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The Arc's Holiday Gift Giving Guide for Children with I/DD

If you are shopping for a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities this holiday season, we have a list for you! Compiled by the physical, occupational, and speech therapists at The Arc's Stepping Stones School, this list will be sure to fill your loved one's time with fun and excitement while helping to develop gross motor, fine motor, speech, and sensory development.



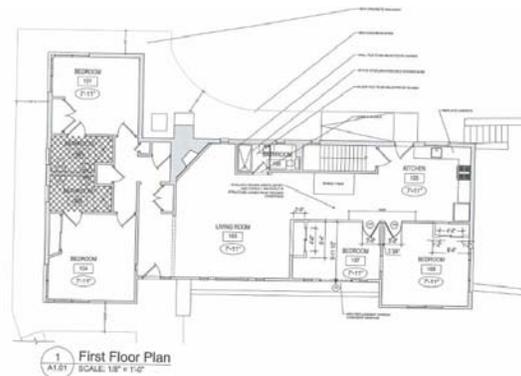
1. Sensory Balls
2. Hand Held Massagers
3. Bean Bags
4. Push Toys (walk and push)
5. Playground Balls
6. Tunnel and tents (parachute material)
7. Shape Sorters
8. Stacking Cups
9. Plastic Cars and Trucks
10. Push 'N Go Vehicles (push top down and release)
11. Massaging Action Teether
12. Rattles
13. Bean Bag Chair
14. Mirror
15. Soft Book (touch and feel)
16. Board Books and Tactile Board Books
17. Drum
18. Set of Musical Toys
19. Ride Toy (Little Tikes green tractor)

20. Slide
21. Bubbles
22. Puzzles
23. Container Play
24. Cause and Effect Toys
25. Bath Toys
26. Short Crayons
27. Blocks (foam or small wooden)
28. Farm Friends Bowling
29. Echo Microphone
30. Toobaloo (phone toy that enhances sound)
31. Memory games
32. Large tricycle (tractor-Step 2 brand)
33. Bicycle with training wheels
33. Zoomer
34. Tee ball
35. Upright scooter (one wheel in the front, 2 wheels in the back)
36. EZ Roller
37. Dress up clothes
38. Play Vet Set
39. Play Doctor Set
40. Tea set with food
41. Magna Tiles
42. Straws and Connectors
43. Board games:
 - Sequence for Kids
 - Diggity Dog
 - Honey Bee Tree
 - Take the Cake

**The Arc of Essex County's inclusion in this holiday gift list does not constitute an endorsement.*

The Arc of Essex County to Receive \$220,000 to Renovate and Modernize Two Residential Properties

The Arc of Essex County's asset management department is embarking on a multi-year renovation and modernization plan for select residential properties. The team is currently evaluating each residential property and developing 1, 3, and 5 year plans to increase accessibility and adaptability.



The first two residential projects will focus on the Seven Oaks group home and Marmon Supervised Apartments. The Arc was approved for up to \$120,000 in Division of Developmental Disabilities funds for accessibility modifications to update the Seven Oaks group home. The renovations will include exterior walkways for accessibility, as well as floorplan updates to increase the number of bedrooms from 3 to 4.

The Arc has also been approved for up to \$100,000 of Division of Developmental Disabilities major maintenance funds to update the Marmon Supervised Apartments. Over the next year, The

Arc will install new roofing, siding, doors, and lighting, as well as update the kitchen and bathrooms.

Celebrating Thanksgiving with The Arc of Essex County

Throughout the month of November, The Arc of Essex County celebrated Thanksgiving with residents, attendees, students, and families. On Thursday, November 10th the residents and staff of the Ashwood group home hosted their families for an annual Thanksgiving celebration. The residents look forward to hosting their families each year, showing off their home, and working with staff to cook a traditional turkey dinner.



The Creative Visions day program followed suit on Friday, November 18th with a homemade feast prepared by the staff! Attendees and staff indulged in turkey, fried chicken, mac 'n cheese, stuffing, pie and more.

Finally, on Tuesday, November 22nd, the students of the Stepping Stones School enjoyed their Thanksgiving celebrations with a lesson about the pilgrims and Indians and a holiday meal. Nearly 30 siblings and family members joined the students for their holiday feast and to wish one another well.



The Gift that Keeps on Giving Make a Year-End Gift Today!

Thanks to your past generosity, in 2016 The Arc of Essex County provided a staggering 80,000 hours of respite to 350 children and adults, families and caregivers. [Read the full 2016 Annual Appeal to see the full impact of your donations.](#) Then, make a year-end gift and demonstrate your confidence in The Arc of Essex County and all we hope to achieve in 2017.

Donations can be made online at www.arcessex.org/annualappeal, via mail to 123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039, or via phone by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224. Donations made to the 2016 annual



123 Naylor Avenue
Livingston, New Jersey 07039

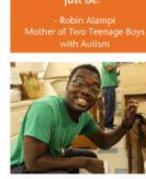
T 973-535-1181
F 973-535-9507
www.arcessex.org

Brad K. Hopson, President
Linda C. Lucas, Chief Executive Officer

2016 Annual Appeal



"Respite provides a break. But it's a trusted break. I can shut down. I can relax. I can regroup. It's a time to just be."
Robin Alampi
Mother of Two Teenage Boys with Autism



Dear Friend,

Thanksgiving is the time of year to look back on all that is meaningful and important. In limited words, I wish to tell you about all of the amazing strides The Arc of Essex County made this year on behalf of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). I want to talk about the advancements in our services, the goals accomplished, and the lives touched all due to your past generosity and support. But space on the page is tight, time is short and your impact is great.

The Arc provides over 40 programs and services for children and adults with I/DD. Rather than speak to the broader effects of your support, I want to tell you about one such service whose reach extends far beyond the individual. Respite directly benefits caregivers and the ripple effects are felt throughout the families we serve.

I am consistently in awe of the tireless dedication and resilience shown by caregivers.

Beyond the 24 hour, 7 day-a-week demands of any parent, the role of a caregiver for someone with special needs is often physically and emotionally draining. Fueled by the love and compassion for their families, caregivers are often the last to recognize that carving out time for themselves is not selfish, but rather a necessary step to be the best version of themselves for their loved ones. Whether it is an occasional night out or a recurring Saturday to run errands or focus on other members of the family, respite provides that crucial break and plays a vital role in their emotional health and wellbeing.

I am proud that last year alone, The Arc of Essex County provided a staggering 80,000 hours of respite to 350 children and adults, families and caregivers.

appeal will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000 by the Board and staff of The Arc of Essex County.



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The Arc wholeheartedly understands the importance of quality programming for the individuals in our services, and recognizes the needs of the entire family unit. Our respite services are offered in a variety of formats to suit family and caregiver requirements and individual interests including Saturday group respite, hotel overnight and community recreation events.

Wallace Daniels Recognized

By Overlook Medical Center

In a letter dated Wednesday, November 16th, nursing staff from Overlook Medical Center's Developmental Disabilities Center recognized the efforts of Wallace Daniels, a 15-year veteran of The Arc of Essex County for his "patience, tact, respect and a caring attitude towards the clients and Clinic staff". Citing his demeanor and knowledge when accompanying residents of The Arc of Essex County to the Developmental Disabilities Center, the Overlook nursing staff commended Wallace's contributions towards patient safety, medication accuracy, and timely transmission of refills and updated prescriptions to the pharmacy.

"The challenges we face in health care are overwhelming. However, when we work together as a team, caring for our client becomes more fulfilling and rewarding," said Juliet Nelson RN BSN at the Developmental Disabilities Center at Overlook Medical Center in a letter to The Arc. "Your staff member Wallace has demonstrated the qualities of a great team player who engages and plays his role with pride. Your organization is fortunate to have him as a valued and trusted employee."

The Arc of Essex County would like to congratulate Wallace on this much deserved recognition and express our sincere appreciation for his dedication and care.

The Arc of Essex County Rolls Out New Monthly Giving Program on #GivingTuesday

On Tuesday, November 29th, The Arc of Essex County celebrated #GivingTuesday by launching a new monthly giving program. By setting up a monthly gift, no matter how large or small, donors can have a significant impact on children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Not only do regular, automated donations help donors achieve charitable goals, it also provides The Arc of Essex County with the financial stability to plan for our community's changing needs. See what impact you could have with a monthly gift below. Then, visit www.arcsex.org/monthlygiving to set up your recurring gift today!

HOW COULD YOUR MONTHLY GIFT

IMPACT

THE ARC OF ESSEX COUNTY?

\$5 MONTHLY GIFT		Your \$5 monthly gift could sponsor a weekend recreational activity for long group homes! These weekend activities round out the residential experience and provide the residents and staff time to enjoy one another's company and bond like the family they are.
\$10 MONTHLY GIFT		Your \$10 monthly gift could enable a group of six adults to participate in an 8-week performing arts , drama, and dance clinic that concludes with a performance for their family and friends. That's a gift that keeps on giving!
\$25 MONTHLY GIFT		Your \$25 monthly gift could provide a family with one hour of respite a month for a year! That's one hour each month for families to grocery shop, recharge, and manage family life.
\$50 MONTHLY GIFT		Your \$50 monthly gift could sponsor a one-week camp scholarship for children and adults unable to cover the cost of tuition for camp!
\$100 MONTHLY GIFT		Your \$100 monthly gift could provide 50 of the Arc's neediest individuals and families with a holiday feast during the Home Assistance Program holiday party. These families look forward to this gathering every year, complete with a visit from Santa!
\$200 MONTHLY GIFT		Your \$200 monthly gift could send 100 adults to Prom , complete with music, dancing, a 3-course meal, and the crowning of the Prom king and queen, of course!

The Arc of Essex County
123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039
(973) 555-1181 | www.arcsex.org

Winter Break Child Care Dates Announced

Winter Break Child Care

December 27, 28, 29, and 30th

The Arc of Essex County's Winter Break Child Care program returns! On December 27, 28, 29, and 30th, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., children ages 5-21 with developmental disabilities and their siblings are welcome to join The Arc for full days of engaging, themed activities at the Stepping Stones School in Roseland. The program offers a 1:3 staff-to-child ratio.

The deadline to register is Monday, December 12. Cost is \$75/day per child and availability is limited. Four children must be registered per day for the program to take place. For questions and to register, contact Migdalia Rodriguez at mrodriguez@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1292.

Generous Donation Sends Lifelong Fan to First Jets Game

On Sunday, November 27th Felicia Raines, a devout Jets fan and Arc of Essex County consumer, enjoyed her very first Jets game in person at the Meadowlands thanks to the generosity of George Holland. Mr. Holland reached out to The Arc of Essex County with two tickets and a parking pass prior to Thanksgiving, asking if we knew of someone in our services interested in attending the game. Felicia, who had attended her day program decked out in Jets gear hours earlier, and her mom, Joanne Raines, excitedly accepted the tickets.



"Felicia is a diehard Jets fan and has a drawer full of Jets regalia," said Ms. Raines in an email to Mr. Holland. "We had a wonderful time at the game - the seats were fantastic! The Jets played better than expected and Felicia was excited to see her favorite team in person."

Mr. Holland, who practices disability law, was inspired to pursue his career following his time working in a group home. The Arc of Essex County would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Mr. Holland.

Shopping with a Purpose Give Back to The Arc While You Shop Holiday Deals

Did you know, Amazon will make charitable donations to your favorite non-profit whenever you make a purchase? The corporate giving program, known as AmazonSmile, will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to The

Arc of Essex County.

There is no cap on the amount Amazon will donate and almost every physical product sold by Amazon is eligible, which means tens of millions of items. Everything else about the Amazon online shopping experience stays the same, including the shopping cart, wishlists, and shipping options. The prices are also the same, so there is no cost to you.

To make donations to The Arc of Essex County while you shop this holiday season, visit smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1546173 and select The Arc of Essex County as your preferred charity. Then, return to smile.amazon.com each time you shop Amazon to make contributions to The Arc.

Investors Bank Awards The Arc of Essex County a \$5,000 Grant Toward the Create Play Capital Campaign

On Wednesday, November 30th Dotty Butler, Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager at Investors Bank presented Linda Lucas, CEO of The Arc of Essex County with a \$5,000 check for the Camp Hope Create Play capital campaign.



The grant will be applied toward the construction of a new open air activity pavilion at Camp Hope.

The Arc of Essex County continues to strive to reach our \$250,000 Create Play goal by December 31, 2016. Will you help us complete all of the improvements prior to the start of the 2017 camp season? For a complete list of projects please click here. These newly created and enhanced spaces will provide the perfect backdrop for future summers packed with joyful memories.

To donate to the Create Play 2016 campaign, visit www.arcessex.org/createplay or contact Heather Comstock at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224 or hcomstock@arcessex.org.

Dates Set for 2017 Fundraising Events

The Arc of Essex County is excited to announce the dates for our 2017 fundraising events. On Saturday, April 29th, The Arc of Essex County will host the 19th Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run, 2 Mile Walk, and Family Fun Fest at its NEW location, The Waterfront at South Mountain Recreation Complex in West Orange, New Jersey! The event will once again feature games, activities, food, and fun for the whole family. Additional details and registration will be available on www.runorwalk.org in early 2017.

The Arc's fourth annual Uncorked & Uncapped:



Wine, Beer, and Food Fest will return to The Westminster Hotel in Livingston on Thursday, September 28. Featuring fine wine, craft beer, spirits, and restaurant samplings, the evening will honor the partnerships that have been integral to the agency's success. Additional details and registration will be available on www.uncorkedanduncapped.com in mid-2017.

Proceeds from both events will directly benefit The Arc of Essex County's services that support nearly 1,500 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



The Arc Bids Farewell to CFO

Minnie Cummings

On Thursday, November 30th, The Arc of Essex County bid farewell to CFO Minnelly (Minnie) Cummings. Minnie joined The Arc of Essex County in 2011 as a Senior Director of Financial Operations. She was appointed Chief Financial Officer in October 2012.

Throughout her tenure, Minnie spearheaded The Arc's finance department, preparing the agency for the state's fee-for-service transition and its impact on financial operations. The Arc of Essex County thanks Minnie for all of her contributions and wishes her well in future endeavors.

The Arc Partners with The Learning Experience

in Ledgewood for a Donation Drive

Throughout the month of November, students and families of The Learning Experience in Ledgewood collected winter weather apparel and non-perishable food for The Arc of Essex County.

Collected items will benefit children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in The Arc's Home Assistance Program.



The Arc of Essex County's Home Assistance Program provides services to low income families whose child and/or parent has an intellectual or developmental disability. This program provides supports in the areas of transportation, community resources, housing, navigating school systems, recreation, and at times skill trainings. The goal is to assist parents and families in becoming more self-sufficient, economically and personally, to maintain the family unit, and to attain independence.

Thank you to all of the children and families who donated!

[Donate Now](#)

The Arc of Essex County

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