

## **District Based Groups**

### **Creating Choices For Children (CCC)**

Our Mission:

CCC is the parent organization for children with special needs, ages 3-21, in the Caldwell/West Caldwell school district. Our goal is to provide information, education, support and advocacy for the parents of our towns and beyond. Together with our district, we seek to provide community-based learning through education, recreation, & peer socialization. And through our efforts, we believe our children will flourish.

You can email us anytime, for any reason, at [cccparents@gmail.com](mailto:cccparents@gmail.com)! To contact individual members, please see below for list.

If you'd like to be placed on our email chain, please contact: Janine Novak at [jjnovak@comcast.net](mailto:jjnovak@comcast.net) and she'll add you in immediately.

Welcome to 'Outreach': On the third Wednesday of every month, we host 'CCC Outreach' -- conveniently and centrally located at the Presbyterian Church of West Caldwell at 31 Fairfield Avenue, (on the corner of Ravine Avenue). The purpose of 'Outreach' is to provide families support, advocacy, education and advice by other parents who can understand the unique and challenging lifestyle we face on a daily basis.

Please contact Janine Novak (973) 403-7887 [jjnovak@comcast.net](mailto:jjnovak@comcast.net) or Pam Donovan (973) 364-0717 [pamela.donovan@us.kline.com](mailto:pamela.donovan@us.kline.com) if you have any questions or to RSVP.

### **Children Having Individual Learning Differences (Verona)**

[veronachild@gmail.com](mailto:veronachild@gmail.com)

CHILD's Purpose:

To provide a network and insight to all parents whose child is either:

1. Classified under IDEA;
2. Receiving services under Section 504 and
3. Facing learning challenges

To provide a forum for parents, teachers, and administrators to learn together and work hand-in-hand.

For further information, please contact one of our board members:  
Randi Marlo [randimarlo@comcast.net](mailto:randimarlo@comcast.net) Phone# 973-857-2012  
Marie Benisrael [mbeisrael@comcast.net](mailto:mbeisrael@comcast.net)  
Lucille Hahula [hulafive@comcast.net](mailto:hulafive@comcast.net)  
Norma Francullo [forestnyc@aol.com](mailto:forestnyc@aol.com)

Area Served: Verona

**East Orange Special Education Parent Group (Essex County)**

Contact: Dawn Cooper (President)  
e-mail [dawn.cooper@gs.com](mailto:dawn.cooper@gs.com)  
Tel. 973-943-2165

**Irvington Special Education Parent Group**

Town: Irvington  
Contact person: Darlene Reeves  
Contact phone 973-202-7472  
Area served: Irvington, Essex Co.

**PASSE Parent Support Group in West Orange**

Contact person: Cynthia Hadley-Bailey  
Phone: 973-731-6049  
Email: [Wopasse1@aol.com](mailto:Wopasse1@aol.com)

**Montclair Special Education Parent Advisory Council**

The Parent Advisory Council's (PAC) goals are to improve the instructional process for children classified for Special Education and Related Services, and to promote the inclusion of children with special needs with the necessary supports within their schools and the community at large. We encourage following "best practices" in the identification and evaluation of students with special needs and in the provision of special education services. The PAC seeks to keep parents informed and involved in their children's education by providing an arena to address policy issues and problems related to their children's education; by providing topical workshops that address identified problems and by encouraging innovative educational practices. We welcome community members and professionals to participate, to share information about innovative programs or techniques they are using, and to raise issues or problems for the PAC to address.

Contact person: Norman Rosenblum

Email: [norro99@gmail.com](mailto:norro99@gmail.com)

Area served: Montclair

Special Education Parent Advisory Council  
C/O Montclair Board of Education, 22 Valley Road, Montclair, NJ  
07042  
(973) 509-4022, Visit us at: [www.montclairspecialeducationpac.org](http://www.montclairspecialeducationpac.org)

### **Newark Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAAC)**

Parent leader: Sheryl Nelson  
E-mail: [cthulucat@hotmail.com](mailto:cthulucat@hotmail.com)

It is a parent organization addressing the concerns of parents with children requiring special services in Newark. For more information please call 973-733-8788

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at Newark Schools Central Office, 2 Cedar Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

5:00 pm- 6:00 pm Refreshments

6:00 pm- 7:30 pm Presentation

#### **La Casa de Don Pedro**

City: Newark

Contact person: Zenayda Alfaro

Tel. 973-483-2703

This parent group is not linked to the Newark school district

#### **SUCCESS**

City: Bloomfield

Parent leader: Hedi Kovacs

E-mail: [paniwinka@aol.com](mailto:paniwinka@aol.com)

#### **Glen Ridge Association For Special Education (GRASE)**

City: Glen Ridge

Contact Person: Jill Simmons

Phone: (973) 743-4095

Email: [jillni@comcast.net](mailto:jillni@comcast.net)

Area Served: Glen Ridge

Special Ed. Coordinator: Ms. Barbara Gemza, Director of Special Services - 973-429-8305

## **Disability Based Groups**

### **ASAP (Autista Soy Amame Pacientemente)**

Address: 229 Grafton Avenue #3

City: Newark NJ 07104

Contact person: Luis Yopez

Contact phone: 973-484.0863

Email: [luisyopez21@msn.com](mailto:luisyopez21@msn.com)

Second contact person: Dina Alcocer

Second contact phone: 201-997.0656

Email: [dinaalcocer12@hotmail.com](mailto:dinaalcocer12@hotmail.com)

Target group: Autismo

Area served: Newark, Belleville, Kearny, Bloomfield, Nutley, Clifton

### **Asperger Syndrome ASPEN.**

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

Meeting Location: Jewish Community Center (JCC), Ross Family Campus

760 Northfield Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052

Contact Information: Anita Finkel, Phone: 973-669-5757

Email: [ednee@aol.com](mailto:ednee@aol.com)

ASPEN of Essex County meets on the third Monday of every month from 7:30pm to 9:30pm unless otherwise noted.

### **Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey's Family CO-Options Program**

A grant from the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), the Family Co-Options Program serves whole families in Essex, Bergen, Passaic and Hudson Counties. Family CO-Options: A statewide program which will allow participating families to create organized and flexible ways of exchanging child care and family-to-family support in their own neighborhoods.

Family Co-Options is a year round program and is open to all families with a child registered with DDD, living either in Bergen, Hudson, Passaic or Essex Counties. The majority of Co-Options events are free for the whole family, although some do require a small fee for attending parents and siblings. Parents attend all programs with their children, with the exception of Essex Kid's Nite Out Events.

For More Information:

Bergen, Hudson, Passaic: Aaron Ott (973) 244-0850 ext 302.

Essex: Elise Wohirab, ext. 308

### **COSAC - The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community**

Target group: Parents, Family Members and Caregivers of

Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Website: [www.njcosac.org](http://www.njcosac.org)

Location/Time: Congregation Beth Ahm, Verona from 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Group Facilitator: Michele Havens, Ed.D.

Parent Contact: Jeannie Blum-Harper (973) 299-5106 or (973) 479-6042

Area served: Essex County

Providing support, information and resources for the autism community.

**Determined to Achieve**

Address: 1113 Springfield Avenue

City or town: Irvington, NJ 07111

Contact person: Darlene Reeves

Contact phone: 973-202-7472

Email: [rambria@gamil.com](mailto:rambria@gamil.com)

Second contact person: Felica Stovall

Second contact phone: 973-202-7472

Email: [fstovall@childrensspecialized.org](mailto:fstovall@childrensspecialized.org)

Target group: Developmental Disability

Area served: Essex County ( East Orange, Irvington, Newark)

**Special Needs Family Support Group**

City or town: Newark

Contact person: Ana Jimenez Quinones

Contact phone: 973-533-7996

Email: [family\\_support@hotmail.com](mailto:family_support@hotmail.com)

Second contact person: Edna Lee

Second contact phone: Same as above

Target group: All disabilities, Bilingual (Spanish)

**The Jewish Education Association Center for Special Education** offers two monthly, support groups that are free to the community. These groups provide emotional support for members as well as information regarding how to work as a team member with your school district, and how to advocate for your child's needs in the community.

Group A is for parents of children with medical/developmental disabilities and meets monthly from 9:30 AM -12:00 noon at either the West Orange JCC, 760 Northfield Avenue, West Orange, or the Jewish Education Association, Seminar Room 2, 901 Route 10 East, Whippany, NJ. This group has been in existence for seven years. The meetings are scheduled month-to-month at each meeting by those in attendance.

ADD Action Group: information about alternative solutions for attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, hyperactivity, dyslexia and autism. Usually meets 3rd Thursday, 7-8:45 pm. Millburn Public Library, 200 Glen Ave, Millburn. Pre-registration required; call Lynn Berke 973-731-2189 (day/eve). E-mail: [LTBerke@aol.com](mailto:LTBerke@aol.com)

Down Syndrome Parent-To-Parent: support and current information to new parents and families of children with Down Syndrome. Visitation, peer counseling, referrals. Meeting location rotates. Call 973-992-9830 (day) Website: [www.arcessex.org](http://www.arcessex.org)

**Irvington Special Education Parent Group**

City or town: Irvington

Contact person: Darlene Reeves

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