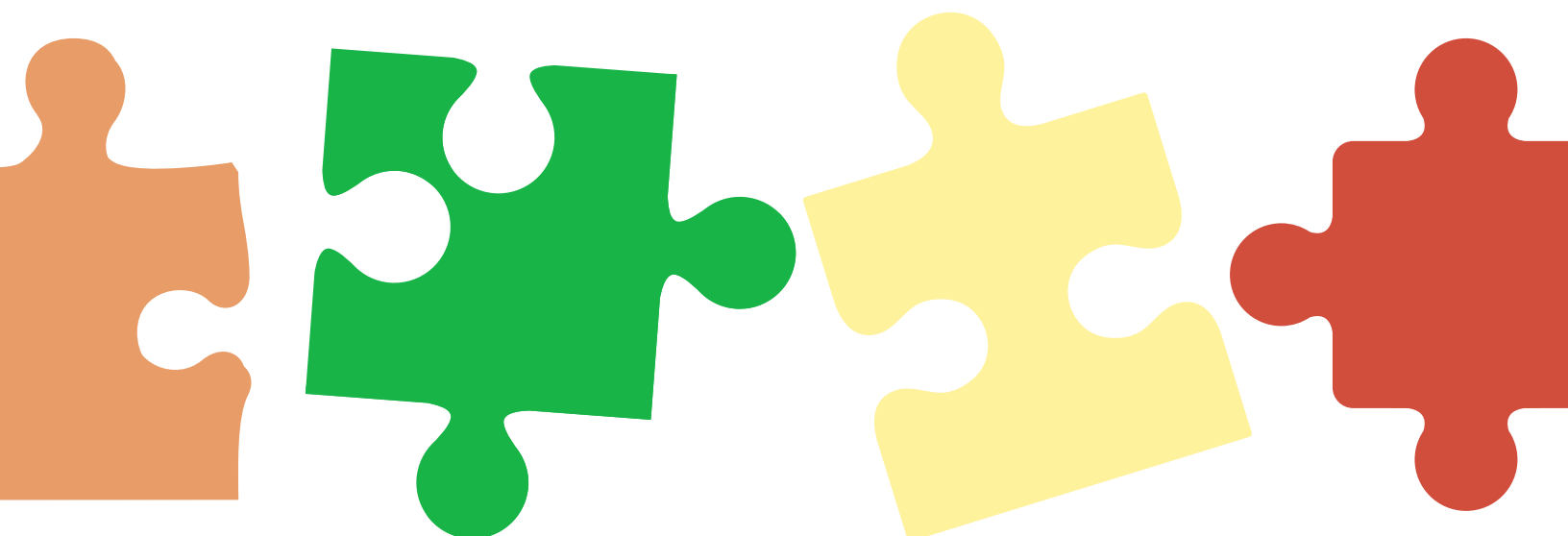


# CCA NEWS

September 2019



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What's Happening at CCA

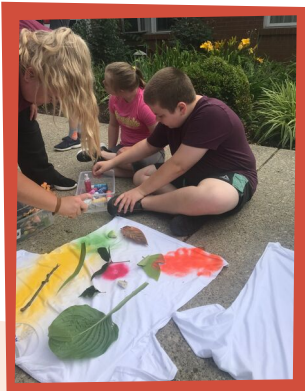
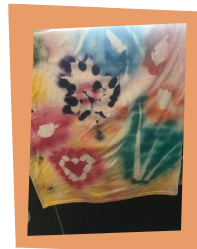
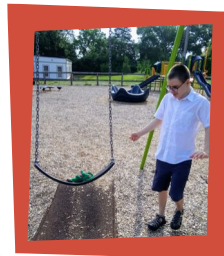
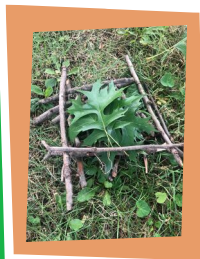
Summer is officially over and the 2019-2020 academic year is in full swing! We are excited to show you all of the fun events that our campers participated in and all of the great crafts that they worked hard on. From playing in the water to creating bird nests, our campers had some creative and fun times this summer.

With the start of the academic year, we've seen many changes in the building. The annex has now become our Early Learning Center, we've added a "Zen Zone" sensory space for our students, and the STEPS program has added an "apartment" to practice daily living skills. All great additions and hopefully the last few big changes for awhile!

This academic year will also bring a full schedule of fun events for the students. We've already had our first PTO meeting, which now has an added option of video conferencing. We celebrated Grandparents' Day with a group of extra special guests, and celebrated spirit week with fun, themed days. Make sure to read the articles to learn more about all of these programming events.

# Summer Crafts and Events

Summer is full of fun for our students as they get to partake in a packed schedule of crafts, cooking, games, and more! Each of these activities targets different skills, such as following directions to make a snack, gross motor skills to play catch, science to make an effective bird nest, and fine motor skills to make a nature bracelet! Check out some of the pictures below of the campers having a ball and learning skills!



# Upcoming Events

September 25th: Picture Day  
We are excited to welcome Walt Fouch of Walt Fauch Photography come to take group and individual pictures of our students.

September 27th: Phone Conferences  
Parents can schedule a time to touch base about the academic year and progress so far.

September 28th: SweetPea 2 Golf Outing  
Join us for a day on the green! A scramble benefiting CCA will be held at Indian Ridge Gold Club in Oxford, Ohio. Don't miss out on this day full of fun and fundraising!

October 11th: Staff Development  
Students will get the day off as staff take the day for training and preparations.

October 18th: Fall Festival  
To welcome the changing season, students will partake in fall themed events and crafts during their day.

November 1st: Family Night  
Families and friends are invited to come to CCA after hours for a sensory-friendly night to enjoy with staff and classmates!

## Contact Info

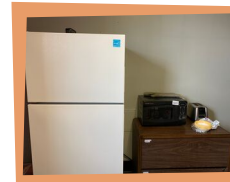
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# Building Changes

This summer we were hard at work prepping the building for big changes! We moved our Early Childhood Center to the annex, allowing more space for this ever growing program. The new Early Childhood Center emphasizes managing the learning environment in a way to efficiently promote learning by incorporating educational and behavioral practices. Staff's focus is to create an environment that is comfortable, safe, and responsive to the needs of young children. This is achieved through use of appropriate materials, emphasizing time and structure through schedule and routine, supporting students' behavior through positive supports, and incorporating sensory play. The combination results in an individualized plan that promotes each students' communication development, academic learning, and behavior management. These early interventions provide the skills students need for future success!

Our STEPS staff designed an "apartment" to promote daily living skills. Fully equipped with a bed, dresser, fridge, and microwave to resemble a functional apartment, this area helps students prepare for independent living. Each week, students take turns taking care of the apartment. They learn how to sort, fold, and put away laundry, make the bed, prepare snacks and meals, and clean and vacuum a living space. We are happy to give these students new opportunities to practice these skills.

CCA also has a new sensory room! Over the years, we have realized an increased need to not only provide our students with a safe place to de-escalate during crisis, but also for a separate, intentional space where our students can regulate outside of the classroom before they reach a crisis state. Our new sensory room is partially matted, with multiple wall visuals painted to encourage active participation in the regulation process through deep pressure and deep breathing. It is also equipped with a specially-designed sensory chair to decrease overstimulation, a weighted blanket for deep pressure input, and remote-controlled colored lighting. Not only is this a place where students can go when upset or frustrated, but it can also serve as a sensory break for those needing to energize their bodies, or simply as a place to learn what it means to regulate. We are excited to see the students already utilizing the space so effectively!

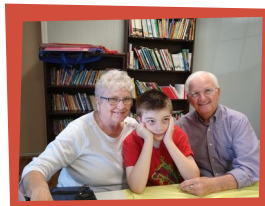


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## Grandparents' Day

CCA celebrated Grandparents' Day on September 8th by welcoming special guests for a day of fun. Students shared donuts, gave tours of their classrooms, and made some lifelong memories!

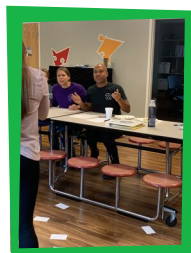


## Zones of Regulation

This year, CCA will be implementing the Zones of Regulation program center-wide. As a part of this program, students will be exploring emotions and learning how our changing energy levels contribute to the different ways we all feel throughout the day. Students will learn to use a simple, color-coded framework to help make this abstract concept more concrete, and then will begin learning strategies, or tools, that they can use in each "zone" to help them regulate in a way that is appropriate for their environment. Be on the lookout soon for a "tool of the week" handout in your student's home folder.

## Staff Development

Once a month on Staff Development Days while students enjoy a day off, our staff are hard at work attending training sessions, creating materials, and most importantly having a little fun! This month our Staff Development team organized an interactive game to teach the new Zones of Regulation program. Five teams competed in CCA's version of "Taboo" to learn the language of the Zones. The teams took turns making creative descriptions for and acting out emotions and terms as their teammates raced the clock to guess the terms. Everybody had a great time with the healthy competition, and had an awesome opportunity to familiarize themselves with the new programming.



## SweetPea Golf Outing

Please join us for the 2nd Annual SweetPea Golf Outing on Saturday, September 28th at 1:00 pm! The SweetPea Golf Outing was created to honor the memory of Carol Seals. Carol spent the majority of her adult life actively helping others through her career in law enforcement. After her passing, her husband looked for a way to continue her legacy of reaching out to help worthy organizations in the community. This is how the SweetPea Golf Outing came to be. This year, the golf outing has chosen to benefit us here at Cincinnati Center for Autism (CCA). Carol actively supported CCA through the years because her nephew is a student here. Spend the day having fun in her memory and supporting CCA! If interested, please contact Tony Seals at [tseals@prvmgt.com](mailto:tseals@prvmgt.com).



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