



## Calendar

| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1<br>Winter Week 1<br>Cooking: All About the kitchen and kitchen safety | 2<br>Winter Week 1<br>Cooking: All About the kitchen and kitchen safety | 3<br>Winter Week 1<br>Cooking: All About the kitchen and kitchen safety | 4<br>Winter Week 1<br>Cooking: All About the kitchen and kitchen safety | 5<br>Winter Week 1<br>Cooking: All About the kitchen and kitchen safety |
| 8<br>Winter Week 2<br>Cooking: Cooking Breakfast                        | 9<br>Winter Week 2<br>Cooking: Cooking Breakfast                        | 10<br>Winter Week 2<br>Cooking: Cooking Breakfast                       | 11<br>Winter Week 2<br>Cooking: Cooking Breakfast                       | 12<br>Winter Week 2<br>Cooking: Cooking Breakfast                       |
| 15<br>Disney Week 1<br>Cooking: Cooking Lunch                           | 16<br>Disney Week 1<br>Cooking: Cooking Lunch                           | 17<br>Disney Week 1<br>Cooking: Cooking Lunch                           | 18<br>Disney Week 1<br>Cooking: Cooking Lunch                           | 19<br>Disney Week 1<br>Cooking: Cooking Lunch                           |
| 22<br>Disney Week 2<br>Cooking: Cooking Dinner                          | 23<br>Disney Week 2<br>Cooking: Cooking Dinner                          | 24<br>Disney Week 2<br>Cooking: Cooking Dinner                          | 25<br>Disney Week 2<br>Cooking: Cooking Dinner                          | 26<br>Disney Week 2<br>Cooking: Cooking Dinner                          |
| 29<br>Dinosaurs Week 1<br>Road Travel: Cars and Trains                  | 30<br>Dinosaurs Week 1<br>Road Travel: Cars and Trains                  | 31<br>Dinosaurs Week 1<br>Road Travel: Cars and Trains                  | 1<br>Dinosaurs Week 1<br>Road Travel: Cars and Trains                   | 2<br>Dinosaurs Week 1<br>Road Travel: Cars and Trains                   |

## Classroom Skills

### Winter Week 1:

Letter: Vv Shape: Pentagon Color: Brown  
 Preschool: Learning to participate in songs and rhymes  
 School age: Learning relationships between illustration and text, similarities and differences in shapes, opening and closing boxes, and ice and snow

### Winter Week 2:

Letter: Ww Shape: Octagon Color: Black  
 Preschool: Learning to participate in word games/finger play  
 School age: How to isolate/pronounce CVC words, model shapes by drawing, follow 1-2 component instructions, and ice and snow

### Disney Week 1:

Letter: Xx Shape: Hexagon Color: Grey  
 Preschool: Learning how to anticipate next steps in familiar games/routines  
 School age: Learning about double word meanings, composing larger shapes from smaller shapes, looking when your name is called, and animals in winter

### Disney Week 2:

Letter: Yy Shape: Trapezoid Color: Silver  
 Preschool: Learning about body part awareness  
 School age: Learning to express opinions of texts, understand 10 frames, identify and greet peers, and animals in winter

### Dinosaurs Week 1:

Letter: Zz Shape: Star Color: Gold  
 Preschool: Learning to respond to familiar requests  
 School age: Learning about writing opinion pieces, naming numbers 1-2, naming the teacher and obtaining their attention, and all about ramps

## Life Skills

This month, our life skills group will be learning about cooking and travel.

### Week 1

1/2-1/5: All about the kitchen and kitchen safety

### Week 2

1/8-1/12: Cooking breakfast

### Week 3

1/15-1/19: Cooking lunch

### Week 4

1/22-1/26: Cooking dinner

### Week 5

1/29-2/2: Cars and Trains



## Spotlight



### The Mission – “Helping children with autism and supporting their families”

Karen and Steve Blake founded the Autism Education and Therapy Center (Autism ETC) to help children and their families affected by Autism after their son was diagnosed at age 2. Here is Karen’s story:

As a Speech and Language Pathologist, I realized Matthew was not meeting many of his milestones when he was very young. I took him to be tested and that’s when he was diagnosed. In terms of treatment centers for ASD, Atlanta was way ahead of the national curve, and we enrolled him in a private Applied Behavior Analysis preschool program. He started making substantial progress.

Matthew was 4 when Steve and I moved to Nashville in 2005. I started looking for a center-based program comparable to the one Matthew had been attended. I quickly learned I wasn’t alone. Often times, insurance didn’t cover ABA therapy. We formed the Autism Foundation of Tennessee as a non-profit to help families offset the cost of services.

In 2009, we opened a second location in Clarksville as well as started a summer camp for children with Autism.

As we continued to flourish, I saw the need to hire someone who had the experience to manage our unprecedented growth. In 2011, Rhonda Manous was hired to manage all business operations and soon assumed the Executive Director position.

Three years later, with the passage of the Affordable Care Act, many commercial insurance plans started covering ABA services.

Fast forward to 2019, when Tennessee mandated insurance coverage for ABA services. As a result, the Autism Foundation of Tennessee shifted to an occupational training center for young adults with Autism and Autism ETC was born. We opened a therapy center in Clarksville in 2019 and opened our Nashville location a year later. We eventually expanded to Glendale, Arizona.

It’s hard to believe how far we have come since 2006. For many years, we struggled to find just one BCBA. Today, we have 24 BCBA’s and approximately 100 RBT’s working with “our kids”. We are the premier provider of ABA services due to our team approach to each child’s success and our state-of-the-art centers complete with classrooms, gym, playground, and private therapy rooms. Rhonda Manous and I continue to work diligently to hire only the best BCBA’s and RBT’s and to offer them customized, on-going training.

**Read the full  
story here:**



Stay Connected!



## Congrats!

### Recently Promoted:



**Brooke Tiemann, BCBA**  
Music Valley



**Ashton Kirkup BCBA**  
Music Valley



**Sara Pommer BCBA**  
Professional Park



**D'Anna Hasik BCBA**  
Professional Park

### Welcome our new team members:



**Karissa Whiteman**  
Harnett Court



**Claire Simmons**  
Music Valley