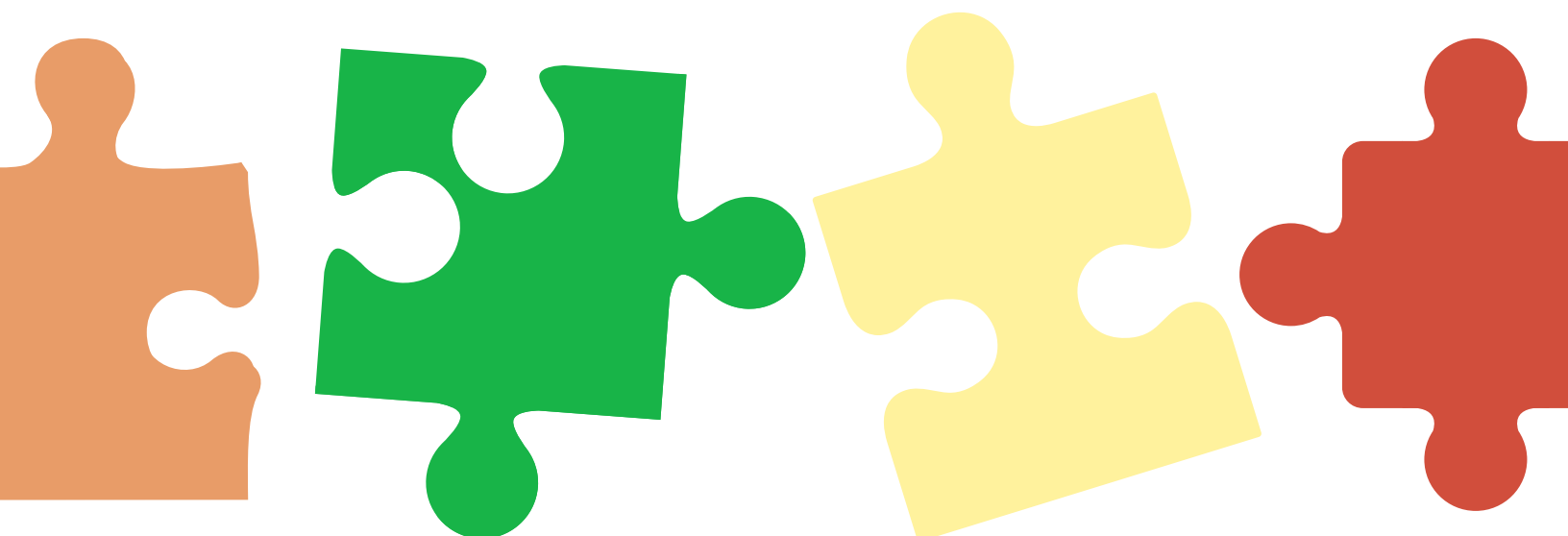


CCA NEWS

Spring 2020



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Susie's Corner

What's Happening at CCA

Unprecedented times call for unprecedented solutions, and the Coronavirus chaos is a perfect example. Through this crisis, CCA remains strong in our commitment to provide a continuum of services for our children. Since Governor Mike DeWine made the announcement to close all schools, CCA administration and staff have been working conscientiously to provide a remote/distance learning plan. Our initial decision to suspend center-based services was guided by the need to protect the health and safety of our students and staff. This decision led to our team developing and implementing a remote plan that would provide continuity of quality programming. This commitment to serving our students should allow us to continue to receive a majority of our funding, meaning that we can keep our doors open to serve students for years to come. (continued on next page)

Susie's Corner (Cont.)

After speaking with outside agencies and school personnel I am convinced we have created high quality individualized educational and behavioral plans. We know that remote learning cannot replicate a traditional day at CCA; So much learning comes through peer and staff interaction. In lieu of traditional services during this time, staff are providing an array of learning opportunities for your child. This alternative service delivery model may include: paper packets of instructional materials and curriculum-based activities, instructional telephone and conference calls, and online or virtual instruction. Staff have reported how much the children have liked "zooming" with their staff, seeing their friends, and of course seeing themselves on the monitor! We recognize that it is not all fun and can be overwhelming for families. No one could have imagined the challenges that a remote learning plan would bring for families, students, educators, and therapists. We are ready to support you. I know that by working creatively together we can emerge stronger from this experience. We will remain closed through May in accordance with the stay at home order and will keep you updated as I receive information on when CCA will reopen.

A staff member mentioned that when this is all over, we should consider continuing to offer parts of remote learning in our services. My initial reaction was "Are you serious?" But then I thought "How nice would it be to continue working in my pajama bottoms?"

Please contact me or your staff with any questions, concerns, suggestions or additional support we can provide.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic and the surrounding events have shown unprecedented changes in the lives of people around the world. At CCA, we are especially keen to recognize the added strain that these changes put on those in our community. We take the health and safety of all of our students, staff, and families extremely seriously and therefore will not hold in-person sessions for the time being. We realize that the services we provide are critical, and we intend to continue to provide high quality care that our students and their families have come to expect. Parents will soon be receiving direct communications regarding virtual educational and behavioral programming which will be provided by the excellent and creative staff of CCA.

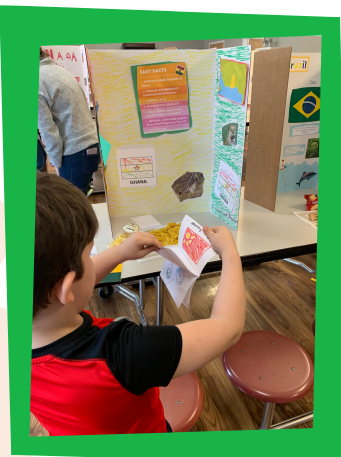


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Cultural Experience

In March, CCA had it's first ever Cultural Experience Day! Our students had an opportunity to research a country and create a display. As students "traveled around the world" they learned about other countries by seeing their flags, hearing words from their languages, learning about their celebrations, and trying some of their traditional snacks. Cultural awareness allows our students to have more knowledge about the people and the world around them.



Spring Bazaar Postponed

Unfortunately, due to the health concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCA PTO has chosen to postpone the Spring Bazaar. The health of the staff, students, and community come first and foremost which has driven this decision. If you would like to donate or volunteer with this event, please contact Sam Anderson at sanderson@cincinnati-center-for-autism.org. Thank you to all of the organizations and individuals who have been working hard toward planning this event and thank you to the CCA community for your continued support!

CCA Fit Champs

Last month, our students and staff participated in a center wide fitness challenge to promote health and wellness. They were challenged to see which class could complete the most squats. Our winners for last month were the Defenders, Owls, and the Emoji classrooms.



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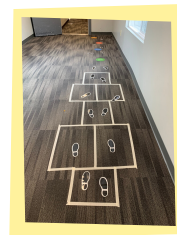
Dr. Seuss Week

This month, our students celebrated Dr. Seuss' Birthday by dressing in theme for a week. Each day highlighted a different book or character by the famed author: Monday was One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish; Tuesday was Cat in the Hat; Wednesday was Thing 1 and Thing 2; Thursday was Green Eggs and Ham; Friday was Put Me in the Zoo. Cooking colorful meals, wearing tall hats, and creating their very own Cat in the Hat was just part of the fun festivities of the week!



Sensory Path

Laura, our Occupational Therapist, and Erin, our Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant have created a sensory path for students. Oftentimes, children are expected to transition through the day in a single file line quietly, with calm bodies. This can be challenging for kids who struggle with pent up energy; you may see kids trailing their fingers along the wall, running too fast, or falling behind. The goal of the sensory path is to provide a quick, productive, and structured break for their brain and body as they transition through the school. It helps to meet sensory and gross motor needs in a safe way without disrupting a group's ability to transition through the school.



Amazon Wishlist

A huge thank you to our PTO for purchasing items from our wish list that support our students and teachers here at CCA! The Amazon Wish List remains active throughout the year so you can continue to support our students.

Autism Awareness Day

April is World Autism Month, with April 2nd celebrating Autism Awareness Day! CCA takes pride in celebrating our students everyday, but especially today. We chose to spread awareness and acceptance of ASD, even from home, by showing off our blue. We encouraged our community to wear blue clothes, put up blue decorations, make blue crafts, eat blue foods, or come up with their own creative way to share blue!

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