

Family Connection 101: Resources for Families of Children with Disabilities or Chronic Health Conditions

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History, Progress, and the Future of FCSC



1990

PARENT TO PARENT
USA

FAMILY VOICES[®]

2009



2015



Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA)

What is a Parent Training and Information Center?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides money for each state to have at least one PTI.

The centers help the families of kids from birth to age 26 who have a disability.

The main goal of PTIs is to give parents or guardians support and information on how to make the most of their child's education.

How to Find Your PTI: Go to www.ParentCenterHub.org



Mission Statement Family Connection of South Carolina is changing lives by making connections, raising awareness and promoting inclusion for those with disabilities and special health care needs.

Vision Statement Family Connection strives to empower the families and individuals we serve with education, support, and resources to achieve their full potential.

What makes Family Connection of South Carolina different from other services? We are parents too! We believe that families with shared experiences are uniquely able to offer support, guidance, and encouragement to those traveling a similar journey. As SC's only Parent Training and Information Center, we offer programs and services that are family centered and based on the concept of parent-to-parent support.

All programs are at NO cost to families. Services and materials are available in English and Spanish. Many of our materials can be ordered online at www.familyconnectionsc.org/orders.



Why Family Connection of SC?



service options. Our healthcare team answers questions regarding Medicaid, TEFRA, appeals, and managed care information.

Our Programs & Services

- **Peer Support Services:**

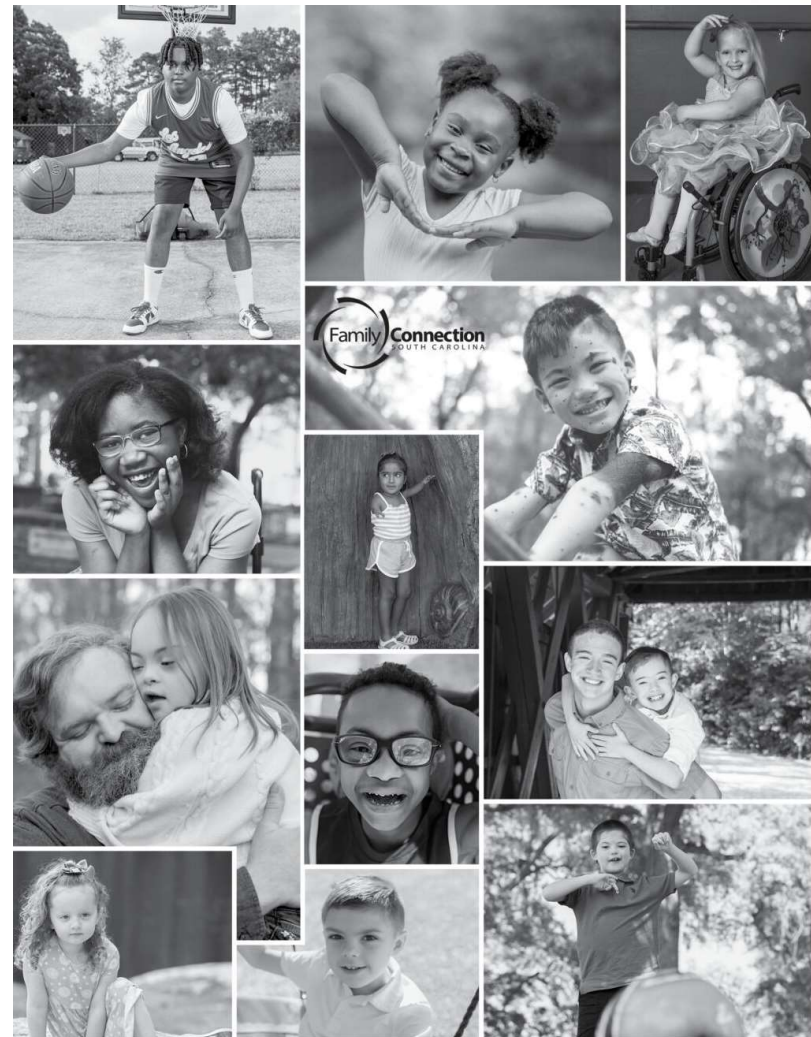
Families receive parent-to-parent support and assistance to address individualized needs; may include system navigation to assist in accessing community resources, information and referral, or emotional support during times of crisis.

- **Training & Education:**

Virtual and in-person workshops and trainings are offered year round on topics important to parents, families, and professionals caring for a child or youth with a disability.

- **Outreach & Information:**

Virtual and in-person activities and initiatives designed to connect, inform, engage, and build collaborative relationships with families, youth, professionals, and the community.



All families include:



- ✓ Students who are English learners
- ✓ Homeless or “couch surfing”
- ✓ Immigrant and migrant
- ✓ Military-connected
- ✓ Kinship or foster care
- ✓ Students placed in alternative or correctional settings/placements

Strong family engagement happens when parents have a primary and meaningful role in **all** decision-making that impacts their families.

FCSC works **alongside** parents and caregivers – providing them with information and resources to help them make the **best decision for their child(ren).**

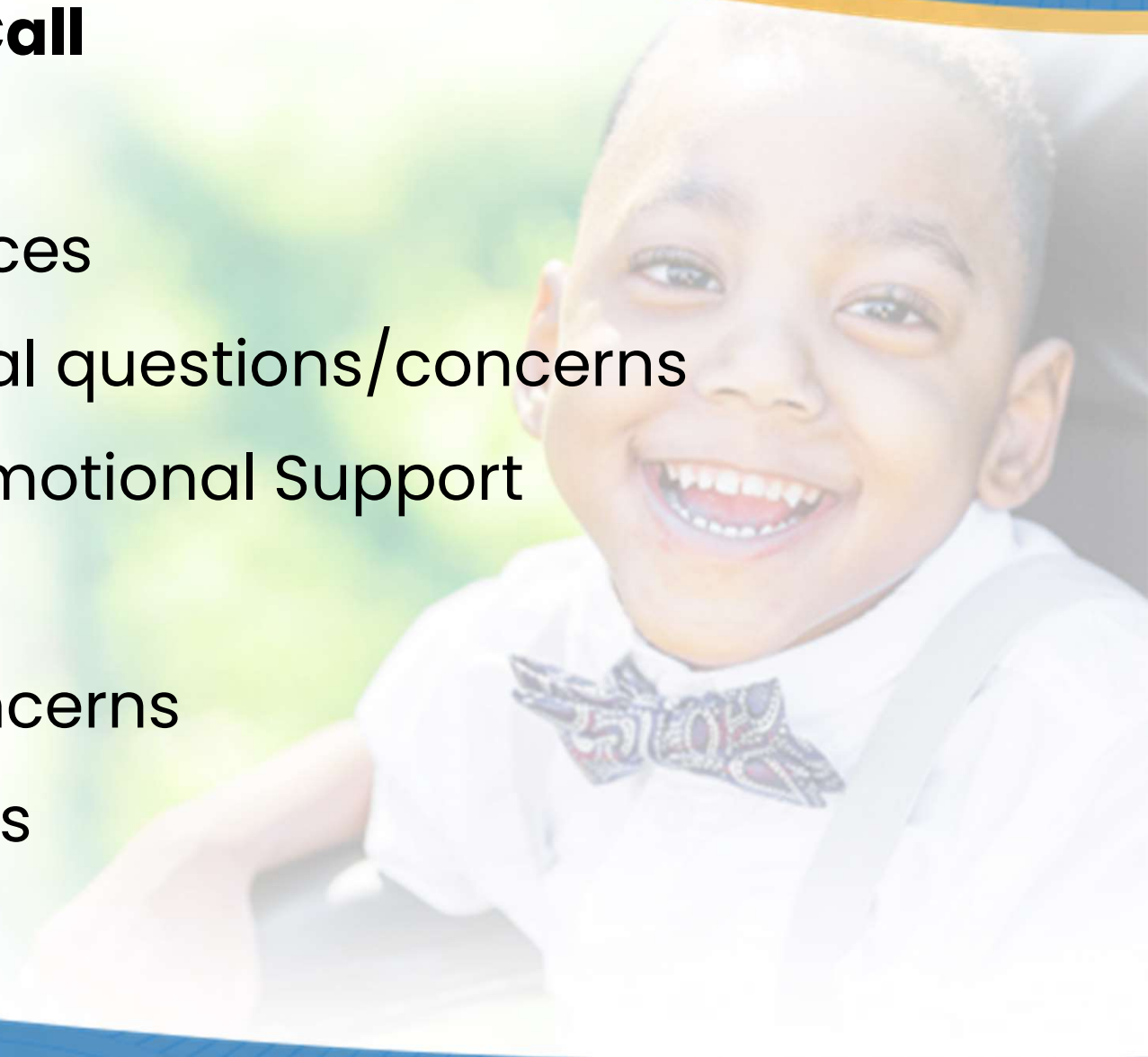


Why Do Parents Call FCSC?



Top Reason Parents Call

- Community Resources
- Healthcare/Financial questions/concerns
- Child's Diagnosis/Emotional Support
- School Concerns
- Developmental Concerns
- Behavioral Concerns



One-on-one support for parents/caregivers of a child with a disability

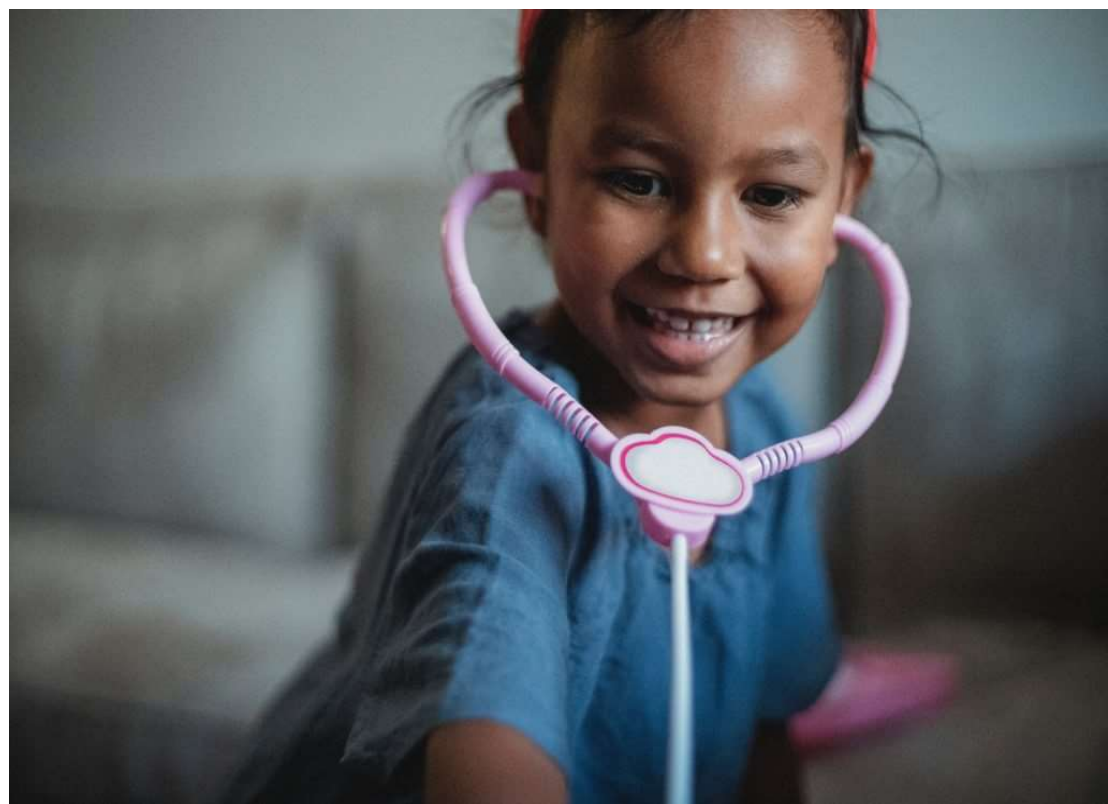
- Healthcare Connection
- Education Partner Program
- Trainings



FCSC helps parents understand and navigate healthcare

services including:

- Applying for Medicaid – TEFRA and Waivers
- Denials & Appeals
- SSI
- Private Insurance
- Managed Care Organizations
- Modivcare and more!



TEFRA Medicaid can be confusing!



Full, current TEFRA application can be downloaded from FCSC website: familyconnectionsc.org/tefra-download/



FCSC staff assist families with completing the application!



- ✓ Under age 19
- ✓ Child lives at home & appropriate to receive services at home
- ✓ Meet SSA definition of disability – NOT receiving SSI
- ✓ Child's *income* below \$2,901 month*
 - ✓ ***Parents' income and resources are not counted***
- ✓ Child's *resources* at or below \$2,000
- ✓ Meet level of care
 - ✓ Intermediate care for intellectual disabilities (ICF-ID)
 - ✓ Nursing facility (skilled or intermediate care)
 - ✓ Hospital care

SSA - Childhood Listings (Part B)

Impairments

- Cardiovascular System
- Cancer (Malignant Neoplastic Diseases)
- Digestive System
- Low Birth Weight/Failure to Thrive
- Special Senses and Speech

Disorders

Congenital that
Affect Multiple
Body Systems

Endocrine

Genitourinary

Hematological

Immune System

Mental

Musculoskeletal

Neurological

Respiratory

Skin



Full listing: <http://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ChildhoodListings.htm>

One-on-One Support from FCSC



Having a child with a disability or special healthcare need means parents face questions about medical care, insurance and service options.

Our Healthcare team can help you with Medicaid, TEFRA, appeals and managed care information. We can provide applications and provide support in person or over the phone.

Call our Support and Information Line:

Monday – Friday

8:30am – 5:00pm

1-800-578-8750

Español: 1-888-808-7462



Special Education Services are very complicated!

**“The Law is in ‘Parts’ but
Part B serves my child AFTER
Part C and that’s out of order!”**

13 Disability Categories “IFSP”

“What is an IEP?”

“My doctor wrote a prescription for
speech, told me I could get speech
therapy in school”



“Prior Written Notice” “Procedural Safeguards”

“My son has been suspended, what do I do?”



“Child Find”

“Least Restrictive Environment”

**“My child uses a wheelchair
but doesn’t qualify for special
education services.
Why not?”**

“504 Plan”



A person with blonde hair is holding a large, thick red book. The book is open, and the text is overlaid on the left page. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

EDUCATION PARTNER PROGRAM

What to Expect from an Education Partner



- Overall Goal of the Program:** To promote the importance of family-school partnerships to improve a student's educational outcomes by:
1. Increase parent's knowledge of special education process
 2. Increase parent's skills in how to effectively communicate with the school.
 3. Increase active parental participation in their child's education.

Role	Education Partner
Definition	A Support Partner
1. Intake/Assessment	Gather information
2. Pre-School Meeting	1:1 meeting about education and support; coach; resources
3. During	Provides support and encouragement
4. Post School Meeting	Debrief to discuss results of meeting
Cost of service	No cost

*We are NOT Attorneys or 'Special Education Advocates'

Supporting SC Families



Who Can Make a Referral?

Anyone! Families, Professionals, and Self Advocates.

How To Make a Referral:

- Call our Support and Information Line:
 - English: 1-800-578-8750
 - Espanol: 1-888-808-7462
 - M-F, 8:30am-5:00pm
- Online: www.FamilyConnectionSC.org/Referral

- FCSC staff will make contact with family within 10 – 14 days.
- Will continue to try to reach family with email, calls, texts.
- If we have your email address, you'll know which staff are working with family and when we close out referral.
- Providers/families can reach out to us at anytime after referral.



Family Connection offers training, support and conferences throughout the year.

Workshops and trainings include a variety of topics to help parents and professionals learn more about resources for children and youth who have a disability or special healthcare need.

<https://www.familyconnectionsc.org/training/calendar/>

Upcoming Trainings



Pathway to Success: Independent Living

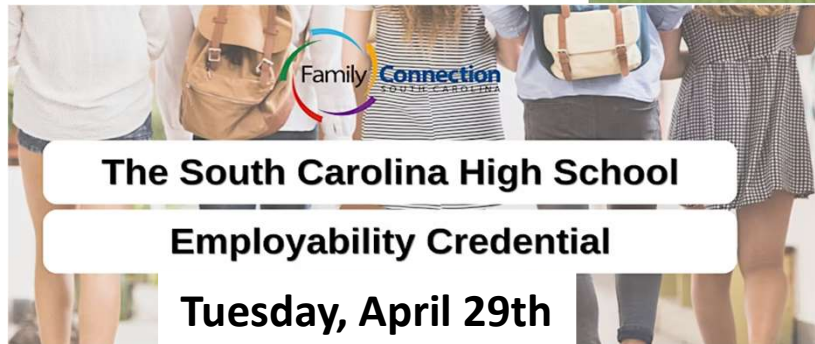
March 10, 2025 - April 7, 2025

Wednesday, May 7th



Support Parent Training

Saturday, April 12th



The South Carolina High School

Employability Credential

Tuesday, April 29th



YOUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

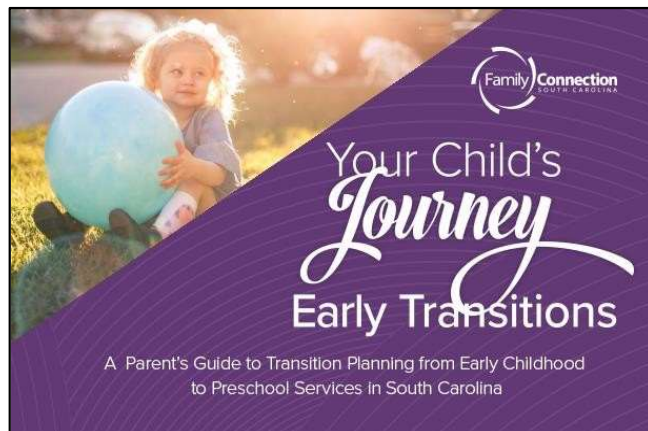
Living Independently

WAZE TO ADULTHOOD

Planning for YOUR Future

**Monday,
May 5th**

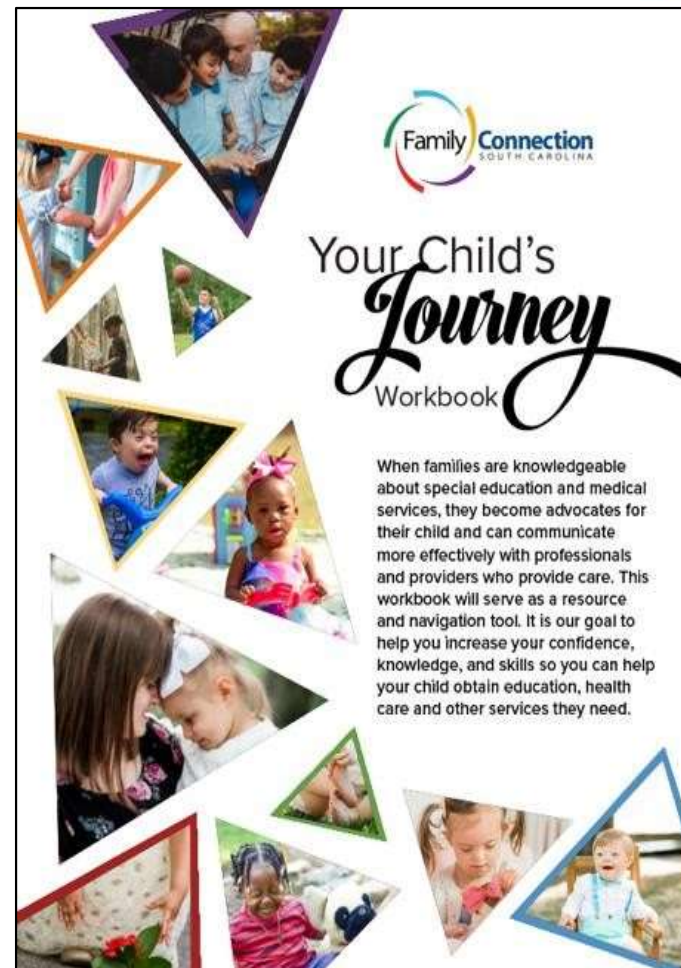
Materials for Families



Parent Guide to Transitioning to Preschool from Early Intervention



Parent Guide to BabyNet



Parent Workbook

Easy to order:

www.FamilyConnectionSC.org/order/



Variety of Tip Sheets

At NO Cost!

Connect With Us!

Support and Information Line:
1-800-578-8750 | Para Español: 1-888-808-7462

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