

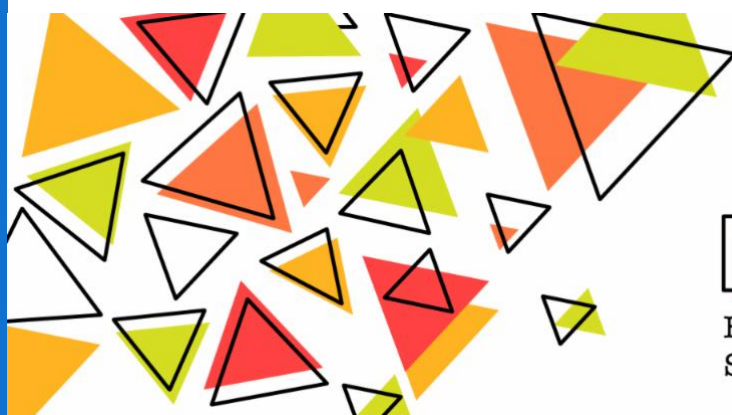
Autism Beacon ™



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 Center Happenings

Lighthouse Celebrates Better Hearing & Speech Month



Each May, Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHSM) provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and the role of ASHA members in providing life-altering treatment. For 2023, our theme is “Building a Strong Foundation.”

According to the CDC, an estimated 25-30 percent of people with autism are nonverbal or minimally verbal (fewer than 30 words or unable to use speech alone to communicate).

Lighthouse Autism Center is building a strong foundation by offering Lighthouse Fusion®, an innovative and one-of-a-kind approach to autism therapy that fuses the best practices of behavior analysis and speech therapy. Designed by our team of world-renowned clinicians, children experience greater progress, faster. Learners at Lighthouse receive more opportunities for speech development than in traditional ABA therapy programs. Each child works with BCBA's and RBT's who are trained on speech techniques and able to integrate more speech goals into daily programming.

[Learn About Lighthouse Fusion®](#)

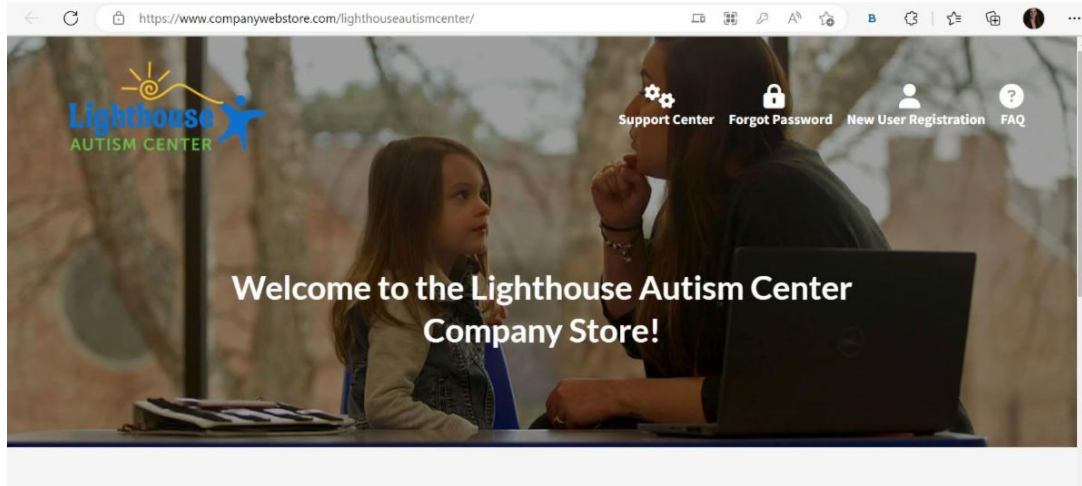
Lighthouse Autism Center Celebrates 11 Year Anniversary!

Over the past 11 years, Lighthouse has grown into a leading center-based provider of ABA therapy for children on the autism spectrum, with a network of centers across Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa. As the largest ABA provider in the state of Indiana, Lighthouse has a reputation for bringing together compassionate care with clinical excellence, with autism therapy programs supported by a beautiful play-based environment that supports the best possible outcomes for children with autism. To think that Lighthouse started with just one center and is now approaching 30 centers is truly incredible.



[About Lighthouse](#)

New Lighthouse Apparel Store



We are happy to announce the launching of a Lighthouse Autism Center Company Store Platform. Create an account using the new user registration form to access Lighthouse branded apparel and accessories!

[Visit our Apparel Store](#)

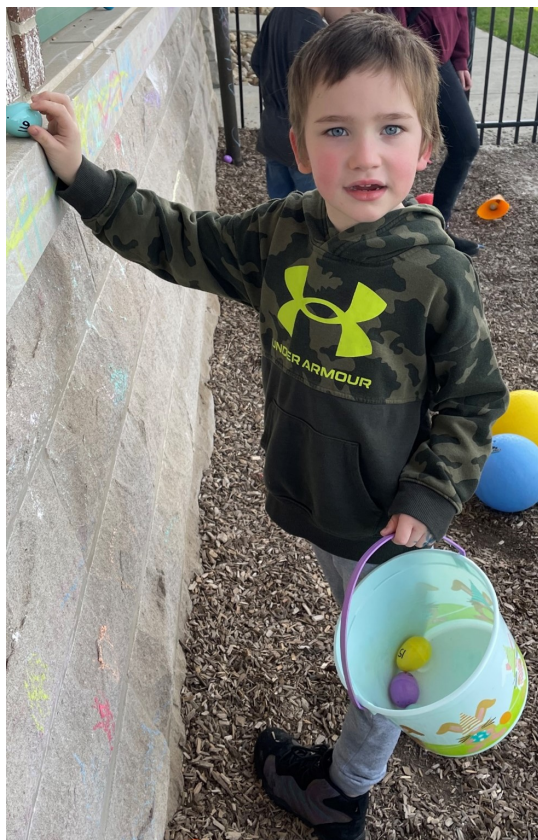
South Bend Cubs Sensory Game - First Pitch

Lighthouse Autism Center partnered with the South Bend Cubs to host a Sensory Friendly Game on Saturday, April 15, 2023. A Lighthouse Autism Center learner was selected to throw the first pitch of the game! He did such an amazing job. Check out our Facebook page to see more content from the game!

[Facebook](#)



Child Spotlight: Brantley



Meet Brantley. In the time that Brantley has been at Lighthouse Autism Center, he has made so much progress! When he first started, Brantley required assistance with functional communication, daily living skills, toileting skills, and transition skills. Prior to enrolling at Lighthouse, these were all goals his mother wanted him to work on.

- Now, Brantley uses functional communication to request things he wants and is able to hold conversations.
- Now, Brantley is able to transition to different activities and ask for more time with preferred items and activities when he is not ready to transition.
- Now, Brantley independently uses and requests to use the bathroom.

"I can't even begin to explain how proud I am of Brantley! Brantley is an incredibly smart kid. He will do an outstanding job at school! Not a day goes by that he doesn't bring a huge smile to my face! He will be a fantastic addition to any school!"

- Sarah Spicer, Registered Behavior Technician at Lighthouse Autism Center

"I've loved getting the chance to work with Brantley. Since working with him, I've seen him make so much progress. He is such a funny, smart, and amazing kid. He loves giving hugs, telling jokes, and making everyone laugh. With his wonderful personality, he will fit right in at school."

- Payton McDonald, Registered Behavior Technician at Lighthouse Autism Center

Staff Spotlight: Katie



Katie is a Registered Behavior Technician Trainer at our Kalamazoo East Center and has been with Lighthouse Autism Center since April of 2022. She graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelors degree in Human Biology. Katie enjoys Yoga, hiking, making jewelry, reading, and spending time with her five nephews and two nieces who keep her on her toes.

What made you decide to apply to Lighthouse?

I wanted to make a positive impact on my community. I was already working in the world of ABA in Grand Rapids. I was looking for an opportunity to grow, and Lighthouse was/is the most perfect fit.

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

My favorite part of working at Lighthouse Autism Center is my co-workers, the positive work environment, but most importantly THE KIDS!! My experience at Lighthouse has been nothing but great. I have felt supported, encouraged, and given ample feedback in order to grow into the RBT Trainer I have become.

Do you have a favorite memory from your time here?

There are so many!! My all time favorite though would be running music groups and watching all of the kiddos have a great time and dance their hearts out.

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

Working with kiddos is not always easy, they have big emotions just like we do, and it may be difficult to communicate how they are feeling. Approach every situation with patience and compassion. Some days will be tough, however, the most rewarding part is witnessing

hard work pay off when a kiddo is able to independently finish a 5 piece puzzle, or independently request an item using a full sentence, or independently play a board game from start to finish with a peer. Those wins make all of the long days worth it.

[Learn More About Our Lighthouse Team](#)

Finding Reinforcers

As a parent of a child with autism, it isn't always easy to know how to help your child negotiate daily life in a positive and productive way. Whether it's a simple task that needs to be accomplished or complex problems that distress your child, it is important to find positive behavior strategies that work for both of you.



[Read More](#)

Resource of the Month: The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP)



The Autism Program of Illinois serves and supports persons with autism spectrum disorder and their families through a coordinated network of providers, parents, and university programs while developing, utilizing, and sharing best and promising practices. The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP) Service Network is a collaboration of 5 universities and 10 organizations that together operate 20 centers across the state to provide services to children, families, educators, childcare providers, and medical professionals.

[Learn More Here](#)

Upcoming Community Events & Resources

Positive Behavior Solutions for Families

May 16, 2023 at 10:00am - 12:00pm - Online

Positive Behavior Solutions for Families is a four-session, monthly workshop series that will give parents, families and caregivers positive and effective strategies to promote children's social and emotional development and address the challenging behavior of children ages 2-5 years old.

[Learn More Here](#)

Supporting Siblings

June 1, 2023 at 5:30 pm - Online

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.

Over Zoom, siblings meet other children and teens who know what it's like to have a brother or sister with behavioral challenges. Siblings have a chance to talk, learn coping skills and feel better. The Zoom is facilitated by psychiatrists and trainees at UMass Chan Medical School.

First-time participants join a Zoom session led by our trained parent mentor. They learn about the sibling experience, the importance of supporting siblings, and strategies to support siblings. Returning participants join a different Zoom session, led by the program social worker, to address ongoing family challenges that impact siblings.

[Learn More Here](#)

South Bend Community Resource Fair

June 3, 2023 at 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

2505 E Jefferson Blvd, South Bend, IN 46615 United States

Connections Case Management, Self-Advocates of Indiana, Logan Center, and Behavioral Services and Therapy have invited The Arc of Indiana to exhibit at the South Bend Community Resource Fair. The Arc Advocacy Network will have information about Medicaid Waivers, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, guardianship and alternatives, Special Needs Trusts, the Erskine Green Training Institute, and a variety of other topics available for families and self-advocates.

[Learn More Here](#)

**Providing Autism Therapy Services to Families in Indiana, Illinois,
Michigan, and Iowa.**

[Find A Center!](#)



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