

# BTT BITS

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

Proudly serving Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt  
and Wood Counties

### Parent Partner Corner

I'm sure we all know someone who has been effected by one of the awful sick bugs that have been going around lately! Whether it's the flu, pneumonia, COVID, strep, RSV, you name it! Sometime's it's hard to avoid those germs, but here are a few tips to help lower those chances:

- If you, yourself are not feeling well, stay home if you are able! Or if you must go out, wear a mask and keep a distance.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.
- Learn and use proper handwashing technique.
- Teach your children the correct way to wash their hands.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces, such as countertops, handrails, and doorknobs regularly.

(CDC, 2024)

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### WVBTT Electronic Referral Form



### Parent Partner Contact Information

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# Choosing Quality Child Care

Finding the right child care for your child is an important decision that can sometimes be a stressful experience. There's a lot of information to consider. It may feel overwhelming at times. You need to feel comfortable with your choice and be confident that your child is in a safe and caring environment.

Here are some simple steps that can guide your child care search and make sure you have all the information needed to make the best choice for your child.

## What Are Your Options

Understanding your child care options are the first step. Are you interested in a center or a family care provider? What's the difference? Are they licensed and regulated to ensure your child is healthy and safe? That's a lot to consider. Here are some resources to start:

- [Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies](#) exist in every region in the state and can help you find just the right space for you and your family. They can talk with you about the different types of child care providers in your area and help you to consider specific needs your family may have. They can also create a list of child care providers for you to contact. They can also assist you in understanding any financial assistance available to support your family.
- WV has a website listing all the licensed child care providers in the state you can research on your own – [Find a Child Care Provider](#)

## Do Your Homework

Are the centers in my area licensed and regulated to ensure your child is healthy and safe? Have they passed health and safety inspections? Are staff in the centers well trained in meeting the needs of children?

- Here's where the [Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies](#) can be helpful in helping you to understand licensing, center regulations and staff training requirements.
- The [Find a Child Care Provider](#) link provides you not only the names of child care providers, but will include an findings from recent inspections.

## Call Providers

Before you contact the providers make a list of questions you can ask over the phone to make sure you are visiting providers that meet your needs. These questions may include:

- Does the provider have space for my child?
- What are the provider's hours of operation?
- Is the provider location convenient for me?
- What are the program costs?
- Are there any discounts or scholarships available?
- Does the provider participate in a child care assistance program?

You want to make sure the provider you choose is affordable and accessible to your family. Asking straight-forward, specific questions will help you determine whether or not to consider this provider. There are programs available to help pay for child care if your family qualifies.

While it is always recommend that you visit any child care provider or program you're considering, sometimes a visit is just not possible. If you need child care right away and don't have time to take a tour, this has questions to ask over the phone before making your decision.

## Take The Tour

Use a [checklist](#) to help you make the right choice for your family. Ask the child care provider for references and ask questions about other families' experiences with the program. When touring the child care center, use your five senses:

- Sight – Do you see staff engaged with children? Do you see children actively playing with one another and the staff? Do you see any health and safety concerns? Do you see that there are enough materials for the children to play with?
- Sound – Do you hear a "buzz" in the setting, where teachers are talking in warm, positive tones to the children? Do you hear providers using respectful language?
- Taste – How does the food taste that is served to the children look in appearance and how does it taste?
- Touch – Do you see physical affection between teachers and children, such as hugging, pats on the head, children sitting on provider's laps, or any other types of positive touch?
- Smell – Is there a pleasant smell in the child care setting? Can you smell perfume, smoke, or any other odor that might be unpleasant for your child?

[Here](#) you will find additional guides to help you "Look, Listen and Ask" questions while visiting child care providers.

## Additional Considerations

Every family has special needs and considerations to explore when choosing an appropriate child care provider for their child. Here are resources for some of those special considerations.

- [You need care during non-traditional hours](#)
- [Choosing quality child care for your child with disabilities or other high support needs](#)

# Featured family

## THE WAGNER/VINCENT FAMILY

### Meet Levi!

Levi was diagnosed with Edward's Syndrome (Trisomy 18) when I was 21 weeks pregnant. Most babies diagnosed with this pass in utero or within the first year of life after birth. He is now 3.5 years old. Levi spent first month in NICU due to needing CPAP for respiratory support because of his heart condition and having a feeding intolerance. He then spent a few weeks in PICU following first heart surgery to help him become stable enough to go home. Within his first year he had many surgeries including feeding tube placement and club foot repair. Levi had a second heart surgery a week after his first birthday. Birth to 3 helped Levi have access to different variations of equipment to help him in achieving milestones with his delayed physical and mental developments. They have also helped guide us to more resources to help make things easier for his care. Levi is still continuing with speech, physical, and occupational therapy through both his special education pre-k class and out patient therapy at Therapy Services. He still showing many that he has beat the odds and continues to grow and enjoy life at his own pace as normal as his family can make it for him. The goal is someday for Levi to join his parents in their outdoor hobbies including hunting and farming.



A special thank you to his mother for the story and letting us share it with others!

If you would like your family to be featured in one of our newsletters, please reach out to [Nadine.Lloyd@thearcmov.org](mailto:Nadine.Lloyd@thearcmov.org) or [Emily.Derenberger@thearcmov.org](mailto:Emily.Derenberger@thearcmov.org)

# Family Fun

## PLANTING FLOWERS SENSORY BIN

### Materials

- Plastic under-the-bed box
- Pinto beans – you can find these at a great price at Dollar Tree
- Silk flowers – also from Dollar Tree
- Little tin pails – from the Target dollar spot
- Kids' garden tools – also from the Target dollar spot



### Planting Flowers Sensory Play



FrugalFun4Boys.com

**Supervised play!**

Can be a choking hazard due to small beans, so please do not leave children unattended.

A special thanks to the Frugal Fun for Boys and Girls Blog! Check them out for more ideas! <https://frugalfun4boys.com/>

# Resource Spotlight

## Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) through Modivcare

There are two main aspects of Modivcare that can help you and/or loved ones.

1. Modivcare has drivers that will pick you up and transport you to doctor's appointments.
1. Parents and caregivers can get reimbursed for mileage taking others (like their children) to their appointments.

The key thing to remember is that the person who has the appointment, has Medicaid.

If you would like information on either, check out their website at <https://www.modivcare.com/offering/s/nemt/>.

## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Each month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails an age appropriate book to all registered children, addressed to them, at no cost to the child's family! This is for children from Birth to the age of five.

Check out their website to get your children signed up!

<https://imaginationlibrary.com>

## Need help?

If you have a child in Birth to Three, ask your Service Coordinator for help with getting you set up with either of these!

**If you have a local resource/organization  
and would like to be featured in our newsletter,  
please reach out to**

**[Nadine.Lloyd@thearcmov.org](mailto:Nadine.Lloyd@thearcmov.org) or [Emily.Derenberger@thearcmov.org](mailto:Emily.Derenberger@thearcmov.org)**

# Making Referrals

## TO BIRTH TO THREE

**Do you know a child who is not moving, hearing, seeing, learning, or talking like others their age?**

**By 2-3 months, does your baby...**

- calm when spoken to or picked up?
- hold up his/her head well?
- make cooing sounds?
- smile when talked to?
- react to loud sounds?

**By 6 months, does your baby...**

- know familiar people?
- like to look at him/herself?
- take turns making sound?
- make squealing noises?
- reach to grab a toy?
- roll from tummy to back?

**By 9 months, does your baby...**

- seem shy, clingy, or fearful around strangers?
- show facial expressions?
- lift arms up to be picked up?
- make different sounds?
- look for dropped objects?
- sit without support?

**By 12 months, does your baby...**

- play games with you?
- wave "bye-bye"?
- ask for "mama" or "dada"?
- pull up to stand?
- begin to take steps?
- begin to understand "no"?
- pick up small items?

**By 18 months, does your baby...**

- move away but makes sure you are close by?
- point to show you something?
- help to dress him/herself?
- say more than three words?
- copy your daily activities?
- walk unassisted?

**By 24 months, does your baby...**

- notice when others are sad or hurt?
- identify toys, pictures?
- try to use switches, knobs?
- point to body parts?
- walk, run, climb without help?
- use 2 or 3 word sentences?

**Every child deserves a great start.  
If you are concerned about your child's development, get help early.**

### Did you know?

- You can make the referral yourself, you do not need to wait for your child's pediatrician . ANYONE can refer a child to Birth to Three if they have concerns with their development.
- If your child was in Birth to Three, and they ending up exiting because services were no longer needed or wanted at that time, you can re-refer your child! At such a young age, they are growing and developing daily, and what may not have been a concern then, may be a concern now.
- A Child can be referred to Birth to Three up until 45 Days prior to their Third Birthday.
- Our goal is to have services starting within 45 days of the referral!

### Make the Referral!

If you are having any concerns, just make that referral! Getting your child early intervention services can only benefit them. And you can always have your child evaluated, and see what the practitioners have to say. Sometimes as mothers, it helps to have that reassurance.

How to Make that Referral:

1. Scan that SQ Code for the Electronic Form
2. Call Birth to Three's Toll Free Number 1-866-321-4728 or Call the Regional Office Directly (304) 485-2000.
3. Check out [wvdhhr.org/birth23/referral.asp](http://wvdhhr.org/birth23/referral.asp), and print out the paperform
4. Ask your pediatrician
5. Ask your child's Daycare workers
6. If your child was previously in the program, reach out to your previous Service Coordinator or any of the practitioners that worked with your child. They can help you.



SCAN ME 