CHUCK E. CHEESE’S EYES AUTISM MARKET

Children’s entertainment center Chuck E. Cheese’s is looking to make its offering more accessible to kids with autism and other special needs.

The restaurant chain says it is introducing “Sensory Sensitive Sundays,” a monthly event designed to provide a sensory-friendly environment.

During the two-hour offerings for families of those with special needs, participating Chuck E. Cheese’s will dim their lights, have smaller crowds, limit costumed characters and refrain from playing music or having other shows.

After a successful pilot in Attleboro, Mass., the company said it’s expanding Sensory Sensitive Sundays to 54 locations in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey with an eye toward a rollout across the country later this year.

“The buzz and feedback we’ve been receiving has been super positive so we’re hoping to offer it nationwide sooner rather than later,” said Christelle Dupont of CEC Entertainment, the parent company of Chuck E. Cheese’s.

Sensory Sensitive Sundays are scheduled for the first Sunday of each month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Article by Shaun Heasley
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

“Traumatic Brain Injury” means an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psycho social impairment, or both, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, such as cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem solving; sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities; psychological behavior, physical functions, information processing, and speech. The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative, or brain injuries induced by birth trauma.

Traumatic Brain Injury can affect:

- Cognitive functioning
- Communication
- Social and Emotional behaviors
- Physical (gross and fine motor skills)
- Daily living skills

Evaluation data:

- Social and Medical History
- Individual Intelligence (IQ)
- Individual Achievement
- Adaptive behavior
- Communication
- Neuro psychological assessments
- Vocational assessments
- Written statement from physician (which includes diagnosis, school limitations and physical needs)
- Occupational/Physical therapy screening/testing

Information obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Section of Rules and Regulations.

PARENT SUPPORT CORNER

One of our goals, at The Center for Exceptional Families, is to provide statewide support to families, schools, educators, students transitioning to adulthood and individuals seeking secondary scholastic achievement. If you need assistance with understanding your child’s rights to an equal and quality education or an equal opportunity in the work place, please contact our office for support, resources, and training.

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