively.

**Strategies and ideas to help children with Autism – [www.autisminspiration.com](http://www.autisminspiration.com)**

We are an on-line resource for parents and teachers of children with autism spectrum behaviors. Our website is dedicated to providing you with a variety of resources including lesson plans, games, group activities, sensory integration ideas, forums, and other valuable tools and information to help teach children with Autism, Asperger Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Delay (PDD), Sensory Integration Disorder, and other related behaviors.

**Symbols and Pictures – [www.symbolworld.org](http://www.symbolworld.org)**

**Taking Care of Myself (self help, sexuality and hygiene)– [www.FHautism.com](http://www.FHautism.com)**

Future Horizons was created to meet the needs of teachers, therapists, and family members who face the challenge of autism. Our books, videos, and conferences are geared to bring you the most current information possible to assist in that challenge.

**TINSNIPS – [www.tinsnips.org](http://www.tinsnips.org)**

Tinsnips is a special education resource that strives to share a variety of specialized teaching tools, techniques, worksheets, and activities with teachers of students who have autistic spectrum disorders and related developmental disabilities. Many of these activities may be appropriate for Pre-K and Kindergarten children.

**Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children (TEACCH) – [www.teacch.com](http://www.teacch.com)**

TEACCH is an evidence-based service, training, and research program for individuals of all ages and skill levels with autism spectrum disorders

**DEAF/HARD OF HEARING RESOURCES**  
(please see National, State and Local resources at the end of this guide)

**FAMILY/COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**Mom's Clubs in Delaware Valley - <http://www.metrokids.com/MetroKids/January-2010>**

**Curious Parents** –local resources for parents on entertainment, enrichment and fun activities for kids and families - [http://www.curiousparents.com/Calendar/calendar\\_moms\\_club\\_events.asp](http://www.curiousparents.com/Calendar/calendar_moms_club_events.asp)

**Chester County Moms - [www.chestercountymoms.com](http://www.chestercountymoms.com)**

**CCMOMC-Chester County Mothers of Multiples Club**

The Chester County Mothers of Multiples Club (CCMOMC) is more than just moms getting together to talk about their children and share parenting tips. The club currently has more than 200 mothers of multiples. There are monthly meetings, both educational and social, a new and expectant moms group, playgroups, excursions, mom's night out, community service outreach, children's outgrown sales and

more. If you have any questions or would like further information please contact us at [ccmomc@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmomc@hotmail.com) or visit [www.ccmomc.org](http://www.ccmomc.org).

**DARC “Smart Play” Groups** - Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium offers classes to toddlers with and without special needs. Classes have meet and greet time, art, snack, circle time, sensory exploration and fare. Classes are open to residents of the Downingtown area and Non- Residents as well.

Classes offered at United Sports Training Center 1426 Marshallton-Thorndale rd in Thorndale. well. Groups/sessions are broken down by age from 16 months to 3 years, with classes specifically for children with Special Needs.

Information about the program can be found by contacting Eileen Bowden M Ed at [gumptionkids@gmail.com](mailto:gumptionkids@gmail.com) or 215-485-8373.

The class times/dates/ description can be found in the DARC catalog oline at [www.darcinfo.com](http://www.darcinfo.com) or 610-269-9260

### **Human Services, Inc. – central Chester County area**

330 West Market Street  
West Chester, PA 19380  
610-429-3033

Human Services, Inc. is a dedicated, caring community human service agency offering hope and help to children, adolescents, adults, the elderly and families who struggle with aging, transportation, chemical and mental health, & domestic and sexual abuse.

**KIDS** – free newspaper sponsored by Chester County Intermediate Unit and public schools with resources for Preschool/Child Care, Events Calendar, Special Needs resource section, sports league info, etc. [www.cciu.org/kidsnews](http://www.cciu.org/kidsnews)

**Meetup: Mothers Celebrating Neurodiversity** - a relaxed and supportive Chester County mom’s group for those who have kids who “enjoy” a variety of special needs.  
<http://www.meetup.com/celebrate-neurodiversity/>

**Parent’s Express**- free newspaper [www.parents-express.net](http://www.parents-express.net) – local resources/events

### **Oxford Area Neighborhood Services – Southwestern Chester County Area**

35 North Third Street, Oxford, PA, 19636  
610-932-8557

Neighborhood Services Center is a private, non-profit organization concerned with assisting people to achieve health, wholeness and stability in their lives by offering people with questions, problems or emergency needs a place to explore options and/or find answers. Goal of providing space for county agencies and community programs to deliver services and establishing a link between people who want to reach out to help others.

### **Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania – [www.parenttoparent.org](http://www.parenttoparent.org)**

A program that matches families with similar experiences and needs that strives to make positive differences in peoples lives.

### **Rejoicing Spirits - <http://www.rejoicingspirits.org/>**

Community Churches that offer special services for people/families with special needs/intellectual differences.

**Sing-A-Long Sessions at Marchwood Music – [www.singalongsessions.com](http://www.singalongsessions.com)**

610-363-6520 Developmental Music classes for parents of toddlers and preschoolers ages 18 months to 5 years. 6 week sessions – led by a pediatric Speech Language Pathologist and a Professional Music Teacher.

## **SAFETY**

**Premise Alert System, Speak Unlimited Inc. – [www.papremisealert.com](http://www.papremisealert.com)**

This program allows families to voluntarily notify the police and other first responders about their special circumstances. It may be a child or adult with autism, developmental delays, or mental retardation who is known to wander. It may be someone with rare or complex medical issues that require special handling. It could be an Alzheimer patient who wanders. The Premise Alert System also helps police departments know who in their community has a special need and what situation they may be going into when called to a particular address. This form will be distributed to families through case managers at the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation as well as schools, community groups and legislators offices.

**Special Needs Registry:** This signifies an effort by county government officials to better identify those in our community who are most at risk during a disaster. Individuals registered with this site will be identified by emergency responders as part of the “special needs population”. This is a web based data collection tool that will assist those emergency responders in planning and prioritizing in the event of a disaster.

Call 610-344-5000 or logon to: <http://www.chesco.org/des> to register.

**Safety beds – [www.specialtyfurnitureproducts.com](http://www.specialtyfurnitureproducts.com)**

Our Easycare Safety Bed™ brings added safety, security and a top quality furniture design to the special needs individual while providing peace of mind for the caregiver. EasyCare Safety Beds are designed for home healthcare and are a safe alternative to hospital beds. Your home is not a hospital and your bed should compliment your home decor. The warm look of a handcrafted EasyCare Safety Bed provides that safe, secure, comfortable feeling that your home deserves.

**Safelink wireless** [www.safelinkwireless.com](http://www.safelinkwireless.com), a resource which provides free cell phone service to lower income families so they can have access to emergency assistance. Family may be eligible if they meet income guidelines or are getting Medicaid, food stamps, or TANF.

## **LEGAL/EDUCATION/ADVOCACY**

**Building the Legacy: IDEA 2004**

<http://idea.ed.gov/>

**Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning**

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/>

**Circle of Inclusion**

<http://www.circleofinclusion.org/>

**Coaching in Early Childhood**

<http://www.coachinginearlychildhood.org/>

**The Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children**

<http://www.dec-sped.org/>

## **Early Childhood Research Institute of Inclusion**

<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ecri/>

## **Education Law Center – [www.elc-pa.org](http://www.elc-pa.org)**

Since 1975, the Education Law Center of Pennsylvania (ELC) has worked to make good public education a reality for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable children – poor children, children of color, children with disabilities, English language learners, children in foster homes and institutions, and others.

## **Educational Resources for Special Needs (picture cards) – [www.dotolearn.com](http://www.dotolearn.com)**

The mission of Do2learn is to use technology and the web to provide special learning resources for individuals with disabilities and the professionals and caregivers who serve them. Working with leading educators, clinicians, teachers and parents, we develop serious games and learning material targeting specific deficits of individuals with neurological disorders including ASD, fetal alcohol effects, intellectual disabilities, attention disorders, learning and communication disorders and others. We specifically address deficits in the areas of behavior, socialization, communication, coping, and daily living skills.

## **Family items for the special needs community – [www.eparent.com](http://www.eparent.com)**

EP provides practical advice and the most up-to-date educational information for families of children and adults with disabilities and special healthcare needs as well as to the physicians, allied health care professionals, and educational professionals who are involved in their care and development.

## **First Signs – [www.firstsigns.org](http://www.firstsigns.org)**

Our Mission is to ensure the best developmental outcome for every child by promoting awareness regarding the most important and often overlooked aspects of development: social, emotional, and communication.

**Guiding Parents Smoothly – GPS** – online interactive website to track your child's development and be directed to an enormous amount of resources to help support your child's learning and development from infancy to early childhood.

<http://papromiseforchildren.com/help-your-child-grow/early-learning-gps/>

## **National Early Childhood Transition Center**

<http://www.hdi.uky.edu>

## **National Early Intervention Technical Assistance Center**

<http://www.nectac.org/default.asp>

## **National Association for the Education of Young Children**

<http://www.naeyc.org/>

**PaTTAN (Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network)** - To support the efforts and initiatives of the Bureau of Special Education, and to build the capacity of local educational agencies to serve students who receive special education services.

<http://www.pattan.net>

**PEAL –Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership Center [www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org):** provides information, training, advocacy and many resources for families of children with disabilities or special health care needs.

**PCCY- Public Citizens for Children and Youth –<http://www.pccy.org>**



Program provides education, advocacy and support to families of children with Behavioral Health and/or Developmental disabilities. They offer assistance to families in applying for and navigating through the process of insurance coverage, including applications for Medical Assistance, CHIP, etc. Contact: Deb Zubrow, 215-563-5848, ext. 47.

**The Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, [www.PILCOP.org](http://www.PILCOP.org)**

**Phone:** 215-627-7100

**Fax:** 215-627-3183

**Email:** [general@pilcop.org](mailto:general@pilcop.org)

Our clients are people with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, low-income individuals and communities, formerly incarcerated people, and the advocacy organizations that represent them

**Project TaCTICS: Therapists as Collaborative Team Members for Infant/Toddler Community Services**

<http://tactics.fsu.edu/index.html>

**Teach Me To Learn At Home** – this is free online early literacy and language program to support children ages 2-6. **Use membership code: ChesterCounty** and click on following link to register for a free account:

<https://learningportal.teachmetolearnathome.com/register/>

**Zero to Three**

<http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer>

**Criminal defense attorneys working with the disability community (those who agreed to be listed):**

<p><b>Dan Nevins, Esq.</b> Ebner, Nevins &amp; McAllister LLC 602-604 Court Street Reading, PA 19601 610-372-5128 <a href="mailto:nevins@enmlaw.com">nevins@enmlaw.com</a> <a href="http://www.enmlaw.com">www.enmlaw.com</a></p>	<p><b>Robert A. Rapkin</b> Kimmel &amp; Silverman PC 30 E. Butler Pike Ambler PA 19002 (Montgomery) 215/540-8888</p>
<p><b>David Samuel Thalheimer</b> Suite 300 1831 Chestnut St. Philadelphia PA 19103 215-568-5656</p>	<p><b>Henry S. Hilles III, Esq.</b> 509 Swede Street Norristown, PA 19401 610-270-8800</p>
<p><b>Craig David Becker, Esq.</b> 500 Old York Road, Suite 100 Jenkintown, PA 19046 (215) 510-8552; (856) 273-0200 Email: <a href="mailto:cbecker@cbeckerlaw.com">cbecker@cbeckerlaw.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.cbeckerlaw.com">http://www.cbeckerlaw.com</a> <i>Education Law and Criminal Defense</i></p>	<p><b>Veronica Anzalone Smith, Esq.</b> <a href="mailto:vsmith1@zoominternet.net">vsmith1@zoominternet.net</a> (Mercer County) PO Box 825 Grove City, PA 16127 724-450-5000 Fax: 724-458-1552 <i>Legal help in all areas of criminal and juvenile law, but as a Family Law Master cannot provide services for family law matters in Mercer County.</i></p>
<p><b>Jill Sege, Esq.</b> <i>(knows American Sign Language ASL)</i> Nattiel, Seay, &amp; Associates 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 732 Philadelphia, PA 19107</p>	<p><b>Ronald D. Amrhein, Jr.</b> <a href="mailto:RDA@jgq.com">RDA@jgq.com</a> Main Office 411 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1200 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1905</p>

215-545-7778	Telephone 412-261-6400 Fax 412-261-2652
<b>Carina Laguzzi, Esquire</b> Two Penn Center 1500 JFK Blvd., Suite 200 Philadelphia, PA 19102 (215) 625-4547 (215) 625-4541 Fax <a href="http://www.laguzzilaw.com">www.laguzzilaw.com</a>	<b>Joseph D. Lento, Esq.</b> North American Building 121 S. Broad Street, 2nd Floor Philadelphia, PA 19107 Reply to: P.O. Box 506, Narberth, PA 19072 Phone: (215) 688-3522 Email: <a href="mailto:jlentoesq@gmail.com">jlentoesq@gmail.com</a> <i>Licensed in PA &amp; NJ</i>
<b>Giovanni Campbell</b> Philadelphia, 215-432-7683	

## MEDICAL/DENTAL

### Community Volunteers in Medicine

300B Lawrence Drive, West Chester  
610-836-5990

[www.cvim.org](http://www.cvim.org)

Community Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) is a community-based, volunteer nonprofit organization providing primary medical and dental care to uninsured and low income working people in Chester County without insurance, enabling them to continue to be contributing members of the community.

### The Clinic

143 Church Street, Phoenixville PA 19460  
610.935.1134

[www.theclinicpa.org](http://www.theclinicpa.org)

Since 2001, the staff and volunteers of The Clinic in Phoenixville have served the uninsured and underinsured with low-cost or free medical care. We offer primary medical care as well as a variety of medical specialties and addiction and nutrition counseling. Clinics like ours all over the country are seeing an increase in new patients. We have imposed geographical restrictions for the first time in our history. Current patients will not be affected by this change, but *new patients will be limited to the geographical areas surrounding the Phoenixville and Paoli Hospitals.*

### ChesPenn Family Health Center

744 E. Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, Pa 19320  
(610)-380-4660

[www.chespenn.com](http://www.chespenn.com)

ChesPenn Health Services has provided quality medical and dental services to residents of Chester, Pennsylvania and neighboring communities.

### Chester County Community Dental Services

744 Lincoln Highway, Suite 120, Coatesville, PA 19320  
(610)-383-3888

[communitydental@verizon.net](mailto:communitydental@verizon.net)

<http://www.chescodental.org/index.html>

Our mission is to reduce the disparities in dental health care by providing preventive and basic dental services, education, and outreach programs to low income, uninsured, and underinsured children and adults on a sliding fee scale.



**Chester Community Physical Therapy Clinic – located in Chester, Delaware County** at 2129 Providence Ave, Chester, PA, 19013

E-mail: [chestercommunitypt@mail.widener.edu](mailto:chestercommunitypt@mail.widener.edu)

Website is <https://alumni.widener.edu/probonoclinic>

- offers FREE or a very reduced rate PT sessions provided by students supervised by PA licensed physical therapists
- They will see kids Monday through Thursday from 4:30 – 6:30
- To make an appointment you can call 215-760-7256, you can fax at 610-499-1231

### **Cuddle My Kids**

1008 Hidden Hollow Lane, West Chester 19380

610-918-1440

[CuddleMyKids@comcast.net](mailto:CuddleMyKids@comcast.net)

Provides volunteers to families battling with cancer

### **Phoenixville Healthcare Access Foundation**

26 Gay Street PO Box 591, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Phone: (610) 935-3165

Toll Free: 1-877-765-0477

[info@phcafoundation.org](mailto:info@phcafoundation.org)

<http://www.phcafoundation.org/index.html>

The Phoenixville Healthcare Access Foundation provides the funding for the Health Care Access Programs. The Healthcare Access Programs help eligible residents of the greater Phoenixville Area access dental, emergency orthopaedic and vision care, as well as obtaining prescription medications. We refer clients to local dentists and eye doctors for the care they need. The program reimburses a network of dental and vision providers at a discounted fee for service. We assist clients in obtaining prescription medications from the drug companies' Patient Assistance Programs.

### **InfantSEE**

This program is a no-cost program for 6 to 12 month olds made available through the Vision Care Institute, a Johnson and Johnson company, the American Optometric Association and Optometry's Charity-The AOA Foundation. This program ensures that infants have access to eye and vision assessments. Optometrists provide a one-time, comprehensive eye assessment to infants in their first year of life **at no cost regardless of income or ability to pay.** [www.infantsee.org](http://www.infantsee.org) (888) 396-3937

### **Lauren's House Medical Day Care**

795 Fox Chase,

Coatesville, PA 19320

(610) 380-9960

### **Lionville Natural Pharmacy Annex**

309 Gordon Drive

Lionville, PA 19341

(610) 344-7030

### **Family Benefits Program of Chester County** (program of The Maternal & Child Health Consortium)

Program helps Chester County families apply for Medical Assistance, CHIP or food stamps

Coatesville/West Chester areas - 610-344-5370, ext. 114

Phoenixville - 610-344-5370, ext. 109

Kennett Square- 610-444-4002

### **Reins Of Life – Therapeutic Horseback Riding, [www.reinsoflife.com](http://www.reinsoflife.com)**

Judy Freedman Hendrickson, Executive Director  
113 Crestwood Road  
Landenberg, PA 19350  
Ofc: 610-274-3300

**Special Kids Network** – [www.gotoskn.state.pa.us](http://www.gotoskn.state.pa.us)

1-800-986-4550

Southeast Regional Coordinator, Dianne Perry, 814-270-5618

Offers home visiting program through Elks Nurses, advocacy and supports to children with physical, developmental, behavioral, emotional or special health care needs.

**Tots-n-Tech – Website and Help Desk Resource**, <http://tnt.asu.edu>

An inter-university collaboration between Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) and Philadelphia and Arizona State University (ASU) which provides up to date information and resources about adaptations, including assistive technology(AT), as well as conducts national research on the use of adaptations and AT.

**UNIQUE – Understanding Chromosome Disorders** - <http://www.rarechromo.org/html/home.asp>

## LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE

**Angelfood Ministries**

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship

426 W. Gay St. West Chester

<http://www.angelfoodministries.com>

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and financial support to communities throughout the United States.

**Mitzvah Circle Foundation**, [www.mitzvahcircle.org](http://www.mitzvahcircle.org) Community Partner with the National Diaper Bank Network

Supports service organizations/families with donations of diapers, personal hygiene items, household goods, baby gear, school supplies, clothing and more

*Rachel Hurley, Director of Community Engagement, 215-828-6649*

**Rent and Mortgage Assistance**

**Catholic Social Services – Western Chester County Area**

605 East Lincoln Highway

Coatesville, PA 19320

610-344-7028

Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia continues the work of Jesus by affirming, assisting, and advocating for individuals, families, and communities.

**Catholic Social Services –Southern Chester County Area**

105 Prospect Avenue

West Grove, PA, 19390

610-869-6500

**Catholic Social Services – Central Chester County area**

125 N. Darlington St.

West Chester, 19380

610-344-7028

**Homeless Shelter Services and Emergency Supportive Services**

<http://shelter.ccil.org/>

Provides information on Chester County shelters and emergency supportive services as well as available openings. Click on the “modify” links to show recent updates to available openings.

Free Medical Transportation – Kennett Area Community Service  
610-925-3556, M-F 9AM – to 5PM

### **LaComunidad Hispana/Project Salud- southern Chester County area & Latino population**

731 West Cypress Street  
Kennett Square, PA 19348  
610.444.7550 <http://www.lacomunidadhispana.org/>

To empower immigrants and low-income residents of southern Chester County to stay healthy, build strong families and lead productive and fulfilling lives.

### **Phoenixville Area Community Services – northern Chester County area**

257 Church Street, Phoenixville, PA, 19460  
610-933-1105

Since 1972, PACS has offered support, aid and hope for residents in our community who need information and direction as well as emergency aid.

## **RECREATION**

### **Spring Brook Farm – [www.springbrook-farm.org](http://www.springbrook-farm.org)**

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm provides animal-assisted activities for children with disabilities. Our mission is to enrich the lives of children with disabilities by providing animal-assisted activities for the purpose of promoting knowledge, confidence, self-esteem and physical well-being.

### **My Gym Lionville**

Lionville Village Center  
138 Eagleview Blvd., Lionville, PA 19353  
610-363-6090

My Gym has developed an extraordinary program and facility devised to help children 6 weeks thru 13 years of age develop physically, cognitively and emotionally. We have over 200 locations in more than 25 countries offering structured, age-appropriate, weekly classes that incorporate music, dance, relays, games, special rides, gymnastics, sports and more. Children have loads of fun as they gain strength, balance, coordination, agility and flexibility while developing social skills, confidence and self-esteem. Our state-of-the-art facility, extensively trained staff, award-winning class programs, and excellent student/teacher ratio have earned My Gym the reputation as the best early learning program of its kind.

### **Tempo Music Therapy Services**

7 North Five Points Road, West Chester, PA 19380  
(610) 344-7030

Tempo! Music Therapy Services is an organization dedicated to promoting the emotional and social well-being of individuals, improving their quality of life through the arts. Our goal is to create a positive impact on the lives of children, adults, and families to help them achieve personal growth and self exploration in a creative way. We believe that every individual has an innate musical ability and it is our responsibility to build upon that ability to create positive changes and to help clients reach their goals.

### **Toys ‘R Us Toy Catalog for Differently Abled Children -**

[http://www.toysrus.com/shop/index.jsp?categoryId=3261680&camp=CME:TRU:EM082215C\\_DAGEmail&csep=49613af7-c1d2-499c-9c17-79fb4c41a529&dtm\\_em=073d30a4b74ac81279674cd38c1cb1a7](http://www.toysrus.com/shop/index.jsp?categoryId=3261680&camp=CME:TRU:EM082215C_DAGEmail&csep=49613af7-c1d2-499c-9c17-79fb4c41a529&dtm_em=073d30a4b74ac81279674cd38c1cb1a7)

**Little League Challenger Division-**

**<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/about/divisions/challenger.htm>**

610-344-0979

The Challenger Division was established in 1989 as a separate division of Little League to enable boys and girls with physical and mental challenges, ages 4-18, or up to age 22 if still enrolled in high school, to enjoy the game of baseball along with the millions of other children who participate in this sport worldwide.

**The Center on Central - <http://thecenteroncentral.com/>**

24 W. Central Avenue , Paoli, PA

610-710-1487

Recognizing that a healthy individual seeks wellness in mind, body and spirit, The Center’s mission is to provide the finest personal enrichment programs, in one-on-one and group settings, at times of the day that meet the consumer’s needs. The Center on Central is Your Home for Creative Arts – with drawing classes, cartooning classes, music groups and individual music lessons/, dance/movement, drama/improv, beading and a pottery studio all featured.

**Music and Art ABC**

114 West Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

610-696-1812 x414

Music and Art ABC's is a creative arts program designed to nurture each child's music and art potential. At Music and Art ABC’s children can attend music classes art classes and combination art/music classes in a warm and supportive environment. Each class is taught by a qualified teacher with a degree in their specialty. Class sizes are kept small so that each child receives individualized attention.

**Reins of Life**

A NARHA Premier accredited facility since its inception, Reins of Life, Inc. is a non-profit organization that serves children and adults with disabilities through equine-assisted activities.

113 Crestwood Road, Landenberg, PA 19350

Phone: 610-274-3300

**Child and Family Art Therapy Center-<http://childandfamilyarttherapycenter.com>**

Station Square 2, Suite 109

37 N. Valley Rd., Paoli, PA 19301

610-649-1080

Welcome to the **Child and Family Art Therapy Center**, a unique private practice in the Philadelphia area, dedicated to providing the most innovative, high quality counseling services for children. You will experience our compassion, love of children, and respect for parents in all of your interactions with us.

**Chester County YMCAs**

<b>West Chester</b> 605 Airport Road West Chester, PA 19380 610-431-9622	<b>Kennett YMCA</b> 101 Race Street Kennett, PA 19348 610-444-9622	<b>Jennersville</b> 880 W. Baltimore Pike West Grove, PA 19390 610-869-9622
<b>Brandywine</b> 295 Hurley Road Coatesville, PA 19320 610-380-9622	<b>Twin Valley</b> 51 South Pine Street Elverson, PA 19520 610-913-9622	

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Chewable Jewels- Dr. Bloom Inc. - [www.chewablejewels.com](http://www.chewablejewels.com)**

Dr Bloom's Chewable Jewels are a unique line of safe teething jewelry that includes bracelets, necklaces and key chain accessories. The products come in various colors and package options. One of the most popular items, Dr. Bloom's Chewable Jewels necklace, is also great for nursing moms.

**Mayer and Johnson Inc, (1992), Salona Beach, CA – [www.mayer-johnson.com](http://www.mayer-johnson.com)**

Mayer-Johnson's mission is to enhance learning and human expression for individuals with special needs through symbol-based products, training and services. For more than 25 years, Special Educators, Speech and Language Pathologists, Parents and Caregivers have successfully applied the company's Picture Communication Symbols® (PCS) at home, school and in clinical settings. Today, approximately 11,000 PCS symbols are available in 44 languages and used throughout the world.

**Mailbox Magazine – [www.theeducationcenter.com](http://www.theeducationcenter.com)**

As the company has grown over the years, our staff of former teachers has continued to produce high-quality, practical, ready-to-use materials for other elementary teachers. Hundreds of thousands of teachers across the country depend on our products to enrich their lesson plans, to speed up their planning time, and to leave them more time to do what they love best—teach. This family of creative people has helped to insure that our products are known and loved by teachers throughout the country. As a matter of fact, **The Mailbox** is America's #1 teaching resource!

**Mobile Haircuts-** Cassandra Johnson (owner of Beyond Expectations Salon in Coatesville). Phone: (484)643-9952. Email :expectations.beyond @yahoo.com

- Provides Mobile Haircuts, designed for children with Special needs and elderly people who are unable to leave the house or are uncomfortable with haircuts.
- Accommodates clients within 20 miles away from the salon.
- Owner completed Autism Education program, is licensed and understands the trials of individuals and families with disabilities.

## **DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING RESOURCES & NEWBORN AND INFANT HEARING SCREENING RELATED WEBSITES**

### **Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing –**

<http://www.agbell.org>

The Association helps families, health care providers and education professionals understand childhood hearing loss and the importance of early diagnosis and intervention.

### **American Academy of Audiology – <http://www.audiology.org>**

The Academy is dedicated to providing quality hearing care services through professional development, education, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders.

### **American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery – <http://www.entnet.org>**

The Academy's health information provides a basic overview of diagnoses and treatment for diseases and disorders of the ears, nose, throat, head and neck.

### **American Academy of Pediatrics – <http://www.aap.org>**

The American Academy of Pediatrics is the major professional association of pediatricians whose goal is to address pediatric healthcare standards and provide information on child health, baby, infant, kids, SIDS, safety and injury.

### **American Society for Deaf Children – <http://www.deafchildren.org>**

Supports and educates families of deaf and hard of hearing and advocates for high quality programs and services.

### **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association – <http://www.asha.org>**



The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association is committed to ensuring that all people with speech, language, and hearing disorders receive services to help them communicate effectively.

**Beginners for Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing –**

<http://www.ncbegin.org>

This group was established to provide emotional support and access to information as a central resource for families with deaf or hard of hearing children, age birth through 21.

**Boys Town National Research Hospital (Center for Hearing Loss in Children) –**

<http://www.boystownhospital.org>

Boys Town National Research Hospital has been internationally recognized as a leader in clinical and research programs focusing on childhood deafness, visual impairment and related communication disorders. National medical programs are now instituted in hospitals and clinics across the country.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention –** <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (or **CDC**) are a United States federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services working to protect public health and safety by providing information to enhance health decisions, and it promotes health through partnerships with state health departments and other organizations. The CDC focus national attention on developing and applying disease prevention and control (especially infectious diseases and foodborne pathogens and other microbial infections), environmental health, occupational safety and health, health promotion, injury prevention and education activities designed to improve the health of the people of the United States.

**Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech –** <http://www.clarkeschools.org>

The mission of Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech is to provide children who are deaf and hard of hearing with the listening, learning and spoken language skills they need to succeed in life.

**Deafness Research Foundation –** <http://www.drf.org>

DRF'S mission is to attain a lifetime of healthy hearing and balance through quality research, education and advocacy.

**Getting Started** – Resource guide for Families of Infants and Young Children with Hearing Loss. [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net) (following the path: Resources>PaTTAN Publications>and then search for booklet.

**Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side –** [www.paearlyhearing.org/gbys.php](http://www.paearlyhearing.org/gbys.php)

800-360-7282 ext. 3908 or 717-541-4960 ext. 3908

Parent organization dedicated to directly supporting families, infants & toddlers who are newly identified as having a hearing loss by offering them the opportunity to talk to or meet face-to-face with a parent guide.

**Hearing Loss Association of American –** <http://www.hearingloss.org>

HAAA is the nation's leading organization representing people with hearing loss. The organization provides assistance and resources for families to learn how to adjust to living with

hearing loss. HLAA is working to eradicate the stigma associated with hearing loss and to raise public awareness about the need for prevention, treatment, and regular hearing screenings throughout life.

**Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center** – <http://www.hsdcc.org>

HSDCC provides audiology and hearing aids, speech language therapy, and preschool education and literacy for the deaf and hard of hearing and provides comprehensive hearing evaluations and hearing aid fitting, dispensing, service and repair. The Center is committed to supporting the latest hearing aid technologies, from most major manufacturers, tailored to meet our clients' individual needs.

**Listen-Up** – <http://www.listen-up.org>

Listen-UP specializes in gathering information and developing products geared to the special needs of hearing impaired children and their families.

**My Baby's Hearing** – <http://www.babyhearing.org>

Tests performed in infants before leaving the hospital to determine hearing problems. This site provides additional information newborn hearing screening tests as well as follow-up testing.

**National Association of the Deaf** – <http://www.nad.org>

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is the nation's premier civil rights organization of, by and for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The organization is run by deaf people to advocate for deaf rights. Its mission is to preserve, protect and promote the civil, human and linguistic rights of deaf and hard of hearing people.

**National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management at Utah State University** – <http://www.infanthearing.org>

The NCHAM serves as the National Resource Center for the implementation and improvement of comprehensive and effective early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) systems. As a multidisciplinary center, the goal is to ensure that all infants and toddlers with hearing loss are identified as early as possible and provided with timely and appropriate audio logical, educational, and medical intervention.

**National Cued Speech Association** – <http://www.cuedspeech.org>

The Cued Speech Association supports effective communication, language development and literacy through the use of cued speech. Cued Speech is a mode of communication based on the phonemes and properties of traditionally spoken languages through the use of vision.

**National Deaf Education Center/Gallaudet University** – <http://www.Clerccenter.gallauder.edu/infotogo>

Gallaudet University is a bilingual, diverse, multicultural institution of higher education that ensures the intellectual and professional advancement of deaf and hard of hearing individuals through American Sign Language and English.

**National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Information Clearinghouse** – <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov>

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) is one of the Institutes that comprise the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIH is the Federal government's

focal point for the support of biomedical research. Its mission is to acquire new knowledge to help prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat disease and disability. The NIDCD is mandated to conduct and support biomedical and behavioral research and research training in the normal and disordered processes of hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech, and language.

**Oral Deaf Education** – <http://www.oraldeafed.org>

Oral deaf education is a collaborative, family-centered educational approach that develops a child's speech and listening abilities along with confidence and life skills to meet the challenges of the greater world in which parents and family play a key role right from the start.

## **Pennsylvania Resources and Websites for Deaf/Hard of Hearing**

**Guide By Your Side, PA Early Hearing Detection and Intervention website:**

<http://www.paearlyhearing.org/gbys.php>

**Contact:** Anne Gaspich, [agaspich@pattan.net](mailto:agaspich@pattan.net), Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side of PA Program Coordinator, 800-360-7282, ext. 3908

Links families with parent guides who are other parents of children with deafness or hearing loss who have received specialized training to provide unbiased information, emotional support, and a perspective of optimism and hope on a shared journey.

**Parent to Parent** – <http://www.parenttoparent.org>

Parent to Parent links families of children and adults with disabilities or special needs.

**Parent Education Network** – <http://www.parentednet.org>

PEN, funded by the US Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, is a coalition of professionals and parents of children representing a range of disabilities and ages committed to serving parents of all special needs children birth to adulthood; including parents of children in pre-school, regular education classes, educational/residential placement, adult systems and those children not yet identified as needing service.

**Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology** – <http://www.paaudiology.org>

The Academy is a professional organization of university-trained audiologists practicing in a variety of settings and dedicated to serving all people with hearing problems. The Academy promotes the profession of audiology as an autonomous profession to serve the hearing health care needs of all people.

**Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics** – <http://www.paaap.org>

The American Academy of Pediatrics represents pediatricians working in early childhood health, mental health, education, nutrition, and social stability.

**Pennsylvania Department of Health** – <http://www.health.state.pa.us>

The Pennsylvania Department of Health operates as the information clearinghouse and referral center for the Pennsylvania Department of Health to promote healthy lifestyles for all Pennsylvanians.

**Pennsylvania Training & Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) –**  
<http://www.pattan.net>

The mission of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network is to support the efforts and initiatives of the Bureau of Special Education, and to build the capacity of local educational agencies to serve students who receive special education services.

**Special Kids Network gives information about Early Intervention and Medical Assistance (800-986-4550)**

**How to establish Medicaid eligibility:**  
**Consult information from**

**PA Health Law Project –** <http://www.phlp.org/Loophole%20guide%202-04.pdf>

## **Local County Deaf Hard of Hearing Resources and Websites**

### **The Chester County Intermediate Unit**

455 Boot Road  
Downingtown, PA 19335  
Danielle Hawkins, Supervisor  
(484) 237-5150  
[danielleh@cciu.org](mailto:danielleh@cciu.org)

The Chester County Intermediate Unit provides services for children with hearing loss from birth to age 21. Early intervention and preschool services are provided in the home, child's daycare, preschool, or other natural environments. A specialized classroom is available for children between the ages of 3 to 5. Support is provided for children attending neighborhood preschools. Services are tailored to the individual needs of each child and family and can range from development of speech, language and listening skills (the auditory/oral approach) or utilizing sign language (the Total Communication approach). Parent groups and child playgroups are also available.

### **The Chester County Intermediate Unit**

455 Boot Road  
Downingtown, PA 19335  
Vincent McVeigh, Supervisor  
(484) 237-5013  
[vincem@cciu.org](mailto:vincem@cciu.org)

The Intermediate Unit also operates district-based hearing impaired classrooms at the elementary and secondary school levels. The program supports students whose degree of hearing loss and communication needs require placement in a total communication setting.

**Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech/Pennsylvania** 455 South Roberts Road, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 - 610-525-9600 (voice/tty) <http://www.info@clarkeschools.org>;  
<http://www.clarkeschools.org> Judith Sexton, MS, CED, LSLs Cert AVEEd, Director. A member of the Option Schools network, Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech provides children who

are deaf and hard of hearing with the listening, learning and spoken language skills they need to succeed. Comprehensive listening and spoken language programs prepare students for success in mainstream schools. Locations are in Bryn Mawr and Philadelphia.

Services include early intervention, preschool, parent services, cochlear implant habilitation for children and adults, audiological services, and mainstream services including itinerant teaching and consulting. Specially trained staff includes LSLS Cert. AVEd and LSL Cert.AVT professionals, teachers of the deaf, special educators, speech language pathologists and a staff audiologist.

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech has locations in Boston, Bryn Mawr, Philadelphia, Northampton and Jacksonville.