

2011

# CONNECTIONS



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*We Can Accomplish More*

## "Together" is the theme for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2011

The Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities and other related organizations celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March and invite you to consider the true meaning of this year's theme, "**together**."

Statewide, and across the nation, organizations devoted to serving individuals with developmental disabilities are planning special events in March to raise public awareness of the many abilities people have, regardless of the disability. "Together" encourages people to understand that when people with disabilities are welcomed into local neighborhoods, workplaces, houses of worship, and schools everyone wins.

"This is a time when our organization focuses on encouraging the public to better understand the individuals we serve," said Superintendent Laura Zureich.

"During 'Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month', we encourage the public to learn more about the people in this community who have developmental disabilities and to recognize that all of us have talents and abilities that we can offer to make this a better place to live. '**together**' we can accomplish **more**."

## Early Intervention—Wee School



Emmalee wasn't able to say many words clearly and was rarely putting two words together even though she was about 2 ½ years old. Emmalee has been coming to Wee School for about 8 months with her Mom, Nikki, and she has made great progress with her speech. *"She says many words clearly and talks in sentences now! I know this is possible with what we have been taught by Alison, the Speech Therapist, at Wee School."* says Nikki, Emmalee's mom.



Emma, now 17 months, explores the Early Intervention classroom at Wee School. She has just learned to walk independently and her Mom tries to keep up with the curious Emma! Linda, Emma's mom, reports that although it is only Emma's first year at Wee School, she feels that the program is very good for Emma. *"They help Emma learn things and she really likes Roxanne."* Roxanne is one of the Early Intervention Specialists among the staff that work with Emma and other children in the Early Intervention program Wee School.



Emily, 18 mo., has been attending Wee School with Mom since the age of 9 months old. While attending Wee School, Emily has made a tremendous amount of progress in very little time. Emily's mom Brandy talks about her time at Wee School, *"When the staff works with Emily, I can really see the true compassion that they have for the children and their job. I am so happy to have Wee School as a part of our lives."*



Pam, mother of Wyatt (right) and Amy, mother of Jonathan (left) talk about their experiences at Wee School: *"When we started taking our sons, Jonathan and Wyatt, to Wee School, we never imagined the benefits the program would hold for all of us. Not only have the boys become friends, but so have we. All four of us benefit from the social interaction. For the boys, it's all about the fun and playing in a relaxing home-like environment. For us moms, we get to help our sons develop skills they are behind in and have a solid support system from the other parents as well as the staff. The parents share stories and advice and truly wish the best for other children. We share the hurt and happiness parents go through. The staff is a great part of the support system. Whenever we need to talk, have questions or are worried, we can always come to the staff for answers and support."*

March 28th thru April 3rd—Spring Break No Classes

April 22nd thru April 25th—Easter Break No Classes

May 30th—Memorial Day-Closed

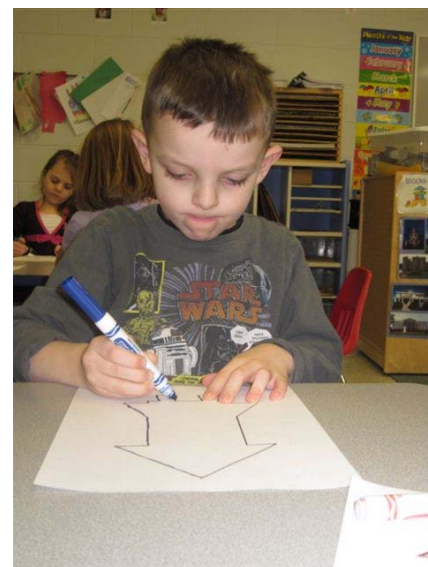
## Shelby Hills Early Childhood Center—Preschool



Ricky works with his physical therapist assistant, Jenna, in the gross motor room.



Colson is learning while having fun in his classroom.



Will from Botkins enjoys coloring in his preschool classroom.



Jack explores a task box with the help of an occupational therapist assistant.



Addie from Houston is working hard with her speech therapist.

Parent Teacher Conferences March 3rd—3:00-7:00 PM and May 13th-8:30AM-3:00PM  
March 28th thru April 3rd—Spring Break  
April 22nd thru April 25th—Easter Break No Classes  
May 26th—Students Last Day

The children at the Wilma Valentine Creative Learning Center invited a guest to join them in a Valentine's Day celebration at the Center. The children sang Valentine songs to their guests. To add to the festivities, the children and their special Valentine created heart-shaped picture frames and decorated cookies to enjoy. It was a great day for all!



Emilee chooses the stickers to put on her picture frame.



Should I add more sprinkles? Taylor and her Grandma decorate cookies.



CJ and Grandma share a fun time together!



The children sing to the guests; "I'm a Valentine for you".



Lauren and her family decorate picture frames for their photos.

## Service & Support Administration

### ENG Camp

This Camp was developed for children as a result of a need to provide fun, interactive ways to further develop their social skills and to help kids enjoy their summer while giving parents a “no-worry” day to do what they wish.



### The Team of We Can Too

Six Shelby County residents, Cassie, Denise, Debra, Aaron, Tony and Tina have recently joined the team of We Can Too, an Opportunity Center in St. Mary's that customizes spring water bottles for local businesses. WCT just recently introduced a new service, vehicle detailing, and the employees have been trained to wash, wax and clean cars, minivans and full size trucks.



## Day Services

Tommy (left) currently attends Bittersweet day services at Betty's Farm in Lima. Tom has a unique flair for choosing and blending color. He also enjoys the wood-working area cutting, sanding, assembly, and painting. He has helped create birdhouses, seasonal decorations, and garden markers.



## Transportation

The newest addition to the transportation fleet, an International Integrated CE C, was purchased to serve the growing transportation needs of people with disabilities. This vehicle was designed to accommodate the special needs of our adult clients. What sets this new vehicle apart from the rest of the fleet is an ability to transport a greater number of passengers on one vehicle. This vehicle will accommodate 12 seated passengers and has 5 positions for passengers that utilize wheelchairs. The good news – grant dollars helped to purchase a portion of the vehicle!



### “Shift Into Gear & Change it Up” Program

This program was started by Jennie Sanford, SCBDD Transportation, who distributed small tins shaped like school buses throughout SCBDD offices to allow people to donate their spare change throughout the year. Spare change from the tins and larger individual donations totaled \$700 but combined with the ITW/Hobart Brother's Co. employee match program, the 2010 total came to \$2,800.00. The transportation staff then took a vote to decide which SCBDD Program would receive the donation and presented it to People First, a self-advocate group, on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>.



## S&H Products



Volunteer art teacher, Donna Ruble, assists Nicole with a bowl she created in the Art Program offered at S & H Products. Gateway Arts Council gallery will be featuring Nicole's work and other S&H creations in April.



The S&H art program has gone 3-D. Melissa takes full advantage of these classes by creating a flower pot to welcome Spring.



S&H Products operates a 32,000 square foot facility on the west end of Sidney. Employees can earn a paycheck while performing meaningful work and developing job skills. Above Nina demonstrates her expertise on the shrink wrap machine.



S&H Product's capable work force and professional production teams have reduced overhead costs for many local companies. In this photo, Craig packages pole wrap for Kenakore, reducing both space and storage requirements for Kenakore.

## S&H Products



Some individuals who attend S&H do not have a primary goal of work but prefer to focus their energies in areas of self-help, sensory stimulation, socialization and daily living skills. Cheryl and staff member Lee enjoy a skill building game in the transition room.



There are so many good reasons to exercise so it is no wonder the exercise room at S&H is a busy place. Jay demonstrates the exercise bike he uses every day.



S&H provides a computer learning center with multiple adaptations so individuals with differing abilities can utilize and enjoy computers. Grant quickly masters new applications.



The S&H Production floor is busy so employees are taking advantage of the opportunity to try many job options. Matt boxes parts for Everyday Technologies, a long time customer.

Jim likes to clean for the Shelby County Board of DD and is very good at it. Since Jim started cleaning light fixtures and door handles to eliminate germs, cold and flu season has affected less staff members.



## Friday Night Out



The ARC offers Friday Night Out, a three-hour respite service for adults with disabilities, once a month. Participants have the opportunity to interact and hone their social skills. Activities are fun but structured and supper is served. Trained assistants meet the needs of the participants who require personal care and assistance.



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For a calendar of events please visit our website at: [WWW.SHELBYDD.ORG](http://WWW.SHELBYDD.ORG)

To receive our newsletter or other correspondence electronically, please e-mail us at:  
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