

KIDSLINK-UP



KidsLink
Neurobehavioral Center

A newsletter for families of KidsLink Neurobehavioral Center
8054 Darrow Road, Bldg D, Suite 5
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087
P: 330.963.8600 F: 330.963.8680
www.kidslinkohio.com

January, 2009
Volume 2, Issue 1

Young Adult Group

KidsLink Neurobehavioral Center is proud to announce the start of a social group for Young Adults with High Functioning Autism or Asperger's Disorder.

All too often, services for children with ASD come to a screeching halt when they graduate high school. We have developed a "Young Adult" program to begin addressing the unique needs of this age group. Our focus will be on helping increase social opportunities and improving relationship skills, while giving a forum to discuss issues such as interviewing skills, managing personal finances, improving relationships with co-workers, building healthy romantic relationships, etc.. "We are very excited to increase our services for this age group. In developing the program we have

tried to address two areas of need: creating successful social experiences and processing important issues during this stage of life."

The group, directed by Michelle DePolo, Psy.D. and co-facilitated by doctoral candidate in clinical psychology, Rob Dempster, will be meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information about the program please visit our website at www.kidslinkohio.com.



Congratulations to Kelle and Joe DeBoth who welcomed Elijah Joseph DeBoth into the world on Friday, January 23rd.

Elijah weighed in just under 9 lbs. and 21 inches long. Mom and son are doing well. Kelle is an occupational therapist at KidsLink.

Welcome Heather Williams, BCBA

We are pleased to announce that Heather Williams, BCBA, has recently joined KidsLink to expand our ABA Therapy program. Heather has worked with children with Autism and their families for the past 9 years in various capacities including ABA/AVB tutor and consultant. She was previously the Assistant Director and consultant at STEPS Behavioral Consulting. Heather's ABA skills include the foundations of ABA and behavior management, the proper use of reinforcement, conducting assessment with the use of the ABLLS (Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills), AVB, Errorless teaching, Teach me language, and behavior modification. Heather received a Bachelor of Science in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Alabama and a Master of Science in Psychology from Jacksonville State University.

Spring Programs are blooming

Discovery Club

A social and life skills program for children with Autism or Cognitive Disabilities

TWO SESSIONS:

SPRING BREAK!! MARCH 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th

Wednesday evenings: April 22nd, 29th, May 6th, & May 13th

Facilitated by Beth Lattime, M. Ed., Discovery Club will assist participants in learning basic life and social skills to thrive among their peers, family members, and as a contributing member within their communities. Curriculum is designed to assist children with limited language and difficulty using language appropriately.

Curriculum includes:

- Strategies to improve turn taking behavior
- Practice using appropriate functional verbal and nonverbal communication
- Age appropriate crafts and games
- Activities to understand feelings and emotions
- Appropriate snack time behavior
- Interaction with same age peers and adults
- Practice of common home and school based routines to improve independence.

Beth is an Intervention Specialist with a wide range of experience with children and teens with developmental disabilities. Assisting Beth is Pam Venditti who has over 13 years of experience assisting children, teens, and adults with learning disabilities and severe behavioral disabilities both within classroom and community based environments.

C.A.L.M. Kids

Calming your Anxiety and Lifting your Mood

Facilitated by Michelle DePolo, Psy.D., pediatric psychologist, C.A.L.M. Kids is a program designed to build resilience from and lessen feelings of anxiety and depression. The next session begins March 7th for Middle Childhood (ages 8-12) and Early Adolescent (ages 12 – 15) children. Groups are limited to a maximum of 4-5 children per group.

Speech Communication Groups

For children diagnosed with expressive and/or pragmatic language disorders as well as those who need the support of a structured social skills program.

Led by Jocelyn Mills, MA CCC/SLP, a licensed speech and language pathologist, this program is designed for children ages 3 -13 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, developmental delays or with other diagnoses impacting verbal and

non-verbal social communication.

- Designed to stimulate and enhance verbal and non-verbal social communication skills
- Designed to enhance social skills and social engagement between children of similar ages
- Designed to facilitate the learning and practice of these communication skills in a fun and positive group environment
- Designed to have a maximum of 5 children per group (child to provider ration will be 4-5:1)
- Provided using a therapeutic model that encompasses behavioral management, verbal behavior, and is balanced according to each child's individual needs to include a combination of therapist driven activities and child initiated activities

Children will be grouped with similar-aged peers who have similar communication/pragmatic treatment goals

For detailed information on these programs and more or to register please visit our website at www.kidslinkohio.com or call our office at 330.963.8600