



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

This past Sunday marked 30 years since the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law.

Modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and designed to reduce instances of discrimination against people with physical and intellectual disabilities, the 1990 bill requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations for their differently-abled employees, and imposes accessibility requirements in public spaces.

"The work is not done, but having enforceable legislation has resulted in, I think, the kinds of cultural changes we were hoping for." Jo Ann Simons, Northeast Arc President and CEO.



[ItemLive.Com](https://www.itemlive.com) click here

COMING SOON IN SEPTEMBER!
Northeast Arc's Assistive Technology
Lending Center

Northeast Arc's Assistive Technology Lending Center

Assistive technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities that will allow them to participate more independently in life.

Ranging from simple adaptations to highly sophisticated technology, Assistive technology supports people to communicate, learn, live independently, be included, and succeed at home, school and work. Which technology is right for you or your loved one? Find out at the Northeast Arc Assistive Technology Lending Center!

With more than 30 items, the Assistive Technology Lending Center lets you browse, try out and borrow some of the newest smart home and disability-specific applications and devices on the market including:

- Text-to-speech software for reading accessibility
- Universally designed independent accessibility and inclusion items
- Communication devices for communication freedom
- iPads with applications to Improve Communication and life participation
- Kitchen and home Products
- Smart home speakers and assistants

The Assistive Technology Lending Center allows you to try assistive technology before making a purchase decision. Families, educators, and consumers who become Center members will benefit from personalized assistance, convenient hours and services. As a member, you can:

- Receive personal assistance in selecting and checking out materials.
- Try out devices and software.

This program is funded by the Department of Developmental Services North Shore area office. The new Assistive Technology Lending Center will be opening for business at the Northeast Arc's new Center for Linking Lives at the Liberty Tree Mall in September, stayed tune!

Stacey Villani
Northeast Arc
Division Director, Family Services



Demanding to Be Heard: LatinX Parents of Children with Autism and other Disabilities



Diana Santiago is a Senior Attorney focusing on special education matters. As project director for MAC's Proyecto Acceso a la Educación Especial, Diana offers special education advocacy and training to Latinx parents of children with disabilities and participates in administrative and legislative advocacy to remove access barriers for Latinx children with disabilities.

"MAC is hopeful that, in collaboration with families, educators, and partners like the Northeast Arc, we can build support for LatinX parents of children

with disabilities and increase public recognition of the crucial role they play in their children's education".

LatinX parents, advocates that work in LatinX communities, and the legislators that envisioned and drafted the IDEA have long understood the importance of language access in special education. Without adequate interpretation and translation for parents who need it, the IEP Team misses the of the person who has the deepest understanding of and investment in the child.

Unfortunately, language access is often overlooked. Some school districts do the very minimum, and many others do not even do that. Language access barriers remain due to the reality that parents whose first language is not English also face barriers to enforcing their rights. Despite this, many advocates for parents of children with disabilities are hopeful for real change in the way that schools respond to the needs of linguistically and culturally diverse families as a result of COVID distance learning.

[Click here to read this article in English and Spanish](#)

RSVP to Heather Burgess for All These Events

RSVP to Heather

Virtual
**Mammal
Encounter**
with the New England Aquarium



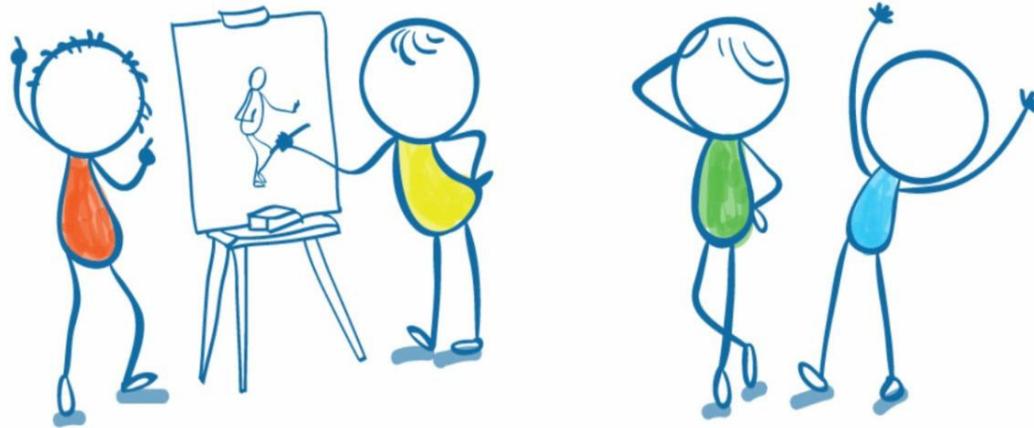
**Join the Family Resource Center and the
New England Aquarium for a Virtual Mammal
Encounter!**

August 5th • 12 - 1 pm
**Please RSVP for the Zoom ID
with Heather Burgess:
hburgess@ne-arc.org**

NortheastArc Family Resource Center
Changing lives. Discovering abilities.


The Arc.

Virtual PICTIONARY



for Adults with Asperger's like Profile
in Merrimack Valley

August 19, 2020

3 - 4 pm

RSVP: Heather Burgess
at hburgess@ne-arc.org

*Zoom Meeting ID and Password sent upon RSVP with directions.

NortheastArc Family Resource Center
Changing lives. Discovering abilities.


The Arc



Virtual Hangout

Join your Adult Autism Specialist for virtual hangouts! Each week we brainstorm fun activities from home and play Wheel of Fortune. Download Zoom to your computer, create a free account, and join our Virtual Hangout!

Every Tuesday & Friday at 2 pm
RSVP with Heather Burgess for Meeting ID
hburgess@ne-arc.org

**for Adults with Asperger's like Profile
in Merrimack Valley**

[How to use Zoom](#)

- Visit [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and create an account
- Download their app
- Use the Meeting ID and Password sent by Heather to enter

Virtual Transition Support Group

Join us for a Q&A session



August 18th , 2020. 6pm to 7:30pm
To get your meeting ID
RSVP: ASC@Ne-Arc.org

Our team will answer your questions and give you guidance about the process.

- EIP and Transition Planning
- Evaluations and Assessments
- The 688 Referral Process
- Turning 18—Age of Majority

Workshop

Presenters

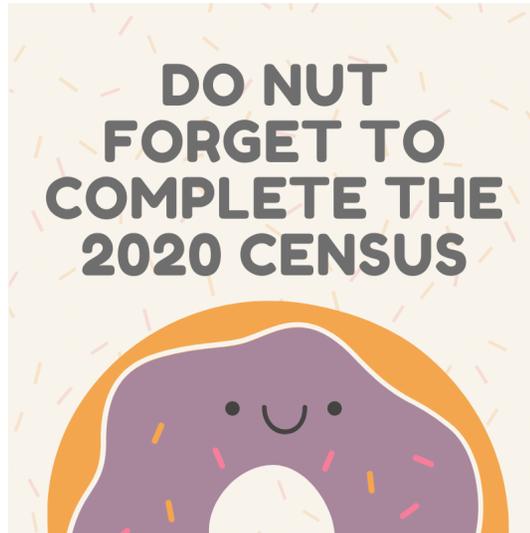


Nancy Lucier, ASC Program Director



Sarah Wilsey, FRC Clinical Coordinator





The Arc of Massachusetts in collaboration with the Northeast Arc and other Arc's affiliates are asking all of us to BE COUNTED! Results from the 2020 Census will be used to: Direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities, for schools, roads, and other public services. The census only happens once a decade, and if we get it wrong, we live our mistakes for the next 10 years.



[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE CENSUS 2020](#)

The Learning Center (TLC) at the Northeast Arc

Will offer Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in a specialty child care setting. It is an alternative clinical delivery model for ABA therapy to that of the home setting, allowing children (infant to age 5) with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or behavioral diagnosis to access services in a classroom, large outdoor play areas, and community setting.

TLC will be officially open on July 13th, 2020. The Center will be doing virtual tours for anyone interested. Referrals can go to the TLC intake coordinator Nilsa Viera

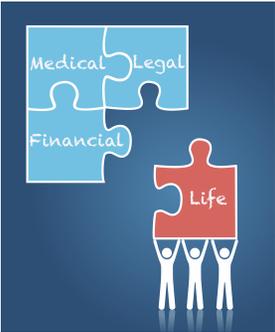
(nviera@ne-arc.org) for initial info and to get on our wait list.
The Learning Center at Northeast Arc, is located in 6 Southside Road in Danvers.



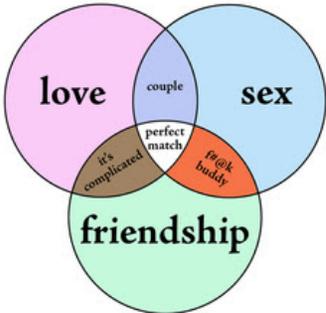
NeArc Transition Services



**Person centered
planning empowers**



An alternative to guardianship, **Supported**



individuals with a disability to live life as they define it. PCP focuses on assisting individuals who do not have a positive control or are at a risk of losing positive control, because of social response to the presence of a disability. Having control ultimately leads to a better life with greater inclusion as a valued contributing member of the community. It puts the individual in charge of defining life's goals.

Decision Making is intended to help people with disabilities become more proficient and experienced with making decisions. The program is based on the premise that individuals with disabilities should have their own voice and autonomy as much as possible and be respected by others. Help promote independence and reduce vulnerability with the Supported Decision Making program!

The **Healthy Relationships and Sexuality** program is an opportunity for young men and women to learn more about relationships, public vs. private information and interactions, friendship, communication, decision making and safety. Programs are available for individuals ages 14 to 22.

More information on Transition Services

The Family Support Center's Team is here for you Please call us with any questions or concerns

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We know this is a stressful time, but we are here to offer support for you and your family.
Take care, and be well.

The Family Resource Center Staff

Northeast Arc Family Resource Center
Gloria Ricardi Castillo
WE ARE FAMILY, Editor
Family Support Centers, Director

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