



BIG NEWS!



We're adding another location! Autism ETC is planning to open a Murfreesboro location on April 29th, which happens to be our founder, Karen Blake's, birthday.

Autism ETC will be located at 640 Broadmor Street, Suite 80, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

We're excited to open our 5th location, and can't wait to start serving kids in Rutherford County!

Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 Eric Carle – Week 1 Vocational Skills: Clerical Skills	27 Eric Carle – Week 1 Vocational Skills: Clerical Skills	28 Eric Carle – Week 1 Vocational Skills: Clerical Skills	29 Eric Carle – Week 1 Vocational Skills: Clerical Skills	1 Eric Carle – Week 1 Vocational Skills: Clerical Skills
4 Eric Carle – Week 2 Vocational Skills: Custodial Skills	5 Eric Carle – Week 2 Vocational Skills: Custodial Skills	6 Eric Carle – Week 2 Vocational Skills: Custodial Skills	7 Eric Carle – Week 2 Vocational Skills: Custodial Skills	8 Eric Carle – Week 2 Vocational Skills: Custodial Skills
11 Superheroes Vocational Skills: Retail Skills	12 Superheroes Vocational Skills: Retail Skills	13 Superheroes Vocational Skills: Retail Skills	14 Superheroes Vocational Skills: Retail Skills	15 Superheroes Vocational Skills: Retail Skills
18 Spring – Week 1 Vocational Skills: Food Service Skills	19 Spring – Week 1 Vocational Skills: Food Service Skills	20 Spring – Week 1 Vocational Skills: Food Service Skills	21 Spring – Week 1 Vocational Skills: Food Service Skills	22 Spring – Week 1 Vocational Skills: Food Service Skills
25 Spring – Week 2 Daily Living: Personal Hygiene and Care	26 Spring – Week 2 Daily Living: Personal Hygiene and Care	27 Spring – Week 2 Daily Living: Personal Hygiene and Care	28 Spring – Week 2 Daily Living: Personal Hygiene and Care	29 Spring – Week 2 Daily Living: Personal Hygiene and Care



Classroom Skills

Week 1: Eric Carle

Letter: Dd Shape: Square Color: Green

Preschool: Answering basic questions about books

School age: Identifying authors, counting to 20 in multiple arrays, putting personal items away independently, all about magnets

Week 2: Eric Carle

Letter: Ee Shape: Triangle Color: Blue

Preschool: Using our body movements to communicate with others

School age: Sequencing, greater than/lesser than/equal to, sitting appropriately for large group instructions, and all about magnets

Week 3: Superheroes Week

Letter: Ff Shape: Diamond Color: Purple

Preschool: Learning to point to items

School age: Question words, addition within five, transitioning between activities, and force and motion

Week 4: Spring

Letter: Gg Shape: Heart Color: Pink

Preschool: Demonstrating actions

School age: Writing our letters for letter sounds, addition within 10, participating In group movement activities, and all about butterflies

Week 5: Spring

Letter: Hh Shape: Crescent Color: White

Preschool: Learning to make eye contact with pictures

School age: Working on identifying characters in text, measuring using length, imitating group activities (objects and motions), and ponds and frogs

Life Skills

This month, our life skills group will be learning about vocational skills and daily living.

Week 1

2/26-3/1: Clerical Skills (office work)

Week 2

3/4-3/8: Custodial Skills

Week 3

3/11-3/15: Retail Skills

Week 4

3/18-3/22: Food Service Skills

Week 5

3/25-3/29: Personal Hygiene and Care

Congrats!

Recently Promoted:



Sara Ulacco
Classroom Instructor
Thunderbird



Skyler Saucedo
Senior RBT
Thunderbird

Welcome our new team members:



Molly Jenczalik
Professional Park



Julia Pratt
Music Valley



Mary Montgomery
Music Valley



Keilanie Colvin
Professional Park



Spotlight Story



March marks one year since the launch of our Social Skills Group Program at our Nashville location. The program has been successful in helping clients transition to the social world. Three families who participate in the program share the differences it has made in their lives.

Nicholas Brantley:

Nicholas' mom, Tiffany Brantley, was eager to tell Nicholas' story. As a toddler, Nicholas didn't make eye contact during conversations & struggled to understand social cues. He struggled with subtle forms of communication, like body language & personal space. While hesitant, Tiffany decided to get him tested, and at 4 years old, Nicholas was diagnosed with Autism, ADHD, and ODD.

Nicholas was going to speech, occupational, & ABA therapy, but was still having trouble making friends. His family says when they took him to the playground, he would try to take over. When the other children didn't do exactly what he wanted, Nicholas became disinterested in playing.

"He wanted to make friends and engage, but he didn't know how. As a result, he became depressed and showed signs of low self-esteem," said Tiffany.

They decided to get him re-evaluated. The results showed he had a Social Development Disorder. They knew they had to find other forms of help, so they sought out Autism ETC. In July 2023, Nicholas started attending the Social Skills Group. Now, at age 10, he has made great improvements.

Tiffany says, "We've noticed various uplifting changes, including Nicholas having a best friend, getting invitations to parties and sleepovers, being able to have two-way conversations, & glowing with self-confidence. He is learning that you must show interest in others to have friends, it's not all about you."

Tiffany says Nicholas is now the one reminding her it's time to go to the Social Skills Group.

"I would not trade this opportunity for the world because it's been an empowering positive experience for my entire family."

Carson Knight:

Prior to going to the Social Skills Group, if you asked Carson Knight how he was doing, he would simply say, "Good." He struggled expressing emotions and had a hard time making friends.

Carson started attending the Social Skills Group in June 2023, just three months after receiving his Autism diagnosis. His mother, Adoria Smith, says it's exactly what Carson needed.

"He would not understand what was going on. The only response he used was 'good' or 'okay' or he would shift the conversation to what he wanted to talk about."

Since Carson started coming to the group, he's learned to listen more and is making friends.

"Now he can tell you what his friends like and dislike. Carson thought that if a friend did not want to play with him, the child was no longer his friend. At first, he struggled to determine who was and who was not a good friend. He has learned the difference. I am so happy to see his progress."



Stay Connected!



March
2024



Brooklyn Hooks:

Brooklyn was diagnosed with Autism at just 6 years old. She started coming to Autism ETC a year later, and eventually joined the Social Skills Group at the age of 9 in June 2023.

“Brooklyn had anxiety being around groups. She had a hard time being herself, and had difficulty creating friendships because she lacked confidence,” said her mother, Lakeysha Hooks.

Since being in the Social Skills Group, Brooklyn has gained confidence, knows how to hold better conversations, and has learned how to express herself.

Lakeysha says, “She understands how to ask for space when she needs it. Brooklyn is also learning how to end conversations. I see the difference in her.”

At Autism ETC, we are excited about the impact the social skills group program has had on these kids and all the participants. If you are interested in seeing if there is an opening for your child, please contact our office at 615-376-0034.

**Read more about our
families here:**

