



**Community Resources**  
**Support Groups and Counseling**

*This information is provided for your convenience. Bronson does not endorse any particular resource and there may be other resources available to you that are not on this list. The decision to use a resource is a family decision.*

**Community Advocates for Persons with Developmental Disabilities - <http://www.communityadvocates.org/>**

Supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in the Kalamazoo area since 1953

We exist as an advocacy organization to make it possible for each person with a disability to participate fully in all aspects of community and to support the effort of each individual to determine his/her own future.

**Family and Children Services - <http://www.fcsource.org/>**

Our mission is to support, strengthen and preserve safety, well-being and dignity of children, individuals and families. We work with infants, children, young families, and adults who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. Our goal is to decrease the factors causing stress and increase ability to cope with life's challenges.

**Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan - <http://www.p2pswmi.org/>**

Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan is a non-profit community organization offering services at no cost to families who have children with disabilities or special needs. Founded in 1998, Parent to Parent serves families in 5 counties and collaborates with other organizations. Since our inception, we have assisted over 1200 families through mentor support, referrals, information, recreation opportunities, a bi-monthly newsletter, parent network meetings and informal social events.

**Kalamazoo Community Mental Health Services - <http://www.kazoocmh.org/>**

Our services are designed to provide assistance for the individual with a mental health or substance abuse problem. We support the individual, their family and their friends to enable them to live a more meaningful life.

We provide comprehensive help and clinical services. Fees are based on an ability to pay and no one is denied services due to an inability to pay.

**Community Healing Centers - <http://www.communityhealingcenter.org/index.php>**

We offer the following services:

Counseling: For children and their families to help address school problems, learning challenges, aggressive behaviors, adjustment to divorce, etc.

Child Sexual Abuse: Compassionate, specialized care for children who are victims of sexual abuse, including advocacy, counseling and assessment.

Parenting: Offering professional expertise in parenting skills for new parents as well as intensive in-home services for parents and infants where there may be mental health issues in the family.

### **Pediatric Counseling Center, LLC - 269-372-6500**

Stressed Out Mothers Support Groups, Children's Trauma and Loss Intervention Group

**Great Start/Early Childhood** - <http://kresa.schoolwires.com/105710619131233687/site/default.asp>

Kalamazoo RESA's Great Start Programs goals will promote every child's learning, assist families in meeting their basic needs and support our families in building their future. Every member of our team seeks to provide our families with the tools necessary to work toward their goals.

We are here to help you better understand your child's developmental level and achievements. Together we can determine the best services to help meet your family's needs.

## **Child Care**

**Child Care Resources** - <http://www.workfamilysolutions.com/>

A private, nonprofit organization supporting parents, caregivers and employers with childcare information and referral services

Our MISSION:

Child Care Resources works with parents, childcare providers, businesses and the community to improve access to quality childcare and early education so that every child enjoys safe, nurturing and inspiring care.

Our VISION:

It is our vision that Child Care Resources will be the essential community resource in all matters related to childcare, including referral, training, education and advocacy.

**Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care Center** - <http://www.kd-iccc.org/>

The Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care Center (KDCCC) was established to provide free, short-term childcare for low-income families with children from six weeks through the age of 5. Parents are able to place their children in the care of the qualified KDCCC staff while they search for jobs, seek housing, attend appointments, or take a healthy break from the demands of parenting. The KDCCC is a warm, safe, and supportive environment for children and their parents.

KDCCC provides age-appropriate activities that nurture early childhood development. Children play, sing, laugh, and grow while visiting KDCCC. A nutritious lunch and time to rest are also provided.

### **Kalamazoo Autism Center**

"I'm starting the Kalamazoo Autism Center because it's so difficult to find daycare for children with special needs, especially at an affordable cost. I also think it will greatly improve the quality of life of special-needs children and their families, during the time these children are enrolled in the center and long after they've graduated." – Richard Malott

For more information about the Kalamazoo Autism Center or to discuss enrolling a child, contact Richard Malott at dickmalott@dickmalott.com or (269) 372-1268.

## **Peer Groups**

**Great Start/Early Childhood** - <http://kresa.schoolwires.com/105710619131233687/site/default.asp>

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**KRESA Programs** - <http://kresa.schoolwires.com/10571012515234890/site/default.asp>

### **City of Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation**

[http://www.ci.kalamazoo.mi.us/portal/government.php?page\\_id=120](http://www.ci.kalamazoo.mi.us/portal/government.php?page_id=120)

The Parks & Recreation Department oversees thirty-six parks and tot-lot playgrounds, including Bronson Park and the Kalamazoo Farmer's Market on Bank Street; manages the protection of physical and natural assets in the City; and provides recreation and leisure programs for youth, adults, senior citizens, and citizens with disabilities. All programs are open to anyone who wishes to participate, regardless of the challenges they face

**Special Olympics** - [www.somi.org](http://www.somi.org)

Special Olympics helps children and adults with intellectual disabilities improve their fitness, learn sports skills, and experience the joy of winning through regular training and competition. It's a year-round program and athletes can train for many different sports. Special Olympics provides opportunities to meet new people, make friends, travel and enjoy social events with other Special Olympics athletes and volunteers. It enables families to train together, to have common goals and to become part of the sports world of Special Olympics. Through Special Olympics, athletes gain self-esteem and discipline, which carry over into school, home and the workplace.

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## **Further Assessment and Therapy Options**

**Preprimary Evaluation Team (PET)** <http://kresa.schoolwires.com/10571032610735893/site/default.asp>

The PET program provides developmental assessment and planning for children ages 0-6 who reside within one of the following school districts: Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Parchment, Portage, Schoolcraft, or Vicksburg.

Any interested parent or care provider may refer their preschool age child suspected of significant developmental delays in the following areas:

- Physical
- Mental
- Vision
- Hearing
- Speech and Language
- Autism

A team of professionals will provide evaluation to determine eligibility for special education. They will assist the parent in investigating all appropriate programs available for their child. These programs may be offered by the family's local school district, through Kalamazoo RESA or other community agencies.

**Cheff Therapeutic Riding Center** - <http://www.cheffcenter.com/>

Therapeutic Riding provides healthy exercise to individuals with special needs by allowing them to participate in the sport of horseback riding in a success-oriented environment.