

The Parent Mentor **MINUTE**

A monthly newsletter of the ESC of Lorain County Parent Mentor Program

Lorain County Resource Fair



ESC of Lorain County Parent Mentors Paula Drummer and Kendis Bender attended the Lorain County Resource Fair on March 14. For a full list of the vendors who attended, [follow this link](#).

Diagnosis vs. identification

There is sometimes confusion between a medical diagnosis and a school identification.

If your student has a medical diagnosis, then the school should offer some services or support, right?

We found a great article from the nonprofit Understood for All to help you understand the difference.

You can read it [at this link](#).

As always, if you have questions, please reach out to your parent mentor who can help!

Reading

The word gap

Researchers have found that young children whose parents read them five books a day enter kindergarten having heard about 1.4 million more words than kids who were never read to.

Ohio State University has a helpful article on the importance of reading to your young child. You can read it [at this link](#).

Preschool

Spring is in the air!

Fantastic Fun and Learning has some great (and EASY) activities to do with your child! Check out the fun activities by [following this link](#).



High School (Transition Age 14+) 2023 Transition EXPO

Northeast Ohio Families who have transition-age children, teens, young adults with disabilities—please join us for this April 29 event!

Over 70 vendors from several area counties will be there to meet and talk with you about adult services and supports.

When: 9 a.m. to noon April 29
Where: Independence Civic Center
6363 Selig Drive
Independence, OH 44131
Contact: Wendy Spitz
216-509-5015
wendy@livespecial.com

Learn more [at this link](#).

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope.”

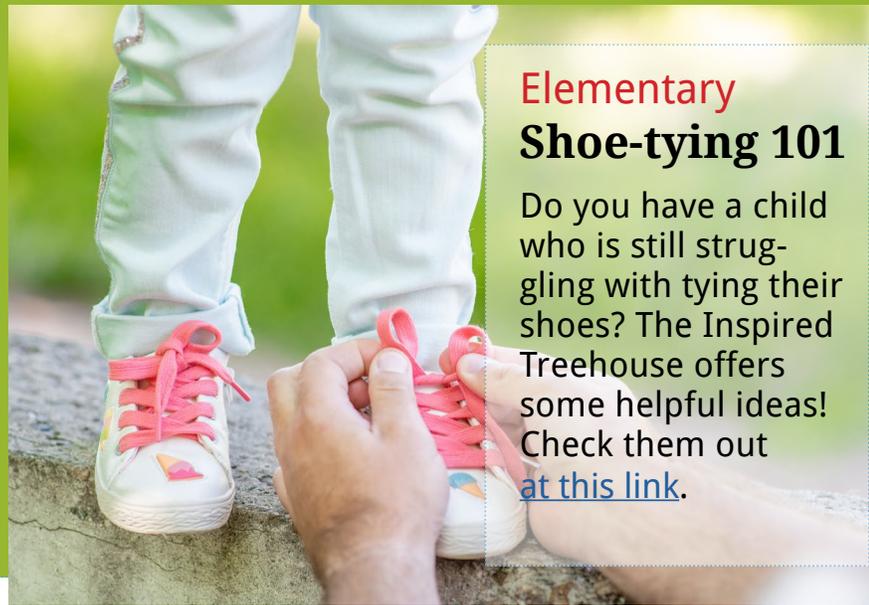
— Helen Keller

IEP Tip Corner The art of advocacy

You are your child’s greatest advocate! [This article from Parenting Special Needs Magazine](#) is a great reminder of this, and it has helpful tips on this journey you are on with your child.

University Hospitals is also hosting a Wrightslaw Conference at 9 a.m. April 20. Childcare is available.

Learn more about the UH event by [following this link](#).



Elementary Shoe-tying 101

Do you have a child who is still struggling with tying their shoes? The Inspired Treehouse offers some helpful ideas! Check them out [at this link](#).

Learners with Complex Needs Connecting with kids



Often, locating resources for our children with complex medical or communication needs is especially challenging.

Schedule a 30-minute appointment to meet with a Connecting For Kids (CFK) staff member. Time slots are available by phone, Zoom or Facebook Messenger. You can register [at this link](#).

Events & Resources

News you can use!



Summer camps

Summer is just around the corner—and that means it's time to start thinking about camp opportunities! Check out the great list of summer camps and other resources [at this link](#).

By the Brook

When: 6-9 p.m. June 23 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 24

Where: Bay Presbyterian Church
25415 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio

What: A refreshing weekend for moms, grandmothers, and female caregivers of individuals impacted by disabilities or chronic illness. Learn more [at this link](#).

Sensory-friendly playtime

When: 10 a.m. to noon on first Sunday of each month

Where: Urban Air Adventure Park
183 American Blvd., Westlake, Ohio

What: Urban Air Adventure Park is transformed into a calmer atmosphere for those with special needs and sensory processing difficulty. Siblings and caregivers are welcome. No flashing lights, no music and no whistles. Learn more [at this link](#) or call 440.427.4906.

Research opportunity

What: The Ohio State University is seeking children, adolescents and young adults (ages 12-21) with disabilities who are willing to participate in research and complete a newly developed short rating form about behavioral health, and give feedback on the form. The meeting session will last one to 1.5 hours. You earn a \$25 gift card for participating. For information contact Minje Kim at 614.767.8915 or kim.6887@osu.edu.

Wrightslaw Conference

When: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 20

Where: Signature Events Venue
1361 E. 260th St., Euclid, Ohio

What: This full-day conference will feature a program dedicated to special education law and advocacy. Designed for parents, advocates, educators, related service providers and attorneys. Lunch and free childcare provided. Learn more [at this link](#).

ESC of Lorain County Parent Mentor Program



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Lorain County

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Lorain County

Elyria, Firelands, Keystone, Sheffield-
Sheffield Lake and Wellington

Erie, Huron and Sandusky counties:
Bellevue, Norwalk and Monroeville