



Upcoming Events

Edinburgh: April 18th, 8:45 am **Behavior Workshop: Functions of Behavior** This workshop presented by Jordan Banks, BCaBA will focus on identifying the reason why behaviors occur and how we can use that knowledge to promote appropriate behavior.

Greenwood: April 25th, 8:45 am **Tips & Tricks for Building Language Skills using Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)** This presentation will go through evidence-based strategies and best practices to foster language skills specifically for children using alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) devices.

Greenwood: Saturday June 8th, 9 am - 3 pm **Pathways to Hope Autism Conference** This event will explore medical topics often experienced in children with autism, such as: allergies, constipation, picky eating, sleep difficulties, and frequent illness. Each hour features two presentations to choose from, free resources, and a vendor area. Follow our Facebook event page for updates! www.facebook.com/biomedCAC. Registration is available online at: getmeregistered.com/BiomedforAutism.

All centers will be closed Monday, May 27th for Memorial Day as well as Thursday, July 4th and Friday, July 5th for Independence Day.



Meet Destiny

Therapist



What is the most memorable vacation you've taken?

My favorite vacation was going down to Tennessee with my family. We explored caves, the Smokey Mountains, and new restaurants around the towns of Pigeon Forge.

Who inspires you?

I am always inspired by SO many others to be the best I can be and find joy in all areas of my life. I believe that I can always be better than I was yesterday.

What's something you really enjoy doing with your clients?

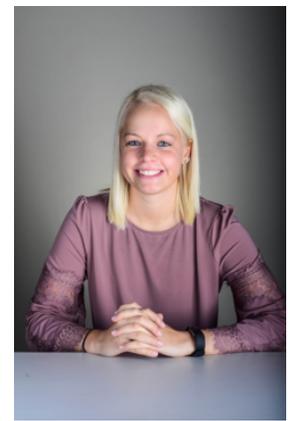
I love playing games outside on the playground and being silly. Encouraging their imagination makes my job the best job ever! I also love witnessing the growth in each child I work with. Each one has a special place in my heart!

What's your favorite memory so far at Cornerstone?

I will never forget, one day my client did their worksheet all on their own and when I praised them, they said, "You're an awesome teacher!" then gave me a high five!

Meet Samantha

Therapist



What do you like to do in your free time?

I played basketball for 14 years. Whenever I have the chance, I love to shoot around or join a pickup game. I also really enjoy going for walks with friends.

What led you to work in this field?

In high school I had the opportunity to work with a student on the autism spectrum. I immediately had a connection with him and that's what sparked my interest. Since then I've been a counselor at two camps for children with autism, and I was a student teacher in a developmental preschool.

What's something you really enjoy doing with your clients?

My favorite activity to do with clients is to either jump on the trampoline or read a story.

What's your favorite memory so far at Cornerstone?

My favorite memory at Cornerstone would have been at Halloween this past year. I asked my client's parent in advance what they were going to be. I was able to find an outfit to match. The look of excitement on their face when they saw I was matching was priceless!

Around the Centers

Our Edinburgh center recently received two donated car seats from [Dorel Juvenile](#), located in Columbus, Indiana. According to their website, their mission is to help families live carefree lives by providing them with juvenile products that rank highest in consumer reviews.

The Edinburgh staff will be using the car seats to practice various programs that could model different struggles families are seeing in their own cars. We hope this will help to improve safety for client transportation to and from their homes. Individualized client programs may include sitting in a car seat for short intervals of time, sitting in a car seat without unbuckling the seat belt, and a desensitization program for getting used to the feel of wearing a seat belt.

If your child is a client at either of our Edinburgh or Polk locations and your family is interested in implementing programs to help your child with car seat safety, please reach out to your child's Lead or BCBA.



Indiana Disability Resource Finder



The [AWS Foundation](#) has recently announced the [Indiana Disability Resource Finder](#), a directory of services, programs and helpful articles for the disability community. The website guides users step by step to a comprehensive range of community resources designed to improve their quality of life. Topics range from basic needs and advocacy to financial assistance and family support.

Service providers, community advocates and medical professionals regularly contribute to the website, keeping the information current, relevant and practical. The Indiana Disability Resource Finder supports the right for people of all abilities to freely choose how they wish to live their lives to the fullest. To access the Finder, or to learn more, visit www.indianadisabilityresourcefinder.org.

Grant Funding Opportunities

Families often search for funding for items and services to benefit their children, including iPads and other technology, safety tools, training, and support. This article from the IRCA ([Indiana Resource Center for Autism](#)) outlines grants available nationally, statewide, and through private local community organizations for families and other groups. Listings are divided into four specific areas of need: Crisis & Health Services, Therapy or Educational Services & Related Products, Technology, and Training.

According to the IRCA, "writing a grant may seem overwhelming, but it can be done! Start by reading through, gathering, and organizing all the information needed to submit the grant. An application typically asks applicants for the goals, outcomes, objectives, measures, and evaluations of the project or services the grant will help fund. A detailed projected budget is usually very important, and in some cases, a family may need to provide their tax return to prove eligibility."

Access the full article at this link: <https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/pages/grant-funding-opportunities>.



Sesame Street Introduces New Resources

In honor of Autism Awareness Month, Sesame Street is expanding the role of one of their characters, and introducing her family to the world. Julia, the first Muppet with autism to appear on the show, made her debut on Sesame Street in 2017.

According to Elmo, "Julia has autism. And that makes Julia different... But it's really cool that everybody's a little bit

different but same, too. And Elmo and Julia have a lot in common, and we have a lot of fun together."

Sherrie Westin, president of global impact and philanthropy at Sesame Workshop, said in a statement: "We're thrilled to expand Julia's world with her parents, big brother, and her adorable dog, Rose, in our new resources."

The "Sesame Street and Autism: See Amazing In All Children" website includes videos, interactives, and storybooks for kids as well as parent videos and informational articles. Find Sesame Street's free resources for families at Sesamestreet.org/autism.

Spring Scavenger Hunt



Now that spring is finally here, it's a great time to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. hunt from [Wondermom Wannabe](#) is a fun way to motivate kids to get out and explore. The list is full of items children can find around their neighborhood, such as puddles, flowers, clouds and insects. Simply search for the items on the list and check them off as you find them. Kids could also take pictures of the items with a smartphone or iPad, use the checklist as a fun road trip activity for traveling, or practice labeling these items in their natural environment.

Download your free printable spring scavenger hunt here: wondermomwannabe.com/printable-spring-savenger-hunt/.



Have an idea for the newsletter? Contact Sheila Edwards: sedwards@cornerstoneautismcenter.com.



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