

The Link2U

Vol 11 No. 4

October 2009

South Carolina's family-to-family health information and education center for families who have children with special health care needs.

Join FCParentsOnline

In this age of technology, parents want information they can access at the touch of a button. That's why Family Connection has created FCParentsOnline, a website just for families of children with special needs. Parents can access the website day or night, at their own convenience.

You can find FCParentsOnline by going to www.familyconnectionSC.org. Halfway down the page, you will see a green button that says, "FCParentsOnline". Click that button and it will take you to the FCParentsOnline website. On the home page, you can see The Story Board, a place for families to upload their own story or read other stories written by parents.

Parents can also sign up for our parent message boards, which allow parents to have internet conversations with parents throughout the state to exchange information on resources, services, parenting tips, and so much more. The message boards feature specific areas for certain diagnoses, single parents, fathers, grandparents, siblings and even a place for families who have lost a child. FCParentsOnline also provides a link to Caring Bridge, which is a website used to connect family and friends to people who have a critical illness, treatment or recovery. A website can be set up for loved ones to stay in touch and be easily updated, so that parents do not have to continuously repeat their story.

Family Connection created this website for YOU - the parents! Join today! Please call (800) 578-8750 if you have questions or trouble accessing the website.

Research at your fingertips

Available on FCParentsOnline is also an InfoAble Portal. The InfoAble Portal is a free disability and health information resource developed by the University of South Carolina Center for Disability Resources (CDR).

The InfoAble Portal is a virtual library for the disability community. From the portal, parents can read published articles, explore clinical trials and research health information.

Parents can check out a book or video from the virtual library, which will then be mailed directly to their home with a postage-paid envelope to return. Parents can also "Ask a Librarian", where they email research requests to a librarian, who will email back their findings.

There is a Disability Dashboard section, which provides a menu of topic-specific search engines. These topics are derived from various Family Connection support groups, including Asthma, ADD/ADHD, Autism, Down Syndrome, Fathers, Premie, and Siblings. Although the layout is similar to the InfoAble Portal homepage, the dashboards narrow the searches to each of the topics.

Special thanks to the CDR for developing this portal for Family Connection families.

We Celebrate ...

We Speak Spanish

Nobody knows more than a parent what it is like to have a child with special needs.

If you are the parent, grandparent, sibling, family member or a friend of a child with special needs, we are here to help you.

**Contact
Maggie Ortiz
Monday to Friday
8:30am - 12:30pm
1-800-578-8750
In the Columbia area
803-252-0914**

Celebramos ...

Hablamos Español

Nadie sabe mejor que un padre lo que es tener a un niño con necesidades especiales. Si eres un padre, abuelo, hermano, familiar o amigo de un niño con necesidades especiales, queremos ayudarte.

**Puedes comunicarte con
Maggie Ortiz
de Lunes a Viernes
8:30am a 12:30pm
al 1-800-578-8750
En el area de Columbia al
803-252-0914**

Help Us Celebrate 20 years ...

Family Connection has provided support, information and education to 30,000 families raising children with special needs since 1990.

We celebrate that annually we:

- * arrange a parent-to-parent match every 90 minutes
- * provide statewide workshops to 460 parents
- * are supported by 1,243 volunteers donating 3,869 hours
- * make 2,908 referrals
- * enlist 543 parents to donate 3,584 hours to support families
- * welcome 8,701 family members to 58 family events

Family Connection
South Carolina



Join the Celebration! Host a Birthday Party to Celebrate the Achievements of Family Connection.

Gather 15 or more friends or family in your home or office for coffee, wine or birthday cake to hear the story and help spread the word about Family Connection.

Family Connection staff will assist you in your party plans and will be available to attend your event.

Call Robin O'Neil at 803-252-0914 to arrange your birthday party in honor of the 20th Anniversary of Family Connection.



Oral Health

Oral health is an often overlooked aspect of care. Dental care sometimes takes a backseat to other pressing medical issues, especially in children with special needs. However, the risks involved with children who have special needs suggest that good oral care is very important. Below are some ways to promote good oral health at home.

Taking Care of Your Child's Mouth

- ◆ Before teeth arrive, use a clean wet cloth or gauze to gently wipe your child's gums, cheeks and tongue.
- ◆ After teeth arrive, begin using a soft bristle, child-sized toothbrush and a smear of fluoride toothpaste.
- ◆ Encourage your child to rinse with water and to spit out the toothpaste after brushing.
- ◆ Clean or brush your child's teeth twice a day.
- ◆ Check your child's teeth and gums at least once a month and take your child to the dentist by their first birthday.
- ◆ If a toothbrush is unavailable, rinse or spray your child's mouth with water after a meal and after each dose of medicine.

Tips to Make Brushing Easier

- ◆ Try different positions when brushing your child's teeth. From a lying position, put your child's head on your lap or on the floor, keeping his head steady with your legs.
- ◆ If your child is standing, have his back to you with his head tilted slightly and resting against your body.
- ◆ Have your child stand in front of the bathroom mirror while you brush his teeth, so he can see what is being done. Let your child brush his teeth at the same time you are brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Create a "toothbrushing routine." The routine can include playing music, getting things set up, and using a favorite cup for rinsing. Try and stick to the same routine every day. You can also sing a song while brushing.◆ If your child is able, let him brush his own teeth first, and then you should brush them again. If your child is sensitive to toothpaste, try dipping the toothbrush (cloth or cotton swab) into fluoride mouth rinse.
- ◆ If your child is sensitive to toothpaste, try dipping the toothbrush (or cloth or cotton swab) into fluoride mouth rinse.
- ◆ For children who might gag, introduce a toothbrush slowly. Let your child chew on a toothbrush or NUK toothbrush trainer (ask your dentist about where to find a NUK toothbrush) for a few weeks to get used to the feel of it in their mouth then work towards actual brushing.
- ◆ If your child cannot spit, try to wipe her mouth with a cloth after brushing.
- ◆ If the child is unable or unwilling to keep their mouth open for brushing, ask your dentist or dental hygienist for help.

Additional Web-based Resources and Information:

SC DHEC Oral Health Division Website <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/mch/oral/special.htm>

SC DHEC's Oral Health for Families with Special Health Care Needs available in English and Spanish.

Download a copy at http://www.scdhec.gov/health/mch/oral/docs/curr_OH%20for%20families%20with%20SHCN.pdf

Health care coverage for the underinsured

Healthy Connection Kids is a program that allows children to get health care coverage that are uninsured and meet the following criteria. The family must fall between 150-200 percent of the federal poverty guideline and cannot be covered by other comprehensive health coverage. Comprehensive health coverage is defined as having hospitalization, laboratory, X-ray, and doctor's visits as minimum coverage. For example, a family of four can have a gross monthly income of \$3533 and meet the financial criteria. If health insurance has been voluntarily lost, the family will have to wait three months before they can apply for Healthy Connection Kids. If health insurance has been involuntarily lost, the family can apply right away without waiting the three months. To find out more about eligibility or to apply call 877.552.4642 or visit www.scdhhs.gov and click on "Healthy Connection Kids."

What is Title V?



For more than 65 years, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau Title V Block Grant Program has been improving the health of mothers and children. In the past 15 years, projects were completed that: produced guidelines for child health supervision from infancy through adolescence, influenced the nature of nutrition care during pregnancy and lactation, recommended standards for prenatal care, identified strategies for the prevention of childhood injuries and developed health and safety standards for out-of-home child care facilities.

Every year, states apply to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau for funds, called Block Grants. At least 30% of State Title V Block Grant funds are devoted to services for children with special needs. Those services include providing and promoting family-centered care, community-based, coordinated care (including care coordination services) and facilitating the development of community-based systems of services.

As a parent, there are several opportunities to have a voice on behalf of children with special needs. Parents can advocate for federal and state dollars to be allocated for services to children with special needs, provide comments and input on the South Carolina Title V Block Grant application submitted annually, and actively participate in surveys and focus groups.

For a easy-to-read list of steps to take to become involved, visit <http://www.familyvoices.org/projects/titleV.php>. This website is a good starting point where you can find presentations covering the history of Title V, more information about Title V, and Action Plans for families wanting to become more involved.



Statewide Parent Connections

Please call the area office unless another number is listed.

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. - 7:30 p.m.	McDonald's in Seneca	
Autism Connection	2nd Tuesday of the month	6 to 8 p.m.	Family Connection office	
Children R Special	1st Friday of the month	6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Anderson Mall food court	

Charleston
(843) 556-5010

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Down syndrome youth group (ages 14-21)				Rebecca Kutcher (843) 442-0165
Morning Coffee Break	First and Third Tuesday of the month	9:30 to 10:30 a.m.	Atlanta Bread Company, North Main Street, Summerville	
NICU Connection	Every other Tuesday	2 p.m.	The NICU at MUSC	
General Parent Connection Starting in November	2nd Tuesday of the month 4th Tuesday of the month	2nd Tues - 10:30 a.m. 4th Tuesday - 6 p.m.	Subway 3915 Byrnes Drive, St. Stephens	

Columbia
(803) 252-0914

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
ADHD Connection	1st Thursday of Oct, Dec	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	FC Office	Call for childcare
Asthma Connection	Every other month starting in August	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
Down Syndrome Playgroup	Last Saturday of the month	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	FC Office	Call for childcare
Family Fun Event	Monthly	Varies	Varies	Call to be added to our mailing list
Family Night Out	2nd Monday of the month	6 p.m.	CiCi's Pizza, 2732 Decker Blvd.	
Fathers Network	4th Tuesday of Jan., April, Aug., Oct.	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	FC Office	Call to be added to our mailing list
Ladies' Lunch	1st Tuesday	11:30 a.m.	Varies	Susan Haney (803) 252-0914
Mom's Night Out	Monthly	Varies	Call for location	
Morning Coffee	Varies	9 a.m.	Call for location	Call for details
NICU Connection	4th Thursday of the month	6 p.m. - 7 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	
S.M.I.L.E.S.	4th Monday of the month	7 p.m.	Meets in Lexington, call Columbia office for location	
Scrapbooking	4th Saturday of the month	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Family Connection office	Susan Haney (803) 252-0914
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

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
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	Pam Kruzan at (864) 331-1340
Autism Connection	1st Monday of the month	6:30 p.m.	Center for Developmental Services	FC office at (864) 331-1340
Down Syndrome Family Alliance of Greenville	Varies	Varies	Varies	Mindy Ramsey at (864) 331-1340
Special Needs Connection	1st Friday	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Atlanta Bread Co., Cherrydale Mall	Mindy Ramsey at (864) 331-1340

Rock Hill
(803) 366-4839

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Autism Connection	1st Friday of the month	10 a.m.	Durango Bagels, Millwood Plaza, India Hook Rd	Yolanda Gordon (803) 547-6730
HITCH UP Hearing impaired toddlers and children	1st Tuesday of the month (no December)	6:30 p.m.	St. John's Methodist Church	Katherine O'grady (803) 802-2660
Parent's Night Out	3rd Friday of the month starting in January	7:30 p.m.	Charanda's off Springdale Road	

Spartanburg
(864) 585-5462

Name	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Autism Connection	3rd Thursday of the month	12 p.m.	Son Rise Baptist Church, Spartanburg	Jessie Walker (864) 577-0706 Call for childcare
Fun for the Family	Quarterly	Varies	Varies	
NICU Connection	3rd Tuesday of the month	6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Tower 4 Classroom at Spartanburg Regional	
Parents Helping Parents General support	3rd Thursday of the month	12 p.m.	Son Rise Baptist Church, Spartanburg	Mary Kendrick (864) 237-9135 Call for childcare
Parents of Adult Exceptional Children	Varies	Varies		Paula (864) 439-8703
Spanish Connection	3rd Wednesday	10 to 11:30 a.m.	Westgate Mall Food Court	Carolina Jara (864) 517-9457

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
Epworth Early Intervention Center, Columbia	4th Saturday of the month	4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Kay Richardson (803) 212-4757
Central Baptist, Columbia	2nd Saturday of the month	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Wanda Brown (803) 788-1199
Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church, Lexington	1st and 3rd Saturday of the month	4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Al Edens (803) 996-3716
Discover Church, Mauldin	2nd Saturday of the month	5:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Laura Beth Cujar (864) 335-8526
Pine Street YMCA, Spartanburg	2nd Saturday of the month	3:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Shannon Batson (864) 414-9577

I have to do WHAT to get information about my own child?



From left to right: Steve, Elyse, Frieda and Adam Ritter

My husband Steve and I are the proud parents of Elyse, who is now 19 years old. Although she has severe Cerebral Palsy, she has a great smile and loves being around other people. As she was approaching her 18th birthday, we knew there would come a time when we would have to establish guardianship, but tried to put it off as long as we could. We had to become her legal guardians because of the HIPAA law, which states that if a person is 18 years or older, they

are considered to be adults and can make their own decisions. We knew that we could find ourselves in a situation where we were denied receiving information or not allowed to make important decisions about Elyse's health or well-being.

Within a few months, several events happened that made us realize we could not hold off any longer. For example, Steve had to bring Elyse to the emergency room, but because she was 18, the doctors could not discuss what was happening or possible treatments. Steve was not even allowed in the room without her permission. Elyse is non-verbal, so finally it was agreed to allow him into her room and discuss the situation. The straw that broke the camel's back occurred when Elyse's Department of Disabilities and Special Needs worker would not allow me to sign her yearly goals. We knew we had to begin proceedings to jump through the legal hoops to establish a guardianship for our own child.

In reality, the process was not nearly as bad as we thought it would be. We are fortunate to live in Richland County, whose Probate Court Office staff was very helpful. They helped us fill out the necessary Petition on March 28, 2008. There were other forms that needed to be filled out by Elyse's doctors (which we hand delivered to them, instead of mailing to their legal department.) We had to have two home visits from either a nurse or a social worker - as well as an attorney appointed by the Court for Elyse - to make sure our home was suitable to keep our daughter. A nurse from our doctor's office visited us. This visit was on May 5, 2008. Also, we had to have a criminal background check (SLED check) run and submitted to the court. Because we did all the leg work ourselves, we did not need to hire an attorney. However, the court appointed an attorney to represent Elyse. On June 16th, he came to our home to meet Elyse and make sure she was receiving the care she needed and to "interview" her. This was our only expense, other than the filing fee payable to the Court to begin the process. After her attorney submitted his report to the courts, we met with the Probate Court Judge to finalize the proceedings on July 7th. The judge was very gracious, yet thorough. She asked us a few specific questions about Elyse's care and general health and made a few suggestions about being successful guardians.

When having to establish guardianship for your child, start the process early, ask for help if you feel overwhelmed and remember that this is in you and your child's best interest. For more information about guardianship, please call (803) 252-0914 or visit <http://www.specialchild.com/archives/ia-025.html>.

Find more tips on the next page

Guardianship Tips con't

Here are a few tips to make this process as pain free as it can be:

- ♦ The Probate Court Staff can be a huge help when starting this journey. Be cordial and polite – they're there to help you. Some Probate Courts request that the Petitioning parties consider hiring an attorney because the Guardianship proceeding is a lawsuit and all of the legal rules of civil procedure must be followed.
- ♦ Try to get all the Probate Court forms in advance, and deliver them to the doctors, schools or wherever they need to go yourself. Tell the receptionist to relay the message to the doctor that this form is merely to gain guardianship and is NOT any type of legal actions against them.
- ♦ There is no need to bring your child to court on the day of the final hearing. Your child is always welcome at the proceeding.
- ♦ Remember that everyone involved, including your child's lawyer and the Probate Court Judge want what is best for your child. They are advocates, just like you. There is no need to feel like they are "ganging up" on you.
- ♦ On the final court order, if both parents are involved, you may request that the names be worded "Mr OR Mrs" instead of "Mr AND Mrs." That way, only one parent needs to be present when emergency decisions must be made. However, some courts will require joint guardians to act jointly.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Education

Family Connection educates parents about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), as well as works to reduce the risk of SIDS in high-risk infants who are in the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Family Connection places trained parents in NICU's across the state to be a source of support and information to parents whose children are in NICU's. Here are a few facts about SIDS that you might not know:

- ♦ SIDS remains the leading cause of death among infants 1 month to 1 year of life.
- ♦ SIDS knows no barriers - all infants between the ages of 0-24 months are at risk.
- ♦ There is a higher rate of incidence between 2-4 months.
- ♦ Currently there is no prediction or prevention of SIDS.



Tips to prevent SIDS:

- ♦ The safest place for a baby to sleep is in his or her crib.
- ♦ Keep pillows, quilts, stuffed toys and other soft objects away from the crib.
- ♦ Babies should be placed on his or her back to sleep.
- ♦ Pacifiers can further reduce the risk of SIDS. Experts recommend giving your baby a pacifier when placing them down for sleep.

For more information about SIDS or about Family Connection's work in NICU's, please call (803) 252-0914 or toll free at (800) 578-8750.

Statewide Events

Aiken area (800) 578-8750

PROParents "Transitioning Out of Special Education" Workshop - December 1, 6:00 p.m. at Aiken County Library, 314 Chesterfield St., SW

Breakfast with Santa - December 12, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., O'Charley on Whiskey Road

Anderson area (864) 231-8100

Breakfast with Santa - December 19, 8 to 11 a.m., Chief's Wings and Firewater, \$5 buffet, 3 and under free

Anderson Holiday Social - December 6, 3 to 5 p.m., Anderson University Athletic Campus (formerly Anderson fairgrounds)

PRO-Parents Individualized Education Program Workshop (IEP)- February 2, 2010, 6 to 8 p.m., FC office

PRO-Parents Positive Behavior Intervention and IDEA 2004 Workshop - January 5, 2010, 6 to 8 p.m., FC office

Charleston area (843) 556-5010

Bond and Build Workshops - 2nd Tuesday of every other month. Starts October 13 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Summerville Home Depot

Breakfast with Santa - Saturday, December 12 from 8 to 10 a.m. \$2 per person for pancakes and drinks. Registration required.

Columbia area (803) 252-0914

Buddy Walk - October 25, 1 p.m., Saluda Shoals Park

Cocky 'N Tiger Tailgate - Columbia Armory
November 20, Cocky 'N Tiger Party, 7 p.m.
"Anything but pork" tasting, live music
November 21, BBQ Cook-off Festival, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For tickets, call (803) 252-0914

Holiday Social - December 12, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Shandon Presbyterian Church

Greenville area (864) 331-1340

Support Parent Training - January 27, 2010, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., CDS

Kid Connection - December 4, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at CDS, call to register

Breakfast with Santa - Chief's Wings and Firewater, December 12, call FC office for details and RSVP

Rock Hill area (803) 366-4839

Breakfast with Santa - December 12, Boyd Hill Recreation Center, 9:30 a.m., breakfast, photos with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, crafts

Spartanburg area (864) 585-5462

Breakfast With Santa - Date and time TBA, Chiefs in Spartanburg, \$5 buffet, 3 and under free

Holiday Social - December 11, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. @ Sunrise Baptist Church, call FC office for more details

Stop bullying now!

For many young people, bullying is something that is seen in schools and social situations quite often. Bullying is sometimes considered a part of growing up. However, bullies can be quite vicious and cruel, and can take a toll on the self-esteem of the child being bullied. Bullying is more than punching, fighting or kicking. Bullying can also include activities like spreading rumors about another child, or “leaving out” friends. Research shows that children with disabilities are at an increased risk of being bullied.

Research shows that bullies are aggressive children who think that violence is an acceptable way of communicating. Sometimes they are being bullied at home by their parents, or are never reprimanded for their bullying. Boys tend to bully in physical ways, like hitting, while girls are more likely to bully in non-physical ways, like spreading rumors.

Many children who are the victim of a bully have a hard time telling an adult what is happening. They may feel embarrassed or ashamed. Some signs that your child might be being bullied are: making up excuses to not go to school, wanting to be driven or walked to and from school, has torn clothes or bruises, or shows sadness, fear or anxiety. If your child is being bullied, they need to understand that they are not at fault for this. There is nothing that they did wrong.

Usually children are able to identify when they are being bullied by their peers. Sometimes, however, children with disabilities do not realize they are being targeted. (They may, for example, believe that they have a new friend, when in fact, this “friend” is making fun of them.) Ask your child specific questions about his or her friendships and be alert to possible signs of bullying—even if your child doesn’t label the behaviors as bullying.

Children who are being bullied should try to stay in a group whenever possible. This makes them harder for bullies to target, plus they have backup in case they are in a bad situation. If they feel safe, they could try standing up to their bully. This does not mean fighting back - it means saying something like this in a calm voice, “Cut it out, Jane!”. If you are being bullied online, don’t reply. That could make the problem worse. Parents can also talk with their child’s teacher or school administrator for assistance in resolving the problem.

Special connections for fathers

Being a Dad is one of the most challenging, overwhelming, satisfying, disappointing and rewarding tasks a man can experience. In 2009, Family Connection was awarded a \$25,000 capacity-building grant from the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) through the National Responsible Fatherhood Capacity Building Initiative (NRFCCI). Through a competitive process that generated over 300 applications, Family Connection was one of 25 organizations, chosen from across the country, to receive a capacity-building grant. The grant allowed us to increase our capacity to develop fatherhood programming.

This grant enabled Family Connection to serve our fathers better. We did this through three components: Parent-Advisory Council (PAC), which focused on how to service fathers better in a strategic plan on fathers; a fatherhood survey that asked special needs fathers about their preference regarding services they most wanted to see, and how they wanted to see them delivered; and training of the organization’s staff to learn father-friendly techniques in recruiting, training and father-desired types of support.

For more information about the NRFCCI or their grant process visit www.fatherhood.org/grant.

**Save
The Date**
March 19 & 20, 2010

The Family Connection Conference
'Of Hopes and Dreams' XVI

Celebrate Achievements!

A Conference in Support of the Child with Special Needs

This conference is for parents and professionals to explore issues and challenges families face in caring for children with developmental disabilities, chronic illnesses and long-term health needs.

2 Terrific Days
60 Workshops
CEUs Available

Adulthood
Advocacy
Autism
Behavior Issues
Care & Treatment
Cerebral Palsy
Down Syndrome
Education
Emergency Preparedness
Family Support
Financial Matters
Health & Wellness
IEP
Life Stages & Transitions
Positive Behavior Supports
Seizures
Self-Esteem
Services & Support
Siblings
Socialization
Technology and Innovation
and more



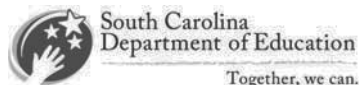
Location:
Gateway Baptist Church
1651 Dutch Fork Rd
Irmo, SC

Registration Brochure
available after
December 7th
on the Family Connection
website

Information:
telephone
803-252-0914
or
1-800-578-8750
(outside Columbia)
or
surf to

http://familyconnectionsc.org/annual_conference/

We thank our Conference Sponsors:



helping children-connecting families **FamilyConnection**
South Carolina

2712 Middleburg Drive
Suite 103B
Columbia, SC 29204

Family Connection of SC is a non-profit and depends on the generosity of friends in the community to support its mission to serve families with children with special healthcare needs.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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COLUMBIA, SC

Special thanks to the State Department of Education for helping us provide this resource to families.



South Carolina
Department of Education
Together, we can.