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## TAP at CTF ILLINOIS

**6081 Development Drive**  
**Charleston, IL 61920**  
**217.348.3869**  
**Fax 217.348.3873**

**www.ctfillinois.org/tap**

### TAP at CTF ILLINOIS STAFF

**Reagan Carey**  
**Director of Autism &  
Therapy Programs**

**Kristin Gharst**  
**Family Resource  
Coordinator**

**Cheryl Sowers**  
**Family Resource  
Coordinator**

**Cathy Testory**  
**YAC/Teen Connect  
Coordinator**

**Sarah Mustered**  
**YAC/Teen Connect  
Group Leader**

## Lego Social Club Begins in January



Lego Social Club for this semester ended November 17. The kids finished their Lego sets and enjoyed a pizza party! Lego Social Club will begin again in January in both Charleston and Effingham locations. Lego Social Club is for kids ages 6-13. It is a collaborative play group in which the children work together in groups of three to build Lego sets. Each child has a specific role and is dependent upon the others in the group making social interaction necessary. The children learn skills such as joint attention, sharing, turn-taking, fair division of labor, eye-contact, gaze-following, and verbal and nonverbal communication. Lego Social Club provides natural opportunities to practice social communication, problem-solving and conflict resolution. Children with autism spectrum disorder, other social communication difficulties, anxiety disorders and ADHD could benefit from Lego Social Club.

The cost for Lego Social Club is \$50 for the six-week session. Scholarships may be available for families who qualify. Register early as space is limited. Registration does not guarantee a space. To learn more email [cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org](mailto:cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org) or call 217.348.3869 x206. To register please follow the appropriate link:

**New Registration** (use this link if your child has **NOT** previously participated in Lego Social Club)  
<http://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/RbP9fb86LcIO3XzafYks>

**Renewal Registration**  
<http://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form87buT9NoUE>

Lego Social Club will meet every other Monday for six sessions from **6:30—7:45 p.m.**

**Charleston: January 12, 26, February 9, 23, and March 9, 23.**

**Effingham: January 19, February 2, 16, and March 2, 16, 30**

Volunteers are also needed for Lego Social Club. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Cheryl at [cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org](mailto:cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org) or 217.348-3869 x206.



**TAP & SIU School of Medicine—Telehealth with Dr. Bennett Leventhal—8:30—9:30 a.m.**—Available to parents and professionals at the following locations unless otherwise stated:

**TAP at CTF ILLINOIS**—6081 Development Drive, Charleston  
**Helen Matthes Library**—100 East Market Avenue, Effingham  
**CTF ILLINOIS**—511 East Main, Olney

**December 4**—Topic TBA (not available in Effingham)

**December 11**—Topic TBA

To register for Telehealth contact Cheryl at [cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org](mailto:cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org) 217.348.869 x206.

# TAP Activities & Events



## Young Adult Club of Champaign

**December 6—Volunteer Work at the Salvation Army Angel Tree at Market Place Mall, 2000 North Neil Street, Champaign—3:00—6:00 p.m.** The Angel Tree is located in front of Bergner's inside the mall. YAC will collect gifts from individual's donating to help families with special needs. We will eat at the Food Court in the afternoon.

**December 7—Nutcracker Ballet, Tyron Festival Theatre at Krannert Center, 500 South Goodwin Avenue, Urbana—2:00 p.m.** This event is for YAC, Teen Connect, and family members.

**December 12—Holiday Shopping at Market Place Mall, 2000 North Neil, Champaign—6:00 p.m.** Meet at the Food Court. Please make a list of who you are buying for, what you want to buy, and how much you want to spend on each person. We will shop from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Then we will have dinner at the Food Court. Pick up time is 9:00 p.m.

**December 27—Holiday Party at Alex Arwari's home.** Call Cathy Testory for more details.

## Teen Connect of Champaign

**December 7—Nutcracker Ballet, Tyron Festival Theatre at Krannert Center, 500 South Goodwin Avenue, Urbana—2:00 p.m.** This event is for YAC, Teen Connect, and family members.

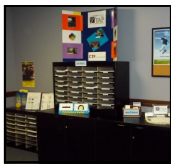
*For more information about YAC or Teen Connect events contact Cathy Testory at 217.722.4482 or [cathytestory@ctfillinois.org](mailto:cathytestory@ctfillinois.org)*



**December 12—Adult Social—EIU Bowling—MLK Union, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston—12:00 noon—We have the lane reserved for one hour, so make plans now and be prompt with your arrival time.** This group is for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder ages 18 and older. We will use this opportunity to practice social skills while enjoying a fun activity with others. Cost of bowling and shoe rental for one hour will be covered by TAP at CTF ILLINOIS. Transportation to and from the bowling lanes will be individuals responsibility. Snacks/ Candy: \$1—Soda: \$1.25. Parking in metered parking only, unless you get a temporary permit from EIU Police Department. To RSVP or for more information contact Cheryl at 217.348.3869 x206 or [cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org](mailto:cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org)



**December 12—10:00—2:00 p.m.—Family Resource Coordinator** will be at the Olney TAP Center Resource Room to assist families and professionals with resources and information. Feel free to stop in or you may make an appointment for a consultation with Kristin Gharst by calling 217.979.3944 or email [kristingharst@ctfillinois.org](mailto:kristingharst@ctfillinois.org)



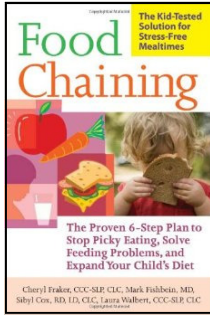
**December 15—New Diagnosis Training—6:00—8:00 p.m.—First Baptist Church, 213 West Fayette Avenue, Effingham.** If you child has been recently diagnosed with autism you will want hear Kristin Gharst present information that will get you started on the autism journey. You will meet other parents and have an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about your child's diagnosis. To register call 217.348.3869 x206 or [cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org](mailto:cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org)



**December 18—Play Group—The Autism Program at CTF ILLINOIS—6081 Development Drive, Charleston—1:00—2:00 p.m.** Play group meets the third Thursday of each month, for children ages 2-5. Most of the play session is structured play activities that promote positive interactions amongst the children. For more information or to register contact Cheryl at [cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org](mailto:cherylsowers@ctfillinois.org) or 217.348.3869 x206.



## Spotlight on Resources



Do you have a child that refuses foods or acts out at mealtimes? Do you worry about your child's nutrition? Are you worried that there might be a hidden medical issue causing your child's pickiness? Food Chaining initially developed by co-author Cheri Fraker, as she was treating an child who ate only peanut butter, bread, and milk. The book focuses on The relationship between foods in regard to taste, temperature, and texture. This treatment approach shows you how to help your child enjoy new and nutritious foods regardless of his pickiness and will provide you with a 6-step plan to stop picky eating, solve feeding problems, and expand your child's diet (Cheri Fraker, M. Fishbein, S. Cox, L. Walbert 2007). We have this book in our lending library. Come in a check it out!



## ECI Autism Connect



**December 4—Parent Empowerment Calls**—These are educational calls offered to all parents in Illinois who have a child with an emotional and/or behavioral concern, and focus on giving parents information they need to advocate for and support their children. Topic: Advocating For a Lifetime. Call: 1.800.260.0702. Passcode: 313106. For questions about Parent Empowerment calls: 618.838.9382.



**December 9—Clay County Autism Support Group—Flora Banking Company, 207 Hagen Drive—6:30 p.m.** This group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For more information, visit at <https://www.facebook.com/SHIFTamt> or email [family1st@myfrontiermail.com](mailto:family1st@myfrontiermail.com) or call 618.508.2222.



**Webinars:** Family Matters Parent Training & Information Center has achieved webinars and trainings, so if you missed something you can still listen! Listed below are some of the topics:

**Preparing Your Child with Sensory Issues for the Holidays**

**Helping Children with Disabilities to Succeed: Creating Positive Behavioral Change Part II**

**Understanding RTI Data: What Families Should Know**

**Don't Leave Safety to Chance: Teaching Teens & Adults with Disabilities How to Interact Safely with Police**

**A Conversation About Autism**

To listen to any of the above topics, visit: <http://www.fmptic.org/>



# Happy Holidays





## Other Activities of Interest



**December 3—Webinar: Bullying in the Early Years—7:00—8:30 p.m.**

**December 4—Webinar: Bullying in the Early Years—1:00—2:30 p.m.**

Elizabeth Frisbie presents *Bullying in the Early Years*. Participants will learn effective prevention and intervention strategies to promote an environment that is supportive and safe for everyone. Long and short term impacts of bullying behavior, along with key social-emotional skills many young bullies and children who are victims need to develop will be discussed. This webinar will emphasize developmentally appropriate strategies for working with children and families effected by bullying. To register visit:

<http://www.starnet.org/training/workshops/listing1.php>

**December 4—Childhood Apraxia of Speech: Assessment and Treatment for the Preschooler—St. Clair County Regional Office of Education, 1000 South Illinois Street, Belleville, IL—8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

Presented by Julia Hoffmann. Childhood Apraxia of Speech assessment and treatment based on evidence-based practice, including ASHA guidelines, will be presented. Questions will be answered related to diagnosis of young children, differential diagnosis, increasing sound and syllable repertoires, importance of token reinforcement, and functional communication. The training will provide 5 professional development hours. For more information and to register: <http://roe.stclair.k12.il.us/starnet/>

**December 5—Challenging Poverty's Hold—St. John United Church of Christ, 204 7th Street, Lincoln, IL—8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.** Presented by Benton Johnson, PhD, LCPC, LMHC, NCC, DT. Participants in this multi-media hands-on workshop will learn about the impact and of poverty and begin to discover some ways for successful intervention. This training will provide 5 professional development hours. To register visit:

<http://www.wiu.edu/starnet/training/workshops/DEC05CP2014.php>

**Now through December 5—Hot Line to Santa—Jolly St. Nick makes phone calls! Drop off or mail you letter Santa, c/o Charleston Parks and Recreation and he will call you child! Letters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 5th.** Please include child's name, address, phone number, birth date, school grade, pet's name, and a couple of toys requested. List each child separately. A special form letter is available at the Recreation Department. Online registration is available at: [www.charlestonillinois.org](http://www.charlestonillinois.org) or stop by the Recreation Department at 520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston, IL between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**Thanksgiving Day through December 25—Wonderland in Lights Drive-Thru Lights Display—Community Park on East Temple Avenue, Effingham.** Hours are 5:00—9:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Santa visits the Wonderland in Lights every Saturday to bring special presents to the children. No fee, but donations are appreciated. For more information, please call 217.342.5310 or visit:

[www.visiteffinghamil.com](http://www.visiteffinghamil.com)

**December 6—Special Needs Winter Basketball: Jr. and Sr. League—Hendlemeyer Park, Ron Diehl Center, 1906 South Fourth Street, Effingham—Jr. League Ages: Kindergarten thru High School—Sr. League Ages: Adult—No fees.** Basketball skills and drills will be taught. Special helpers will be available. A total of 6 games will be played (3 games in December and 3 games in January). For questions or more information contact the Park District office at 217.342.4415.

**December 6—Christmas in the Heart of Charleston, Courthouse Square—4:45—7:00 p.m.** Holiday parade, carriage rides, refreshments, window displays, entertainment, photos with Santa and more. Parade starts at 5:00 p.m. Check out *Christmas in the Heart of Charleston* on Facebook. For more information please contact Diane at 217.348.0430.

**December 13—Sensory Friendly Movie—Mattoon AMC Theatre—10:00 a.m.** Paddington—Tickets can be purchased on the day of the screening for \$5. Movie dates are subject to change. To verify showing of movie, dates, and time please call 217.234.8900 or visit:

[www.amctheatres.com/SFF/](http://www.amctheatres.com/SFF/)



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