

STARKVILLE OKTIBBEHA SCHOOL DISTRICT
FAMILY CENTERED PROGRAMS

FAMILIES STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCE GUIDE

Funded By: MS Child Protection Services Children's Trust Fund

Special Needs Resource Guide

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Disability Support Group (4,279)
A Very Special Needs Resource (59,514 likes)
Mothers with Special Needs Children (5,677 likes)
Federation of Children with Special Needs (4,071 likes)
Parents of Children with Special Needs (2,563 likes)
Parenting Children with Special Needs (5,823 likes)
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Mommies of Miracles
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Early Intervention Works
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Connections – The Special Needs Directory
The Family Resource Network
Family Support Center of NJ
The L.I.M.E. Magazine for Parents of Children with Special Needs
Parenting Special Needs Magazine
Statewide Parenting Advocacy Network (SPAN)
WRIGHTSLAW
Global Developmental Delays
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Foundation for Children with Microcephaly
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Autism Speaks
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Autism Spectrum Quarterly Magazine
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Special Kids Place
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Dream Factory
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Parents United Together MS
Brave Kids
The Center for Children with Special Needs
Parent to Parent USA
National Youth Leadership Network
National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth
The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project
Federation for Children with Special Needs
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National Parent Technical Assistance Center
Council for Exceptional Children
Disabled Sports USA
Parenting Children With Special Needs

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Special Needs Advocacy Resource Book: What You Can Do Now to Advocate for Your Exceptional Child's Education

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The Survivor Guide for Kids with Autism Spectrum Disorders

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Special Needs: p54

The Sibling Slam Book: What It's Really Like to Have a Brother or Sister with Special Needs

I Can, Can You?

A Disability History of the United States

The Complete Learning Disabilities Handbook

My Friend Has Autism

Special People Special Ways

Window Boy

Children with Disabilities

My Bright Blue Glasses

Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid

More Than a Mom: Living a Full and Balanced Life When Your Child Has Special Needs

The Elephant in the Playroom

My Baby Ride the Short Bus

Easy to Love but Hard to Raise

The Autism Mom's Survival Guide

Special Needs Magazines: p54

Parenting Special Needs Magazine (parentingspecialneeds.org)

Exceptional Parent Magazine (eparent.com)

Parenting Children with Special Needs (pcwsn.com)

Play to Podium Magazine (play2podium.com)

Parenting Children with Special Needs (pcwsn.com)

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Mississippi Dept. of Ed., Special Education

Mississippi Early Intervention/Child Development Program

Mississippi First Steps Early Intervention

University of Southern Mississippi's Children's Center for Communication and Development

University of Southern Mississippi's Institute for Disability Studies
Mississippi Hearing-Vision Project
Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Mississippi State Department of Health
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities
Mississippi State University, T.K. Martin Center for Technology, and
Disability
Mississippi State University Rehabilitation & Training Center on
Blindness & Low Vision
Mississippi Department of Mental Health
VSA Arts of Mississippi

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Mississippi Department of Human Services/County Services Directory
Social Security
Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
Children with Special Healthcare Needs/Children's Medical Program
Food Stamps
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United Healthcare Children's Foundation
Partnership for Prescription Assistance Programs
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U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
The U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board
(Access Board)
Disability.gov
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities

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National Association for the Education of Young Children
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AbleData
Ablenet
First Hand Foundation
National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
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The Alliance for Technology Access
Lighthouse International

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Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
The Lindsay Foundation

GETTING STARTED

When you start looking for services for your child with special needs, it can be hard knowing who to contact and where to start. The information provided will guide you through the steps and show you where to find the information you need on: Early-Intervention Services in Mississippi, Special-Education Services in Mississippi, and Transition to Adulthood in Mississippi.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES IN STARKVILLE

Exceptional Kids Organization

Exceptional Kids Organization strives to bridge the gap of indifference and give all special needs children a voice in the community. EKO provides support and guidance to families who are faced with disabilities, developmental delays, impairments, and medical conditions. Its purpose is to advocate for special needs children and enable change through awareness, outreach, support, education, and inclusion. EKO vision is to help special needs parents through research, advocacy, community outreach, education, and inclusion, while promoting acceptance and understanding. EKO is devoted to making sure no family in the local community goes without support or resources. The EKO team include parents, researchers, professionals, and exceptional kids who are striving to make a difference.

Exceptional Kids Organization aims to offer support and guidance to parents and families of children with special needs. Parents of Exceptional Kids Support Group meets twice a month at Emerson Family Resource Center. Childcare and refreshments are provided during the meetings. Attending support groups and interacting with others facing similar issues can offset the feeling that they are the only one in their situation. The parents discuss topics that are important to them, suggest coping strategies and offer tips on useful resources and skilled caregivers.

T.K. Martin Project IMPACT

Insuring Mississippi Parents and Children Tomorrows is the main idea behind Project IMPACT, an early intervention project started in the Fall of 1999 with funding provided through the Mississippi Department of Health. The original multidisciplinary team was comprised of a special educator, a speech-language pathologist, an occupational therapist, and a physical therapist that provided play-based evaluations and intervention services in the natural environment to maximize the developmental potential of children between the ages of birth and three.

As Project IMPACT evolved, team members realized there was a need for more intensive services. Many of these children came from rural areas in the state with limited resources. In the fall of 2000, Project IMPACT team members expanded services by the addition of center-based programming. After receiving additional funding through the Mississippi State Department of Education, two teacher units were added. Project IMPACT offers a continuum of services consisting of center-based, community-based, and home-based evaluation and intervention services. Center-based services are available five days per week and consist of three classrooms for direct instruction with speech and occupational therapy offered as related services.

Project IMPACT, housed at the T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability at Mississippi State University, is presently a blended program serving the early intervention needs of children in Mississippi by using a family friendly approach involving both parents and caregivers as essential participants in the evaluation, intervention, and follow-through. Children between the ages of birth and three who live in any of the ten counties encompassed by Health District IV may qualify for the program. In addition, any child between the ages of birth and five meeting the eligibility requirements for special education services through the Mississippi State Department of Education may receive services through this program.

Project IMPACT is committed to providing quality services to meet each student's individual needs. The program is based on a team approach consisting of administrators, speech therapists, occupational therapists, and special education teachers. All employees participate in yearly professional development programs, which contribute to their professional growth and enhance their knowledge of child development, evaluation, and intervention.

Kids Therapy Spot

Our clinic consists of Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists. Each of us have been therapists (and mothers) for quite some time and have treated only children for many years. At Kids Therapy Spot, we treat children from birth to 12 years of age with a wide range of conditions including feeding issues, musculoskeletal, neurological, congenital birth defects, etc. We use a play-based approach to help each child to progress toward his or her optimal level of function. We treat each child and family with respect, dignity, and compassion. Therapy consists of skilled strategies and facilitation of age-appropriate activities in the session along with in-depth caregiver education aimed at teaching the caregiver to perform the skills to be practiced at home on a daily basis. Each child is a joy to us, and we want them to achieve the very best that they can in

life! Kids Therapy Spot accepts most private insurances, MS Medicaid, and work through Early Intervention (Birth to three).

Starkville School District – Family Centered Programs

Family Centered Programs offer a variety of lifelong learning experiences designed to encourage and support strong, healthy families in Oktibbeha County. Strong, healthy families create a thriving community. Year-round comprehensive programs assist children, support parents, and empower families to focus on the importance of family, school, and community working together.

The Starkville School District established the Department of Family Centered Programs in 1994 in an effort to strengthen families of the students served by the District. Since its inception the department has successfully reached thousands of families with a special emphasis on at-risk families through numerous school-based and community-wide programs for all age-groups. A strong emphasis is placed on using evidence-based practices and curricula in our programs and services. Programming is primarily funded through federal, state, local and private foundation grants. In addition, Family Centered Programs has established strong linkages with community organizations in order to provide the services needed by these families.

Family & Community Programs include: Emerson Family Resource Center, Building Strong Families, Adult Basic Education/GED, Emerson Preschool, Project CARE, and Families Strengthening Families.

K-12 Programs include: Reading to Succeed, Counseling Crusade, Project HELP, 21st CCLC: Transformers and Extended Day/Plus.

Emerson Family Resource Center

The Emerson Family Resource Center (EFRC) operates out of the Starkville School District's Emerson Family School. The EFRC strengthens families in Oktibbeha County through parenting, enrichment, support, and referral services. EFRC also collaborates with other area organizations, agencies, and groups through its Advisory Council to promote strong families throughout the community.

FREE classes on parenting, fatherhood, healthy marriage, parent, and child resource library, die cuts, workshops on child abuse prevention awareness, nutrition, financial management, foster/adoptive parent training, at risk (CYFAR) workshops, referral/informational services for families with disabled children, collaboration advisory board.

LOCAL RESOURCES

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION RESOURCES

Emerson Family School/Emerson Family Resource Center

Phone Number

(662) 320-4607

Fax Number

(662) 320-4607

Location

1504 Louisville Street

Starkville, MS

E-mail

emersonfamilycenter@gmail.com

Who is Eligible

Anyone

How to Apply for Services

Call the office for more information.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Tutors, health care providers, toys, books, games, etc.

Miscellaneous

Emerson Family School is part of the Department of Family Centered Programs, Starkville School District.

21st CCLC: Transformers to Link zone & AMS Stream Ahead

Phone Number

(662) 615-0033

Location

1504 Louisville Street

Starkville, MS

Description of Program Services

21st CCLC: Transformers to Link zone & AMS Stream Ahead offers after school tutoring and enrichment services for students enrolled in the SSD schools. It is a part of the Department of Family Centered programs, Starkville School District.

Fees

Services are free.

Who is Eligible

Students in 5th – 12th grade students

How to Apply for Services

Call the office for more information or ask schools.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (office hours)

Monday – Thursday: 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Program hours)

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Volunteers/monetary donations are needed.

Miscellaneous

Project funded by MS Department of Education, 21st Century Community Learning Center.

Family-Centered Programs

Phone Number

(662) 615-0033

Fax Number

(662) 324-5011

Location

1504 Louisville Street

Starkville, MS

Description of Program Services

Family resource library, family workshops, tutoring for all ages, preschool assessments, preschool programs, counseling, family fun activities, after school programming, and respite care.

Fees

Most services are free; however certain childcare fees apply.

Who is Eligible

Families and individuals of all ages.

How to Apply for Services

Call

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Volunteers to work with families, and tutors needed.

Miscellaneous

No appointments are needed for resource library or computer center.

Oktibbeha County Excel by 5 Coalition

Phone Number

(662) 615-0033

Location

1504 Louisville Street

Starkville, MS

E-mail

okcountyexcelby5@bellsouth.net

Description of Program Services

The Oktibbeha County Excel By 5 Coalition conducts Community Needs Assessments annually and then prepares a community action plan. The plan includes events and services for Oktibbeha County area families and early care educators. The four-focus area of Excel By 5 are: community involvement, early care and education, family and parent support and health.

Who is Eligible

Residents of Oktibbeha County.

How to Apply for Services

Call the Oktibbeha County Excel By 5 Coalition Certification Manager for further information on scheduled events and activities.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Starkville Public Library

Phone Number

(662) 323-2766

Fax Number

(662) 323-9140

Location

326 University Drive
Starkville, MS

Description of Program Services

Programs held weekly during the school year: Tiny Tots (little ones up to three years old), Preschool Story Hour (children ages 3-6) and Elementary Book Clubs. Special Programs: Summer Reading Program - 2 months of summer events for children ages 0-12.

Who is Eligible

Children 0-12 and everyone for checking material out.

How to Apply for Services

All programs are free and open to the public. Registration for the Summer Reading Program begins at the start of the summer.

Days/Hours of Operation

****Currently Operating Under COVID hours.***

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mississippi Parent Training and Information Center

Location

2 Old River Place, Suite M
Jackson, MS 39202

Phone Number

(601) 969-0601

Leslie Junkin, Project Director

Fax Number

(662) 665-4151

Description of Program Services

Our job is to provide your family with information, resources, support, and training that allows you to help your child meet his or her educational goals. We are also here to help you learn about what he or she needs to lead a productive and independent adult life. The MS PTI is here to help you: learn about your rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), make informed decisions about your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), obtain appropriate services for your child, communicate more effectively with school professionals, come together with other parents who share your concerns and desires to make a difference, learn more about Early Intervention and transition services, effect positive change in your child's school.

Who is Eligible

Parent or family member of a child with a disability, age birth to 26

Miscellaneous

The Mississippi Parent Training and Information Center is a project of the Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Our staff is made up of dedicated parents of children with disabilities, individuals with disabilities, and professionals who care about the future of all children in Mississippi. To effectively serve the entire state of Mississippi, our Parent Advisors are in 5 geographic regions, serving specific counties. The regions are: The Northern Region, The Northwest Region, The Central Region, The Southwest Region, The Coastal Region.

CAMPS

Camp Jabber Jaw

E-Mail

Laurie Craig – lmartin@tkmartin.msstate.edu

Description of Program Services

Funded in part by the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services Project START, Camp Jabber Jaw was established to provide a fun way for individuals to develop improved interactive communication skills. The campers are both individuals who utilize augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and those who do not but are of similar ages. Parents attend the camp with their child and have the opportunity to interact with other parents giving each an opportunity to share triumphs as well as disappointments.

CHILD CARE AND PRE-SCHOOL FACILITIES

(includes only those that take special needs children)

Brickfire Project

143 Westside Drive
Starkville, MS
(662) 323-5321

Brickfire Project #1 Preschool

300 Peoples Street
Starkville, MS
(662) 617-8125 (Main Office)
(662) 323-5321

Child Development & Family Studies Center

501 College View
Starkville, MS
(662) 325-3031

Dew-Bear's Day Care

8901 Sturgis Maben Road
Maben, MS
(662) 324-2718

Emerson Family School

1504 Louisville Street
Starkville, MS
(662) 324-4155

First Baptist Church-Creative Learning Center

106 E. Lampkin Street
Starkville, MS
(662) 323-0111

First Presbyterian Church Child Care, Inc.

307 University Drive
Starkville, MS
(662) 324-0726

FUMC Weekday Ministries

200 West Lampkin Street
Starkville, MS
(662) 323-7382

Happy Start Learning Center #2

331 Hwy. 82 East
Starkville, MS
(662) 338-5301

Oktibbeha County Head Start (ICS)

1617 Louisville Street
Starkville, MS
(662) 324-1508

Smiles Learning Center

128 Old West Point Road
Starkville, MS
(662) 324-5940

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

CARE Ministries, Inc.

Phone Number

(662) 323-4999 (Janet Williamson, Office Manager)
1(800) 336-2232

Location

820 B Evergreen Street, Suite B
Starkville, MS

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 1830
Starkville, MS 39760

E-mail

careministries@bellsouth.net

Website

www.careministries.org

Description of Program Services

CARE Ministries, a channel of Christ's Love, provides information, spiritual support, and community resources to persons who are blind and visually impaired. CARE Ministries also provides Christian materials on cassette tape and in large print or Braille.

Who is Eligible

People who are blind, visually impaired, or physically disabled.

How to Apply for Services

By telephone or in person.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Oktibbeha Health Department: Early Intervention

Phone Number

(662) 323-4565

Fax Number

(662) 320-2017

Location

203 Yeates Street
Starkville, MS

Description of Services

Early Intervention is a program that matches the unique needs of infants and toddlers who have developmental delays with professional resources within the community. Each eligible child receives an individual assessment, with parents and relatives providing input. Led by a service coordinator, a team works with the family to develop an appropriate, individualized family service plan (IEP) for the child and family to use professional resources within the community.

Who is Eligible

Children aged 0 – 3 years with a developmental delay

How to Apply for Services

Call our office to make a referral

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

Phone Number

(662) 324-1881

(662) 324-1877

(662) 324-9646

Fax Number

(662) 338-9018

Location

317 Industrial Park Road.

Starkville, MS

Office of Vocational Rehab.

(662) 323-4953 (Shondra Gathins, Dist. Mgr.)

1-800-796-8672

Description of Services

The mission of the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services is to provide a timely and quality program of comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services and disability services for people with disabilities that will result in improved quality of life, employment opportunities, social and economic independence, and integration into the community.

Who is Eligible

Persons unable to work because of disabilities.

How to Apply for Services

Call or come by the office to set up an appointment.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

We accept interns for Master's Degree Program in Rehabilitation

Miscellaneous

Independent Living Program offered to eligible individuals.

Vocational Rehab for the blind.

Rolling Hills Development Center

Phone Number
(662) 323-9183

Fax Number
(662) 323-1089

Location
200 Womack Road
Starkville, MS

E-mail
RollingHillsCenter@yahoo.com

Description of Program Services
Licensed and Medicaid certified to provide residential living support and training services for 140 intellectually disabled/developmental persons. Rolling Hills services include two group homes on their campus and Parker House, serving 12 physically developmentally disabled adults.

Fees
Call the business office for rates. Private pay is available; however, usually all our residents qualify and are funded by Medicaid.

Who is Eligible
Persons diagnosed prior to age 22 as having developmental disabilities that need support for their activities of daily living prior to age 22.

How to Apply for Services
Contact Social Services Dept. to set up a screening intake assessment (home visit) or to be placed on a waiting list.

Days/Hours of Operation
Facility is residential and operates 24/7, 365 days a year. Business office hours are Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous
Rolling Hills employs 180 staff, both professionals and paraprofessionals, who work “around the clock” to ensure safety and provide support for our residents. Offering training and support in activities of daily living, specialized support in behavior management, and medical services, occupational, speech and physical therapies; job placement; and educational services are also part of our program. Our mission is to prepare our residents with the skills that will enable them to live as independently and normally as possible.

Our Motto: “Give a man a fish and feed him for a day, teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” – Author Unknown.

Social Security Administration

Phone Number
(800) 305-6919

Location

1089 C Stark Road
Starkville, MS

Web Address

www.socialsecurity.gov

Description of Program Services

We serve people who have retired or who are disabled at any age. Our programs deal with Social Security and Supplemental Income (SSI).

Who is Eligible

Aged, blind, or disabled.

How to Apply for Services

Come in or call for appointment and application.

Days/Hours of Operation

COVID Hours – By Appointment Only

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Starkville Oktibeha School District

Location

401 Greensboro Street
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662)-324-4050

Fax

(662) 324-4068

Sudduth Elementary – Grades Pre-K-1

Location

101 Greenfield Street
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 324-4150

Fax

(662) 324-6137

Learning Center/Alternative School

Location

2926 16th Section Road
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 323-1462

West Elementary School – Grades K-5

Location

127 Sturgis Maben Road
Sturgis, MS

Phone

(662) 465-7956

Fax

(662) 465-6470

Henderson Ward Stewart Elementary School– Grades 2-4

Location

200A Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive West
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 324-4160

Fax

(662) 324-6957

Overstreet Elementary School – Grade 5

Location

307 South Jackson Street
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 324-4193

Fax

(662) 324-6914

Partnership Middle School – Grades 6th and 7th

Location

11200 MS-182
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 324-4181

Fax

(662) 324-4192

Armstrong Jr. High School – Grades 8th and 9th

Location

303 Mckee Street
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 324-4070

Fax

(662) 324-4075

Starkville High School – Grades 10th – 12th

Location

603 Yellow Jacket Drive
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 324-4130

Fax

(662) 324-4128

Millsaps Career & Technology Center

Location

803 Louisville Road
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 324-4170

Fax

(662) 324-4103

Family-Centered Programs

Location

1504 Louisville Street
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 615-0033

Emerson Preschool

Location

1504 South Louisville Street
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 324-4155

Box Environmental Education Center

Location

2637 Bluff Lake Road
Brooksville, MS

Phone

(662) 324-4050
(662) 615-4171

Fax

(662) 324-4068

(662) 324-4890

Starkville Academy

Location

505 Academy Road

Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 323-7814

Fax

(662) 323-5480

Starkville Christian School

Location

303 Lynn Lane

Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 323-7453

Fax

(662) 323-7571

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Skate Odyssey

Location

830 Louisville Street

Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-8821

Web: www.kidsskatefreemsstate.com for coupons.

Hollywood Premier Cinemas

Location

101 Hollywood Boulevard

Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 320-9000

Lake Tiak-O-Khata

Location

1290 Smyth Lake Road

Louisville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 773-7853

KOA Kamp Grounds of America (Starkville KOA Holiday)

Phone Number

(662) 324-0607

Location

2661 County Lake Road
Starkville, MS

Tupelo Buffalo Park & Zoo

Location

2272 Coley Road
Tupelo, MS

Phone Number

(662) 844-8709

Fax

(662)844-8850

PARKS AND RECREATION

Call Starkville Parks and Recreation Department at (662) 323-2294 for rental information.

George Evans Park

Location

Spring Street
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662)323-2294

Fax

(662)324-4028

Description

Basketball courts, play-ground equipment, and is home to Needmore Center. The facility includes restrooms, kitchen, tables, and chairs. It is a great place to host receptions, family reunions, birthday parties, or any other type of related setting. Room capacity is 80 people. There is a \$150 rental fee which is non-refundable, along with a \$300 damage deposit which is refundable after use. For citizens who live in the neighborhood, the rental fee is \$75.

J.L. King Senior Memorial Park

Location

400 North Long Street
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662)323-2294

Description

Two large multi-purpose fields, two basketball courts, two tennis courts, a lighted walking path, and a public splash pad. The J.L. King Center, pavilion, and playground are also located here.

Josey Park

Phone

(662)323-2294

Location

Josey Avenue
Starkville, MS

Description

This small park includes play-ground equipment and a concrete court. It is also home of the Starkville Community Garden.

McKee Park

Location

405 Lynn Lane
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662)323-2294

Description

This park houses six youth baseball fields, four tennis courts, and one basketball court. Its buildings include a centralized concession stand, two pavilions and two restroom facilities. McKee park is home of the Pilot Club's Musical Trail. The McKee large pavilion holds approximately 100 people. The pavilion has five picnic tables, with restrooms and playground nearby. The rental fee for weekdays is \$20 and \$45 on weekends. The small pavilion holds approximately 50 people. The pavilion has three picnic tables and bathrooms, with baseball fields located nearby. The rental fee for weekdays is \$10 and \$25 on weekends.

Moncrief Park

Location

Moncrief Park Street

Description

It includes play-ground equipment, an inline hockey court, a pavilion, a public swimming pool, and is home to Starkville's Dog Park. The pavilion holds approximately 50 people. It has four picnic tables and restrooms are located at the pavilion. The rental fee for weekdays is \$10 and \$25 on weekends. The Moncrief swimming pool opens the first week of June and closes the second week of August. Pool hours are Monday – Thursday: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. open to the public and family pool passes are from 5:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Hours are subject to change. For ages 12 and under the cost is \$1 and ages 13 and over is \$2. The pool is available for rent and private parties. For more information, call the pool at (662) 769-8874.

Phone

(662)323-2294

Patriot's Park

Location

Corner of Whitfield Street and Avenue of Patriots. This community park has a pavilion, play-ground equipment, and has become a favorite among kids looking to swing an afternoon away. The rental fee for weekdays is \$10 and \$25 on weekends.

Phone

(662)323-2294

Travis Outlaw Center (Starkville Sportsplex)

Location

Lynn Lane
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662)323-2294

Description

It is a multi-purpose facility that includes four lighted youth softball fields, four lighted adult softball fields, seven lighted soccer fields, three concessions, and multiple activity rooms for various activities. The Sportsplex also houses two indoor basketball courts (\$2 a person), two racquetball courts (\$2 a person), a three-lane walking track (free to the public), two meeting rooms, conference room, and a banquet room [basketball courts are converted to a banquet area] (rooms are available for rent for your next event). For more information, call (662) 323-2294.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 5:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Office Staff 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Saturday: 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

American Cancer Society

Location

1380 Livingston Lane
Jackson, MS 39213

Phone Number

1-800-ACS-2345

Fax Number

(662) 844-6153

Description of Program Services

Reach to Recovery – an early support post-operative one-on-one visitation program available to all breast cancer patients.

LookGood-FeelBetter – licensed, professional cosmetologists conduct this makeover program for cancer patients undergoing treatment.

Who is Eligible

Cancer patients

How to Apply for Services

1-800-ACS-2345

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Closed for lunch: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Volunteers and monetary donations are accepted.

Division of Medicaid – Starkville Regional Office

Location

313 Industrial Park Road

Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-3688

Fax Number

(662) 324-1872

Description of Program Services

The Division of Medicaid is responsible for determining Medicaid eligibility for Mississippi's elderly and disabled population whose income is over the SSI limit, but below the federal poverty level. Determine eligibility for families with children and the CHIP coverage.

Who is Eligible

Individuals meeting financial, disability, age requirements.

How to Apply for Services

Come to the office for an application, call for an application to be mailed to you, or go online.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Eye Clinic

Location

1085 Stark Road

Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 320-6636

Family Clinic

Location

501 Hospital Road

Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-3162

Steven C. Brandon, MD, ABFP

Mary E. Francis, RN, CFNP

Fast Care

Location

1207 Hwy. 182 West

Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 320-7800

Chris Lang & Angela Hays, CFNP

Kindred Home Health Agency

Location

1085 Stark Road

Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-6777

(662) 327-9669

Fax Number

(662) 323-6780

Description of Program Services

Provides diversified health care services to the community. Services include skilled nursing, home health aides, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and medical social services.

Fees

Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, and private pay.

Who is Eligible

Call our office or talk to your physician.

How to Apply for Services

Doctor's referral.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Laird Clinic

Location

103 Doctors Park

Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-2515

Jack Hollister, MD

Henry Edmondson, MD

Edward McKibben, MD

Orthopedic Clinic

Location

100 Wilburn Way
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 320-4008
Todd Smith, MD

Oktibbeha County Health Department

Location

203 Yeates Street
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-4565

Fax Number

(662) 323-2667

Description of Program Services

The mission is to promote and to protect the health of citizens of Mississippi. We provide Medicaid screening, pregnancy testing, child abuse identification and referrals. Also provide information on WIC (supplemental food program for Women, Infants, and Children), family planning, PHRM (Prenatal High-Risk Management), and immunizations.

Fees

According to the service(s) you need.

Who is Eligible

Everyone

How to Apply for Services

Please call or come to the office.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Closed 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. for Lunch

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Donations of maternity, baby, and child items are accepted.

Miscellaneous

First Steps Early Intervention will do a free evaluation for any child with developmental delay. Please call (662) 323-7313.

Oktibbeha County Regional Medical Center

Location

400 Hospital Road
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-4320 (Main)

(662) 615-2585 (Admissions)

(662) 615-2581 (Crystal Bouchard/Admissions Director)

(662) 615-3067 (PRD)

Fax Number

(662) 615-2619 (Admissions)

Description of Services

OCH/RMC's highly trained staff is committed to offering state of the art care with a personal touch. More than twelve areas of specialty are represented among the facilities medical staff and an array of advanced services and procedures are provided. In addition, the OCH Wellness Connection, a total fitness center dedicated to improving the health and well-being of residents, offers an array of wellness programs and services.

Days/Hours of Operation

OCH/RMC: 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

Outpatient Services: 5:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wellness Connection: (662) 323-9355

Monday – Thursday: 5:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday: 5:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Volunteers to help hospital auxiliary

Call Volunteer Coordinator: (662) 615-3065

Miscellaneous

Physical, occupational, and speech therapy, as well as cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services are provided through the OCH Health-Plex. Physician referral is required for treatment.

Starkville Family Practice

Location

59 Lynn Lane

Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 320-3990

Drew Anthony, MD

Starkville Pediatric Clinic

Location

#5 Professional Plaza

Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-0999

Fax Number

(662) 338-1191

Email Address

spc@starkkids.com

Web Address

www.starkvillepediatricclinic.com

Description of Program Services

- Provide medical care for newborns, toddlers, and adolescents,
- Well checks, including immunizations
- Acute (sick) Same-Day visits
- Sports Physicals

Who is Eligible

Newborns to 20 years of age.

How to Apply for Services

Call for an appointment and No New Patients over the age of 12.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

INCLUSION ACTIVITIES

Academy of Competitive and Performing Arts

Location

Academy of Competitive and Performing Arts (ACPA)
101 Miley Drive
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 323-0504

Description of Program Services

Classes are offered on the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 4:30-5:30 p.m. for special needs children with an array of disabilities. Activities include: basketball, dodge ball, free-play Frisbee.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday: 2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Special Needs Recreational/Sports Class at Starkville Sportsplex (Travis Outlaw Center)

Location

405 Lynn Lane
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-2294 – Travis Outlaw Center (Starkville Sportsplex)

Description of Program Services

Classes are offered on the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. for special needs children with an array of disabilities. Activities include: basketball, dodge ball, free-play, Frisbee.

MENTAL HEALTH

Community Counseling Services

Location

302 North Jackson Street
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662)323-9318

Fax Number

(662) 323-5553

Description of Program Services

Inpatient, residential, group home, and outpatient services available. CCS is a public non-profit agency that is certified by the MS State Department of Mental Health. We provide clients with services in four divisions: Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Dependency, Developmental Disability, and Employee Assistance Programs. Case managements and medical services are also available.

Fees

\$40.00 fee required for intake. \$100.00 charge for initial doctor visit. Sliding fee scales for self-pay. We also accept Medicaid, Medicare, and insurance.

Who is Eligible

Outpatient services for residents of Oktibbeha County CCS is a seven (7) county region serving Clay, Choctaw, Lowndes, Oktibbeha, Noxubee, Webster, and Winston Counties. For services, residents should contact CCS in their individual counties. Residents can call the Oktibbeha numbers above to get the contact numbers for the other counties.

How to Apply for Services

Call or come by for an appointment.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

After hours: Call the Oktibbeha office for emergency number.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Volunteers and donations are accepted. Clothing and house-hold items are especially appreciated

CONTACT Helpline

Mailing Address

P O Box 1304
Columbus, MS 39703

Phone Number

(662) 323-HELP (4357)

(662) 328-0200

Reassurance Line 1-800-377-1643 (7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

National Suicide Prevention Line 1-800-273-8255

Fax Number

(662) 244-3454

Description of Program Services

Provide community information/referral services and serves as crisis intervention service and listening service. Works with Community Counseling Services to provide emergency mental health services and offers telephone reassurance to elderly and/or handicapped people living alone. (Reassurance Program – daily phone calls to elderly to make sure they are okay.)

Who is Eligible

Everyone

How to Apply for Services

Call 1-800-377-1643

Days/Hours of Operation

24 hours a day/7 days a week

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Volunteers are trained in the spring and fall, and they are required to have 36 hours of training to answer the helpline. Drivers take reassurance clients to doctor's appointments. Volunteers make reassurance calls. Donations are always helpful and appreciated.

Miscellaneous

Counties include Lowndes, Clay, Oktibbeha, Winston, Webster, Noxubee, Choctaw, and Monroe. Toll free within 30 miles of Starkville; call 1-800-377-1643 or (662) 328-0200 for information. A United Way Agency

Diamond Grove Center

Location

12356 Hwy 15 South
Louisville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 779-0119
1-888-349-6884

Fax Number

(662) 779-0126

Description of Program Services

Diamond Grove Center is dedicated to quality, comprehensive, family-focused treatment for children and adolescents. Psychiatric services for children and adolescents ages 5 – 17. Residential (30 beds, ages 6 – 17) and acute inpatient (20 beds ages 5 – 17). Psychiatric services for those with emotional, behavioral, and psychological difficulties.

Fees

Medicaid, group insurance, and self-payment

Who is Eligible

Children/adolescents (ages 5 – 17) are accepted from anywhere within the state of Mississippi and the surrounding area.

How to Apply for Services

Referrals from parent/legal guardian, DHS, or Community Mental Health Centers.

Days/Hours of Operation

24 hours a day/7 days a week

Volunteer Needs/Donation

Donations are accepted

Day Treatment Services

Children age 5 – 17 years. School referral required for day treatment.

Millcreek of Pontotoc

Location

1814 Hwy. 15 North
Pontotoc, MS 38863

Mailing Address

P O Box 619
Pontotoc, MS 38863

Phone Number

(662) 488-8878

Fax Number

(662) 488-8767

Who is Eligible

Ages 6 – 21

How to Apply

Call (662) 488-8878

Days/ Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Administrative Patient Care: 24/7

Description of Program Services

Millcreek of Pontotoc has a wide array of services to meet the needs of children, youth, and their families. A continuum of care which includes a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center (PRTF), both on-site and off-site Day Treatment Programs, and Outpatient (School) Therapy are available. Group Homes for girls and boys.

PHARMACIES

Baze Pharmacy

Location

900 Stark Road
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-5033

BJ's Family Pharmacy

Location

223 S. Jackson Street
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 324-7112

CVS Pharmacy

Location

401 Hwy. 12 East
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 615-6033

Kroger Pharmacy

Location

826 Hwy. 12 West
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 324-8032

Walgreens Drug Store

Location

220 Hwy. 12 West
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-2129

Wal-Mart Super Center

Location

1010 Hwy. 12 West
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 324-1901

PARENTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Boy Scouts of America (Camp Seminole)

Location

Pushmataha Area Council Office
420 31st Avenue North
Columbus, MS

Phone Number

(662) 328-7228 – Service Center

Fax Number

(662) 328-7052

Description of Program Services

The Boy Scouts of America’s mission is to help young people develop mentally, physically, and spiritually while helping them become productive citizens. Our program services include Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Ventures and Exploring, and in-school character education program.

Fee

Membership is \$66.00 per year

Who is Eligible

Cub Scouts: boys and girls, grades K – 5
Boy Scouts: boys and girls, grades 6 – age 18
Venturing: boys and girls, ages 14 – 21
Exploring: all students, ages 14 – 21
(children with special needs and disabilities are eligible)

How to Apply for Services

Call or come to the office.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Need leaders to work with the children and perform intensive labor tasks. We also accept monetary donations which can be mailed to the office.

Girls Scouts Heart of the South

Location

1140 W. Main Street
Tupelo, MS 38801

Phone Number

1-800-624-4185

Description of Program Services

Inspire girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service to become happy and resourceful citizens. Girls Scouts seek to accomplish this by providing girls opportunities to develop their potential and to have fun with their peers.

Fee

Registration fee \$25.00

Who is Eligible

Girls K – 18 (children with special needs and disabilities are eligible)

How to Apply for Services

Call or come to the office.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Adult volunteers; monetary donations for materials/supplies and meeting room space

Miscellaneous

A United Way Agency

Golden Triangle Planning and Development District

Location

106 Miley Road

Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 324-7860

Fax Number

(662) 324-7328

Description of Program Services

The purpose of the non-profit economic development organization is to provide a single system to plan programming efforts with a regional approach.

Who is Eligible

Everyone. Childcare assistance based on your income if you are no on (TANF).

How to Apply for Services

Call or come to the office for appointment.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Pilot Club of Starkville

Contact

pilotclubofstakville@gmail.com

Description of Program Services

Bain Minders I (for 3 – 4 years old) and Brain Minders II Puppet Shows (for K – second grade) consist of 15-minute puppet shows stressing safety at home, in the car, and at play. Coloring books also will be given to children as a follow-up at home. Pilot Musical Trail consists of musical instruments for children to play installed at McKee Park. Handicapped accessible.

Fee

Services are free.

Who is Eligible

Puppet Shows: Child Care Centers, elementary up to second grade, and Community sponsored events; Music Trail: all ages.

How to Apply for Services

Email to schedule a show and the club members will bring the puppet shows to childcare centers and community events as time allows.

Days/Hours of Operation

Email for information.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

We accept monetary donations toward the purchase of additional instruments for the Pilot Musical Trail.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Mothers to Mother @ OCH Regional

Location

400 Hospital Road
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 323-4320

Lunch-N-Learn Community Education Program @ OCH Regional

Location

400 Hospital Road
Starkville, MS

Phone

(662) 323-4320

THERAPY

Kids Therapy Spot

Location

1411 Highway 389
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 769-4888

Fax Number

(662) 338-5439

Description of Program Services

We stand for Speech, Physical, Occupational Therapy (SPOT). Our clinic consists of Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists. PT, OT, ST - specialists in feeding therapy and cortical visa, impairment.

Who is Eligible

Children age 0 – 18 years old

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Call anytime and leave a message.

Snider Therapy Centers, Inc.

Location

28 Glenwood Drive Suite 2
Columbus, MS

Phone Number

(662) 328-3190

Fax

(662) 328-3194

Description of Program Services

Snider Therapy Center specializes in Developmental Vision Therapy and Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation to treat patients of all ages who desire to improve their quality of life and reach their individual academic or athletic potential. Offer effective treatment options for vision and multi-sensory dysfunctions that interfere with performance. Improvements in reading, learning, sports, behavior, and sleep patterns are outcomes frequently reported by patients and parents. Treatment is individualized, comprehensive and drug-free. Patient populations who have been successfully treated include ADD/ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Dyslexia, Learning Disability and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Therapies Offered:

Vision Therapy, Phototherapy, the Sensory Learning Program, Interactive Metronome, and various sound therapies.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Elizabeth A. Howard 4-H Therapeutic Riding and Activity Center

Location

1225 Old White Road
West Point, MS

Phone Number

(662) 325-1718 - Cassie Brunson, Riding Coordinator

E-mail

cbrunson@humansci.msstate.edu

Description of Program Services

TRAC promotes therapeutic riding through educational and research-based activities. Therapeutic riding is a specialized equine activity that provides physical, emotional, and psychological benefits to children and adults with disabilities. Through carefully planned activities developed by a certified riding instructor, the horse is used as a treatment tool to help the rider achieve his or her goal. Therapeutic riding focuses on the individual's abilities rather than his or her disabilities.

Days/Hours of Operation

10-week sessions in the fall and spring as well as summer camps.

VOLUNTEERING

Kiwanis Club of Starkville

Location

Hilton Garden Inn
975 Hwy. 12 East
Starkville, MS

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Monetary donations are accepted. Volunteers are needed.

For More Information:

Contact Dr. Joan Butler, at (662) 242-8675.

March of Dimes

Location

We serve 31 counties in Mississippi

Phone Number

(662) 933-1071

Description of Program Services

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

Who is Eligible

We are constantly on the search for volunteers. Everyone is eligible.

How to Apply for Services

Call the office.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

We need help with mailings, phone calls, donation solicitations, and office work (answering the phone, filing, etc.).

OkTibbeha County 4-H Program

Location

106 Felix Long Drive
Starkville, MS

Phone Number

(662) 323-5916
(662) 323-5918

Fax Number

(662) 323-5865

Description of Program Services

4-H helps youth acquire knowledge that can enable them to develop such life skills as: communication, decision-making, leadership, interpersonal relations, community

awareness, and global understanding. 4-H also helps young people form attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society. The 4-H mission is accomplished through the involvement of parents, volunteer leaders, and other adults who organize and conduct educational experiences in community, school, and family settings.

Fees

Various workshops and supply fees.

Who is Eligible

Youth ages 5 – 18 (children with special needs and disabilities are eligible)

How to Apply for Services

Call, come to the office, or write

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

We need volunteers for the 4-H program, homemaker volunteer program, and advisory committee to assist with local programming. We also accept donations.

Miscellaneous

A United Way Agency

Starkville Junior Auxiliary

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 941
Starkville, MS 39760

Email Address

jsstarkville@gmail.com

Description of Program Services

The Starkville Junior Auxiliary is a group of women dedicated to providing volunteer service and community service in support of the welfare of local children. They work to improve the lives of local children through a variety of services projects and community activities.

Fees

Services are free.

Who is Eligible

Women

How to Apply for Services

By email or write to the above address

Days/Hours of Operation

Email for information.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Volunteers are needed for special activities, and donations are welcomed.

United Way of North Central Mississippi

Location

300 University Drive
Starkville, MS

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1603
Starkville, MS 39760

Phone Number

(662) 323-3830

Fax Number

(662) 323-3858

Description of Program Services

The United Way of North Central Mississippi is an organization committed to building a better community by securing funds through a unified volunteer effort for qualifying agencies that provide services to youth, elderly, and the disadvantaged in Oktibbeha, Webster, Choctaw, and Winston Counties.

Who is Eligible

Residents of Oktibbeha, Webster, Choctaw, and Winston Counties.

How to Apply for Services

Call to be referred to one of our 15 member agencies.

Days/Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Call to volunteer. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated.

Volunteer Starkville

Location

55 Marauder Hall Mosley Hall 407-A
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Phone Number

(662) 325-1359

Website

www.volunteerstarkville.org

Description of Program Services

One-stop resource for all things volunteering, serving local nonprofits and volunteers to connect and find purpose in building a strong community. A volunteer clearinghouse serving Oktibbeha, Clay, and Winston Counties.

Days/Hours of Operation

Call for information.

Volunteer Needs/Donations

Volunteers needed and monetary donations are greatly appreciated.

SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS IN MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi School for the Blind

Location

1252 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS

Phone Number

(601)984-8200

Mississippi School for the Deaf

Location

1253 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS

Phone Number

(601)984-8000

Magnolia Speech School

Location

733 N Flag Chapel Rd.
Jackson, MS

Phone Number

(601) 922-5530

DuBard School for Language Disorders

Physical & Mailing Address

100 Kay James Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39406

Phone Number

(601) 266-5223

SPECIAL NEEDS PRESCHOOLS

T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability (MSU)

Phone Number

(662) 325-1028

Fax Number

(662) 325-0896

Location

326 Hardy Rd
Mississippi State, MS

Little Lighthouse

Location

6000 Old Canton Rd.
Jackson, MS

Phone Number

(601) 956-6131

AWARENESS DAY/WEEK/MONTH EVENTS

January:

January 4 – World Braille Day

January 2 – 8: National Folic Acid Awareness Week

National Birth Defects Prevention Month

Thyroid Awareness Month

February:

February 14 – Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day

February 14 – National Donor Day

February 15 – International Childhood Cancer Day

February 28 – Rare Disease Awareness Day

Feeding Tube Awareness Week (the week of Valentine's Day)

AMD/Low Vision Awareness Month

American Heart Month

International Prenatal Infection Prevention Month

March:

March 21 – World Down Syndrome Day

March 25 – National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day

March 26 – Purple Day for Epilepsy

Brain Injury Awareness Month

Developmental Disabilities Month

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month

National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month

Trisomy Awareness Month

April:

April 2 – World Autism Awareness Day

April 7 – World Health Day

April 13 – Undiagnosed Children's Awareness Day

April 25 – World Meningitis Day

April 29 – International Make-A-Wish Day

April 20 – 27: National Organ Donor Awareness Week

April 23 – 30: National Infant Immunization Week

American Cancer Society Month

National Autism Awareness Month

National Donate Life Month

May:

May 8 – National Mental Health Awareness Day

May 11 – Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Awareness Day

May 15 – International Day of Families

May 4 – 10: Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

2nd Sunday of May – International Mothers' Day

2nd Week in May – Williams Syndrome Awareness Week

Allergy/Asthma Awareness Month

Better Speech and Hearing Month

Cystic fibrosis Awareness Month

Celiac Awareness Month

Huntington Disease Awareness Month

Mental Health Month

National Mobility Awareness Month

Prader-William Syndrome Awareness Month

June:

June 1 – International Children's Day

June 5 – National Cancer Survivors Day

June 8 – World Brain Tumor Day

June 14 – World Blood Donor Day

3rd Sunday of June – International Fathers' Day

July:

July 16 – Disability (ADA) Awareness Day

July 22 – National Fragile X Awareness Day

August:

Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

Children's Vision and Learning Month

Don't be a Bully Month

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month

September:

September 4 – World Cerebral Palsy Day

September 9 – Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day

September 25 – Ataxia Awareness Day

September 30 – Microcephaly Awareness Day

ADHD Awareness Month

Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness Month

National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month

National Children Cancer Awareness Month

October:

October 15 – World Blind Day/World Sight Day

October 22 – International Stuttering Awareness Day

October 25 – Spina Bifida Awareness Day

October 25 – Hydrocephalus Day

October 14 – 20: Assistance Technology Awareness Week

Disabilities Awareness Month

Diversity Awareness Month

Learning Disability Awareness Month

National Bullying Prevention Month

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

National Down Syndrome Awareness Month

National Physical Therapy Month

National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

National Spina Bifida Awareness Month

Rett Syndrome Awareness Month

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month

November:

November 17 – Prematurity Awareness Day

November 20 – Universal Children's Day

November 20 – 26: Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Awareness Week

National Epilepsy Awareness Month

National Family Caregivers Month

Prematurity Awareness Month

December:

December 2 – Special Education Day

December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

ONLINE RESOURCES

Special needs blogs:

1. Hopeful Parents

At Hopeful Parents, you will find "grassroots support for parents of kids with special needs." And incredible group of parents share their stories, which will have you laughing and crying and nodding along in recognition. You will also find a great community, and an open invitation to join in the conversation.

2. 5 Minutes for Special Needs

Part of the 5 Minutes for Mom family, 5 Minutes for Special Needs offers "support, insight, and inspiration." It is another collaborative blog, with distinct voices and stories that will remind you of your own, and at the same time drive home how unique each family is.

3. Support for Special Needs

That theme -- playing on our shared stories, rather than our differences -- is at the heart of Support for Special Needs. "We have more in common than separates us," say the site's founders.

4. Parenting Isn't Pretty

Parenting Isn't Pretty is the personal blog of Terri Mauro, About.com Guide for Special Needs, and author of the fantastic 50 Ways to Support Your Child's Special Education. Terry and her husband are the proud parents of two teenagers adopted from Russia as young children. As she says, "Life is... interesting." Is it ever!

5. MOM - Not Otherwise Specified

When a woman titles her blog MOM - Not Otherwise Specified, you know you have found a keeper. If you are going to raise a child with special needs, you are going to need a sense of humor, and you are going to need to be an advocate. MOM-NOS is an advocate extraordinaire -- and she does it with grace and style.

6. Love That Max

Speaking of grace and style, few bloggers have as much as Ellen Seidman over at Love That Max. She is also all about commitment -- when the woman says she blogs daily, she is not kidding. Every morning, I look forward to reading her post with my first cup of coffee.

7. Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid

Months ago, I heard about a book called Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid. Um, YES! And they have a BLOG, too? Sign. Me. Up. Sure, it is sporadic, but that is all part of the imperfect philosophy. It is intentional. And funny.

8. Fighting Monsters With Rubber Swords

If you want to read posts while pumping your fist in the air and cheering and then posting your own entry that just links over and says, Yeah, ditto -- then go read Robert

Rummel-Hudson's Fighting Monsters With Rubber Swords. Also, be sure to get yourself a copy of Rob's book, Schuyler's Monster. And a box of tissues, while you are at it.

9. Winter Ramblings

Another amazing author, Judy Winter -- who wrote Breakthrough Parenting for Children With Special Needs -- shares her thoughts at Winter Ramblings. Judy is a woman of incredible courage: she finds the strength to get up every morning even though her son passed away seven years ago, at age 12.

10. Wrightslaw

Wrightslaw is an amazing resource for parents of kids with special needs. If you want your child to get what he or she deserves from your city, state, and school district, this site is the place to go. And the blog is full of informative -- and interesting -- posts.

(Specialneedsmom.com)

(thelifeunexpected.com)

(sloanepasher.com)

11. Mommy Has Issues

This blog is written by the mother of a six-year-old girl, Oli, who was born with a rare genetic deletion which caused her eyes not to develop (severe microphthalmia). She is totally blind and developmentally delayed. She is also autistic; she does not speak and has seizures. This mother's story of acceptance and understanding of her daughter's disabilities is not only brutally honest, but inspirational.

Facebook Support Groups:

(Local)

Exceptional Kids Organization

Kids Therapy Spot

T.K. Martin

Gameday Nanny

Disability Support Group (4,279)

A Very Special Needs Resource (59,514 likes)

Mothers with Special Needs Children (5,677 likes)

Federation of Children with Special Needs (4,071 likes)

Parents of Children with Special Needs (2,563 likes)

Parenting Children with Special Needs (5,823 likes)

Children with Special Needs (3,699 likes)

3E Love's Wheelchair Heart (66,252 likes)

Parents of Special Needs Kids (1,092 likes)

Mommies of Miracles

Parents United Together MS

Early Intervention Works

First Steps Early Childhood Intervention

Early Intervention Support

Connections – The Special Needs Directory

The Family Resource Network

Family Support Center of NJ

The L.I.M.E. Magazine for Parents of Children with Special Needs

Parenting Special Needs Magazine
Statewide Parenting Advocacy Network (SPAN)
Wright Law (Specific Conditions)
Global Developmental Delays
My Child has Global Developmental Delays
Children with Developmental Delays
Hypotonia (Awareness)
Hypotonia Parents Connection
Foundation for Children with Microcephaly
Children with Microcephaly
Pediatric Feeding Disorders/FTT/GERD/and feeding tubes
Pediatric Feeding Disorders, Connecting the Dots
Feeding Tube Awareness
Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)
Thinking Outside the Lightbox
CVI Phase III Community
CVI Connection
Paths to Literacy for Children who are Blind and Visually Impaired
Blind Babies Foundation
Vision Therapy Parents Unite
Mississippi Hearing-Vision Project
Deaf-Blind with Special Need
Autism Speaks
Association for Science in Autism Treatment (ASAT)
Autism Spectrum Quarterly Magazine
Sensory Processing Disorder

Special Needs websites:

Celebrating Special Children
www.celebratingspecialchildren.org

Center for Parent Information and Resources
www.parentcenterhub.org

Angels with Special Needs
www.angelswithspecialneeds.org

Children with Special Needs
www.childrenwithspecialneeds.com

Special Kids Place
www.specialkidsplace.org

Prosperity Place
www.prosperityplace.org

Dream Factory
www.dreamfactoryinc.org

Hannah and Friends
www.hannahandfriends.org

Special Needs Resource Project

www.snrproject.com

Parents United Together MS

www.parentsunitedtogether.com

Brave Kids

www.bravekids.org

The Center for Children with Special Needs

www.cshcn.org

Parent to Parent USA

www.p2pusa.org

National Youth Leadership Network

www.nyln.org

National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth

www.ncwd-youth.info/

The M.O.R.G.A.N. Project

www.themorganproject.org

Federation for Children with Special Needs

www.fcsn.org

National Dissemination Center for Children with Special Needs

www.nichcy.org

Family Voices

www.familyvoices.org

National Parent Technical Assistance Center

www.parentcenterhub.com

Council for Exceptional Children

www.cec.sped.org

Disabled Sports USA

www.disabledsportsusa.org

Parenting Children with Special Needs

www.pcwsn.com

PRINT MATERIAL

Special Needs Books

Special Needs Advocacy Resource Book: What You Can Do Now to Advocate for Your Exceptional Child's Education

By Rich Weinfeld

Little Bear Sees

By Aubri Tallant

The ADHD Workbook for Kids: Helping Children Gain Self-Confidence, Social Skills

By Lawrence Shapiro PhD

Social Skills Books

The Survivor Gide for Kids with Autism Spectrum Disorders

By Elizabeth Verdick

Views from our Shoes: Growing up with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs

By Donald Joseph Meyer

Special Needs

The Sibling Slam Book: What It's Really Like to Have a Brother or Sister with Special Needs

By Don Meyer

I Can, Can You?

By Marjorie W. Pitzer

A Disability History of the United States

By Kim E. Nielsen

The Complete Learning Disabilities Handbook

By Joan M. Harwell

My Friend Has Autism

By Amanda Doering Tourville

Special People Special Ways

By Arlene Maguire

Window Boy

By Andrea White

Children with Disabilities

By Mark Batshaw M.D.

My Bright Blue Glasses

By Cynthia L. Davis

Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid

By Gina Gallagher

More Than a Mom: Living a Full and Balanced Life When Your Child Has Special Needs

By Heather Fawcett

The Elephant in the Playroom

By Denise Brodey

My Baby Ride the Short Bus

By Yantra Bertelli

Easy to Love but Hard to Raise

By Adrienne Bashista

The Autism Mom's Survival Guide

By Susan Senator

Special Needs Magazine

Parenting Special Needs Magazine (parentingspecialneeds.org)

Exceptional Parent Magazine (eparent.com)

Parenting Children with Special Needs (pcwsn.com)

Play to Podium Magazine (play2podium.com)

Parenting Children with Special Needs (ppcwsn.com)

MISSISSIPPI RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

State and Government Agencies/Universities/Grant Programs:

Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Special Education

www.mde.k12.ms.us/special-education

1-877-544-0408

Mississippi Early Intervention/Child Development Programs

www.dmh.state.ms.us/mr_early_intervention_services.html

Mississippi First Steps Early Intervention/Birth through 2

www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdhsite/_static/41,0,74.html

University of Southern Mississippi's Children's Center for Communication and Development

www.usm.edu/early-intervention-childrens

University of Southern Mississippi's Institute for Disability Studies

www.usm.edu/disability-studies

Mississippi Hearing-Vision Project

www.usm.edu/hearing-vision

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

www.mdrs.state.ms.us/

Mississippi State Department of Health

www.msdh.state.ms.us/

Mississippi Department of Human Services

www.mdhs.state.ms.us/

Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities

www.msccd.org

Mississippi State University, T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability

www.tkmartin.msstate.edu/

Mississippi State University Rehabilitation & Training Center on Blindness & Low Vision

www.blind.msstate.edu/

Mississippi Department of Mental Health

www.dmh.ms.gov/

Program for Children with Disabilities: Ages 3 through 5
www.mde.k12.ms.us/special_education/
(601) 359-3491

VSA Arts of Mississippi
www.vsartsms.org
(601) 209-0617

Agencies/Assistance Programs – Government:

To find out if you are available for any Government benefits go to **Benefits.Gov** or contact your local department of social services.

Some of the most common Government programs include:

Mississippi Department of Human Services/County Services Directory
www.mdhs.state.ms.us
1(800) 345-6347

Social Security
www.socialsecurityoffice.location.net/jackson-mississippi-social-security-office-so759

Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
www.chipmedicaid.org

Children with Special Healthcare Needs/Children’s Medical Program
www.msdh.state.ms.edu
(601) 987-3965
800-844-0898

Food Stamps
www.mdhs.state.ms.us/

Medicaid
www.medicaid.ms.gov
(601) 359-6050

Disabled Child Living at Home (Mississippi is one of only four states that provide this!)
www.medicaid.ms.gov/

United Healthcare Children’s Foundation
www.uhccf.org

Partnership for Prescription Assistance Programs
www.pparx.org

Variety: The Children’s Foundation
www.usvariety.org

Disabled Children Relief Fund
www.dcrf.com

Parent Organizations:
Parents United Together
www.facebook.com/parentsunitedtogetherms

Disability Organizations:

Disability Rights Mississippi

www.disabilityrightsms.com

(601) 968-0600

Location

210 Capitol Street Suite 600

Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE)

www.lifeofms.com

(601) 969-4009

Location

1304 Vine Street

Mississippi Society for Disabilities

www.msdisabilities.com

(601) 982-7051

Location

500-G East Woodrow Wilson Drive

Jackson, MS

Toy and Technology Learning Center

www.usm.edu/tlc

(228) 865-4587

Location

730 East Beach Boulevard

Long Beach, MS

Councils on Developmental Disabilities

www.dmh.state.ms.us/mr_ms_council_dev_disabilities.html

(601) 359-1270

Location

239 North Lamar Street

1101 Robert E. Lee Building

Jackson, MS

Specific Disabilities:

Autism

Together Enhancing Autism Awareness in Mississippi (TEAAM)

www.teaam.org

(601) 782-9005

Blind/Visually Impaired

Mississippi Industries for the Blind

www.msblind.org

(601) 984-3200

Mississippi Council of the Blind

www.acb.org/mcb/

(601) 982-1718

National Federation of the Blind Mississippi
www.nfbofmississippi.org
(601) 969-3352
Starkville Chapter
(662) 323-6229
Parents of Blind Children
(662)574-3942

Cerebral Palsy

Cerebral Palsy Foundation of Mississippi, Inc.
www.cpfoms.org
(888) 852-1961

Deaf/Hearing Impaired

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation/Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services
www.mdrs.state.ms.us
(800) 443-1000

Down Syndrome

Northeast Mississippi Down Syndrome Society
www.nemdss.org/
(662) 869-3211
Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society
www.cmdss.org/
(601) 506-6293
Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society
www.gcdss.org/
(228) 447-0270

Intellectual Disabilities

The ARC of Mississippi
www.arcms.org/
(601) 355-0220
Location
704 North President Street
Jackson, MS

Mental Health

Mississippi Department of Mental Health
www.dmh.ms.gov
(601) 359-1288
Mississippi Families of Allies for Children's Mental Health
www.faams.org/
(601)355-0915
National Association for Mental Illness-Mississippi
www.nami.org/sites/NAMIMississippi/
(601)898-9058

Spina Bifida

Spina Bifida Association of Mississippi
(601) 420-0030

NATIONAL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep.index.html

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
www.justice.gov/crt/

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
www.eeoc.gov/

The U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board)
www.access-board.gov

Disability.gov
www.disAbility.gov/

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
www.ada.gov/

Disability Info:

Disability is Natural
www.disabilityisnatural.com

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)
www.nichcy.org

Early Intervention:

National Association for the Education of Young Children
www.naeyc.org

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance System
www.nectac.org

Southern Early Childhood Association
www.southernearlychildhood.org

Healthcare:

Family Voices
www.familyvoices.org

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
www.idea.ed.gov/

Families and Advocates Partnership for Education (FAPE)
www.fape.org

Independent Living
www.independentliving.com

National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)
www.ncil.org

Specific Disabilities:

Autism

Autism Speaks

www.autismspeaks.org

Autism Society of America

www.autism-society.org

Blind/Visually Impaired

American Council of the Blind

800-424-8666

202-467-5081

www.acb.org

American Foundation for the Blind

800-AFB-LINE (232-5463)

www.afb.org

Association for the Education & Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

703-671-4500

www.aerbvi.org

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind

202-454-6400

www.clb.org

Family Connect

www.familyconnect.org/parentsitetime.asp

Foundation Fighting Blindness

www.blindness.org

Deaf/Hearing Impaired

American Academy of Audiology

www.audiology.org

American Cochlear Implant Alliance

www.acialliance.org

American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)

www.deafchildren.org

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

www.asha.org

National Association of the Deaf

www.nad.org

Deaf-Blind

National Center on Deaf-Blindness

www.nationaldb.org

National Family Association for Deaf-Blind

www.nfadb.org

National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness

www.nationaldb.org

Developmental Disabilities

Administration of Developmental Disabilities
www.acf.hhs.gov/rograms/add/

Diabetes

American Diabetes Association
www.diabetes.org

Children with Diabetes
www.childrenwithdiabetes.com

Epilepsy

Epilepsy Foundation of America
www.epilepsyfoundation.org

Intellectual Disabilities

The ARC of the United States
www.thearc.org

Learning Disabilities

International Dyslexia Association
www.interdys.org

Learning Disabilities Association of America
www.lidaamerica.org

LD Online
www.ldonline.org

National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD)
www.nclid.org

Muscular Dystrophy

Muscular Dystrophy Association – USA
www.mda.org

Williams Syndrome

Williams Syndrome Changing Lives Foundation
www.wschanginglives.org

Williams Syndrome Family of Hope, Inc.
www.wsfamilyofhope.org

Secondary Education/Transition:

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition
www.ncset.org
(612) 624-2097

Legal:**Wright's Law**

www.wrightslaw.com

The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPPA)

www.copaa.org

Agencies/Assistance Programs – Private:

Cover the Uninsured – A project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

<http://covertheuninsured.org>

(202) 572-2928

National School Foundation Association

www.schoolfoundations.org

(866) 824-8513

Assistive Technologies:

Able Data

www.abledata.com

(800) 227-0216

(703) 356-8035

Ablenet

www.ablenetinc.com

800-322-0956

First Hand Foundation

https://applications.cerner.com/firsthand/FirstHand_1a.aspx?id=28729

(816) 201-1569

National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)

www.loc.gov/nls

(202) 707-5100

RESNA – Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America

www.resna.org

(703) 524-6686

The Alliance for Technology Access

www.ataccess.org

Lighthouse International

www.lighthouse.org

800-829-0500

Charities and Foundations:

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

www.christopherreeve.org

800-225-0292

The Lindsay Foundation

www.lindsayfoundation.org

(281) 399-2937

Families Strengthening Families

Phone: 662.615.0033

E-mail: bculberson@starkvillesd.com

Website: fcp-parentcafe.com

Facebook: FCP Families Strengthening Families

Twitter: [@parenttalk20](https://twitter.com/parenttalk20)

You-Tube: Parent Talk