



### 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 unequalled 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 Saucedo - Senior RBT - 43<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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