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| **Exceptional Children Information for Parents** | [Exceptional Children Division logo.](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children-division) |
| February 16, 2022 |  |
| **The Care Project 4th Annual Parent Professional Collaborative: Changing the Culture of Communication**  This conference is a two-day virtual conference on February 25th and 26th. The event is for parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing and professionals who provide services for these families to bring about a deeper understanding of the emotional journey of these families after receiving an unexpected diagnosis. Parents will gain resources to help them better navigate the journey and the systems of services available to their families.  Please visit [TheCareProject.com/retreats](http://www.thecareproject.com/retreats/) for more details and a registration link.  **Deaf Youth Retreat**  This retreat is located at Camp Caraway in Sophia, NC, May 13th through 15th. The camp is for students who are 10 years old through high school and who are deaf. Camp Caraway is a mountain camp with a lake, gym, dining hall, swimming pool, basketball courts, cabins, and a lodge. The purpose of the Deaf Youth Retreat is for students who are deaf to able to have a camp that offers Christian fellowship and Bible study in a relaxed, fun-filled environment in ASL.  Please visit [NCBaptist.org/event-deaf-youth-retreat](https://ncbaptist.org/event-deaf-youth-retreat/) for more information and the application. Register for the camp by March 10, 2022, to guarantee your spot.  **Additional Summer Camps**  Every year in late February or early March, the Family Support Program at the UNC at Chapel Hill School of Social Work puts together a directory of summer camps. Please keep an eye out on their [website](https://fsp.unc.edu/?q=summer-camp) for the 2022 edition. | Important Links  * [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/) * [U.S. Department of Education](https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=) * [N.C. Department of Health & Human Services](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina) * [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit (K-12)](https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/Strong-Schools-NC-Public-Health-Toolkit.pdf) * [N.C. Department of Public Instruction](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/news/covid-19-response-resources) * [Lighting Our Way Forward (Summary)](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11qO4_l_P2xUvI3iem0fRE2mRswajY22t/view) * [No Kid Hungry](http://nokidhungrync.org/covid19/?fbclid=IwAR0wt6mBx1jSoMTb-QnyurnORW2Deu4mcGd60xtF0t0rwrMvvQLiU8igcyo) * [NCDPI-COVID-19 Responses & Resources](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/news/covid-19-response-resources)  Upcoming Events  * Arc of the Triangle [Events](https://www.arctriangle.org/calendar) * Autism Society [Workshops](https://www.autismsociety-nc.org/autism-workshops/) * Autism Speaks [Information Topics](https://www.autismspeaks.org/information-topic) * CADRE [Parent Resources](https://www.cadreworks.org/for-families) * ECAC [Events](https://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/calendar/) & [Recorded Webinars](https://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/webinars/) * National Alliance on Mental Illness [Courses](https://www.nami.org/Support-Education/Mental-Health-Education) * NC Down Syndrome Alliance [Events](https://www.ncdsalliance.org/calendar/) * Special Olympics NC [Events](https://sonc.net/events-calendar/)   **ASL Storytelling Time for Children**  NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is hosting ASL storytelling time for children through Zoom once a month in 2022. All sessions are from 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. You will need to RSVP to Lisa Kennedy to receive the meeting ID number. She can be reached at (828) 475-4558 or [lisa.r.kennedy@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:lisa.r.kennedy@dhhs.nc.gov).  Schedule: Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 18, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug. 19, Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 18, Dec. 9. |
| You can find previous newsletters in the Parent Newsletter google folder at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ECParentNewsletters> | Contact: Alexis Utz, Parent Liaison  Exceptional Children Division, NC DPI  Email: [alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:alexis.utz@dpi.nc.gov) |