

KIDSLINK-UP



KidsLink
Neurobehavioral Center

A newsletter for families of KidsLink Neurobehavioral Center
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New services available at Kidslink

KidsLink continues to add providers and services that allow us to address the total needs of children and young adults with neurological and psychological diagnoses.

VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Jaina Blackford, M.Ed. is a licensed Intervention Specialist K-12 and directs vocational and transition services at KidsLink. She completed her Masters degree in Special Education Mild to Moderate at Cleveland State University. Ms. Blackford has also completed course work leading to licensure in Transition to Work at Kent State University. Ms. Blackford has worked in the area of behavioral management of children and young adults with autism for the past 12 years in the science of Applied Behavioral Analysis. She has also worked at the Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism as the Educational Service Coordinator for the school and vocational program. She is currently the Transition/Work Study Coordinator for the Geauga County Educational Service Center, serving as the administrator for all high school transition programs. Her passion is to provide vocational and transitional services for young adults with a variety of developmental disabilities. She is active in her community and also speaks frequently at national and local conferences.

Vocational Services include:

Parent, School, Employment Setting Consultation

Vocational & Transition Assessments: direct school & work observation, environmental job analysis, and vocational & transition assessment

Life Skills Training; personal hygiene & dressing, domestic skill training, and clerical skill training

Employability Skills: Job coaching supports, resume portfolio, job searching skills, and in-house prevocational skills

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Christine Sanchez, PT is a licensed physical therapist who has 25 years experience in pediatrics. She graduated from the University of Central Arkansas. Christine has worked for New Orleans Children's Hospital, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Akron Children's Hospital, Louisiana State University Medical School Human Development Center, metro area Cleveland school districts, Early Intervention Services in New Orleans and Atlanta, and she has had private practices in New Orleans and Atlanta. Children served by Christine have ranged in age from birth to 21 years and have had a wide range of diagnoses. Professional experience includes development of physical therapy protocol for Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy Program for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and physical therapy consultant to Spasticity Clinic at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta for over 10 years. Christine has extensive experience in working with children with neuromotor involvement. Christine is Neuro-developmental Treatment (NDT) trained and has had multiple continuing education courses addressing sensory processing dysfunction. In the last 7 years her continuing education and practice has shifted to an increased emphasis of service to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Christine supports an integrated family centered team approach to intervention. She utilizes evidenced based intervention strategies with an emphasis on development of functional mobility skills that are meaningful to the child and family. Her overall goal of service is to improve the quality of life and independence of the children she serves. Christine has lived in the Cleveland/Akron area for the last 7 years. She is married with 2 children.

continued

New Services continued

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

Karen Burk Paull, Ph.D. is a neurologist who recently joined KidsLink. Neuropsychology is the branch of psychology that studies the relationship between the structure and function of the brain as it is related to mental functions, such as behavior, language, memory and perception. Neuropsychologists view the brain from both a cognitive psychology and cognitive science perspective. Neuropsychology testing is a set of comprehensive tests that look at the strengths and weaknesses of each portion of the structural and functional components of an individual's brain. Plans and adaptations can then be suggested to use an individual's strengths to help compensate for any deficits. The testing can be helpful in treatment planning for individual's with many different diagnoses, including ADHD, specific learning disabilities, seizures, deafness, and traumatic brain injury among others. Dr. Paull has unique experience working with children who are deaf. In addition she can do evaluations for individuals with Learning Disabilities, TBI, Seizures, and Metabolic Disorders.

To schedule or for fee information please contact KidsLink at 330-963-8600 or visit our website at www.kidslinkohio.com.



Spotlight

Michael Hobson is a student in the automotive specialization class taught by Gary Reynolds at the Hudson Middle School garage. Students help fix and clean bikes for the Bob's Bike program in cooperation with the rotary Club of Hudson. Club members pick up donated used bicycles and bring them to the garage for the students to evaluate and repair. Approximately 125 bicycles have been given away since July 2006. NBC Nightly News will be featuring this story as part of their "Making a Difference" segment. KidsLink congratulates Michael for his contribution to this program.

Kidslink Together

Join us for the first parent mingle at KidsLink.

When: Thursday, November 5th

Time: 7:30 to 8:30 PM

Who: Parents and caregivers touched by autism

A time for parents and caregivers to mingle with other families and gain support from one another. We will meet the first Thursday of every month at KidsLink. Occasionally there will be guest speakers that we will announce prior.

RSVP to Kristin to let us know you will be there!

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 for children diagnosed with Asperger's Disorder or High Functioning Autism. This program targets symptoms of anxiety and depression for Middle Childhood (ages 8-12) and Early Adolescent (ages 12 – 15). C.A.L.M. Kids begins November 10th. If interested, please contact us soon as there is limited space.

Social Communication Groups

Facilitated by Jocelyn Mills, speech language pathologist, our Social Communication Groups are for children diagnosed with expressive and/or pragmatic language disorders as well as those who need the support of a structured social skills program. This program promotes social communication skills for children ages 3 to 13. Groups meet for 1 hour for a 6-week program. The next session begins Dec. 5th.

Applications for these programs can be found on our website at www.kidslinkohio.com.

Friday Night Fun

Designed for teens age 12 to 18 with Asperger's Syndrome. Activities are facilitated by Beth Lattime, licensed intervention specialist with expertise in recreation and education for adolescents. Come join us for some fun activities while making new friends in a safe and supportive group! Cost is \$40.

- November 20th: Give Thanks/Holiday Kickoff Party @ KidsLink
- January 8th: Swimming Party at LifeCenter Plus

To sign up or for more information at 330.963.8600

please call us