



# NEWSLETTER



## APRIL

### Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

### April 2nd



## LIGHT IT UP BLUE

**AUTISM AWARENESS**

Is the global initiative where landmarks, buildings, and homes light up in blue for World Autism Awareness Day, honoring individuals on the autism spectrum.

About  
1 in 36 Children

WERE IDENTIFIED WITH AUTISM  
SPECTRUM DISORDER  
AMONG A 2020 CENTER FOR DISEASE  
CONTROL SAMPLE OF 8 YEAR OLDS

Please  
take this  
quick  
Survey



VIRTUAL SUGGESTION BOX

The CYSHCN Program provides timely information, community resources, referral services, webinars, community events & opportunities for families to connect.

Paula Hayes-Hayden,  
CYSHCN, Coordinator  
845-360-6644, Text: 845-916-0559  
[phayeshayden@orangecountygov.com](mailto:phayeshayden@orangecountygov.com)

SCAN FOR  
PROGRAM  
INFORMATION



Join us at the  
UPCOMING EVENTS



## Parent & Child Playgroups

**FREE**

Spanish translation will be available  
Designed for all ages and abilities, babies - 5 years

Join us at  
**The Family Center**

located in the Newburgh  
Armory Unity Center  
321 S. William St, Newburgh

**Tuesdays  
10am-11:30am**

### Read, Play & Bubbles

Kids will learn and have  
fun with their families!

- Story time
- Hands-on centers
- Music
- Movement

REGISTER NOW



Register

<https://qr.codes.pro/bPoIY1?>

## LINCOLN CENTER ALL INCLUSIVE WEEKENDS APRIL 3-20, 2025

Big Umbrella Festival Returns to Lincoln Center  
Celebrating Neurodiverse Audiences and Artists! The  
trailblazing festival features expanded offerings for all  
ages. Visit [LincolnCenter.org/BigUmbrella](https://LincolnCenter.org/BigUmbrella) for information  
on all the events taking place.



[more information](#)



### Los Trompos

at Damrosch Park

Amsterdam Ave & W 62nd St, New York, NY 10023

This free interactive installation is open on April 4-6,  
9-13, and 16-20 from 11:00 am-6:00 pm.

Bring your family to experience Los Trompos, a captivating,  
interactive installation featuring eight larger-than-life, three-  
dimensional spinning tops in a variety of colors and shapes.  
Each sculpture acts as a piece of art and a gathering place for  
relaxation, social interaction, and entertainment. Created by  
Mexican creators Esrawe + Cadena. This large-scale, hands-  
on artistic installation engages visitors in a way that is both  
meaningful and playful.

### Sensory Friendly Easter Bunny

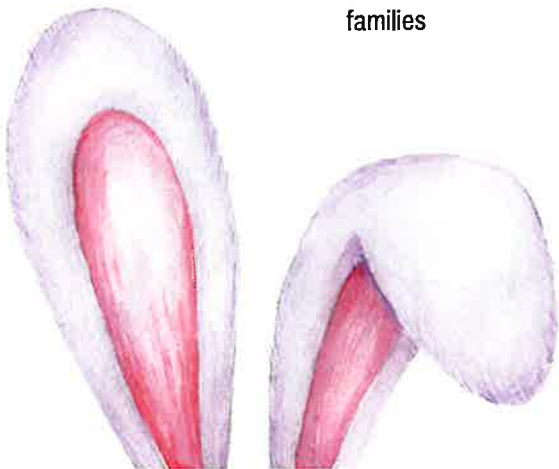
Sunday 4/6

9:00AM-10:30

Galleria Crystal Run &  
Poughkeepsie Galleria

No purchase required  
Reduced lighting and music

Sensory-friendly trained Bunny and staff who  
can support those with special needs and their  
families



### Hudson Valley Walk for Autism

Saturday, April 26

9am-2pm

James Baird State Park

14 Maintenance Ln, Pleasant Valley

This event is free for individuals on  
the Autism Spectrum.

[Register  
Here](#)





## Resources

### Adaptive Tricycles To Children in Need

Orange County children with disabilities have the opportunity to get outfitted with an adaptive tricycle at no cost. The Larkin Task Force is taking applications for up to ten tricycles for children with significant physical needs.

For more information on how to apply for a free adaptive bicycle send an email to [larkintaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:larkintaskforce@gmail.com).



### Change, Not Charity: American with Disabilities Act

A new documentary about the decades-long fight for disability rights culminating in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act is airing on PBS. The film "Change, Not Charity: The Americans with Disabilities Act" narrated by actor Peter Dinklage, follows the twists and turns of a grassroots movement that pushed Congress to mandate curb cuts, ramps and much more to allow people with disabilities access to American life.

Watch the  
Trailer



[Watch Here](#)

### Resource Lending Kits

The Orange County Children with Special Health Care Needs program provides lending resource kits. These resources are available for a three-week loan to community organizations, daycares, preschools, schools, and families.



**Kits include**  
*resources & activities*

Learn more  
about the kits



Kits available:

- Sensory, Social & Emotional
- All Abilities along with: Down Syndrome, Food Allergies, Diabetes and Autism
- Behavior, Anxiety & Emotions

**For questions,  
please contact  
Paula Hayes-Hayden  
@ 845-360-6644**



[https://qrcodes.  
pro/Fu2M4j](https://qrcodes.pro/Fu2M4j)

[Request a kit](#)

**BluePath**  
SERVICE DOGS®

### Autism Service Dogs

Expertly trained autism service dogs offer safety and freedom to families.

Join the live webinar to explore the role of autism service dogs, the application process, and have your questions answered to help determine if an autism service dog could benefit your family.

Wednesday, April 9th, 6-7 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81487776321>



# WEBINARS, SUMMITS & SUPPORT GROUPS

**04/02 @ 12:00PM-1:00PM**

**Talking to Your Child About Their Disability.** Brought to you by Parent Network of Western NY.

[Register Here](#)

**04/02 @ 10:00AM-2:00PM (In person)**

**2nd Annual Neurodiversity Conference-** Town of Wallkill Community Center, 7-9 Wes Warren Dr. Middletown, NY For questions contact [giftedchildren.com](http://giftedchildren.com)

Free to Attend

**04/10 @ 9:30AM-2:00PM (In person)**

**Rockland BOCES- Free Resource and Transition Fair**  
Palisades Center Community Rooms (4<sup>th</sup> floor near the ice rink) 1000 Palisades Center Dr. West Nyack. For information contact 845-627-4749

**04/10 @ 12:00PM-1:30PM**

**What is an individualized Education Program (IEP) For Families of Preschool Students.** Presented by Lower Hudson Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center.

[Register Here](#)

**04/15 @ 12:00PM-1:00PM**

**Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Services and Eligibility** - Hosted by Westchester Institute for Human Development.



[Register Here](#)

**04/16 @ 6:30PM-8:00PM (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month)**

**ADHD/Learning Differences Support Group-** Receive support, connect with others and express yourself. Sponsored by the Parent Network of Western NY and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

[Register Here](#)

**04/23 @ 9:30PM-12:30PM (In Person)**

**The Trauma Institute of Orange County on behalf of the Welcome Orange Training Institute Presents Psychological First Aid (PFA):** this is an evidence-based modular approach to helping children, adolescents, adults, and families in the immediate aftermath of disaster and other traumatic situations. Free to attend or \$25 for continuing education hours. **Where: Orange County Department of Mental Health, Melville Room 30 Harriman Drive Goshen, NY**

[Register Here](#)

**04/24 @ 12:00PM-5:00PM (In person)**

**OUBOCES- 2025 Transition Fair**  
Orange-Ulster BOCES Emanuel Axelrod Education Center 53 Gibson Rd. Goshen. For information contact 845-627-4749.

**04/29 @ 7:00PM**

**Helping Teens Manage Depression: Practical Skills That Work by Families for Depression Awareness.** Is your teen withdrawing from activities they once loved? Spending more time alone in their room? Having trouble feeling joy? These are common signs of teen depression. In this webinar, you'll learn concrete tools and techniques to help your teen manage depression effectively.

[Register Here](#)

**06/04 @ 8:30AM-4:00PM (In person)**

**Present to Presence- Early Childhood Conference. At SUNY Orange Rowley Center. Middletown, NY**  
Navigating screen time, play and challenging behavior in early childhood.

**SAVE THE DATE**





# Department of Health

## Strengthening Our Community by Supporting Our Youth

**Dear Fellow  
Orange County Residents:**



As a dad of four children, I am proud to say that Orange County is committed to ensuring that every child has access to the best possible start in life. Within the Health Department, the Division of Intervention Services plays a vital role in making that happen.

I appreciate all the dedicated professionals, including teachers and therapists in the Early Intervention program who work tirelessly to support families and children. Their expertise, compassion, and unwavering commitment provide essential services that help young children grow, learn, and reach their full potential.

Early childhood is a critical time for development. The Family Center, located in the Newburgh Armory Unity Center, was created to support families during this important stage. Designed by the Department of Health, the Family Center offers resources, connections, and hands-on activities to help children and families thrive. It was launched in partnership with Mount Saint Mary College and SUNY Orange's Occupational Therapy program, whose students gain real-world experience by creating engaging activities that benefit local families.

Together, we are building a healthier, stronger community where every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and succeed.

Sincerely,

**Si desea leer esto en español,  
escanee este código QR**



## *The Family Center*



**Located within the Newburgh Armory Unity Center  
321 S. William Street, Newburgh**



**Free - Fun - Interactive  
Parent/Child Group**

**Tuesdays**

**10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**All Children and Abilities  
Ages 12 months to 5 years**

*Activities promote  
motor skills, socialization,  
pretend play, and FUN!*



**To register your child(ren) for  
the parent/child group:**

Scan the QR code or visit  
<https://qr.codes.pro/bPoIY1>



**For more information, call:  
(845) 360-6630**



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