



## Talbot County Public Schools Family Resource Center

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**The Family Support & Resource Center is designed to offer support to families of children who receive special services in Talbot County. We also provide support and information to educators and community members. There are many different ways we offer support, such as: A listening ear, a referral to a person, resource or agency, parent IEP support, trainings, family activities and access to our Lending Library. For more information on any of these services, please contact Stacey Behrens at [sbehrens@talbotschools.org](mailto:sbehrens@talbotschools.org).**

It is my hope that families will feel **supported, informed and connected** through the **Family Support & Resource Center**. Please contact me with any questions or needs.

Stacey Behrens, Parent Coordinator  
[sbehrens@talbotschools.org](mailto:sbehrens@talbotschools.org)  
410-822-0330, ext. 179

**"ALONE WE CAN DO SO  
LITTLE, TOGETHER WE CAN  
DO SO MUCH."**

--HELEN KELLER--

## SECAC members

**Quarterly Special Education Citizen's Advisory (SECAC) Meetings**

Members, TCPS families & community partners are always welcome and encouraged to attend our quarterly SECAC meetings. This is an opportunity to become a part of a committee that shapes the activities and events available to children with special needs. We plan fun social events, family activities, excellent seminars, webinars, training events, and help find funding for special needs activities in Talbot County. Currently there are four planned meetings to be held on Tuesdays: **September 14<sup>th</sup>**, November 9<sup>th</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 5:45. The September meeting will be held in person at the Board of Education Office in Conference Room 1 as well as virtually on Zoom. Please call with general questions or to let me know if you'll be attending.

**Please RSVP to Stacey Behrens at [sbehrens@talbotschools.org](mailto:sbehrens@talbotschools.org) in order to join us for the upcoming SECAC meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-5:45.** Following the meeting, there will be a training, Promoting Positive Behaviors. This training will be geared towards families with children of all ages.

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## **SECAC Presents “Promoting Positive Behaviors” In Person and Virtual Learning Opportunity!**

**Susan Jacobs, Talbot County Public Schools Board Certified Behavior Analyst will be providing a behaviorally oriented parent training based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. The goal of the presentation will be to assist parents in learning effective strategies to help improve their child’s prosocial skills and development while promoting positive behavior.**

**Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-6:45 in person and on Zoom. Be sure to RSVP!**



## **Back-to-School Tips for Parents of Children with Special Needs**

### **Get Ahead of the Curve**

Before classes begin make arrangements to take your child on a tour of the school if they haven't already done so. It is often very helpful to locate new classrooms, library, cafeteria, gym

and restrooms. Meet school staff and the therapy team. These steps can often remove some mystery and can help reduce the child's anxiety.

While there, take photos that you can use along with social stories to reinforce what to expect: getting ready in the morning, traveling to school, eating lunch and other common situations. Begin to practice getting up early enough to catch the bus, walking in a line, doing circle time. Talk through any questions or concerns that your child has.

### **Beyond the Individualized Education Plan (IEP)**

Don't count on the IEP to do all the heavy lifting; it provides little information on what really makes your child tick. Pull together a one-to-three-page overview of what teachers and service providers should know about your family structure, your child's likes and dislikes, what sets them off and what calms them down. Describe what's being done at home to work through anxieties and behaviors. List food allergies and other necessary medical information, as well as emergency contacts. For disabilities that aren't widely recognized, include basic facts and a few helpful resources. Preparation of this summary has the additional benefit of reminding parents about areas that need continued attention at home.

Most teachers will welcome this assistance. They realize that your child's success requires a home/school partnership, and this lets them know you can be counted on, involved and will expect ongoing communication.

### **A few other tips:**

- When it comes to school supplies, buy items that will help your child stay organized. If the occupational therapist uses a certain type of pencil, be sure that's on your list, as well (and have extras at home)
- Schedule necessary medical checkups in plenty of time and let the doctor know which records you'll need for the school nurse.
- Make digital copies of important documents, such as the IEP, immunization records, and that personal summary so that you can easily send them to educators and other service providers throughout the year.

The key to a successful experience for our children lies in a school/home partnership. It goes a long way if you take the time to prepare, speak with teachers and providers, and let folks know you are an involved advocate who wants to work with the school to make the year as successful as possible.

<https://www.specialneedsalliance.org/blog/back-to-school-tips-for-children-with-special-needs/>

**Fun Free Activities & Upcoming Events**

**Free Port Discovery Passes!**

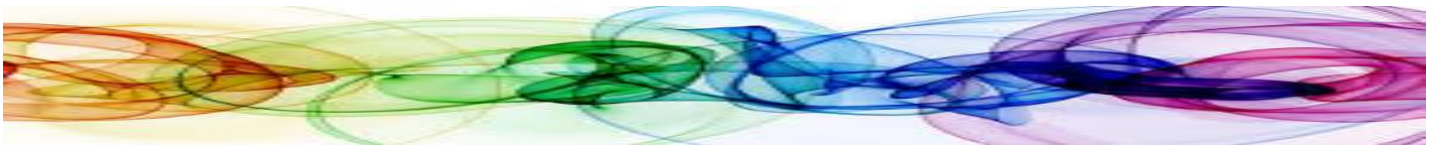


We have Free Passes to visit Port Discovery Children's Museum in Baltimore, MD. These passes are available to residents of Talbot County. Each laminated pass admits four people, age 1 and older. We have 5 laminated reusable passes. This is a great experience and a wonderful way to spend time with the family. Please email or call Stacey Behrens at [sbehrens@talbotschools.org](mailto:sbehrens@talbotschools.org) or 410-822-0330, ext. 179 to reserve the passes. The passes may be returned to the Talbot County Education Center (TCEC) within 3 days of your visit to Port Discovery, to make them available for other families. **Make sure to call Port Discovery Museum and reserve a spot prior to your visit!**

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**Stay tuned for our FREE Family Fun Events!**  
***Kiln Born Family Event on October 21st!***



**&**



**FREE Family BOWLING in January 2022!!**  
**There will be lots of fun! Space will be limited!**

**SECAC Free Family Trainings:**

**September 14<sup>th</sup> – Promoting Positive Behavior**

**November 9<sup>th</sup> – Special Olympics & Unified Sports**

**February 8<sup>th</sup> – Transitioning after Highschool**

**More information will be sent out prior to these events.**

**(All events are subject to change depending on the COVID 19 Pandemic)**

**Resource Websites**

Most of these websites now offer free resources, literature and virtual trainings on a variety of different topics.

Parent's Place – <http://www.ppm.org/resources/>

Talbot County Free Library – <http://www.tcfl.org>

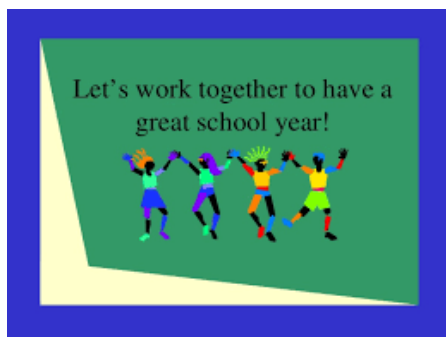
Kinera Foundation – <http://www.kinera.org>

Pathfinders for Autism – <https://pathfindersforautism.org/>

The Arc – <https://www.thearccc.org/>

*“A new school year means new beginnings, new adventures, new friendships, and new challenges. The slate is clean and anything can happen.”*

*Denise Witmer*



**Have a wonderful school year! Feel free to reach out at anytime.**

**Stacey Behrens, Parent Coordinator**

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