We believe in a day when our children will be seen as ‘differently-abled’ and not disabled.

Programs and Services:
- IEP Advocacy and Scholarships
- Parent Advocacy Conferences
- Public Policy Advocacy
- Assistive Technology
- Webinars

Our summer and fall events include:
- Annual Champions for Change Challenge on Saturday May 22nd at Tampa Movement Lab
- “Back-to-School” IEP Advocacy Webinar online Wednesday, July 21st
- Special Education Parent Advocacy Conference on Saturday, October 23rd at Marriott Water Street, Tampa.

These events are FREE for parents!
Watch for details on Facebook and Instagram.

Boys & Girls with Special Needs Playing Ball with a Buddy

www.BuddyBaseball.org

Season:
Oct. 2 to Nov. 13, 2021
Games:
Saturdays @ 9:45 a.m.
11:00 a.m., 12:15 or 1:30 p.m.

Temple Terrace
Family Recreation
Complex Ballfields

Students with Special Needs:
8-22 years old
Buddies Ages:
10-22 years old

Registration:
$30 per Player
$15 per Buddy
(Financial Aid Available)

Online Registration Deadline: Friday, August 20, 2021
Team Shirt Pickup: Saturday, September 25, 2021

For More Information
Contact:
Russ Oberbroekling
Executive Director
Ph: (813) 416-5742
Email: Russ@Buddybaseball.org

@21andChange | @21andChange
Tel: (910) 273-7049 | Email: info@21andchange.org | Web: 21andchange.org
Disability Resource Hub, Simple Life Connections, LLC and Bright Feats cannot and will not be held liable for the information contained in our publications and website or the use thereof. It is the responsibility of families and their caregivers to research and determine the appropriateness of health and treatment opportunities for each situation. It is expected that individuals will discuss plans for supporting their children with a trusted doctor/professional prior to treatment.

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Digital Marketing:
MacDonald Training Center, Tampa
MacDonaldCenter.org
Visit BrightFeats.com/vip-works for more details.

VIPworks Design
Graduates of our VIPworks employment training programs provide graphic design, website design, social media marketing, SEO services and more! Visit VIPworksDesign.com for more details.

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BILINGUAL RESOURCES - SERVICIOS EN ESPAÑOL

AMA Behavioral Consulting | AMABehavioralConsulting.com | ABA Therapy Brandon, Valrico and Hillsborough County, 813-464-0983

Offering individual ABA Therapy, parent education and training, potty training, school consultation and assistance and feeding therapy. Services also available in Spanish.

Kinsler Psychology, LLC. | KinslerPsychology.com
Serving Tampa and Lutz, 813-443-5311

All Ages, Provides counseling and psychological assessments in a caring and confidential environment. Nearly all services are available in English, Arabic, and Spanish.

KNR Therapy | KNRTherapy.com | ABA Therapy Serving Tampa Bay, Brandon, & Riverview, 813-438-6796

Ages 3 - 18, Home and community-based ABA therapy for children and teens. Focus on natural environment teaching. Emphasis on combining behavioral parent training with services to help parents implement plans within their natural routines.

Positive Behavior Supports Corp. | TeamPBS.com | ABA Therapy Tampa Bay and Surrounding area, Elaine Martinez 855-832-6727 ext. 1312

ABA services to include training and consultation, services within schools and agencies and intensive behavioral intervention.

Sandy Santeiro Bilingual Advocate & IEP Coach | SandySanteiro.com
Serving Central Florida families, 813-785-9101

Consulting, coaching, and collaborating with school teams in IEP meetings. Together we can get the services and supports your child needs, and is eligible for, to prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living. Servicios en español.

AUTISM

Center for Autism & Related Disabilities | card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu
13301 Bruce B Downs Blvd, MHC 2113A, Tampa, 813-974-2532

Provides support and assistance to optimize the potential of people with autism and related disabilities. Provides trainings, direct/technical assistance, resources and referrals. Servicios en español.

In-home and Community Based ABA Therapy for Children with Developmental Disabilities

AMA Behavioral Consulting, LLC
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL
813-464-0983
www.amabehavioralconsulting.com
Hillsborough County, Florida
DOWN SYNDROME SUPPORT
FRIENDS - Down Syndrome & Special Needs | FDSW.org
Hillsborough, Pinellas, & Pasco Counties, 813-245-2782
All Ages, Broad reaching educational services for families impacted by Down Syndrome in the West Florida/Tampa Bay Area. Providing family outreach and support, year-round programs, volunteer opportunities for students, financial support and community integration for families impacted by Down Syndrome & Special Needs.

EARLY CHILDHOOD
Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County | elhc.org
Serving Hillsborough County, 813-515-2340
ELHC specializes in delivering quality early childhood care and education and services to the children and families of Hillsborough County through their programs Child Care Resource & Referral CCR&R, School Readiness including Screening and Assessment for children birth to five.

ELC of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. | PHELC.org
Serving Pasco and Hernando Counties, 727-233-8291
Enroll Now! Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) is a free program aimed to prepare 4-year-old children for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success.

Early Learning Coalition of Polk County | elcpolk.org
Serving Polk County, 877-352-7655
A program focused on helping families find quality child care that fits their individual needs, as well as provide referrals to other organizations that may provide additional assistance for anything from food and clothing to car seats and other child safety equipment.

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME
Buddy Baseball | BuddyBaseball.org | russ@buddybaseball.org
Temple Terrace Parks & Recreation, 6700 Whiteway Dr., 813-416-5742
Ages 8 - 22, Non-competitive recreational league serving Tampa Bay for boys and girls with special needs. Each player is paired with a buddy to assist them as needed on the field and in the dugout. The league fosters friendships and breaks down barriers.

Camp Idlewild of Florida | CampIdlewildOfFlorida.com
7602 Henry Drive, Land O’ Lakes, FL, 34638
813-996-1226 | campidlewildofflorida@gmail.com
Children Ages 6 - 17 and Young Adults Ages 18 - 30, A place where campers are accepted and valued for who they are and for their unique differences. Our programs offer opportunities for campers to explore new interests, strengthen their skills and expand their comfort zones through adapted programs.

Freedom Sailing Camp of Florida | FreedomSailingCampOfFloridaInc.com
1730 Lombardy Drive, Clearwater, 727-224-1726
Ages 8 and Up, Providing safe, enriching, and affordable sailing for Asperger's and High Functioning individuals within the autism spectrum disorder. It allows them to explore and develop social skills that will empower them to continue their survival in the community; to strengthen their self-esteem and to help them become self-sufficient individuals.

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME, CONTINUED
Glazer Children's Museum | GlazerMuseum.org
110 W Gasparilla Plaza, Tampa, 813-443-3861

12 and Under, A learning laboratory where children and their parents can learn through play and shared discovery. Our museum offers 170 'interactivities' in multiple themed areas for families to explore and connect while having fun along the way.

Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) | MOSI.org
4801 E. Fowler Avenue, Tampa, social@mosi.org, 813-987-6000

All Ages, Engaging science and art-based activities that help facilitate positive changes in all aspects of development for children with special needs and otherwise. MOSI is an autism friendly venue. Come explore exciting events and outreach programs.

RESPITE
Take A Break Babysitting | TakeABreakTampa.com
Tampa Bay & Surrounding Areas, 813-370-0785

Experienced, knowledgeable, and vetted sitters & nannies who are capable and well equipped to work with ALL children, especially those with special needs.

TRANSITION (TEEN/ADULT)
Autism Awareness Shop | AASTampa.org
2908 West Hillsborough Ave, Tampa, 813-879-6770

Increasing independence and improving the quality of life for individuals on the autism spectrum through gainful employment.

Guardian Haven Academy | GuardianHaven.com
3801 Coropex Park Drive, Suite 200, Tampa, 813-400-2117

We empower adults with special needs and related disabilities by providing adult day programs, supported employment, transition services, and therapeutic services in the areas of speech, physical, occupational, and music therapy.

MacDonald Training Center (MTC) | MacDonaldCenter.org
5420 W. Cypress Street, Tampa, 813-870-1300

Educational, vocational post-secondary resource for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Get on the right track to a career. Earn nationally recognized industry certifications in Technology, Manufacturing, Healthcare and Hospitality in person or online. Innovative social skills, career development and employment services to enhance independence and promote full inclusion.
As a single parent to two children with special needs, specifically autism, I often worry about what will happen to my kids if something happens to me. When they were young, I did everything in my power to help them. They received speech, occupational and behavior therapy; I read every book and consulted every expert, as any parent would do. As a licensed psychologist, I took it one step further and started to specialize in assessing children with developmental disabilities. However, the reality is, I will not always be around to be the helicopter parent I have become. I, like most other parents in this situation, must face the hard facts of having an adult child with disabilities.

Obviously, no one is going to care for my children like myself. This being said, there are some steps that we (myself and other parents) can take to make the transition a little easier. The first step is to emotionally prepare yourself for that 18th birthday. It comes up way too fast! I talk to a number of parents who have teenage children with special needs and have not given it a thought. It is a difficult conversation to have, but a necessary one.

The next step is to find out what can be done at that 18th birthday. There are options, including power of attorney (POA) or guardianship. These are very important, even for medical care—particularly in the year of COVID-19. I had a family in my office who had a 19-year-old with disabilities go to the emergency room for severe abdominal pain during COVID. They would not let anyone other than the patient enter the hospital. Because mom did not have guardianship or a power of attorney, she was not allowed to go with her daughter. The daughter did not understand what was going on and left against medical advice before some essential tests were performed. If her parents had power of attorney or guardianship, this would not have happened. This is also the case with education. If the parent does not have a POA or guardianship, then the “adult child” does not have to let parents in on educational decisions, such as signing himself out of school.

There are a lot of other things to consider such as social security and other agencies that may be able to help. Aaron’s House, a non-profit support group, helps parents who are dealing with usually adult children with either developmental disabilities or mental health problems find hope and support (aaronshouse.info). There are other professionals as well such as attorneys who deal with ABLE accounts and special needs trusts. These types of products can ensure your child has the resources they need after you are gone.

On May 11, 2021, myself; Jody Zellner, financial advisor; and Michael Brundage, attorney at law from Safety Harbor, will be presenting an expert panel on how you can plan ahead for the transition to adulthood. The presentation will be held at Maggiano’s in Westshore Mall, Tampa, at 7pm. Please visit BaileyPsychologyGroup.com to register.

Contact Bailey Psychology Group at 813-720-7411 or BaileyPsychologyGroup.com. Our team of counselors and therapists know the struggles you are dealing with and can help.

Preparing for Adulthood
by Dr. Melissa Bailey, PsyD, Bailey Psychology Group
SCHOOLS

Center Academy | CenterAcademy.com | McKay, Gardiner
Palm Harbor, 727-781-2986

Multiple locations including Lutz, Riverview, Pinellas Park

4th - 12th Grade, Serving bright students who may have a learning difficulty or ADHD and students who thrive in a small, safe, and individualized setting. Providing students with a learning environment that facilitates the development of self-confidence, motivation, and academic skills and gives students the opportunity to achieve success.

Easterseals Murray Child Development Center | Easterseals.com/Florida
2403 E Henry Ave, Tampa, 813-236-5589

1 - 5 Years, Easterseals provides exceptional services, education, outreach, and advocacy so that people living with autism and other disabilities can live, learn, work, and play in our communities. The Murray Child Development Center provides childcare, parental support, and early intervention services needed to support success.

Focus Academy | focusacademytampa.org | Charter School
304 Druid Hills Rd, Temple Terrace, 813-443-5558

Offers a full high school experience including creative arts, PE, academic and social skills, and state of the art technology with differentiated, individual instruction that builds on student interests. The post-high school Transition Program moves students into the community to increase independence, self-esteem and workplace competence, partnering with area businesses to offer real world experience.

Pepin Academies | PepinAcademies.com | ESE Charter School
Tampa 813-236-1755, Riverview 813-533-2999, & New Port Richey 727-233-2961

Not-for-profit, tuition-free, independent public charter schools serving students with learning and learning-related disabilities in 3rd-12th grades. Qualified as ESE center schools, we provide a positive therapeutic educational environment focusing on academic success and social achievement. We also provide a transition program for young adults ages 18 to 22 to explore vocational pathways and develop independent living skills.

Professional

ADVOCACY

21 & Change, Inc. | 21andchange.org | info@21andchange.org
Tampa Bay & St. Petersburg area, 910-273-7049, see Inside Front Cover

Special Education Advocates, assist parents with children who are ‘differently-abled’ obtain special education services and accommodations in their public school. Scholarships for IEP Advocacy are available for qualifying candidates. Outreach and support programs are also available to the military community assigned to MacDill Air Force Base.

Sandy Santeiro Bilingual Advocate & IEP Coach | SandySanteiro.com
Serving Central Florida families, 813-785-9101

Consulting, coaching, and collaborating with school teams in IEP meetings. Together we can get the services and supports your child needs, and is eligible for, to prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living. Servicios en español.

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS)
Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Parent Liaisons

Guiding and empowering families to be effective advocates for their child receiving Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services.

FDLRS Parent Services and our team of Parent Liaisons are here to help!

Explore our newly redesigned Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS) website where you can discover information and resources as you navigate the world of Exceptional Student Education.

ESE Parent Liaisons can help families with:

- Facilitating effective communication with schools
- Understanding educational supports and procedures
- Assisting in Individual Educational Plan (IEP) process
- Navigating transitions (early intervention to post-secondary programs ages 3 to 22)
- Connecting to community resources
- Parent information sessions

Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS)
https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)
https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/ese

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System
https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/fdlrs

FDLRS provides diagnostic, instructional, and technology support services to the school district and families of students with disabilities. The four primary functions of FDLRS are Child Find, Parent Services, Human Resource Development (HRD), and Technology.

Brought to you by Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Parent Services and Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) for families of students receiving Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services. HCPS does not endorse or guarantee the accuracy, timeline, service contracted/received or any monetary collection of any information provided as a result of information obtained from this publication.
LEGAL SERVICES

Hemness Faller Elder Law | HemnessLaw.com
309 N Parsons Avenue, Brandon, 813-661-5297
As special needs lawyers, we provide parents of children with disabilities choices on how best to protect your child based upon your unique circumstances.
Is Guardian Advocacy better than a Power of Attorney? Is a Special Needs Trust needed or only an ABLE Account? We will help guide you to understand your legal options to make the best choices for you and your child.

The Law Offices of Laurie E. Ohall, PA | OhallLaw.com
1464 Oakfield Drive, Brandon, 813-438-8503
When you have a special needs child, not only do you worry about how they will be cared for from a health perspective, but you also worry about how to provide for them after you are gone. Advance planning by parents can make all the difference in the life of the child with special needs, as well as for siblings who may be left with caretaking responsibilities.

PSYCHOLOGY

Kinsler Psychology, LLC. | KinslerPsychology.com
Serving Tampa and Lutz, 813-443-5311
All Ages, Provides counseling and psychological assessments in a caring and confidential environment. Nearly all services are available in English, Arabic, and Spanish.
**ABA Therapy, Speech Therapy**

**Serving Tampa Bay area with clinics in Lutz and Riverview, 866-311-4617**

- **Breakthrough Behavior** | BreakthroughBehavior.com | ABA Therapy, Speech Therapy
- **Serving Tampa Bay area with clinics in Lutz and Riverview, 866-311-4617**

  0 - 26 Years, Comprehensive applied behavior analysis, speech therapy services and diagnostic evaluations at two Tampa clinics. Multi-disciplinary team provides treatment in the home, school or clinic to children in the greater Tampa Bay area. Programs include camps, social skills groups, parent training, speech & language therapy, oral motor therapy, feeding therapy, and psychological assessments.

- **Dr. Melissa Bailey, PsyD** | BaileyPsychologyGroup.com
  - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
  - 108 4th Avenue South Suite B, Safety Harbor, 813-720-7411

  Serving all ages, as a licensed psychologist, Dr. Bailey specializes in psychological assessments for autism spectrum disorders and educational evaluations. In addition to assessments, she also provides cognitive behavioral therapy for adults, adolescents, and children.

- **Hope Speech Therapy Solutions, LLC** | HopeSpeechTherapySolution.com
  - Speech Therapy | Tampa Bay area, 813-461-3111

  2 - 18 Years, Offering Speech Therapy services and quality assessments and individualized treatment programs near you (in-home private speech therapy & other natural environments).

- **Jabber Jaw Kids** | JabberJawKids.com | Speech Therapy
  - Serving Greater Tampa Bay area, 813-485-6798

  All Ages, Providing personalized, compassionate, family-centered speech and language therapy to aid in the improvement of your child's communication skills. Services available in home, school, daycare and Telehealth. Accepts Gardiner Scholarship!

- **KNR Therapy** | knrtherapy.com | ABA Therapy
  - Serving Tampa Bay, Brandon, & Riverview, 813-438-6796

  Ages 3 - 18, Home and community-based ABA therapy for children and teens. Focus on natural environment teaching. Emphasis on combining behavioral parent training with services to help parents implement plans within their natural routines.

- **Patterns Behavioral Services** | PatternsBehavior.com | ABA Therapy, Social Skills
  - 8270 Woodland Center Blvd, Tampa, 813-333-5024

  Providing behavior analysis services in early intervention clinics, family homes, schools (public and private), and community outings. Specializing in developing verbal behavior, social skills and behavior reduction programs, self care, toilet training, feeding, caregiver training, and school consultations.

- **Positive Behavior Supports Corp.** | TeamPBS.com | ABA Therapy
  - Tampa Bay and Surrounding area, Elaine Martinez 855-832-6727 ext. 1312

  ABA services to include training and consultation, services within schools and agencies and intensive behavioral intervention.

- **Step Beyond Development** | StepBeyondDevelopment.com | ABA Therapy
  - 1022 Main Street, Suite J, Dunedin, FL 34698, 727-643-7695

  Ages 2 - 20, Providing ABA Therapy Services with programs such as early intervention, social skills group, and career readiness program. Services are available within both the center and community-based settings.
THERE’S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO VISIT MOSI!

DINOVATIONS LAB
SCIENCE CAMPS
YOUNG ENGINEERS
SKYTRAIL ROPES COURSE
SCIENCE PARK
RECYCLOSaurus

MOSI KEEP DISCOVERING
VIRTUAL REALITY SIMULATOR
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING SLIPPERY SCIENCE
MISSION: MOONBASE THE SAUNDERS PLANETARIUM
MIND MYSTERIES
ART FACTORY

4809 Ehrlich Road • Tampa, FL 33624
813-422-9110
813-374-0442

Believe It and Achieve It

MOSI is an autism friendly venue as designated by CARD through the University of South Florida.

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