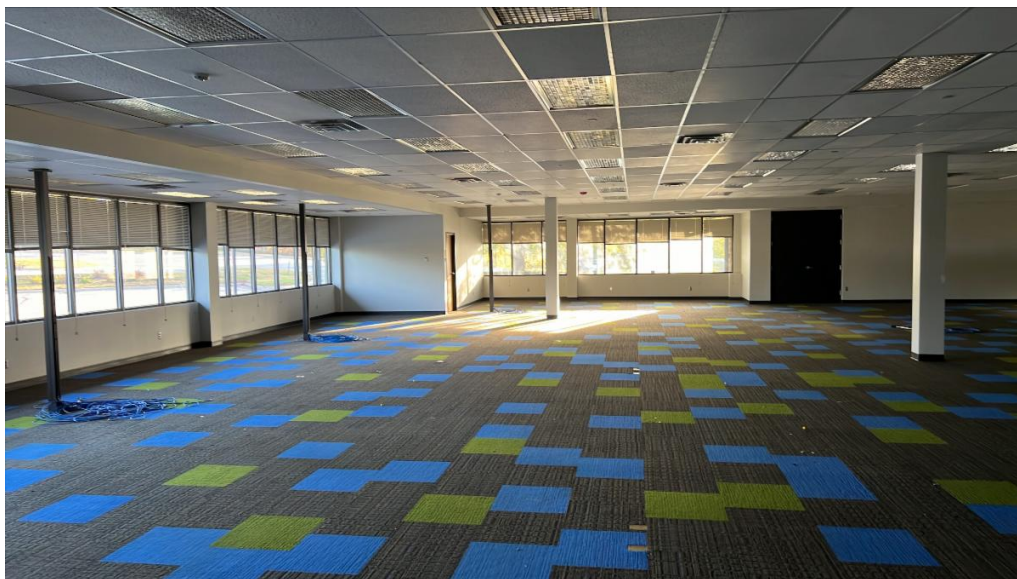




The Autism Beacon is Lighthouse Autism Center's virtual monthly newsletter. Take a look and learn about new center updates, staff spotlights and valuable resources for the autism community!

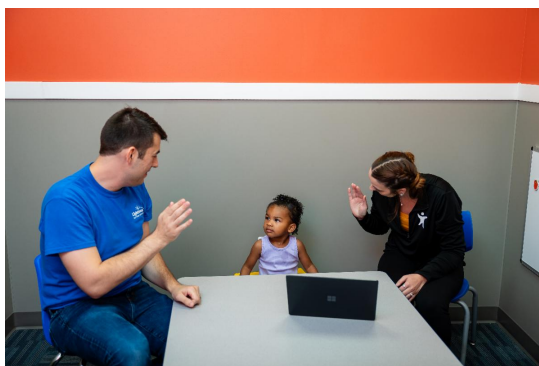
Lighthouse Center Happenings

Lighthouse Autism Center to Open First Center in Omaha, Nebraska!



Lighthouse Autism Center is opening our first location in Omaha, Nebraska! Omaha is located on the Missouri River, close to the Iowa border. Our new center is preparing to open, early 2024 and will feature beautifully remodeled spaces to promote natural and play-based learning. Omaha Autism Center will provide services to over 25 families and create over 35 new jobs in the area. We cannot wait for you to see it!

[Learn More About Our New Location](#)



[Learn More About Autism Evaluations](#)

Appointments Available 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.

Important Insurance Updates



Marketplace Plans: Marketplace enrollment starts soon! Open enrollment is 11/1/23, through 1/15/24.

Medicaid clients: Redeterminations are still happening! Please make sure all your information is up to date with Medicaid and be on the lookout for a redetermination packet in the mail. If no response is given, you may lose Medicaid coverage even if you are still eligible!

Indiana Medicaid Changes: Call 800-403-0864 to report a change to your Medicaid (health coverage) case, such as income, household member changes, or home address.

Illinois Medicaid Changes: Call 877-805-5312 from 7:45am–4:30pm or visit [medicaid.illinois.gov](https://www.medicaid.illinois.gov). If you use a TTY, call 1-877-204-1012.

Michigan Medicaid Changes: Report any change in phone number, email or address to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) by going to the MIBridges website at www.michigan.gov/mibridges. Create an account by choosing Register if you don't have one. Report changes in both the Profile section and the Report Changes area.

Iowa Medicaid Changes: To report a change to your Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or FIP case call 1-877-347-5678.

If you have an insurance change or address update, please reach out to our LAC Insurance Team.

Email the LAC Insurance Team

Choosing Gifts for a Child With Autism

Choosing a gift for a loved one can be challenging, and this task is even harder for someone with special needs. We take a look at the different things you should keep in mind when choosing a gift for a young autistic person, and share some gift ideas as well.



[Learn More About Choosing Gifts](#)

Staff Spotlight: Nicholas



Nicholas is a Registered Behavior Therapist at our Winona Lake center and has been with Lighthouse Autism Center since July of 2023. He is currently a student at Ball State University, studying for a master's degree in applied behavior analysis. Nicholas loves spending time with his family and his dog. He is happily married and has a daughter.

What made you decide to apply to Lighthouse?

I applied to LAC because I was searching for a career that allowed me to serve people and focus on the patient more than on scheduling and travel.

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

My favorite part of working at Lighthouse is the willingness of coworkers to help provide support as well as the guidance from trainers and supervisors towards the goals of making me a better therapist.

How would you describe your experience working for Lighthouse?

My experience with LAC has been what only could be deemed as concentrated. It has been concentrated with learning, growing, and help all with the focus of helping me reach our goals.

Do you have a favorite memory from your time here?

One of my favorite memories comes from a learner that started the same time I started working at LAC. It felt like we had a connection based on our relative starting point of this part of our life's adventure. We ended up working together quite often and paired quite well. One day during lunch, this learner decided they were not hungry and wanted to go play. We made our way back out to the playroom from the cafeteria, and I asked them what they wanted to do by presenting the manding board. The learner pointed to the play icon and said 'swing' with their soft voice and we proceeded to the swing. Once at the swing, the learner for the first time since we both started at LAC began singing to themselves while swinging. It was not for attention or for anyone around but simply because they enjoyed singing. I was reminded that day just how amazing we are as humans. This amazing little person decided at that moment to sing their own song and allow me the honor to hear it. LAC is a place you can help people learn to communicate. It helps people to learn how they can take action in their life and be heard.

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

Lighthouse is an amazing place to work. Be prepared to learn and also be open to instruction. Trainers and supervisor will inform you of what you need to do to be the best RBT.

Grow Your Career at Lighthouse

Resource of the Month: The Arc of Indiana



The Arc of Indiana was established in 1956 by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who joined together to build a better and more accepting world for their children. With over 30,000 members and 42 chapters in Indiana, and 140,000 members in over 700 chapters nationwide, The Arc is on the front lines to:

- Empower families with information and resources to assist them in their journey of raising a child with a disability to lead a full and meaningful life.
- Inspire positive change in public policy and public attitudes.

- Empower people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to be self-sufficient and independent to the greatest extent possible.
- Prevent disabilities through education about the dangers of drugs and alcohol while pregnant and advocating for all women to have quality prenatal care.
- Serve as a spokesperson and advocate for families and their loved ones.

The combined strength of local Arcs, state Arcs and The Arc of the United States makes The Arc the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

[Learn More Here](#)

Upcoming Community Events & Resources

Talks With The Arc Trust

November 15, 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](#)

Father's Virtual Autism Support Group

November 18, 2023 at 5:30pm EST - Online

In this platform Autism Father's can attend a virtual Zoom session with other father's who are on the Autism Journey. This can be done in the comfort of your own home, office or remotely on the road via your phone. We wanted to ensure those that have varying work schedules and family time could make a time for themselves to gain support.

Our facilitator is world renown Dr. Robert Naseef, who has a distinct voice as a psychologist and father of an adult son with autism. He has spoken around the country and trained professionals internationally in treating autism and supporting families.

[Learn More Here](#)

Understanding Autism Workshop

November 20, 2023 at 2:00pm EST - Online

- Characteristics of Autism
- Recognizing myths & facts

- Understanding how Autism effects executive functioning & emotional regulation

[Learn More Here](#)

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

Find A Center!



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