



Goodbye homeschooling and HELLO SUMMER! Is anyone else feeling the overwhelming sense of excitement that a new season is upon us?

The end of this school year brought with it a ton of mixed emotions for many with school-aged preemies. Congratulations to all of you who are wrapping up the school year and welcoming summer vacation with open arms! A huge THANK YOU to our teachers and school therapists who have done an amazing job of changing their entire curriculum to adapt to our new normal.

Adapting can be a very good thing, even if it's the result of a frightening global pandemic. Graham's Foundation has always been a virtual program and we are so excited to continue to adapt and expand our services! Keep reading to check out our new Connect program, the Premie Art Gallery and so much more!

Now, more than ever, preemie parents need our support. Whether you are facing new restrictions in the NICU or keeping your child engaged and learning at home and through video meetings with therapists and early intervention specialists, we see you. And you are doing a fantastic job.

Heather McKinnis, Director of Development and preemie mom



Premie Parent Mentor Program Offers a New Way to Stay Connected

Our [Premie Parent Mentor Program](#) is a complimentary service that provides resources and peer support to parents throughout their child's prematurity journey. We have a team of trained parent (and grandparent) volunteer mentors*, each of whom has had their own experience with prematurity.

We are pleased to announce a new capability within this program. The initiative, called "**Connect**," enables preemie parents to connect in real time with one of our trained mentors. Mentors have traditionally been available by phone, text, and email. Now they're also available by video chat.

Using a telehealth-style platform, parents can select a mentor and schedule an appointment to speak with them. For longer-term support, parents may ask to be matched with a mentor that has had a similar prematurity journey.

Complete program details are available [here](#).

With the need for social distancing, it's especially important that parents know they are not alone. We are here for them. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from this program, please [contact us](#).

Meegan Snyder, Director, Premie Parent Mentor Program and premie mom

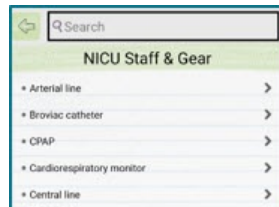
*Graham's Foundation premie parent mentors are not medical professionals. We are parents who have experienced a NICU journey and are offering peer support. The information we provide is meant to encourage and support parents during and after a NICU stay. It is not meant to replace the advice or expertise of medical professionals.



We Love Premie Art. Keep it Coming!

In our last newsletter we introduced the [Graham's Foundation Premie Art Gallery](#), a virtual gallery where the artwork of former premies is on display. Thank you to everyone that submitted artwork for the gallery. We love the artwork and we want more! This is an ongoing program so we invite you to submit your child's artwork. Complete details are available [here](#).

Did You Know?



Did you know that the [myPremie](#) app has a section that lists typical NICU staff and gear? This helps parents understand the different types of specialists with whom they may be meeting and what equipment may be used to benefit their baby. The list is found in the Guide/NICU Staff & Gear section of the app.

Visit our blog and the new section on COVID-19

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