

THE CDC CORNER

Providing supports and services to children, families and individuals with disabilities while addressing the health and well-being of all persons in the communities in which we serve.



SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



Check out our Facebook and Instagram to see how we celebrated our amazing Children's Center for Autism (CCA) staff on World Autism Awareness Day! World Autism Awareness Day is recognized every year on April 2nd. We are so proud of our CCA program. Shoutout to our amazing Clinical Coordinator and her fabulous team of Board Certified Behavior Analysts and Registered Behavior Technicians!



ENABLING TECHNOLOGY SUCCESS STORY

The Community & Employment Services (CES) team wants to celebrate Neil, one of the MAPs Participants, for his success with using Enabling Technology to prepare meals for himself safely, follow his hygiene routine, and keep himself safe at home. The CES team was able to purchase an induction cooktop, a smart microwave, Ring Doorbell and outdoor cameras, and an Echo Show for him to have in his personal apartment. Neil is able to use his Echo Show and Ring doorbell to see who is at the door and know if it is safe to let them inside. He also has set reminders through the Echo to remind him to brush his teeth and shower so he no longer has to rely on his mom for prompts. One of Neil's favorite Enabling Tech items is his induction cooktop as it allows him to safely prepare food for himself in his new apartment.

HOLIDAYS

May 15	Tuberous Sclerosis Global Awareness Day
May 15	Global Accessibility Awareness Day
June 21	Global Day of Recognition of ALS/MND
June 23	Dravet Syndrome Awareness Day
July 13	Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor Awareness Day
July 22	World Fragile X Syndrome Awareness Day

Local Happenings

Bedford County:

Christmas in July | 4:30pm on Thursday, June 26th – Saturday, June 28th
at the Bedford County Agriculture Center, 2119 Midland Road, Shelbyville, TN 37160

Coffee County:

Good Friends Music Fest | Friday, June 6th
at the Common John Brewing Company, 210 Woodbury Highway, Manchester, TN 37355
Saturday, June 7th
at the Rotary Park Amphitheater, 557 N Woodland Street, Manchester, TN 37355



Davidson County:

Music City Hot Chicken Festival | 11am – 3pm on Friday, July 4th
at East Park, 700 Woodland Street, Nashville, TN 37206

Franklin County:

High on the Hog Festival | 7am – 11pm on Saturday, May 10th – Sunday, May 18th
at 1547 Phillip Fulmer Parkway, #1503, Winchester, TN 37398

Giles County:

SunDrop Festival | Saturday, June 14th
at Historic Downtown Pulaski, TN 38478



Hickman County:

7th Annual Keg County Arts & Crafts Fair | 9:00am – 4pm on Saturday, May 10th
at Centerville Courthouse Square, 405 West Public Square, Centerville, TN 37033

Lawrence County:

Lawco Freedom Fest | 4pm on Saturday, June 28th
at Rotary Park, 927 North Military Avenue, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

Lewis County:

Lewis County Summerfest | 8am – 8pm on Saturday, June 7th
at Main Street, TN 38464

Lincoln County:

2025 Spring Event | Friday, June 13th – Saturday, June 14th
at 1003 Hedgemont Avenue, Fayetteville, TN 37334



Marshall County:

Marshall County Farmer's Market | 6:15am – 12pm on Saturdays in July
at Rock Creek Park, 300 Old Farmington Road, Lewisburg, TN 37091

Maury County:

Homestead Festival | Friday, June 6th – Saturday, June 7th
at 4765 Hardison Mill Road, Columbia, Tennessee 38401



Moore County:

Frontier Days Steak Cookoff | Friday, June 27th – Saturday, June 28th
at Wiseman Park Road, Lynchburg, TN 37352

Rutherford County:

Cheesecake Festival | 10am – 4pm on Saturday, May 17th
at 315 John R Rice Boulevard, Murfreesboro, TN 37129



Williamson County:

Franklin on the Fourth | 10am – 6pm on Friday, July 4th
at Downtown Franklin, Tennessee 37064

In The Community

Building Bridges

The first Building Bridges events of 2025 were so much fun! In Lewisburg we bowled at Funtime Bowl. In Tullahoma we bowled at Tullahoma Bowling Lanes. In Shelbyville we bowled at Lightning Lanes. In Fayetteville we held a Bingo Night at the Fayetteville Recreation Center and played bingo. Z, April, and Nathan absolutely loved winning prizes!



DDH 2025

Each year, Disability Day on the Hill serves as an opportunity for the Tennessee disability community to come together and participate directly in the legislative process. This year, Community Development Center staff were able to learn and share with Tennessee resources at the Tennessee Disability Coalition Community Party. They even spent some time with Giles County Advisory Board member and Family Voices of Tennessee staff member, Chrissy Hood!

"Liberty. Not Limits."



Early Intervention



Early Intervention is “reaching out to serve” by participating in four child find and public awareness events this quarter.

Early Intervention attended the Coffee County Community Baby Shower, the Resource Fair in Giles County presented by UT Southern Special Education Department, Journey’s Spring FRC Fair in Manchester, and the Giles County Family Expo in Pulaski.



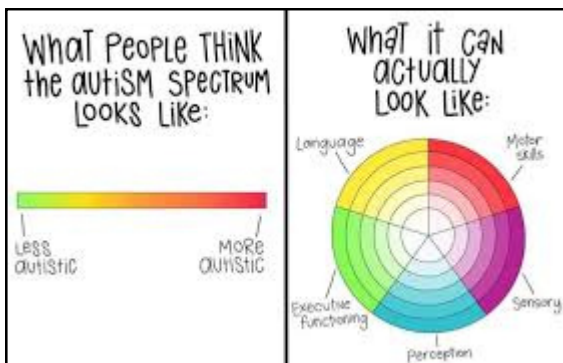
The Children's Center for Autism

CCA has been busy over the past couple of months! Our kiddos are learning to follow schedules, talk, communicate, follow directions, and go to school! We are so proud of everything they do.

In April, we celebrate Autism Awareness and Acceptance month. CCA fully believes in the potential of each child, and supports inclusion in all things.

Here are some facts about Autism:

- Affects 1 in 36 children in the United States
- Boys are 4 times more likely to be diagnosed than girls
- No one single identified cause for Autism
- People with ASD may have unique strengths and abilities
- ASD is a spectrum disorder, meaning symptoms and severity vary widely



SUMMER FUN IDEAS!



- **KidsBowlFree.com** - Did you know that your child (Ages 2-15) can bowl 2 games for free every day in the summer? You just have to pay for shoes. Use the link to sign your child up.
- **Columbia Children's Museum** - <https://www.amuseumcolumbia.com/>
- **We ROCK the Spectrum** - <https://www.werockthespectrumnashville.com/>
- **Tennessee Aquarium** - <https://tnaqua.org/plan-a-visit/> They have a lot of inclusion opportunities and even have sensory bags to borrow.

- **Nashville Zoo** - <https://www.nashvillezoo.org/accessibility> They have Zooper Packs which include visual schedules, sensory toys, and ear plugs, etc.
- **Chattanooga Zoo** - <https://www.chattzoo.org/visit/amenities-accessibility> They have lots of initiatives to include! They have quiet spaces, sensory bags, weighted lap pads and more.
- **Local Libraries** - Don't forget to include your local libraries. Most have a story time each day!

LOOKING TO HELP SUPPORT THE CCA PROGRAM?

Here is a list of possible donation items that CCA uses on a daily basis to help support our kids: Laminating Paper - Velcro - Multi Colored Construction Paper - Glue - Washable Paint - Sensory Bin items like: dry rice, dry beans, dry pasta, playdoh, cornstarch, bubble wrap, sand, colorful fish rocks, etc.

Independent Support Coordination/TN Strong Families

William's Achievements

This year has been a period of significant growth and achievement for William Scott from our ISC program. While William has always been an achiever, his accomplishments this year have been truly outstanding and deserve a special spotlight. His dedication to Taekwondo has paid off in a big way, as he proudly earned his second-degree black belt! Adding to the excitement, William also achieved his long-term goal of getting his Tennessee driver's license. And that's not all – his CPR certification has opened up a fantastic opportunity as a lifeguard at the YMCA in Middle Tennessee. William's mother, the Community Development Center, his amazing ISC Martha, and all his family and friends are bursting with pride, especially for everything he has accomplished this year. It's inspiring to see person-centered goals become reality with the incredible support of our ISCs and Department of Disability and Aging staff. We can't wait to see what amazing things William will achieve next!



A New Home For Amanda

Amanda is excited that she will be moving to a new home with TPA! Amanda is looking forward to being able to be more independent in her daily living, as well as being able to work with her new staff. Some things that Amanda is excited about include the fact that her new agency is taking her to see the Enabling Technology model home and will help her choose among things like an iPad or a medicine dispenser that will allow her to become more independent. Amanda is also excited that she will be able to live by herself, and have staff that supports her when it comes to decision-making and doing things she enjoys in the community.



Family Support

Announcing 2nd Annual "Purses for a Purpose" Fundraiser

It was a tremendous success last year – the inaugural "Purses for a Purpose" fundraising event for the Family Support Program! With more than 300 purses/billfolds and bags donated, the event raised more than \$2,800 for the program! The date has been set for Saturday, June 7, at Edgemont Baptist Church in Shelbyville, TN from 9am – 2pm. The focus now is **DONATIONS!** Purses, billfolds, wallets, totes, and bags are needed and may be dropped off during the work week at any of our CDC sites in Shelbyville, Lewisburg, Fayetteville, and Pulaski. Just look for the marked bin outside.

For more information or questions, reach out to FS Coordinator Christy Jensen, 931-684-7673.



Mandy's Beach Chair



Summer vacation time is almost here! As you, or someone you know, in our disability community begins making travel plans and is thinking about renting a beach wheelchair, reach out to the CDC and use this one. "Mandy's Chair" was donated to the CDC by Mandy's mom, Carol Jean, both longtime friends of the CDC, in hopes it could be given to another family to use. In recognition of Carol's big heart and our love for Mandy, we decided to hang on to the beach chair and make it available on loan to families to use on their vacations. Carol loved this idea. It's our way of sharing the blessing of having Mandy Jean as a part of the CDC.

Community & Employment Services

SUCCESS STORY!

The Community and Employment Services team has had a busy start to the year. The Pre-Employment Services program expanded, now serving Richland High School, Hickman County High School, and Fayetteville Middle School. Planning for Summer Pre-ETS Camps is underway and the CES team looks forward to serving students across our counties over the summer.

The CES team attended a Transition TN Regional Training in February in Smyrna. The training helped the CES team learn about a Community Approach to Pre-ETS and allowed them time to bond with other Pre-ETS providers and team members.

The MAPs program continues to grow, with the Community and Employment Service program adding 6 new individuals since December. The MAPs program now serves 27 individuals total across 9 counties.

The CES team began working with Esther in MAPs at the beginning of 2024. Esther wanted to increase her independence by getting her license to travel independently, learn how to be safe in her home, and learn how to manage her finances independently. Through working with the CES team and the use of Enabling Technology, Esther was able to increase her independence in all three areas and the CES team was able to get all of her Year 1 Milestones completed. Esther now has her driver's licenses and is driving herself to work and throughout her community. She feels safer in her home both with cooking and knowing how to respond to emergencies, and she has better management of her finances and can budget money for her expenses. Esther is loving the MAPs program and feels she is gaining a lot of independence.

Senior Equipment Loan

Bath Chair



Also known as a "shower chair", bath chairs make a world of difference for individuals with disabilities and limited mobility. Bath chairs:

- Improve your safety
- Help you maintain good hygiene
- Make you feel more independent and empowered
- Improve the quality of your life

Source: All Terrain Medical

How is a bath bench different from a bath chair?

Bath or shower chairs can be removed from the shower or bathtub. A bath bench eliminates the challenge of stepping in or out of the bathtub. Benches are recommended for individuals with poor balance or for those who struggle getting into and out of the bathtub or shower.

Source: Right at Home

Bath Bench



Welcome to the Team!

Zoey Jensen
Allison Ferrell
Whitney Nash
Amanda Watson
Michelle Shelton
Tabitha Martinez
Ashley Yates

Bedford CCA
Independent Support Coordination
Early Intervention
Lincoln CCA
Marshall CCA
Lincoln CCA
Early Intervention

February 3
February 10
February 10
February 19
February 24
March 3
March 17

Staff Spotlight

Learn all about Early Interventionist, Mandy Kellar!

1. What is the best book/movie/TV show you have ever read/watched?

I love old television shows! I enjoy Roseanne and King of Queens.

2. What inspired you to pursue your career path?

When I was growing up a lot of my family members were educators and I decided to choose education as my career path as well. When I was in school I had a select few teachers that I felt truly helped me and I knew that I wanted to be that person and help others. I have always loved children and have seen some of their struggles and wanted to take it to the next level outside of a classroom.

3. If you could go back to your first day at the Community Development Center and tell yourself one thing, what would it be and why?

Don't try to learn everything at once. (I always want to know everything right away)

4. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

I would love to have super speed so I would never be late!

5. What advice would you give to someone who wants to enter your job position?

I would tell them to research the things that they are unsure about and give themselves grace!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY	
Kelli Lafont	May 6
Mandy Kellar	May 12
Jayne Fuller	May 14
Zoe Jensen	May 31
Alli Crouch	June 7
Melissa Cole	June 9
Debby Halvorsen	June 10
Shena Tomlin	June 10
Michelle Shelton	June 20
Shana Taylor	June 20
Chastity Crowe	July 5
Jennifer Long	July 7
Sara Musgrove	July 14
Kayla Leitzinger	July 26

NEW!

Read All About It!

27th ANNUAL HELPING HANDS GOLF CLASSIC

The 27th Annual Helping Hands Golf Tournament will take place on Thursday, May 8th at Saddle Creek Golf Club. Proceeds will benefit both the Early Intervention program and the Children's Center for Autism in Marshall County. Thank you to all of our 2025 sponsors for supporting the children of Marshall County!



Contact Us

Children's Center for Autism: (931) 684-2293
Early Intervention: (931) 684-9203
Community & Employment Services: (931) 684-4269
Family Support: (931) 684-7673
Independent Support Coordination: (931) 680-0094
Main Office: (931) 684-8681



Community Rewards Program



<https://www.instagram.com/communitydevelopmentcenter/>



<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityDevelopmentCenter>



<http://www.cdctn.org>



<http://givingmatters.civcore.org>



United Way of South Central Tennessee

HAPPY Anniversary DAY

May

Cassidy Wiseman

Independent Support Coordination

4 years

July

Shana Taylor

Early Intervention

2 years

Dani Dorey

Early Intervention

3 years

Jennifer Long

Early Intervention

4 years

Tela Warren

Early Intervention

1 year

Becky Jamison

Early Intervention

17 years

Anita Teague

Administration

12 years

Wendy Walleman

Lincoln CCA

1 year