

Upcoming Events in this newsletter include - BDS Listening Sessions, SEE Science Center Friendly Hours, Annual NH Caregivers Conference, Lending Library at AtinNH, Community Based Services Carnival Bash and the Family Support Conference Save the Date.

Bureau of Developmental Services Developmental Disabilities Waiver & Acquired Brain Disorder Waiver Informal Listening Sessions



Developmental Disabilities Waiver &

Acquired Brain Disorder Waiver Informal Listening Sessions We want to hear from you!

Waiver are beginning the renewal process, with anticipated completion dates of Fall 2026. Prior to drafting any changes to the current waivers, the Bureau of Developmental Services is kicking off a series of informal listening sessions to hear feedback, experiences, and thoughts from individuals, families, providers, and Area Agencies. This is the time to give your input about what is working and what could be improved. These sessions will be facilitated by the Institute on Disability at UNH.

The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver and the Acquired Brain Disorder (ABD)

Sessions are being held in three locations to accommodate a broad geographical area, as well as three virtual sessions.



attempt to be accommodated but cannot be guaranteed.

Friendly Hours Pilot Program at the SEE Science Center



Below are the times and details for these pilot events. We will invite everyone who participates to give us feedback through an online survey after attending. While there is no admission charge, we require all attendees to sign up ahead of time so that we can control crowd sizes during these events. Registration will

Sensory Friendly Hours **Upcoming Dates:** Sunday, September 7, 2025 – 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Sunday, May 3, 2025 – 3:30pm – 5:30pm Immunocompromised Friendly Hours

Monday, March 2, 2025 – 2:30pm -4:30pm

Monday, November 3, 2025 – 2:30pm -4:30pm

Sunday, January 11, 2025 - 3:30pm - 5:30pm

open one month prior to each event.

Upcoming Dates: Sunday, October 5, 2025 – 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Monday, December 8, 2025 – 2:30pm -4:30pm Sunday, February 8, 2025 – 3:30pm – 5:30pm Monday, April 6, 2025 – 2:30pm -4:30pm Sunday, June 7, 2025 – 3:30pm – 5:30pm

 Limited Attendance Reduction of bright lights

Science Fun!

Adaptions during event:

Register

Reduction of loud noises: Pool Ball Falls, The Ball Drop, The Cookie Factory and the Bernoulli exhibit will not be available during this event

- Quiet "Take a Break" spaces available Sensory Materials available
 - All staff on site are trained in Autism sensitivity
- We welcome visitors to bring their own sensory materials and noise cancelling headphones.

Adaptions during event:

Only soft toys will be available at the gravity well exhibit

· Museum cleaned just prior to event

- Masks available for any visitor
- Increased ventilation and airflow Attendance Limited to 50 people
- · Additional hand washing and hand sanitization stations

Physical distancing/crowd control

While these events are designed to reduce the risk of infectious disease exposure to immunocompromised individuals, participants acknowledge that

<u>developed for science museums</u>

SEE cannot eliminate this risk and that there remains a risk of exposure to infectious diseases in any public space where people are present. Resources

 Outdoor ramps are available at building entrances and an elevator in the building's main hallway provides access to all levels of exhibits

• Wheelchair accessible restroom stalls are located in the building's main

• Service animals are allowed under <u>ADA guidelines</u> Visitors who are deaf and hard of hearing can use this signing glossary

- hallway restrooms

- Sensory materials are available at the front desk
- View a <u>sensory story about visiting SEE</u>
- View a <u>sensory map of SEE's exhibits</u>

19th Annual NH Caregivers Conference





Coordinators. Sara Valli from ATinNH at the UNH Institute on Disability will be presenting on Monday, September 22^{nd,} from 4-5 PM an overview of the Lending Library at ATinNH. This is a free service that allows people who could benefit from Assistive Technology to "test drive" different AT equipment before buying (or submitting for waiver funding). This allows them to be certain that the device is just what they need and will work for them. Available devices include mobility devices, speech and language devices, home access devices, and more. Sara will review what is available and how devices can be provided to individuals at no cost. Pre-registration is required; please register here: https://csni.org/upcoming-

There is a free webinar opportunity that may be of interest to individuals with

disabilities, families, quardians, Home Care Providers, DSPs, and Service

Community Based Services Carnival

Bash!

events. Feel free to share far and wide!





Whether you're a parent, grandparent, caregiver, or professional, we know how

important the early years are—and how overwhelming it can sometimes feel when

you're just starting your journey. There's a lot of information coming your way, and we hope this issue helps make things a little easier to navigate.

Inside, you'll find helpful tools, inspiring stories, and many resources. We're highlighting two exciting ways that families can get involved in shaping how early childhood programs and systems work in New Hampshire.

At the heart of all we do is a deep commitment to supporting families, children, and the professionals who work with them. If you ever have a question, need help finding resources, or just want to talk something through, please remember that you can call us anytime. Our support is always free and confidential. We're here for you—every step of the way.

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