

Parent News



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What is a Parent Mentor?

A parent mentor is a parent of a special needs child who works to support the relationship between the family of a child with a disability and the school. Parent mentors provide information and support to families about educational issues, provides social opportunities for students, attends IEP meetings (if requested) organizes workshops and trainings and builds relationships between family, student, school and community. All parent mentor services of free of charge.

Lending Library

Our Lending Library has many resources that parents and educators may use free of charge. Some of these items include: physical therapy, sensory, adaptive items and educational toys such as building blocks, gear sets and puzzles. In addition, there are computer software, CDs, DVDs and books on various topics in child development, special education and family support. To see all the items available in the Lending Library visit the Mercer County ESC website, www.mercercountyesc.org or visit the Mercer County Educational Service Center. If you would like to sign out any of the items, please contact Nancy Davis at 419-586-6628 or nancy.davis@mercercountyesc.org. Nancy will pull the items from the Lending Library and have them available for you to pick up. You may borrow the items for two weeks and the items should be returned to the Mercer County ESC. For more expensive items, you may be required to show a driver's license.

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THIS is how EVERY IEP meeting should start!!!!

WWW.AUTISMWARENESSHOP.ORG

BEFORE WE BEGIN THIS IEP MEETING, I JUST WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO TELL YOU HOW AMAZING YOUR CHILD IS. WE'RE GOING TO TALK A LOT TODAY ABOUT ALL OF THE THINGS YOUR CHILD CAN'T DO BUT I NEED YOU TO KNOW THAT HE IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THE SUM OF HIS DEFICITS. YOUR CHILD HAS HIS OWN PERSONALITY WITH UNIQUE STRENGTHS AND INTERESTS THAT MAKE HIM SUCH AN AWESOME LITTLE GUY. IF WE HAD MORE TIME I WOULD LOVE TO SIT DOWN WITH YOU OVER COFFEE AND CHAT ABOUT ALL THE PRECIOUS MOMENTS THAT I HAVE SHARED WITH HIM. BUT TODAY IS FOR HELPING HIM. SO YES, WE ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON WHAT HE CAN'T DO, BUT THAT IS ONLY TO MAKE SURE THAT HE HAS EXACTLY THE RIGHT SERVICES TO REACH HIS FULL POTENTIAL AND SHINE THROUGH AS THE AMAZING PERSON THAT YOU AND I KNOW HIM TO BE!!!

ARE YOU READY TO TACKLE THIS WITH ME??

~Carrie Cecilia Clark
at www.SpeechAndLanguageKids.com

Social Opportunities



The parent mentor program of Mercer County would like to invite you and your family to several outings throughout the year for your special needs son or daughter. Some events are free of charge while other events require a fee. When a fee is involved, the Parent Mentor Program will pay for the special needs person's cost for the event. Any other family member or friend that would like to participate will need to pay their own way. Any food or refreshments that may be desired will also be the responsibility of the family. The student may not be left without supervision. Please plan to stay, participate, watch and socialize with other parents during the activity.



Please RSVP one week in advance to beth.guggenbiller@mercercountyesc.org or 419-586-6628 ext. 250.

Fall Events

Date	Time	Event/Location
Thursday November 29th	6:00-7:00 PM	Bowling at Pla Mor Lanes Coldwater OH
Tuesday, December 11th	5:30-6:30PM	Christmas Music Therapy Coldwater Library
January	To be Announced	Chef Night at Bella's Italian Grille
February	To Be Announced	Swimming at the YMCA

*Look for more information on these events, dates and times are subject to change.

School to Adult Life Transitions (S.A.L.T.)

The S.A.L.T. program was developed for parents, families and anyone working with youth (ages 14-22) with disabilities. Our goal is to connect you with information, resources, services and agencies that will be helpful as the young adult in your life moves through their "transition" years. Each month we will bring in professions or representatives to speak on issues specific to transition. The sessions will be informal, and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have while gathering information and contacts for the future. It will also be an opportunity to meet with other parents who are navigating the transition years just like you.

SALT-Teens Students are also encouraged to attend their own series, which takes place at the same time as the parents' series. Students will participate in activities that will help them prepare for the transition from school to adult life as well as enjoy social time with their peers.

All sessions are held at St. John Lutheran Church (Purple Door Church) 1100 N. Main St. Celina OH

Please note change in location and time for these sessions.

Highlighted sessions will be joint presentations with the ARC of Mercer County.

S.A.L.T. sessions are FREE and ALL are welcome

Date:	Time:	Series Topic:
Thursday Sept. 20, 2018	7:00-8:30 pm	Special Needs Planning Techniques to Help Preserve Assets <i>(Meeting in the FELLOWSHIP HALL. Enter in either door.)</i>
Thursday Oct. 18, 2018	7:00-8:30 pm	Social Security & Work Incentives Where Do I Start? <i>(Meeting in Room 106B. Enter in the EDUCATION WING door.)</i>
Thursday Nov. 15, 2018	7:00-8:30 pm	Let's Talk About the Future...Where Will My Child Live? (Parent Panel) <i>(Meeting in the FELLOWSHIP HALL. Enter in either door.)</i>
Thursday Jan. 17, 2019	7:00-8:30 pm	Guardianship 101 Are There Alternatives? <i>(Meeting in Room 106B. Enter in the EDUCATION WING door.)</i>
Thursday Feb. 21, 2019	7:00-8:30 pm	From School to Work Educational Options & Student Reflections <i>(Meeting in Room 106B. Enter in the EDUCATION WING door.)</i>
Thursday March 21, 2019	7:00-8:30 pm	ISP's and Decision Making Getting What's Important To and For Me <i>(Meeting in Room 106B. Enter in the EDUCATION WING door.)</i>
Thursday April 11, 2019	7:00-8:30 pm	ARC BANQUET Please come and enjoy an evening of community, dinner & entertainment! Coldwater Eagles
Thursday May 16, 2019	7:00-8:30 pm	No meeting or Add meeting?

Trainings are brought to you through a collaboration of the Mercer County Board of DD and Mercer County Educational Service Center

Questions? Contact Karen Leugers, Transition/SALT Coordinator Email: kleugers@mercercdd.org 567-890-0264

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

<https://www.facebook.com/parent.mentor.mercercounty/>



What is the difference between
Accommodation and Modification?

Taken from www.Understood.org

Accommodations change how a student learns the material. A modification changes what a student is taught or expected to learn. Here are examples to help explain the difference between them:

	Accommodations	Modifications
Classroom Instruction	Accommodations can help kids learn the same material and meet the same expectations as their classmates. If a student has reading issues, for example, she might listen to an audio recording of a text. There are different types of classroom accommodations, including presentation (like listening to an audio recording of a text) and setting (like where a child sits).	Kids who are far behind their peers may need changes, or modifications , to the curriculum. For example, a student could be assigned shorter or easier reading assignments. Kids who receive modifications are not expected to learn the same material as their classmates.
Classroom Tests	Testing accommodations can be different from those used for instruction. For example, using a spell-checker might help a student with writing difficulties take notes during class but wouldn't be appropriate during a weekly spelling test. However, this student might benefit from having extra time to complete the spelling test or using typing technology if the physical act of writing is difficult.	Modifications in testing often involve requiring a student to cover less material or material that is less complex. For example, in the case of the spelling test, if the class was given 20 words to study, the student with modifications might only have to study 10 of them. Or she might have a completely different list of words. With modification, what the student is tested on is different.
Standardized Testing	Statewide assessments allow certain accommodations like extra time or taking a computerized exam. Ideally these are the same accommodations a child uses to take class test.	Some students take an "alternate assessment" of their statewide test, which includes modifications to the regular test. The questions in this type of alternate assessment might not cover the same materials as the standard exams. Also, the results would be interpreted differently. Before you agree to an alternate assessment, find out how the results will be interpreted and what (if any) implications there will be for your child.
Gym, music And art class	Accommodations for "special" classes like gym, music and art can be helpful. These are similar to accommodations for classroom instruction. Kids might get extra time to complete assignments or be allowed to complete them in a different format.	If the school believes that an assignment within a class like gym, music or art is unreasonable for your child, modifications to that assignment are made. The gym teacher might modify the number of laps a student needs to run; the music teacher might not require a child to participate in the final performance. In some cases, students are even excused from certain classes in order to make time for one-on-one time with a specialist.

In Our Area:

GRAND LAKE SKATE U.S.A.
2600 CELINA RD. ST.MARYS, OHIO

SENSORY FRIENDLY SKATE!!

NO LOUD MUSIC OR FLASHING LIGHTS. WHEELCHAIRS WELCOMED
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE!!!

DECEMBER 8TH 9:30am-11:30am

\$5.00 ADMISSION SKATE RENTAL INCLUDED!!
* SIBLINGS WELCOMED TO JOIN!!*

JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED MORNING OF SKATING,
DANCING, AND GAMES ON AND OFF SKATES!

SENSORY FRIENDLY SKATE DATES!!
JAN 12TH, FEB 9TH, MARCH 9TH,
APRIL 13TH MAY 11TH

PosterMyWall.com

AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

When: 2nd Tuesday of every month except June, July, Aug. and Dec.

Where: Lima Community Church
Journey building
2945 N Cole St, Lima,

Time: 6pm-7:30 p.m.

Parents, professionals and caregivers of people with Autism, we invite you to join us! We'll share the successes and challenges of supporting individuals with Autism in a caring and support driven group.

Look for us on Facebook at Autism Life Center.



Support Group hosted and sponsored by:
Autism Life Center
Phone: 567-825-8921, email: autismlifecenter@gmail.com

Sensory Sensitive Sundays

We open 2 hours early on the first Sunday of every month, specifically for children with autism and other special needs.

- Reduced lighting and noise
- Food and games offered
- Trained and caring staff



Sensory Friendly Performances The Nutcracker and Sleeping Beauty



Schuster Center

Dayton Ballet is pleased to offer sensory-friendly performances designed especially for children and adults with autism spectrum disorder, sensory sensitivities or other special needs.

What makes these performances sensory-friendly?

- Dimmed house lights (30% brightness during performance)
- Lower sound level
- Elimination of startling special effects and lighting.
- Relaxed theater rules-freedom to get up, move around and come and go as you desire.
- Designated quiet areas
- Ushers available throughout the Schuster Center to assist patrons
- Trained and informed dancers, staff, ushers and other volunteers to ensure a memorable experience for you and your family.

The Nutcracker:
Thursday, December 20, 2018 2:00 PM

Sleeping Beauty; The Story of Briar Rose:
Saturday April 13th 2019 2:00 PM

