

## Summer activities



It may seem like winter just began, but believe it or not, it's already time to get your summer plans started!

Getting summer plans set up ahead of time is a great way to ease stress at the end of the school year.

There are a variety of activities that your child can enjoy. Some parents find that summer is the time to enhance skills. For a child at an elementary school level, you could explore a summer reading program at your local library, improve your child's vocabulary by learning three new words a week, and encourage your child to read the newspaper. For a child at a secondary school level, you could read about places that the child will visit on vacation and have them write about those places. You can also call your local recreation center, where they can give you activities in your area.

If you would like to send your child to some type of summer camp, there are many options. Before making a decision, consider whether the camp is day or residential. Day camps include activities such as music, swimming and



Summer fun in Aiken

arts and crafts. Residential camps are camps where the child stays overnight for a period of time. While you might be nervous about sending your child away from home, a residential camp can increase your child's independence.

You should also consider whether the camp is special or non-special. Special camps are designed for children with special needs only, and non-special camps incorporate typical children. There are pros and cons to each, and this decision should be made on your child's abilities, interests and social skills.

Once you have narrowed down your list of summer camps, there are still questions you might wish to ask that will help you decide which camp is best suited for your child. Please visit [www.aadd.org/www/html/sci.html](http://www.aadd.org/www/html/sci.html) for an in-depth list of suggested questions to ask.

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council has compiled a listing of camps, accessible parks and playgrounds and other summer activities in S.C. for children with disabilities, called the South Carolina Recreation Guide. This guide is a valuable resource full of information to help you plan your summer activities.

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## Last chance to register for the 'Of Hopes and Dreams' conference

Join families and professionals across the state at this year's 'Of Hopes and Dreams' Conference. This year's conference will be held February 22 and 23 at the Brookland Banquet and Conference Center in Columbia. On Friday, you can choose one of three in-depth four hour workshops. Saturday includes a dynamic keynote address and three different sessions that allow you to choose between nearly 20 workshops. Discover topics such as the steps in finding daycare for children with special needs in our workshop, "Childcare for children with special needs" or learn about estate planning, wills, trusts and guardianship in our "Financial planning" workshop. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable information, meet other parents who have children with special needs, pick up inexpensive CEU's and explore nearly 30 exhibits. Childcare is limited, and is only available to children with special needs. Please call to pre-register. To sign up for the conference, please call (800) 578-8750 or (803) 252-0914. A copy of the conference registration is also available on our website at [www.familyconnections.org](http://www.familyconnections.org) under "News and Events."

Artwork and jewelry  
and trips

*oh my!*

Join us for this year's benefit and auction

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Spartanburg, SC 29307  
(864) 585-5462  
(864) 596-5164/fax



## Dr. Andy Pope Executive Director

Today I was reminded of the many miracles of our Family Connection family. A mother who is vital to the success of our organization had just spent her second full night at the side of her little girl in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, who is recovering from her 34th or 35th surgery (or as the mother says, "I never thought my daughter would have so many surgeries that I would lose count"). She was calling to give us a wonderful update on her child's progress and to thank her Family Connection family for the many thoughts and prayers she has received. As I went to hang up the phone I heard her say, "Andy, please ask everyone to continue their thoughts for me, but more importantly, there are eight babies here on ventilators and no telling how many families around the state at their child's bedside who need us, please ask everyone to pray for them as well."

You see, at Family Connection there are parents who know and understand what other parents are experiencing. **We have parents who** know and overcame the emotions of a diagnosis. **We have parents who** have needed to and succeeded at navigating the difficult world of insurance. **We have parents who** are willing to spend hours chatting

(online or by phone) to ensure that others do not feel alone in their journey. **We have parents who**, through their own ocean of adversity, lift up the lives of other parents to show that only together and with each other can they even hope to continue.

By receiving and reading this newsletter, you are a part of an amazing network of parents and professionals who are committed to supporting families who love children with disabilities and special health care needs. Whether it be through a financial contribution, through providing professional guidance to our families, through opening yourself to other parents, or making the call to Family Connection because you want what is best for your child, you help us guarantee that when parents need support and information - **we have a parent who** is here to help!

Have a beautiful day!

Andy Pope  
Executive Director

## Welcome new staff

Family Connection is pleased to welcome six new additions to our staff. Keidra Prince is a new community parent in the Columbia office. Miriam Ruiz-Peck is a new community parent for the Project Breathe Easy program in the Greenville office. Emily Green is the new

area coordinator in the Aiken office.

Mandy Willis is the new program assistant in Spartanburg. Pam Fields and Michelle Johnson are new program assistants in Anderson. We welcome these new additions to our Family Connection family!

## Family Connection's influence on the Spanish-speaking community

South Carolina has seen the most growth in the nation for Hispanic/Latino families. Family Connection is making strides in reaching Spanish-speaking families of children with special needs.

There are many Spanish-speaking parents who understand very little English, further complicating their navigation in the world of disabilities. Many have trouble understanding and accessing the complex system of care. Getting translators, transportation to services and emotional support are other major issues. Some families do not have any family close by and have virtually no support system that understands what they are going through.

Maria Estremera was five months pregnant when she learned that her son, Edgar, would be born with Down syndrome.

Maria was overwhelmed, and it took her a while to come to terms with the diagnosis.

"When the doctor told us we were having a boy, we were overjoyed - my husband immediately had him drafted to a major baseball league! When we received the news, it was devastating. We had planned a perfect life for him and in a matter of days that was shattered," said Maria.

Edgar was very sick during the first few months of his life. When he was three months old, he had heart surgery and, after recuperating, started therapy.

"Going through this process was confusing, and not having any family in town made it even harder," said Maria.

The first week she came home from the hospital, WC Hoecke, who has a son with Down syndrome, visited Maria. WC introduced her to Family Connection and helped her get involved. She began

participating in Family Connection activities.

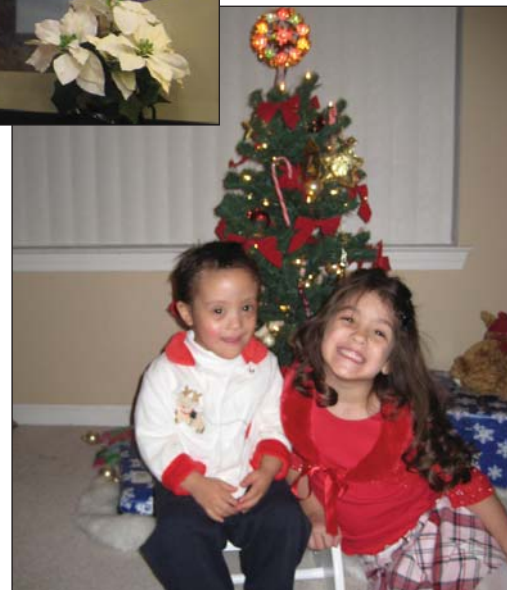
"Other parents involved with Family Connection were always very supportive and helpful any time I needed advice," said Maria.

Maria, who is bilingual, later completed support parent training. She knew she could be an asset to other families. She remembered how hard it was when she first received her diagnosis, and couldn't imagine a family going through what she did along with the added challenge of a language barrier, or having your support system in another country.

"I definitely can relate to not having the support of your immediate family. Now when I provide support, I become their surrogate family to give them the emotional support they need," said Maria.



Edgar with his sister Jeanelle



Feliz Navidad!

Throughout South Carolina, Maria connects with nine other Spanish-speaking families. Those parents are relieved to have someone who knows the state resources and systems and can explain them in their native language.

Maria is establishing a Spanish-speaking support group in the Greenville area. Family Connection is also working towards translating printed materials and making our resources more accessible.

If you know of a family who can benefit from connecting with Maria, please call (800) 578-8750.

## Knights of Columbus provides continued support

Before the copier is shut down, the lights are turned off, and staff leave for the holidays, Family Connection receives some very special visitors every Christmas. The Knights of Columbus with St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Columbia faithfully come with a donation. Jim Brown stated that he has "personally been coming since 1994."

Many years ago, the Knights of Columbus were inspired by a young member of their congregation, Kathleen Senneway, who was born with Down syndrome. Her mother, Marilyn, was a founding member of Family Connection in 1990.

"The Knights of Columbus adopted Family Connection as one of their charities many years ago and continue to support Family Connection because of the kind of work you do for families and

children," stated Brown. The Knights members put "sweat equity" into helping organizations like Family Connection, from work at the concession stand at the USC football games, St. Patty's Day in Five Points and The Sparkleberry Fair, according to Michael Reynolds, Grand Knight. The Knights of Columbus are also well known for their "Tootsie Roll Campaign" which raises money for people with developmental delays. Their most recent project was "Project Midlands Center" where they made a special sensory integration garden for the residents. Family Connection would like to give a special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for believing in the mission of Family Connection and for their continuing support for people with disabilities in the community.

## Sundresses, seersucker and fun at this year's benefit and auction

Every spring, Family Connection extends an invitation for friends and community members to join them for a special evening. The Family Connection benefit is a time for friends to gather and celebrate the spring season. This year, the benefit will be held on April 27 at 6 p.m. at The Millstone at Adam's Pond and will have a new and exciting look. Ladies, put on your best sundress and gentlemen, dust off that seersucker suit. We will still have a silent auction with fabulous items to bid on, heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar.

Sponsorship opportunities are available, as are individual tickets. Please contact Muriel Taylor for more information at (800) 578-8750 or (803) 252-0914. You can also purchase tickets online at [www.mycommunitytickets.com](http://www.mycommunitytickets.com) or [www.familyconnectionSC.org](http://www.familyconnectionSC.org).

## Hopkins family raises over \$54,000 for Down syndrome awareness

Over the course of seven years, Kim, George and their son Hunter, have single-handedly raised over \$54,000 for the Buddy Walk and in celebration of Hunter. The Hopkins focused on personal relationships, sponsorships and individual donations in the town of Saluda and the surrounding areas.

"Through the fundraising efforts of the Hopkins family, they have not only set the bar for Buddy Walk contributions, but have also done a phenomenal job raising awareness of Down syndrome and the possibilities for children like their son Hunter," said Debby Jernigan, Buddy Walk Coordinator.

On December 1, the Hopkins family was presented with a very special National Down Syndrome Society gold bow pin, to honor and reward them for their invaluable support of Family Connection.

Anyone can make a difference just like the Hopkins did. Join us for a 2008 Buddy Walk near you. The Columbia Buddy Walk will be held on October 26 at Saluda Shoals Park. The Anderson, Aiken and Spartanburg areas will also be hosting

Buddy Walks, dates to be announced. Call (800) 578-8750 for more information.



Andy Pope, the Hopkins family and Debby Jernigan at the Holiday Social in Columbia after the Hopkins received their award.

# Wish List

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact your local area office or call (800) 578-8750.

## Aiken area office

**Nice digital camera** to capture the faces of children and families at events across the state. **LCD projector** would improve the quality of our presentations and will allow us to showcase the work we do with families.

## Anderson area office

**Art supplies** (markers, paper, paint, etc.) for children's art projects during Kid Connection and other family events. **Nice digital camera** to capture memories and special moments. **Vacuum Cleaner** to help keep our office floor clean. **Stamps** for mailing fliers, newsletters and other information.

## Charleston area office

**Art supplies** (markers, paper, paint, etc.) for children's art projects during Kid Connection, family events and other recreational programs. **Games, toys, puzzles and books** (in good condition, please) for respite programs and other recreational programs. **Soccer balls, outdoor toys** for family events. **Gift certificates** to local grocery stores to purchase food for workshops and family events.

## Columbia area office

**Nice digital camera** to capture the faces of children and families at events across the state. **Couch** and/or **loveseat** for the children's playroom. **Laptop** (Windows 2000, XP Professional or Vista Business) for training parents of children with special needs to support others and for community presentations.

## Greenville area office

**2 desks** and **2 new computers** (Windows 2000, XP Professional or Vista Business) for staff workstations. **Colored copy paper** will enable us to send out our monthly newsletter and flyers to parents. **A paper folding machine** will allow us to create folded newsletters more efficiently.

## Rock Hill area office

A **storage cabinet** would be extremely useful in eliminating the clutter in the office. This would allow us to organize and put away office supplies, brochures, etc. and focus on our mission. A **large bulletin board** would be a great way to hang pictures of our families. When new families come into the office, they could see the wonderful things happening at our family events. A **banner** with our logo for our social events and fundraisers.

## Spartanburg area office

A **laptop** (Windows 2000, XP Professional or Vista Business) and **LCD projector** would improve the quality of our presentations and will allow us to showcase the work we do with families. **Riding toys, big wheels, big bouncy balls, big legos, crayons, washable markers, art paper** for our respite co-ops. We would like to help welcome new families and their very special child in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit by providing baby receiving blankets, small photo albums, small stuffed animals and disposable cameras. We could use **Wal-Mart gift cards** to make these purchases.

## Summer activities continued

The 2008 guide will be available in the spring, but the 2007 guide can be accessed by calling (803) 734-0465 or emailing [jvanleave@oepp.sc.gov](mailto:jvanleave@oepp.sc.gov). The guide is also online at [www.scdcd.state.sc.us](http://www.scdcd.state.sc.us).

One example of a summer camp is Camp Victory Junction, located in the Piedmont Triad in North Carolina. The camp has an impressive list of activities, including 44 buildings such as a race shop, petting zoo and theater. The camp also boasts incredible activities like hot air balloon rides, fishing, a lazy river, rock climbing, bowling and miniature golf. Camp Victory Junction offers summer camps for children with disabilities as well as their siblings. In the fall and spring, family camps are offered for the entire family to attend over the weekend. Sherry Larson, whose son has attended the sibling week and has also attended the family weekend, found the camp to be an incredible experience for every

child involved.

"Everything at Camp Victory Junction is over-the-top.

It truly is an incredible place to be, but the most impressive part of the camp was the staff and what a nurturing, loving environment they created for us. Everyone just wanted the kids to have an amazing time," said Sherry.

For more information about Camp Victory Junction, please visit [www.victoryjunction.org](http://www.victoryjunction.org). \*Reminder: Camp Burnt Gin applications are due March 1. Call Marie Aimone at (803) 898-0455.

For families who soak up the sun at Myrtle Beach, did you know that beach

buggies for children in wheelchairs are available to you? All you have to do is ask any lifeguard and they will provide you with one if one is available.

Be creative with your child's summer and start making plans now. Summer may seem miles away, but it will be here before you know it!



Andrew, Connor and Shelby Larson pose with camp counselors on the fishing dock at Camp Victory Junction.

# Events Around the State

## Aiken

**Breakfast with the Easter Bunny**  
March 22

**Couples Communication Workshop**  
April 18-19

**People First Event**  
date TBA



## Anderson

**Breakfast with the Easter Bunny**  
March 15  
Applebee's

**Disabilities Awareness Walk**  
date TBA

## Greenville

### Kid Connection

Jan 12, March 8, May 10.  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Center for Developmental Services

### Grandparent Connection

Thursday Feb. 14th, 10 am  
Center for Developmental Services

### Valentine Social

Feb. 10th.



## Statewide

### 'Of Hopes and Dreams' Conference

Feb. 22 and 23

Brookland Banquet and Conference Center

### Family Connection Academy Training

Feb. 22 and 23

Brookland Banquet and Conference Center

### Benefit Dinner

April 27, 6 p.m.

The Millstone at Adam's Pond

## Rock Hill

**Spring Fling**  
date TBA

**Fishing Party**  
date TBA

**Swimming Party**  
date TBA

## Columbia

### Family Event

March 15, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Trenholm Park

Meet at the playground, bring picnic lunch

### Family Event

April 19, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Swan Lake Iris Gardens

Meet at the playground at 10 a.m.  
Bring a cooler lunch and old bread

### Spring Carnival

May 24, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

### Annual Asthma Event

May 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Heathwood Park



## Spartanburg

### Kid Connection

April 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Andy's Kids

May 16, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For teens and tweens

### Disability Awareness Fair & Walk

March 8

WestGate Mall

### Easter Bunny Breakfast

March 22, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Applebee's Hillcrest

## Charleston

### FC at the Children's Museum of the Lowcountry

10 a.m. to 12 p.m., free admission

### Spring Fling Family Picnic

March 15 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Riverfront Park

### FEST

March 22, April 26, May 24, 10 a.m.  
Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church

### Kid Connection

April 12, 1 - 4 p.m.

St. Andrews Library in West Ashley

### Support Parent Training

April 19, 1 p.m.

St. Andrews Library in West Ashley



## Project Breathe Easy helps children with asthma breathe easier

It was February of 1995 when Pam Kruzan's daughter Tiffany, who has Down syndrome, came home from school with a flyer in her bookbag. Pam and her family had just moved to South Carolina, and the flyer happened to be for Family Connection's Valentine Social in Greenville. Pam gathered up all of her kids and decided to go see what Family

Connection was all about. She signed up for the mailing list and started receiving The Link.

Over the years, Pam has stayed involved with Family Connection, but a funny thing happened recently. She was talking with the Greenville office area coordinator, Ethel Renew, and learned about a program for children with asthma, Project Breathe Easy. She never knew that Family Connection had a program on asthma. She only thought that Family Connection was a great resource for her child with Down syndrome. Her other daughter has allergy-induced asthma and the more Pam learned about this program, the more she realized what a blessing it would have been when her daughter was first diagnosed.

"My daughter is 26 years old now and it would have been nice to be a part of a program like this when I found out about her asthma seventeen years ago," said Pam. "If I had had this kind of support and could have talked to other moms about asthma, I would not have felt like I was alone."

Community parents, who have a child with asthma and who have received training, go into the home to provide asthma education and support to help parents successfully manage their child's asthma.

Project Breathe Easy's program results show what a dramatic effect this program has on families.

One hundred percent of families reported having a medical home at the end of their enrollment. There is an 87 percent decrease in emergency room visits in children with asthma. Sixty-three percent of parents reported having a written asthma action plan, a plan written by a physician that aids in the control of asthma.

If you have a child with asthma, you can become a part of Project

Breathe Easy. Project Breathe Easy is hosting an annual asthma event in Columbia on May 3 and in Florence on April 26. The event will be a kid-friendly day of excitement, with games, entertainment, health education booth, food and fun for all! For more information about these events, please call (800) 578-8750. The Anderson, Greenville and Charleston offices

will all be hosting Asthma Lunch-N-Learns, which will be an educational session over lunch featuring a speaker and an open forum for discussion. The dates for these events are to be determined.

Project Breathe Easy is supported by the Department of Health and Human Services and Palmetto Health. If you provide care to children with asthma, please refer these families to Project Breathe Easy by calling (800) 578-8750.

"The most exciting thing about the Project Breathe Easy program is reaching out to families in the community and letting them know that they are not alone, and that their child can do anything they desire," said Pam.

### What Families Receive

- ◆ Home visit with the family
- ◆ Free mattress and pillow encasement for the child
- ◆ Free comprehensive, educational asthma notebook
- ◆ Monthly support cards
- ◆ Project Breathe Easy newsletter
- ◆ Phone support



Children enjoyed games, food and a full playground at last year's asthma event.

Project Breathe Easy is *free* and *confidential*.

# Statewide Parent Connections

Please call the area office unless another number is listed.

**Aiken**  
(803) 642-8406

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Downs Connection	1st Thursday of the month	9 a.m.	Solomon's Porch	
Morning Coffee	1st Wednesday of the month	9 a.m.	Solomon's Porch	

**Anderson**  
(864) 231-8100

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
A Precious Few	2nd Wednesday of the month 4th Thursday of the month	2nd Wed: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 4th Th: 5:30 p.m.	McDonald's in Seneca	Barbara Morgan (864) 885-1562
Autism Connection	Varies	Varies	Family Connection office	
Children R Special	3rd Thursday of the month 1st Friday of the month	3rd Th: 10 a.m. - noon 1st F: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Anderson Mall Community Room	
Mom's Morning Out	Varies	Varies	Varies	

**Charleston**  
(843) 556-5010

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Down syndrome (sponsored by the Down Syndrome Association of the Lowcountry)	Mt. Pleasant: 2nd Tuesday of the month North Area: 3rd Tuesday of the month			Glenda Crain crainclan@comcast.net
Down syndrome youth group (ages 14-21)				Martha Hoover Martha_Hoover@charleston.k12.sc.us
NICU Connection	Every other Tuesday	9 a.m.	The NICU at MUSC	
Parent to parent General support	2nd Thursday of the month	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Lenore Rudolph (843) 573-2172 or (843) 562-2330
The Parent Experience For families of children with disabilities	Tuesday evenings	Varies	MUSC	Jennifer Gans (843) 532-1010
Sickle Cell Information and Education Group				April Rivers-Bowman (843) 991-3830

**Columbia**  
(803) 252-0914

**NEW!**

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
ADHD Connection	1st Thursday of Jan., March, May, Aug., Oct.	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	FC Office	Call for childcare
Asthma Connection	1st Tuesday of Feb., June, Aug., Oct.	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	FC Office	Michelle Drayton (803) 252-0914
Autism Connection	3rd Monday of the month	6 p.m.	FC Office	Call for childcare
Family Fun Event	Monthly	Varies	Varies	Call to be added to our mailing list
Fathers Network	2nd Tuesday of Jan., April, Aug., Oct.	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	FC Office	Call to be added to our mailing list
Mom's Night Out	Monthly	Varies	Varies	
Morning Coffee	1st Wed, 2nd Tues, 3rd Tues, 4th Wed	9 a.m.	Varies	
NICU Connection	3rd Thursday of the month	7 p.m. - 8 p.m.	NICU classroom of the NICU at Palmetto Health Richland	
NICU Scrapbooking Group	1st Wednesday of the month	1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	TV area of the NICU at Palmetto Health Richland	
Parent's Hope Association	4th Tuesday of Nov., Feb., May, Aug.	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	FC Office	Call the FC office to RSVP
Special Needs Connection	3rd Tuesday of every other month (March, May, etc.)	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	FC Office	Call for childcare
Scrapbooking	4th Saturday of the month	6 p.m.	Pages from the Heart, The Scrapbook Store on Forest Dr.	
Sibling Network Meeting	2nd Thursday of the month	6 p.m.	FC Office	
Single Parents Connection	4th Thursday of Jan., April, Aug., Oct.	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	FC Office	Call for childcare
Sumter Connection	2nd Monday of Nov., Jan., March, May, July, Sep.	6 p.m.	CiCi's Pizza, Hwy 378, Sumter	Becky at (803) 499-2970
Teen Connection	Varies (see calendar)	Varies	Varies	Call for information
Up on Downs	4th Monday of Jan., April, Aug., Oct.	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	FC Office	Call for childcare

# Statewide Parent Connections

Please call the area office unless another number is listed.

Florence  
(800) 578-8750

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Autism Connection	4th Thursday of the month	6:30 p.m.	Theodore Lester Elementary School	Beth Dynan at (843) 661-5360
Down syndrome Connection	Last Thursday of the month	6:30 p.m.	McLeod Medical Plaza	Tricia Street at (843) 662-7934 Sue Martin at (843) 665-1513
HOPE	Last Thursday of the month	7 p.m.	St. Bartholomew's Church	Angela West at (843) 229-3129
Pee Dee Mom's Lunch Out Down Syndrome Connection	2nd Wednesday of the month	11:30 a.m.	Applebee's on South Irby St.	Sue Martin at (843) 665-1513

Greenville  
(864) 331-1340

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Air Buddies For children with asthma	Jan. 16	6:30 p.m.	Center for Developmental Services	
Andy's Kids For teens and tweens	Varies	Varies	Varies	
Autism Connection	1st Monday of the month	6:30 p.m.	Center for Developmental Services	
Down Syndrome Family Alliance of Greenville	Varies	Varies	Varies	
Father's Network	Varies	Varies	Varies	
Pizza Night General support	3rd Monday of the month	6:30 p.m.	Center for Developmental Services	

Rock Hill  
(803) 366-4839

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Autism Connection	1st Tuesday of the month (no December)	6:30 p.m.	St. John's Methodist Church	Yolanda Gordon (803) 412-9237
Brothers and Sisters Support	Dec. 15, Jan. 26, Feb. 23	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	507 E. Black Street	Kai Burkins (803) 322-0811
Coffee Break	2nd Friday of the month (no December)	9:30 a.m.	Cupps Cafe (Cherry Rd. across from Winthrop)	
HITCH UP Hearing impaired toddlers and children	1st Tuesday of the month (no December)	7 p.m.	St. John's Methodist Church	Katherine O'grady (803) 802-2660
Parent's Night Out	Varies	Varies	Varies	
Sharing Parent's Network (for children between birth and 6)	3rd Thursday of the month (no December)	6:30 p.m.	St. John's Methodist Church	Michelle Vanhook (803) 366-4839

Spartanburg  
(864) 585-5462

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Andy's Kids For teens and tweens	Varies	Varies	Varies	
Autism Connection	2nd Monday of the month	6:30 p.m.	First Presbyterian Church	
Coffee Break	Quarterly	Varies	Varies	
Families Helping Families General Support	1st Thursday of the month	12 p.m.	Cherokee County DSN	(864) 812-7515
Father's Network	Quarterly	Varies	Varies	
Fun for the Family	Quarterly	Varies	Varies	
Mom's Night Out	Quarterly	Varies	Varies	
NICU Parent Break	3rd Tuesday of the month	6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Tower 4 Classroom at Spartanburg Regional	
Parents Helping Parents General support	2nd Monday of the month	6:30 p.m.	First Presbyterian Church	

NEW!  
NEW!  
Respite Sites

Location	Date	Time	Contact
Charleston Harbor Bible Church, Charleston	Last Saturday of the month	5:30 - 9 p.m.	Peggy Carr (843) 224-1817
Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, Charleston	Last Friday of the month	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Family Connection office (843) 556-5010
Crowfield Baptist Church, Goose Creek	3rd Friday of the month	6 - 9 p.m.	Angie Beard (843) 821-6579 or (843) 708-0859
Central Baptist, Columbia	2nd Saturday of the month	2:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Wanda Brown (803) 788-1199
Epworth Early Intervention Center, Columbia	4th Saturday of the month	4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Kay Richardson (803) 212-4757
Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church, Lexington	1st and 3rd Saturday of the month	4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Al Edens (803) 996-3716
First Baptist, North Spartanburg	4th Saturday of the month	3:30 - 6:30 p.m.	(864) 585-5462
Pine Street YMCA, Spartanburg	2nd Saturday of the month	3:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Shannon Batson (864) 414-9577

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To the precious friends we have recently lost, we miss you deeply.

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Kenteres Deveaux, son of Latonya Sims

Jamal Davis, son of Tilisa Davis

Christian Millare, son of Amy Cobb

Austin Griffin, son of Teresa and Rickey Griffin

If we have missed your loved one or someone you know who has been supported by Family Connection, please let us know of your loss.

## The mission of Family Connection of South Carolina

To strengthen families who have children with developmental delays, disabilities or chronic illnesses through a parent-to-parent network of family-focused support to provide assurance, information, community awareness and enhanced parent/professional relationships.

Family Connection is proud to be the Family-to-Family Health Care Information and Education Center for S.C.



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