



The Autism Beacon is Lighthouse Autism Center's virtual monthly newsletter. Take a look and learn about new center updates, client and staff spotlights and valuable resources for the autism community!



Lighthouse Autism Center Opens New Center in Decatur, Illinois!



Lighthouse Autism Decatur Center is now open! This new center features beautifully designed spaces that create an environment supporting play-based learning and provides services to 25 families in the area. Follow our Facebook page for progress updates and more information!

[Follow Us On Facebook](#)

South Bend Lighthouse Autism Center expansion is now complete!

Lighthouse Autism Center is thrilled to announce that our building renovation at our South Bend center is now complete and ready for additional learners! The expansion of our clinic provides additional services to over 21 families and creates over 27 new jobs.



Child Spotlight: Meet Abel

Meet Abel. When Abel first came to Lighthouse, he had very little vocal communication skills and struggled to communicate his wants and needs. He also did not tolerate sitting on the toilet, which limited his progress with toilet training. Abel did not often engage in appropriate social interactions or play with peers, and mostly kept to himself while playing. Since coming to Lighthouse, Abel has made so much progress!



- Now, Abel vocally communicates his wants and needs with us, and uses more than 50 different words to request and express his interests!
- Abel has learned to tolerate sitting on the toilet and is now toilet trained.
- Abel has shown an increased interest in playing with his peers, and he now independently greets peers and requests to play chase with them in the playroom.

"Abel is a joy each day to work with! We are so proud of him as he works so hard to accomplish each goal, and we are thrilled with his progress."

- Lanae Asher, Lighthouse Program Manager

[View More Success Stories](#)

Staff Spotlight: Meet Abigail

Abigail is a Registered Behavior Technician at our Portage center. She has been with Lighthouse Autism Center since June of 2022 and is currently working towards her Associates Degree in Human Services and Social Work at Ivy Tech and anticipates graduating in August of 2023. She will then continue to study for her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. Abigail loves to spend time with her family, go camping and play softball.



What made you decide to apply to Lighthouse?

I applied for the position at Lighthouse Autism Center because of the passion in my heart to be able to work and help children in ABA therapy!

What is your favorite part of working at Lighthouse Autism Center?

My favorite part about working at Lighthouse is to see the success in each kiddo everyday, to see the smiles from kiddos you are implementing and the amazing bonds I create with my coworkers. Seeing each kiddo excited everyday and start to progress and master out of programs is an amazing thing to be apart of. I would describe my experience working at Lighthouse as comparable to being on your favorite vacation but staying there forever. I have experienced so much joy and support from each kiddo and staff member we have, it fills me with many happy tears.

Do you have a favorite memory from your time here?

My favorite memory at Lighthouse Autism Center was when a kiddo had a group of us circle around and put our hands in the center, count to three and yell “Everyone wins!” This one experience has been a source of continuous positive reinforcement for our center to staff to keep us uplifted. It is amazing to see not only this experience but so many others have such a positive impact!

What advice you would like to share for those interested in a career at Lighthouse Autism Center?

This is such a fun play based environment! To deliver high quality ABA each day is a success on its own. There is nothing better than to see successes with each kiddos with things like speech therapy, gross motor skills and even behavior analysis as a whole. This is the most rewarding and fulfilling job if you have passion in your heart to see children succeed!

[Learn More About a Day in the Life as an RBT](#)

Tips for Celebrating the Holidays with a Picky Eater and Introducing New Foods

Children with autism may be labeled picky eaters, but the truth is that they face a unique set of challenges around mealtimes. Discover helpful tips on introducing new foods and expanding your child's diet in a way that is more enjoyable for everyone at the table.



[Read More](#)

Resource of the Month: Lakes Area Autism Network



LAAN exists to provide individuals with autism spectrum disorder the platform to participate alongside peers in life activities; to provide access to training and resources to support individuals on the autism spectrum , as well as parents, teachers, and community members; and to advocate for, sponsor, host and/or participate in events that promote the inclusion of individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

[Learn More Here](#)

Upcoming Community Events & Resources

Autism Parent Support Group (In-person)

November 30, 2022 at 6:30pm - 8:00pm EDT

Noblesville Autism Center: 15755 North Pointe Blvd, Noblesville, IN 46060

Lighthouse Autism Center and the Autism Society of Indiana are partnering to host a free Parent Support Group for parents of children who are newly diagnosed with autism. The support group will involve a four-part series that will include a diverse and knowledgeable group of in-person speakers and light refreshments. This is a FREE event. Registration is not required, but appreciated.

[Learn More Here](#)

Sibling Support 2022 (Online)

December 1, 2022 at 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Do you have a child with behavioral challenges?

Do you have other children who are impacted?

If so, caregivers and siblings are invited to join us!

Intended for siblings of youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Disabilities, and/or Mental Health Issues

[Learn More Here](#)

IRCA Family Autism Support Webinar (Online)

December 5, 2022 at 6:30pm - 7:30pm

This workshop will provide practical recommendations for understanding and addressing the behavior challenges of your son/daughter. There will be a focus on proactive practices and strategies.

Presented by: Cathy Pratt, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Director & Betty Lou Rowe, M.Ed., Educational Consultant at Indiana Resource Center for Autism.

[Learn More Here](#)

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