

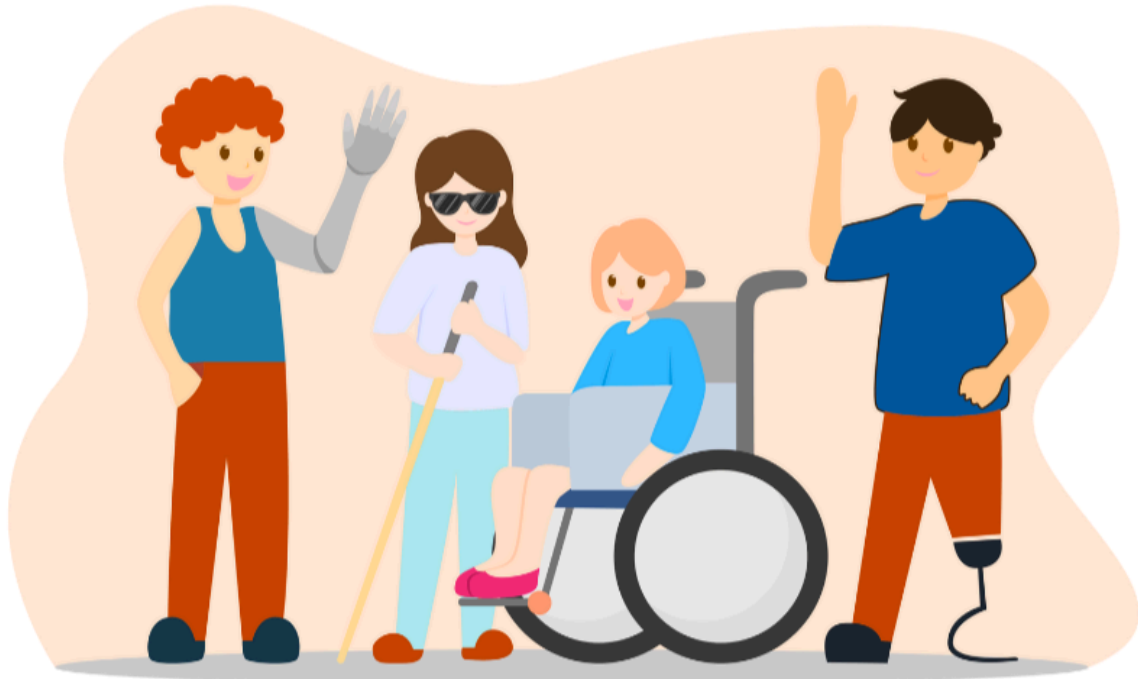
JULY 2025

VOL. 5, ISSUE 7



Best News

Blind Early Services TN - Newsletter for Caregivers and Providers



Disability Pride Month: Celebrating Identity, Embracing Possibility

Each July, Disability Pride Month is a chance to honor the diversity, strength, and identity of people with disabilities—including the youngest members of our BEST community. As The Arc reminds us, it's not just about visibility—it's about affirming that disability is a natural part of the human experience and something to be proud of. It's also a reminder that our society thrives when everyone is fully included and supported.

Disability Pride Month began in 1990, the same year the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law—landmark legislation that helped protect the civil rights of people with disabilities.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

all times displayed in Central

August 7 (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

**2025 TN Dept. of Health Family & Youth
Conference**

The event will include speakers, panels, and break-out sessions where families can learn, share, and connect with others.

[Register Here](#)

TN Library & Archives

1001 Rep. John Lewis Way N.

The first Disability Pride Day was held in Boston that year, and the celebration has since grown across the country. While not yet nationally recognized, cities like New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles have hosted parades and events that center disabled voices, challenge stigma, and promote full inclusion.

As summer winds down, that celebration of identity turns into action—preparing for the months ahead with tools, supports, and opportunities that set our children up for success. Whether that means getting ready for a first kindergarten classroom, exploring homeschool options, or joining a new therapy group, we're here to help families confidently step into their future this fall.

[Read more from the Arc!](#)

Nashville, TN, 37219

August 12 (11:00 PM - 12:30 PM)

Six Principles of IDEA Virtual Workshop

put on by TN STEP & Exceptional Family Member Program

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

August 27 (11:30 AM - 12:30 PM)

TEIS Parent Focused Lunch & Learn

Learn more about the nonprofit Family Voices of TN and the resources they offer

[Join Meeting Here with the password: wg9tt2](#)



Preparing for Futures this Fall— Whatever That Means for Your Family



As summer winds down, many families are shifting gears and looking ahead to the new routines and milestones fall may bring. At BEST, we know that “back to school” looks different for every family—and there's no one right path.

Whether you're enrolling your child in our preschool occupational therapy class to support motor and sensory development, preparing your blind or low vision child for their first day in a school classroom, or considering homeschooling, we're here to walk alongside you with resources, guidance, and encouragement.

However your child will be learning and growing this year, we're honored to be part of your journey. Linked below are a sample of some of the resources we offer. Contact us at info@blindearlyservices.org for other questions or needs at any time.

Explore Fall Classes at Flip
for Function

Considering Homeschool?
Check out these APH to
learn more!


Review this APH Guide on
Preparing for Kindergarten

Feel Confident Navigating Your Child's IEP

Whether your child is starting school this fall or you're simply beginning to explore future options, understanding the IEP (Individualized Education Program) process is an important part of supporting your child's learning journey. Transitions—like entering preschool or kindergarten—can bring up a lot of questions, and planning ahead makes a big difference.

Your BEST provider is here to help you prepare, participate in transition meetings, and think through what supports will best set your child up for success—now or down the road.

We also recommend these helpful resources from **TN STEP: Special Education Support for TN Families**

 [IEP Video: Getting Ready for a Return to School](#) – A quick overview for families navigating school reentry or transitions.

 [Back-to-School IEP Planning Guide](#) – A printable guide to help you stay organized and confident.

Reach out to your BEST provider with any questions—we're here to support your family every step of the way.



Explore TN STEP's IEP Resources



Make Your Voice Heard Today

Feedback on Disability Pathfinder

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder is a hub for information and resources for people with disabilities, their family members, and professionals.

Each year, Pathfinder surveys users to evaluate the accessibility and usefulness of their website. If you've used the Pathfinder website in the past year, we hope you'll take 3–4 minutes to tell them how it went.

Your feedback helps them make sure the website is easy to use and gives people the information they need. Whether it worked well for you or you ran into problems, we want to know.



Little Dandelion Press: Celebrating a New Voice in Inclusive Early Literacy

Just like BEST, **Little Dandelion Press** was started by a mom on a mission—driven by love, advocacy, and the belief that children with visual impairments deserve more. Founded by a parent in the CVI community, Little Dandelion Press is helping expand what early books can be—especially for children with sensory needs, developmental differences, and low or no vision.

Joining other leaders like **Seedlings** and **DuoPress Labs' High Contrast series**, their titles are thoughtfully designed to be accessible and joyful from the very first page. Their collection includes **CVI-adapted coloring books** and new summer releases like *What Lives in the Ocean* and *Hooray for Summer*, featuring high-contrast visuals, real-world images, and rhythmic, engaging text that supports early literacy and shared reading.

They're also a proud partner of the **CVI Book Nook**, helping families and educators discover inclusive books that truly meet children where they are.

