

SPOTLIGHT STORY



Rhonda Manous Executive Director, Autism ETC

As we start 2026, we want to spotlight the leadership and heart behind Autism ETC by featuring our Executive Director, Rhonda Manous.

Rhonda first met Autism ETC founder, Karen Blake, in 2011 when Karen was looking for part-time accounting help. Their friendship quickly grew into a powerful partnership.

As the demand for ABA therapy grew, so did Rhonda's responsibilities, which led to her being named Executive Director.

Rhonda has since overseen Autism ETC's expansions in Nashville, Clarksville, Murfreesboro, and Glendale, Arizona.

"When I look over the past 15 years, I'm just amazed at how far we've come. We found the best employees: people with a strong commitment to providing excellent ABA services to families. Our executive staff team is unequaled in their level of expertise, compassion, and love for the kids."

You can read more about Rhonda's story on our website.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Paris Montague - Paraprofessional
Gigi Ibrahim - Paraprofessional
Jillian Dillehay - Paraprofessional
Stacey Romanos - RBT
Chelsea Johnson - Paraprofessional
Mickayla Hamilton - Paraprofessional
Lielani Luther - Paraprofessional
Lauren Grauer - Paraprofessional
Angela Tharpe - Paraprofessional
Landajah Carruth - Paraprofessional
Zack Hill - Paraprofessional
Nicole LaForest - RBT
Hannah Keith - Paraprofessional
Monica Woodcock - Paraprofessional

CONGRATS ON YOUR PROMOTION!

Ky Sauceda - Senior RBT - 43rd Ave.

IMPORTANT INSURANCE REMINDER

As we enter into 2026, we want to remind you of the importance of notifying Autism ETC of any changes to your insurance coverage. Maintaining updated insurance information allows us to ensure uninterrupted services for your child and to prevent any unexpected issues with billing or authorizations.

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.

Thank you!

LIFE SKILLS

This month, our life skills group will be learning all about the kitchen, including how to be safe and cooking as well as travel.

Week 1: 12/29 - 1/2
Kitchen and Kitchen Safety

Week 2: 1/5 - 1/9
Cooking Breakfast

Week 3: 1/12 - 1/16
Cooking Lunch

Week 4: 1/19 - 1/23
Cooking Dinner

Week 5: 1/26 - 1/30
Traveling by Car and Train

CLASSROOM SKILLS

Week 1: Winter

Letter: Vv **Shape:** Pentagon **Color:** Brown
Preschool: Learning to participate in songs and rhymes
School age: Punctuation, identifying shapes in the environment, ice and snow, cutting with scissors, using 3-hole punch and 3-ring binder, coping with stress

Week 2: Winter

Letter: Ww **Shape:** Octagon **Color:** Black
Preschool: Participate in word games and finger plays
School age: Relationship between illustrations and texts, similarities and differences in shapes, ice and snow, using and opening lockers

Week 3: Disney/Sesame Street

Letter: Xx **Shape:** Hexagon **Color:** Gray
Preschool: Anticipate next steps in familiar games and routines
School age: Isolate/pronounce CVC words, model shapes in the world by drawing, ice and snow, following two component instructions

Week 4: Disney/Sesame Stress

Letter: Yy **Shape:** Trapezoid **Color:** Silver
Preschool: Body part awareness
School age: Double word meanings, composing larger shapes from smaller shapes, animals in winter, looking when name is called

Week 5: Dinosaurs

Letter: Zz **Shape:** Star **Color:** Gold
Preschool: Respond to familiar requests
School age: Expressing opinion of text, understanding 10 frames, animals in winter, identifying and greeting peers