



# IU5 Family Support Center

YOU ARE NOT ALONE



WINTER 21/22 NEWSLETTER



## The IU has a new Parent Consultant!

My name is **Corinne Davis** and I am here to help you find answers to your questions about Special Education. Did you know that the Parent Consultant can support you at IEP meetings for your child? I can also help you discover disability resources, find community events, or connect with support groups. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's experience in Special Education, please feel free to reach out to me. I am happy to help in any way I can.

Call **814-450-3345** or email **FSC@iu5.org**.

## WHAT WE'RE CELEBRATING THIS WINTER

- \* **December 21** is the **Winter Solstice**, the shortest day of the year. From here through the Summer Solstice in June, we will get 2 extra minutes of sunlight each day.
- \* **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** is **January 18**. We take this day to remember Dr. King's life-long dedication to achieving equality.
- \* **February** is **Black History Month**. Check out our book recommendations on teaching kids about the significance of Black History Month, below.
- \* **February 9** is **National Pizza Day**. Pepperoni is the most popular topping in the US. What's your favorite?
- \* **March 1** is **World Compliment Day**. Did you know that paying someone a compliment can boost both your mood and theirs? Who will you compliment?

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Looking for a way to teach your child about **Black History Month**? Check out this list of the **8 best books** to read to kids about the significance of the celebration from [VeryWellFamily](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

The **Autism Society of Northwestern PA** is hosting several sensory friendly events this winter. All are welcome!

\* **January 22:** Snow Tubing at Mount Pleasant in Edinboro from 3pm—7:30pm. Cost is \$10.50 for ASNWPA members and \$20.50 for non-members. [Register ahead for the event.](#)

\* **February 20:** Family Bingo Night at the Autism Society NWPAs office, 3308 State Street, Erie. This is a free event for members, but you must [register ahead](#).

\* **March 6:** 13th Annual Lunch & Bowl at Eastway Lanes. Space is limited and will fill quickly. All family members need to be [registered ahead for this free event](#).

\* **March 27:** A sensory friendly [Erie Otters](#) hockey game will take place from 2pm-4:30pm at the Erie Insurance Arena. Tickets may be purchased at the Erie Insurance Area box office.

## UPCOMING TRAININGS

There are many virtual trainings available to parents & caregivers from many wonderful sources.

\* **January 25:** PaTTAN's Transition Tuesday meeting is part of a series aimed to provide parents, students, and educators information and insights to enhance their experience with the IEP process. If you'd like to learn how to become more active in the IEP experience, [register for this free event](#), "During the IEP". (The series continues on 4/26 with "After the IEP".)

\* **Ongoing:** Mission Empower [offers on-demand video training](#) on a variety of topics including the IEP process, bullying, behavioral health, and becoming a more effective communicator.

\* **Every Monday** at 7pm the PA Parent & Family Alliance host a [virtual support group](#) for parents and caregivers of children who are struggling with their mental health. This is a great place to connect with other parents, to share your experiences, or to just lend an ear to those in need.

# CAREER STREET

## LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Figuring out what to do after high school isn't always a simple path with clear answers. While college is an obvious choice for many teenagers, others may struggle to discover a career path that excites them. Fortunately, there is help!

**Career Street** is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program linking local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and schools to create and share experiences for students to job shadow, intern, tour companies, benefit from class speakers, and participate in career workshops and fairs. In 2020, Career Street added virtual experiences to accommodate for safe, socially distanced career exploration.

Career Street's goal is to unite employers, schools, and nonprofit organizations in the pursuit of a well-prepared future workforce, and to help better prepare students for the careers they want.

Career Street is made possible by businesses, organizations and educators that are dedicated to uniting the education and business communities in the pursuit of a vibrant economy.

To explore what Career Street has to offer, please visit [CareerStreetErie.org](http://CareerStreetErie.org).

If you would like more information on transitioning out of high school with a disability, please contact your Parent Consultant, Corinne Davis at [FSC@iu5.org](mailto:FSC@iu5.org).



Looking for a fun family game to play with children of any age?

## FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Cut or rip up small pieces of paper. On each piece of paper, write the name of a toy, activity, person, or tv show your child loves. Fold the papers and put them all into a container or bowl.

Take turns pulling out one paper at a time and describing the item or person on the paper to your child. Have them guess what is written on the paper.

This is a super fun game that can get incredibly silly and giggly based on your descriptions, especially when they are of people your child loves!



Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5  
(814) 734-5610 or toll free (800) 677-5610

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For information relevant to this policy statement, contact: Christine Carucci, 504 Coordinator, and ADA Coordinator, or Sally Daehnke, Title IX Coordinator - 252 Waterford Street, Edinboro, PA 16412 Phone (814) 734-5610 TDD (814) 734-1098



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