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Blind Early Services TN - Newsletter for Caregivers and Providers

November Marks 50 Year Anniversary of the IDEA!

As November winds down, we're reflecting on a major milestone: the **50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**! For half a century, IDEA has guaranteed that children with disabilities—including those who are blind or have low vision—have access to the supports they need to thrive.

At BEST, our focus is on **Part C of IDEA**, which provides early intervention for babies and toddlers at risk for developmental delays. These home-based services give families hands-on guidance, helping children reach important milestones and laying the foundation for future success. By working closely with families, we help turn IDEA's promise into everyday reality for Tennessee's youngest learners.

November is also **Epilepsy Awareness Month**, a reminder that many children face multiple challenges and that early support, education, and awareness are key to helping every child grow and thrive.

As this month comes to a close, we celebrate the families, providers, and communities who make early intervention meaningful every day. Together, we're supporting children, building skills, and creating opportunities that last a lifetime.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 1 (12:00 PM)

Virtual Daily Routines & Community Outings Webinar

TRIAD's Family First Program from Vanderbilt Kennedy Center

[Register here](#)

December 2 (6:00 PM)

Virtual Storytime for Families with Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

"What Love Sounds Like"

PEARS (Parents Empowerment Access Resources Support)

[Use this link to join](#)

December 4 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT)

Perkins CVI Caregiver Community Chats

[Register Here](#)

December 19, 22, 23, 29, 30 and 31

(8:30 AM - 11:30 AM & 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Winter Camp at Flip for Function

Celebrate by Taking Action with Tennesseans
for Quality Early Education!

Register and sign up here

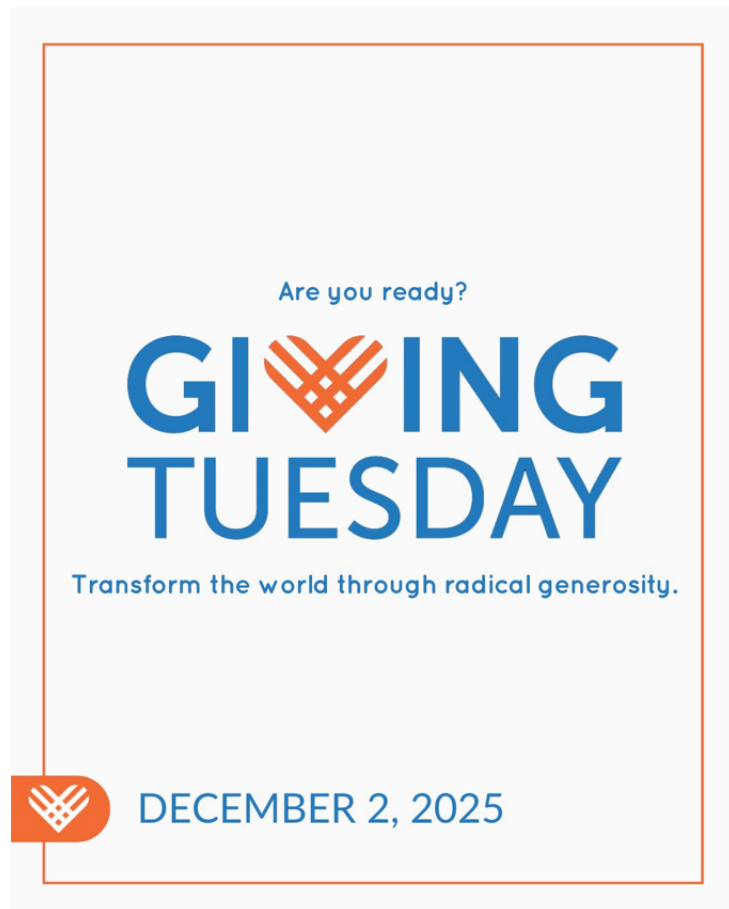


This Giving Tuesday, give a little, impact a lot!

A gift of just \$25 can make a real difference for families and providers supporting young children who are blind or have vision loss. As a nonprofit, every dollar you give goes directly back into programs and resources that help children thrive.

You can give in honor or memory of someone special — and help us spread the word by sharing with friends and family on Facebook. Small gift, big impact — together, we're changing lives!

[Donate & Share Here](#)



National Braille Press opens applications for Free Children's Braille Book Club! Closes December 31st!

One book a month

Eligibility

- The CBBC-Free Program is available to blind children ages birth to 10 years old* or parents/legal guardians who are blind and have children ages birth to 10 years old*.

- Limit one Book Club membership per eligible child or household.
- The free program is only open to US residents.
- Enrollment is limited and will be based on eligibility/need criteria and on a first-come/first-served basis.
- *They will accept applications for children older than 10 who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) with reading levels lower than 10 years of age.*



Looking for the Perfect Gift?



We've gathered some of our favorite **tactile books and toys** for young children who are blind or have low vision. Purchasing directly from the recommendations on our page helps support BEST through a small Amazon Associates commission – every little bit helps us continue our mission!

Click the button below to explore our **full list of recommended books and toys** for children, as well as resources for parents and caregivers of children with visual impairments.

[Explore BEST Toy & Book Recommendations](#)



Support the Downtown TN Lions Club &

Enjoy Pecans

The Downtown Nashville Lions Club, a proud partner of BEST and a sponsor of Camp BEST 2025, is selling 1 lb bags of pecan halves from South Georgia Pecan Co. - \$15 (Cash, Check, or Zelle).

Proceeds support the Blind and Charity Fund, including Leader Dogs for the Blind, White Cane Society, KidSight screenings, and local eyeglass programs for those in need.



SERVING TENNESSEE'S CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND LIONS SINCE 1995.

To purchase reach out to Club President, Tina Beckham, here



What We're Loving This Month



We're loving **Braille Letters from Santa!** Santa's letters are embossed in braille (with large print included) and mailed to children who are blind or have low vision. Requests must be submitted **by December 8**. This is a magical way to encourage braille literacy and holiday excitement!

[Request a Braille Letter from Santa!](#)