

2017

# CONNECTIONS



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## ALWAYS THERE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF COUNTY BOARDS



2017 has been a momentous year for the Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities and for county boards throughout the state of Ohio. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of county boards being incorporated into Ohio law as 169 Boards in 1967. We have been able to participate in the “Always There” statewide campaign which has focused on telling the story of Ohio’s developmental disabilities community through sharing about our history, our present, and our hopes for the future.

Additionally in Shelby County we have been celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wilma Valentine Childcare. The center was created in 1992 to provide opportunities for children with disabilities and without disabilities, in an environment where all children can learn the value of friendship as well as important life skills.

As a result of these two anniversaries, it has been a wonderful year full of opportunities to recognize those throughout Shelby County who have done so much for us over the years. There have been occasions to give back, such as through sponsoring a blood drive, and volunteering at New Choices. These activities were part of a statewide week of service, where county boards throughout Ohio expressed thanks for the strong support we receive. We also held an anniversary open house where awards were given to people and organizations who have been “always there” for the Shelby County Board and for Wilma Valentine Childcare.

Ohio’s overall campaign culminated in the “Always There Day of Celebration and Advocacy at the Statehouse” on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Part of this event focused on collecting a time capsule from each county board, full of memorabilia about our county. The capsule will be sealed for twenty-five years and opened on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2042. *-continued*



In this issue of our newsletter, please look for the stories of Nancy and John, which are included in the Always There for Ohio website. Please visit the website for more stories and additional information. Thank you for your support of our program and of people with developmental disabilities in Shelby County. [www.alwaysthereforohio.org](http://www.alwaysthereforohio.org)

*Laure Zureick, Superintendent*

Commissioner Bob Guillozet issues a Proclamation.

The following individuals received an award for the years of support and volunteerism they have dedicated to people with developmental disabilities.



Mike Jannides, The Spot



Nancy Deafenbaugh



John Coffield



Amanda Seigle



Mike & Karen McRill



Carole Mestemaker

## WILMA VALENTINE CHILDCARE

Always There Awards in celebration of their 25th Anniversary



The John and Jeanette Sargeant Family Foundation began their support of the Wilma Valentine Childcare several years ago. This was critical as the childcare center was operating at a deficit and was relying heavily on the support of the Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities to stay afloat. Jay and Jeff Sargeant accepted the award on behalf of the foundation.



The Shelby County United Way has been supporting Wilma Valentine Childcare since its first Special Projects grant in May 1993. In 1995, the Wilma Valentine Creative Learning Center was approved for United Way agency status.

The Shelby County United Way has assisted by giving Wilma Valentine Childcare an annual allocation that is used to ensure a smaller child-to-staff ratio to support the children with disabilities and to support the summer development program. Scott Barr accepted the award on behalf of The United Way.



The Donald and Evelyn Bensman Family Foundation has contributed funds to Wilma Valentine Childcare nine times between 2004 and 2016. When the childcare center was in serious financial turmoil, the foundation made several donations to assist with debt reduction in hopes that the center could "right the ship" and continue to serve children with disabilities. Evelyn Bensman accepted the award on behalf of the foundation.



Please plan to join us for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wilma Valentine Childcare Quarter Auction on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 2:00 at the VFW, 2841 Wapakoneta Avenue, Sidney. We will have gift cards, Reds and Dayton Dragon tickets, an American Girl doll, a bike, handmade goods and so much more to auction off. We even have 4 park hopper passes to Walt Disney World! Mark your calends to come support Wilma Valentine Childcare!

## *Nancy's Story: Always Educating*

Growing up in a family of seven children with a sister with a developmental disability, Nancy Stiefel always did what she could to protect and help her sister Sara.

Sara started receiving support from the Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities when she was in preschool. As Sara grew up, Nancy would occasionally spend time in the classroom with her and at Special Olympics. Nancy grew up with an understanding of how much people with developmental disabilities have to give back.



"I learned a lot from my sister in those early years," says Nancy. Seeing Sara's positive interactions with her teachers at school shaped Nancy's career goals. She received her undergraduate degree in special education and general education and began teaching children with developmental disabilities shortly after.

Nancy loved teaching, but knew she wanted to be a special education director so she could have even greater impact on the developmental disabilities community. When her dream job opened up in the Sidney City Schools, Nancy knew it was the right place to be and she stayed there as director of special education for 13 years.

"I knew the impact I could have was tremendous," says Nancy. "I got to work with some of the greatest teachers."

When Sara graduated high school and started working in a workshop, Nancy knew it was time to have a conversation with her parents about plans for Sara when they could no longer take care of her. With the support of her siblings, Nancy let her parents know that she would be unable to care for Sara alone when the time came. And while this was a difficult conversation, she strongly believes it is one every family needs to have. Through her years in the developmental disabilities field, Nancy has worked with families in her community to help parents plan ahead for their children.

After working in Sidney, Nancy took a position with the Shelby County Board as the Director of Early Intervention. With this job, she is responsible for Wilma Valentine Childcare, a fully integrated childcare facility.

Looking back at her career and her time with her sister Sara, Nancy is proud of the positive changes in the community.

"There's a greater awareness and understanding that people with developmental disabilities are more like us than unlike us," Nancy says. "We celebrate what people can do."

## John's Story: Always Dedicated



Growing up in a family with six kids, including two brothers with developmental disabilities, John Coffield is no stranger to the challenges of having loved ones with disabilities.

As long as John can remember, his mother Helen was actively involved with the developmental disabilities community in order to provide a better life for her two sons, Tom and Larry.

When the family first moved to Sidney, Ohio, in Shelby County in 1967, there were few, if any, resources to support people with developmental disabilities. Helen was instrumental in not only establishing the **Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities**, but also starting a school for children with disabilities, along with a workshop to provide them employment when they were older.

Helen's work in the community did not go unnoticed. She was the recipient of many awards including, "Mother of the Year" from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; "Outstanding Citizen Award" by the Sidney City Council; "Top 10 Women of Miami Valley" by the *Dayton Daily News*; and the "Distinguished Service Award" by the Kiwanis Club of Sidney.

Today, John and his siblings honor their mother's legacy by continuing the noble work she started. The family still lives in Sidney or close by to help Tom and Larry, who live in the home they grew up in.

"This is the way we grew up, it was instilled in us by our mom," says John. "I'm proud of all the work she did in Shelby County and her caring and hard work."

John is an active member of the Shelby County Board that his mother helped start. Previously a board member, he now volunteers with the board regularly. He is also an active member of the "Aktion Club" with his local Kiwanis group. The club supports adults with developmental disabilities and helps them develop leadership skills and serve in their communities.

As for Tom and Larry, they still receive monthly service plans from the board. Although John and his family feel they are able to care for their brothers now, "It's nice knowing the county board is there in case anything happens to us," says John, who appreciates the dedicated volunteers in Shelby County, the place he is happy to call home.





## Age appropriate Toys: Birth to 6 Months

SHELBY COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER:  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT

### Age Appropriate Toys Birth To 6 Months

#### Birth to 3 months

In a baby's first months, your baby will most appreciate things that he/she can look at and listen to due to their fuzzy vision. High contrast patterns and bright colors usually captivate newborns because they are the easiest to see. Young babies also enjoy objects that move slowly and gentle sound or music.

- **Hand-held toys:**

Rattles, large rings, squeeze toys, teething toys, soft dolls, and stuffed animals, etc.

- **Mobile**
- **Soft books with high-contrast patterns**
- **Sensory toys:**  
Soft toys that trills or tweets
- **Sing songs and play with baby**

#### 3 months to 6 months

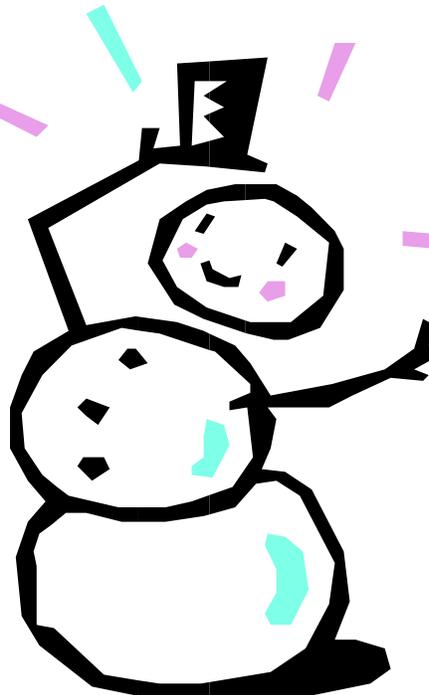
Baby's at this stage like to use his/her hands. They like to suck on their fingers, use them to grasp a toy that

has been placed in their hands, reaching for toys. They soon learn how to pass a toy back and forth between their hands and explore the toys before usually placing in his/her mouths.

- **Activity Center**

This is a toy that has a rack/bar that comes with dangling toys that a baby can lay underneath and play with the toys.

- **Lightweight rattles**
- **Soft stuffed animals**
- **Squeaky rubber toys**
- **Board books**
- **Colorful teething rings**
- **Activity quilts or playmats**
- **Sing songs, play, and read books to baby**



#### PICTURES OF TOYS:



Remember: It's not about the expense of the toy(S), it **IS** about the **EXPERIENCES** that your child has with that toy!!

Toys can be choking hazards. Please supervise your child at all times. Please know your child as some of these toys may not be appropriate for your child.



## Age appropriate Toys: 6 months to 12

SHELBY COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER:  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT

### Age Appropriate Toys 6 months to 12 months

#### 6 months to 9 months

At this age, babies begin to play more vigorously. Their movements are becoming more precise with both fine motor skills (hand skills) as well as gross motor skills (sitting, crawling).

- **Books (Cloth or board books)**

Reading books together can help increase his/her language development.

- **Busy Board**

Usually these toys have parts that move and spin, poking, twisting, squeezing, etc.

- **Soft dolls or stuffed animals**

- **Balls**

Lightweight fabric balls or medium rubber balls. Not foam balls as babies can take bites out of it.

- **Household items**

Plastic bowls, measuring cups, wooden spoons, etc. No heavy items or sharp utensils.

- **Wood or soft blocks**

Stack blocks, knock them down, put them in containers to dump out, etc.

- **Moving toys**

Sturdy large cars or toys that pop up when your baby pushes the right spot.

#### 9 months to 12 months

At this age babies may be attempting to army crawl, crawl, cruising, walking to get to places and toys that he/she want. They will want to move, grab, and get into everything that used to be out of reach. They also like to put toys and items into their mouths at this stage as well.

- **Push toys**

- **Shape sorters**

- **Balls**

Medium sized balls to decrease choking hazards as well as no foam balls.

- **Toy telephones**

- **Books**

Sturdy books with flaps, pull tabs, different textures

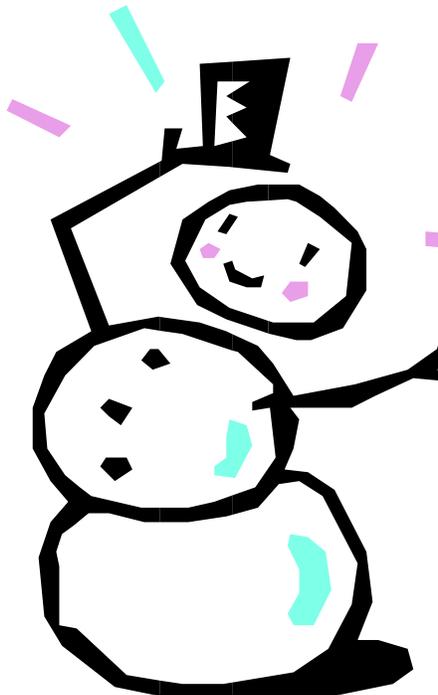
- **Blocks**

Large rubber or wooden blocks to stack and knock down

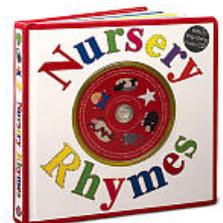
- **Plastic bucket and shovels**

These can be fun in supervised bath time and in sand boxes.

- **Read and play with your child**



#### PICTURES OF TOYS:



Remember: It's not about the expense of the toy(S), it **IS** about the **EXPERIENCES** that your child has with that toy!!



## Age appropriate Toys: 12 months to 24 months

SHELBY COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER:  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT

### Age Appropriate Toys 12 months to 24 months

#### 12 months to 18 months

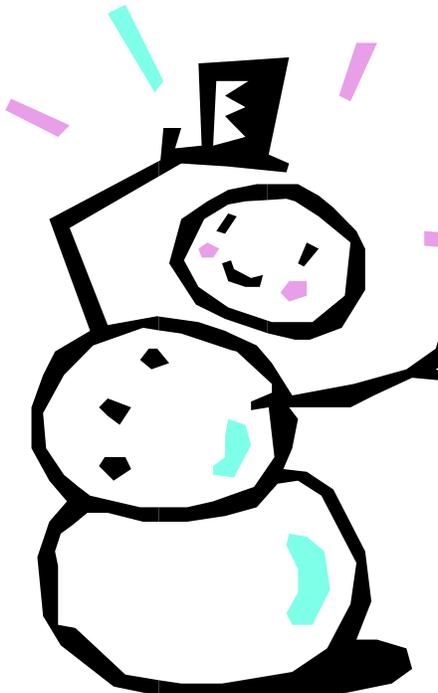
Usually at this age, your child is very active and both your child's fine motor skills, language skills, and gross motor skills are more refined and coordinated. At this age, your child also likes repetition as they learn.

- Large building blocks
- Push and pull toys
- Sorting or nesting toys
- Climbing gym
- Balls
- Washable crayons and paper
- Ride-on vehicles
- Picture books

No foam balls as these can be choking hazards.

#### 18 months to 24 months

Children at this age love toys that have actions/ activities involved in them such as pop-up toys, trucks with doors. Children like to imitate actions they see caregivers completing, like serving food, sweeping, etc.



#### • Toys to play house

Little tables and chairs, small rakes and brooms, small shopping carts, etc.

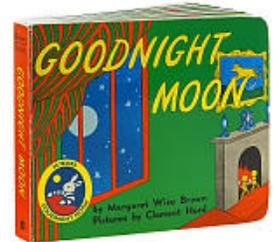
- Large and small blocks
- Toy instruments
- Puzzles

Thick easy to manipulate wooden pieces as well as fewer pieces. Large knob puzzles will be easier to manipulate whereas smaller peg puzzles will be more difficult.

- Illustrated books
- Train sets
- Balls
- Activities to kick, roll, and throw

- Washable crayons and paper
- Stickers

#### PICTURES OF TOYS:



Remember: It's not about the expense of the toy(S), it **IS** about the **EXPERIENCES** that your child has with that toy!!

Toys can be choking hazards. Please supervise your child at all times. Please know your child as some of these toys may not be appropriate for your child.



## Age appropriate Toys: 2 years to 3 years

SHELBY COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER:  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT

### Age Appropriate Toys: 2 years to 3 years

#### 2 years to 2 1/2 years

Usually at this age, children want to be independent and active.

- **Ride-on toys**
- **Balls**
- **Art supplies**

Such as washable crayons, markers, paper

- **Percussive instruments**
- **Dress-up clothing**
- **Child-size household equipment**

Such as child-sized kitchen supplies, brooms, vacuums, etc

- **Constructions toys**

Such as building blocks or toys that can be linked or snapped together

- **Puzzles and manipulatives**

Such as nesting cups, 4-5 piece puzzles

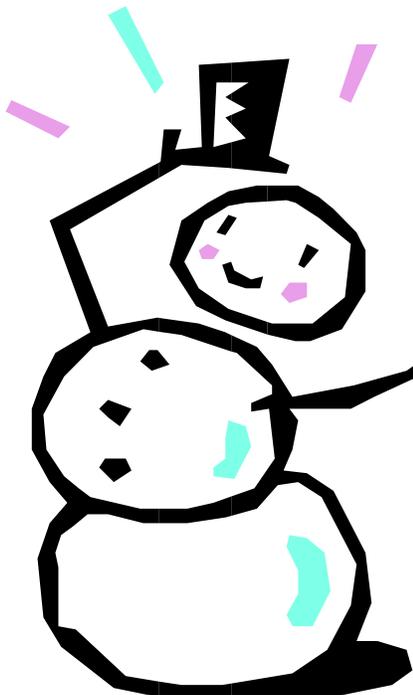
- **Books**

Read your child's favorite books and then have them "pretend" to read it back.

#### 2 1/2 years to 3 years

Children may at this age enjoy imaginative play such as a cardboard box that can be turned into a wagon, spaceship, a fort, etc.

- **Puzzles**
- **Child-sized household equipment**



Such as child-sized kitchen supplies, brooms, vacuums, etc.

- **Construction sets**

Building blocks to stack and make different structures or Megablocks

- **Art Supplies**

Washable crayons, markers, watercolor paints, fingerpaint, coloring books, paper

- **Outdoor equipment**

Such as balls, swings, miniature basketballs and hoops, etc.

- **Books**

Read your child's favorite books and then have them "pretend" to read it back.

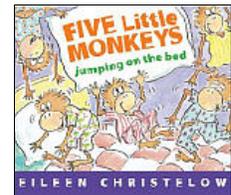
- **Play-Doh**

Can use play-doh equipment or cookie cutters. Watch out for children who may put this in their mouth

- **Mr. Potato Head**

Be careful with small pieces due to choking hazards.

#### PICTURES OF TOYS:



Remember: It's not about the expense of the toy(S), it **IS** about the **EXPERIENCES** that your child has with that toy!!

Toys can be choking hazards. Please supervise your child at all times.

The Community and Support Services Department would like to recognize our providers who go above and beyond for the people they support. Every month, we will spotlight a "Provider of the Month". Nominees will be selected by vote from submission forms received the previous month. Just a small token of our appreciation for all that you do for the people in Shelby County!



Congratulations to December's Provider of the Month Brad Sterling. Brad has been providing supports to people with disabilities for fourteen years. He enjoys helping and assisting individuals with their short and long term goals. Brad feels a sense of fulfillment for the individual and himself. He is very grateful for all the opportunities he has been given with his career as a provider.

When asked "what is a special memory you would like to share"? he replied, *"With so many it is difficult to pick one. But one that stands out and is very special to my heart is when I was granted guardianship of an individual that I have given services to for many years. The reaction of happiness after the ruling was a joy of emotions that will forever be dear to me."*

SSA's who have worked with Brad over the years say that he is always a joy to work with. He is very positive and always is looking out for the best interest for the person.



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For a calendar of events please visit our website at: [WWW.SHELBYDD.ORG](http://WWW.SHELBYDD.ORG)

To receive our newsletter or other correspondence electronically, please e-mail us at:

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