



# 2024 Spotlight Stories



**January**

"This work has not just been about my son or our family. It has been about all of the children and families who are affected by autism."

Karen Blake, Founder, Autism ETC



**February**

"I can't tell you how much Autism ETC has done for Isaiah. He is a completely different kid."

Corbin Collins



**March**

**1st anniversary of our Social Skills Group**

You don't have to tell him that it's time for social group, because he has his watch on and reminds you that it's time to go."

Tiffany Brantley



**March**

**1st anniversary of our Social Skills Group**

"He listens more. He's making friends. I am so happy to see his progress."



**March**

**1st anniversary of our Social Skills Group**

"I can see that Brooklyn has gained confidence. I see the difference in her."

Lakeysha Hooks



**April**

"You have to trust the process. Change is not going to happen overnight."

Samantha Vandiver



**May**

"Don't give up on it too quickly. Sometimes it takes time to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Bethany Wolford



**June**

"The parent training has been amazing and a tremendous help. Without it we would not be where we are."

The Palacios Family



**July**

"Melissa Guthrie, Zealand's BCBA, has his best interest at heart, and she understands what he needs going forward."

Nancy Wells



**August**

"Not only did Elijah improve, I began to improve. I was learning how to work with my son."

Cassandra Stove



**September**

"He is as happy each day as he is excited to see his friends and the staff that works with him."

Katrina Connell



**October**

"My initial thoughts were the people were so welcoming and that showed the passion they have for what they do. I knew we were on the right path."

Charity Reed



**November**

"I let families know it is a process, but they need to trust the process and to follow through with the recommendations they are given. I can't recommend Autism ETC enough."

Denise Kemp

Stay Connected!



## Year in Review

### Autism ETC had some big wins in 2024

- Celebrated our 5th anniversary as Autism ETC
- Opened two new locations (Murfreesboro and Glendale)
- 1st anniversary of our Social Skills Group
- 48 employees promoted
- Made a difference in the lives of so many families

We're thankful to be able to help so many kids and families just like yours and can't wait to keep doing so in 2025.



## Important Insurance Information

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we prepare for the new year, we want to remind you of the importance of notifying Autism ETC of any changes to your insurance coverage for 2025. Maintaining updated insurance information allows us to ensure uninterrupted services for your child and to prevent any unexpected issues with billing or authorizations.

If your insurance policy will be changing, or if you are considering any adjustments to your current plan, please inform us as soon as possible. This will allow us to verify coverage and process any necessary documentation in a timely manner.

You may provide updated insurance information by contacting our office at (615) 376-0034 [option 1 for English and Option 3 for Celeste Stapp] or by emailing us at [cstapp@autismetc.com](mailto:cstapp@autismetc.com).

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued partnership with Autism ETC.

Autism ETC



# Ways to Make the Holidays Smoother

The holidays can be stressful for anyone, but there are simple ways you can prepare your child for what to expect.



- Talk with your child about what to expect. Let them know what the holidays will look like and where you'll be spending it.
- Ask the host for a room where your child can go to be alone for a bit if they are overwhelmed.
- Have some of your child's favorite foods on hand.
- Don't feel pressured to make it perfect. Think about ways that can make the holidays feel special to you and your family.

## Meet Our New Staff Members!



**Zachary Jones**  
Music Valley



**Trinity Locklear**  
Professional Park



**Anthony Williams Jr.**  
Music Valley



**Karrington McKnight**  
Professional Park



**Jamia Johnson**  
Music Valley



**Keely Moore**  
Professional Park



**Renee Habibi**  
Music Valley



**Carman Hughes**  
Music Valley

## Promotions!



**Anna Daugherty**  
BCBA  
Music Valley



**Savannah Neely**  
BCBA  
Music Valley



**Lucy Hanley**  
BCBA  
Broadmor



**Maria Sanderson**  
Lead RBT  
Music Valley

## Life Skills

This month, our life skills group will be learning health and nutrition as well as cooking.

**Week 1**  
12/2-12/6:  
Exercising

**Week 2**  
12/9-12/13  
Nutrition

**Week 3**  
12/16-20:  
Meal Prep

**Week 4**  
12/23-12/27:  
Clinics Closed

**Week 5**  
12/30-1/3:  
Kitchen and Kitchen Safety



## Classroom Skills

**Week 1: Camping**

Letter: Rr Shape: Triangle Color: Blue

Preschool: Make scribbles on paper using palm of hands

School age: Identify a main topic, classify/count/compare, using a pencil eraser, insects

**Week 2: Camping**

Letter: Ss Shape: Diamond Color: Purple

Preschool: Imitating crayon/marker strokes

School age: Retelling stories, identifying 2D shapes, using liquid glue and glue sticks, living vs. nonliving in science

**Week 3: Winter**

Letter: Tt Shape: Heart Color: Pink

Preschool: Writing name on paper

School age: Capitalization, identifying 3D shapes, cutting simple and complex lines as well as patterns for gingerbread houses with scissors, 5 senses in science

**Week 4: Closed for holidays**

**Week 5: Winter**

Letter: Vv Shape: Pentagon Color: Brown

Preschool: Participate in songs/rhymes

School age: Punctuation, identifying shapes in the environment, cutting simple and complex lines as well as patterns for gingerbread houses with scissors, 5 senses in science

## Calendar

<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>
2 Camping Week 1 Health and Nutrition: Exercising	3 Camping Week 1 Health and Nutrition: Exercising	4 Camping Week 1 Health and Nutrition: Exercising	5 Camping Week 1 Health and Nutrition: Exercising	6 Camping Week 1 Health and Nutrition: Exercising
9 Camping Week 2 Health and Nutrition: Nutrition	10 Camping Week 2 Health and Nutrition: Nutrition	11 Camping Week 2 Health and Nutrition: Nutrition	12 Camping Week 2 Health and Nutrition: Nutrition	13 Camping Week 2 Health and Nutrition: Nutrition
16 Winter Week 1 Health and Nutrition: Meal Prep	17 Winter Week 1 Health and Nutrition: Meal Prep	18 Winter Week 1 Health and Nutrition: Meal Prep	19 Winter Week 1 Health and Nutrition: Meal Prep	20 Winter Week 1 Health and Nutrition: Meal Prep
23 <b>Center Closed for the Holidays</b>	24 <b>Center Closed for the Holidays</b>	25 <b>Center Closed for the Holidays</b>	26 <b>Center Closed for the Holidays</b>	27 <b>Center Closed for the Holidays</b>
30 Winter Week 2 Cooking: All About the Kitchen & Kitchen Safety	31 Winter Week 2 Cooking: All About the Kitchen & Kitchen Safety	1 <b>New Year's Day Center Closed</b>	2 Winter Week 2 Cooking: All About the Kitchen & Kitchen Safety	3 Winter Week 2 Cooking: All About the Kitchen & Kitchen Safety