

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 Autism Center Opens New Center in Springfield, Illinois!

Lighthouse Autism Center in Springfield, Illinois is now open! This new center features beautifully designed spaces that create an environment supporting play-based learning and provides services to 30 families in the area. Follow our Facebook page for progress updates and more information!

[Facebook](#)

LAC Sponsors Sensory Room at The CASIE Center

Lighthouse Autism Center has sponsored a sensory room within The CASIE Center to help children on the autism spectrum. The goal of this room is to create a safe environment for children who may be overstimulated and need to de-escalate. This room is painted in the same calm and welcoming colors as all the Lighthouse Autism Center locations and is filled with sensory items to help with interacting and communicating with a child on the autism spectrum. Lighthouse has a goal to bring inclusion and education to our communities in support of children on the autism spectrum.

[Learn More](#)

Immediate Openings for Autism Evaluations

Lighthouse Autism Center is now offering autism evaluations for children 2-6 years old. Appointments are available at every Lighthouse location.

Children with autism often show signs in infancy but may not be diagnosed until much later. Early signs of autism in babies or toddlers often go unrecognized, simply because parents or caregivers may not know what to look for. One of the most important things you can do for your child after birth is to learn the early signs of autism. Recognizing the initial signs of autism can lead to an earlier diagnosis which is needed for early autism intervention.

[Diagnostic Services](#)

Child Spotlight: Colton

Meet Colton. In the time that Colton has been at Lighthouse Autism Center, he has made so much progress! Prior to Lighthouse, Colton had difficulties with toileting and also struggled with limited vocal and verbal communication skills, making it difficult to express his wants and needs.

- Now, Colton uses a communication device independently using "I want" carrier phrases.
- Now, Colton responds to greetings when greeted by an adult and requests for "more" of an item/activity.

- Now, Colton independently uses the bathroom.

"I am beyond proud of the hard work Colton puts in every day at Lighthouse. I love watching him learn new skills each day in the center. We are grateful to be a part of his Lighthouse journey. Keep up the amazing work Colton! We are so excited to see you continue to grow day by day!"

- Cierra Sibilla, Jr Program Manager at Lighthouse Autism Center

[View More Success Stories](#)

Staff Spotlight: Kiah

Kiah is a Registered Behavior Technician Trainer at our Columbus Center and has been with Lighthouse Autism Center since December of 2021. She graduated from Purdue University Columbus with a Bachelors degree in Psychology. Kiah enjoys yoga, hiking, and spending time with her dog, Charlie.

What made you decide to apply to Lighthouse?

I had previously worked as a RBT and was not actively in the ABA field when I applied to Lighthouse. I missed the field and felt drawn back to ABA, so I applied to Lighthouse and I am glad I came back to ABA.

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

I like the focus on naturalist teaching and the Fusion® model of incorporating speech therapy into ABA, but the kids are my favorite part about working at Lighthouse. From seeing their growth to running around playing with them and bringing my inner child alive, they are the best part. Working for Lighthouse is a very different experience than the typical 9 to 5. It is playful, fast paced, challenging, and rewarding.

Do you have a favorite memory from your time here?

My favorite memories are from Fun Friday activities. I love seeing the kids be kids and express their excitement in so many different ways.

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

Some days will be tricky. The tricky days are left at the center, the feelings don't follow us home and it's not personal. Stick around to see the progress the kids make and it will be worth it.

[Learn More About Our Lighthouse Team](#)

Medicaid Waivers and Autism

Medicaid helps millions of people across the United States to gain access to much-

needed health services using special Medicaid waivers. These waivers allow states to provide services to those with specific needs, including low-income families that have an autistic family member.

[Read More](#)

Resource of the Month: The CCRESA Imagination Library

The CCRESA Imagination Library is a book give-away program for children birth-to-five residing in the Clinton County RESA service area.

Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency (CCRESA) supports local school districts with cost efficient, non-duplicative county-wide services. They are an educational service agency that provides research-based teaching and learning methods, along with direct services like speech, physical therapy and many others to public and non-public school students, professional development to school personnel and direct services such as Special Education for students birth to 26, Early Childhood, Great Parent/Great Start services and Career and Technical Education Coursework and programs.

[Learn More Here](#)

Upcoming Community Events & Resources

Talks with The Arc Trust

June 21, 2023 at 12:00pm - 1:00pm - Online

Do you or a loved one receive government benefits like Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid? Not sure on how to save for the future and keep these benefits? In our new webinar series, Talks with The Arc Trust, we'll cover the options that people have when saving for the future, the ins and outs of those options, and how they work with various government benefits.

[Learn More Here](#)

Understanding Dual Diagnosis: Autism & ADHD

June 23, 2023 at 5:00pm - 7:00pm EDT - Online

A workshop that explores a dual diagnosis of both ADHD and Autism, to help to understand the conditions.

[Learn More Here](#)

2023 Autism Hero Walk: Grand Rapids

June 25, 2023 at 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Grant Pavilion at Millennium Park - 1415 Maynard Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Grab your capes and get ready to fly with us as we celebrate the Autism Hero Walk Grand Rapids on Sunday, June 25th at the Grant Pavilion at Millennium Park!

The Detroit Autism Hero Walk is Michigan's largest gathering of 5,000+ families affected by autism to celebrate our everyday superheroes, and we're so excited to bring the fun to Grand Rapids! This fundraiser benefits Autism Alliance of Michigan and includes an autism resource fair, on-stage program, united community walk, arts & crafts, and entertainment for all ages.

All funds raised at the Autism Hero Walk Grand Rapids will be used to serve West Michigan families and individuals with autism.

[Learn More Here](#)

The University of Illinois Play Group

Tuesdays 9:30-10:45 May 30-July 25 (no session on July 4)

OR Saturdays 10:00-11:15 June 3-July 29 (no session July 1)

Held at Salt & Light in Urbana in the childcare room.

Play Group is a wonderful opportunity for families with children aged 2-5 years who have an autism diagnosis or who are anticipating a diagnosis to join together in a group setting. This playgroup is a parent-coaching therapy model that teaches parents and caregivers strategies on how to have successful and, most importantly, playful interactions with their child while incorporating communication building.

[Learn More Here](#)

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

Find A Center!

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