

2021 SPRING NEWSLETTER

“A Summer for The Books”

EXCITING NEWS!! It's that time of year again for our Summer Youth program. This year's program is being sponsored by the Richland County Foundation and titled "A Summer for The Books." This program is offered to youth ages 5 to 17 every Wednesday from June 2nd through August 18th. We have an exciting schedule of events lined up for this program! With feedback from our past attendees, we believe this year's program will be better and more effective than ever! This year's program will focus around literacy, complimented by creative arts, writing skills and personal entries to work on self-advocacy, interactive and self-expression crafts, nature and science events, games and sports activities, life skills, sensory, and social participation. The curriculum will help to provide structure, focus and improve literacy and writing skills, while continuing the development of motor and sensory skills over the summer and enhancing mobility and physical activities. We will provide snacks, water, and sack lunches for three of the events.



The Autism Society of America, along with leading disability organizations across the country, is announcing that it is formally shifting references of "Autism Awareness Month" to "Autism Acceptance Month." As part of this shift, the Autism Society of America is leading a significant effort for the federal government to officially designate April as "Autism Acceptance Month." The shift in the use of terminology aims to foster acceptance to ignite change through improved support and opportunities in education, employment, accessible housing, affordable health care and comprehensive long-term services.

April has widely been known as "Autism Awareness Month" in the United States as a way to empower autistic individuals and their families. Today, the autism community is calling on all media outlets to shift their language to match the growing need for acceptance within the community in preparation for any news coverage in the weeks ahead.

Autism community advocates across the country have a long-standing history of using the term "acceptance" as a means of more fully integrating those 1 in every 54 Americans living with autism into our social fabric. The Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) has been framing April as Autism Acceptance Month since 2011, stating "Acceptance of autism as a natural condition in the human experience is necessary for real dialogue to occur."

Other groups that have been using 'acceptance' through the month of April include the Administration for Community Living, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Autistic Women and Non-Binary Network, Easter Seals, First Place AZ, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), and The Arc.

Information from AutismSociety.org You can read more on the subject at autism-society.org.

AUTISM-SOCIETY ADVOCATES FOR 'ACCEPTANCE'

Support for this program/project was provided by the Ralph C. Lutz Fund #2 (Intellectual Disabilities) of the RCF. The RCF one of the largest private sources of grant making in Richland County and administers over 375 charitable funds established by individuals, families, and businesses. The mission of the Richland County Foundation is to improve and enhance the quality of life in Richland County through strategic philanthropy and community leadership.

There will be virtual classes available as well, call the office for information. A schedule of events will be available at registration. Together we will follow social distancing guidelines for the health and safety of everyone and ILC will provide PPE for every participant at every event.

If you or your child(ren) are interested and want more information, or would like to register, please call our main office at 419-526-6770 and a staff member will be happy to assist you.

Please note, you will be required to complete paperwork for each registrant and bring necessary documentation at the time of registration.

Don't miss this one, it will be **A Summer for The Books!!!**



This is a joint program between ILCNCO and the RCF

Adult Socialization Support Group

Our Adult Socialization Program will be centered around relationship building this year. This group will function similar to the past, but place a stronger focus around group support. This will be a regularly scheduled gathering of men and women coming together to socialize and talk with one another about experiences, struggles, challenges and achievements. As always, we will have various types of activities such as board games, crafts, and fun icebreakers based on the group. These group gatherings will be held at local venues such as coffee shops, dairy bars and parks depending on availability and guidelines. The program is cost free and open to anyone with a disability ages 18 and older during the months of June thru August. If you would like to register for this program, please contact our office at 419-526-6770 to schedule an appointment. A staff member will be more than happy to assist you! Please note, you will be required to complete paperwork and provide necessary documentation. The deadline to register is May 21st.

Peer Support Groups

Don't forget to check out our new PEER GROUPS. As we reflect on the past year and realize how challenging the changes have been with isolation and separation from society, family, and friends; we believe Peer Support will benefit everyone as we create opportunities to meet new people and build long-lasting friendships helping one another ... together.

We believe participants can be helped most effectively by others who have been there and done that, and then sharing how they have dealt with and overcome challenges. Each participant has a chance to learn, grow and become more independent while both parties (mentor and mentee) benefit from the opportunity to interact with one another. Peer Support, can also offer wellness checks as requested by the consumer, emphasizing consumer-control. We want everyone to know they have a critical and valuable perspective to contribute. Each and every one is important. One of our main objectives is to encourage goal setting while allowing the mentee to decide what he or she believes is best for their independent living. Our peer mentors are available to assist in planning and empowering you to achieve your goals.

Peer support is also offered in a one-on-one setting as you may want to meet with a peer mentor to assist you in setting and establishing your independent living goals. One-on-one peer support is available daily Monday – Saturday, offering a flexible schedule to meet with the consumer. Peer support groups meet in person once a month (also available virtually) times may vary depending upon the group.

We would like to welcome you to join us for an informational Peer Support Zoom meeting on April 30, 2021 @ 5:00pm to answer any questions you may have. To join the zoom meeting log into zoom.com, click on **Join A Meeting**, and enter the **Meeting ID: 810 8637 2565**. You may call in by phone to join the meeting as well.

You may call the main office at 419-526-6770 for more information or assistance to link to the zoom meeting. You may also email Ashley, the Program Lead at anhowell@ilcnco.org.

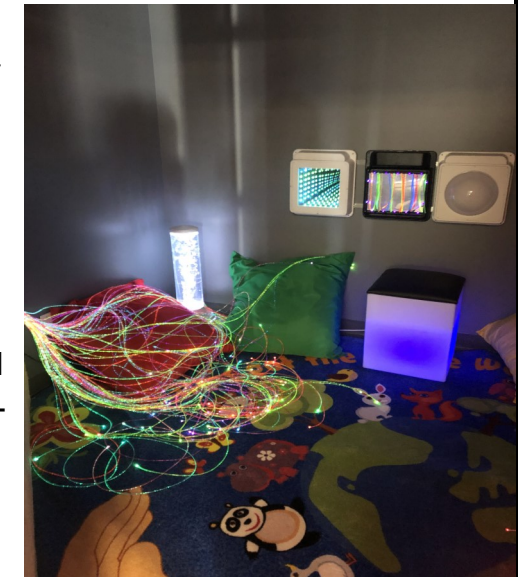
Sensory Room

Sensory rooms are spaces where children and adults can explore their environments through visual, auditory and tactile experiences. Sensory rooms have many benefits and can also give a child a sense of control over their environment. Sensory rooms are designed to develop senses, usually through special lighting, music, and objects. It can be used as therapy for children with limited communication skills. In addition to developing the senses, they can be used to achieve many goals such as concentration and focus, encourage communication and social interactions, relieve anxiety, and help children with self-regulation. They are a great and effective way for individuals to manage their stress levels minimizing negative thoughts and emotions, thus reducing aggression and possibly help reduce problematic behaviors by creating a feeling of calmness and well-being.

Sensory rooms can be individualized and developed for specific needs, outcomes and even age. We designed and developed our Sensory Room for children to compliment our classroom.

If you are interested in using our sensory room, please call our office at 419-526-6770. A member of the staff will be happy to assist you with guidelines, registration and scheduling a time and day that works best for you!

As you can see, sensory rooms are very beneficial, and we would love for you and your child(ren) to be apart. To the right is a snapshot, but come see for yourself!



ILC Classroom– It's Not Too Late

Could your student use help in the classroom? We have trained and educated staff on board to assist your child(ren) with homework. We provide tutoring, guidance and one-on-one help. We offer assistance both in the classroom and virtually. If you're interested in enrolling your child, please call us to start the process. This is designed to benefit both you and your child(ren).

Free Meal Packs For Youth

As of April 1, the **Mansfield/Richland County Public Library's** Main location, Madison location, and Plymouth location will begin distributing **free meal packs** to all Richland County children. Sponsored by The Children's Hunger Alliance details below:

NOTE: as of April 1, three meals per child can be picked up on Friday (to supplement weekend meals). Call before you go, if a location is closed for any reason, this service will not be available

MAIN LIBRARY: distributions will be Monday - Friday 3:30- 4:30 PM

MADISON LIBRARY: distributions will be Monday - Friday 2:30- 4:30 PM

PLYMOUTH LIBRARY: distributions will be Monday - Friday 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Open to all children under the age of 18 regardless of financial status and customers need only provide the child's name to receive a free, healthy, shelf-stable meal.