

# CAROL'S KIDS NEWS

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## AUTISM CONFERENCE AT WHITESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Applied Behavioral Concepts, Inc. was invited to set up a promotional booth at the conference. Kim Cantrell, Susan Banks and Tracey Sykes represented our organization during the parent day of the conference on May 12th.

Mrs. Cantrell attended the handwriting without tears presentation on the Professional day. "I am looking forward to incorporating the techniques into our curriculum for our children preparing for Kindergarten." Kim said. "It is a very visual way to teach handwriting.

Mrs. Cantrell also attended several other presentations but did not find them to be beneficial to what Applied Behavioral Concepts offers as she did with this

conference.

On the parents day, Kim, Tracey and Susan manned the Applied Behavioral Concepts resource table passing out brochures and speaking with parents, some who recently received diagnosis or are in the process of receiving a diagnosis.

Kim also attended the medical presentation by Dr. Chu for personal information regarding her own family needs.

Miss Sykes attended the presentation on Apraxia with Mrs. Cantrell. "It was very informative. The presentation provided information to recognize the symptoms associated with Apraxia." said Tracey. "I wish we had been

given more strategies to deal with this." "They are still working on a specific criteria for diagnosing Apraxia" Mrs. Cantrell added.

Dan Bennett with Applied Behavioral Concepts will be providing us with some strategies to help children with Apraxia, as Dan has received a Bachelors in Communication Disorders and has resources for us.

Other presentations were attended by the Applied Behavioral Team, such as one on Aspergers, Music therapy and another on behavioral issues.

Several families have contacted Applied Behavioral Concepts and many will be attending one of our three camps.

## SENSORY RESOURCES CONFERENCE

Applied Behavioral Concepts was represented at a Sensory Resource Conference by the attendance of Kim Cantrell and Elissa Hallman on May 18th. The conference was held at the McWane Center in Birmingham. Mrs.

Cantrell and Mrs. Hallman expressed an interest in this conference

The conference focused on sensory processing. "I learned how to identify sensory processing disorders." said Mrs. Cantrell. "I

acquired new information on how to incorporate sensory activities into our summer camp program."

These activities will also be included in the programming for children with an identified sensory processing disorder.

### APPLIED BEHAVIORAL CONCEPTS, INC. OFFERS:

*INCLUSION*

*INCIDENTAL TEACHING*

*DISCRETE TRIALS*

*1:1 OR 2:1 STUDENT TEACHER RATIO*

*BEHAVIOR STRATEGIES*

*SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS*

*TRAINING FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS*

*THOROUGH EVALUATIONS*

## SOCIAL SKILLS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM TO BEGIN IN AUGUST

Applied Behavioral Concepts, Inc. is offering a state of the art social skills after school program beginning in the fall. This program, beginning on August 13th from 3 pm. To 5:30 pm., will be offered at the Premier preschool location on Slaughter road.

Transportation by Premier from local schools is an option for working parents who would like their children to benefit from the training. For information regarding transportation, we encourage interested parents to discuss this with the directors of the Premier schools.

The program will be led by Kristin Sims, M.Ed., (Early childhood Special Education) and Dan Bennett M.Ed. Mrs. Sims joins Applied Behavioral Concepts, Inc. from the Renaissance Learning Center in West Palm Beach, Florida where she taught chil-

dren with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. She previously taught at the Bob Harding Shawmut Elementary school in Valley, Alabama.

Mr. Bennett is a recent graduate from A&M University after finishing a B.S. in Communication Disorders from Auburn University. He has two years experience in Alabama Public schools, specifically Limestone County Schools working with children as a speech therapist and Auburn Speech and Hearing Clinic focusing on pragmatic and auditory disorders.

Out program will service school aged children up to twelve years old. The program will focus on developing social awareness, parallel play, turn taking skills, cooperative play, peer interaction, greeting upon entrance and exit of a room, and conversational skills. "Bringing our different educational

backgrounds and experiences to this program will allow us to address many different needs for our clients", said Mr. Bennett. "I enjoy teaching the pragmatics of language and using reading skills to increase social interactions."

The trial run of the program will be done at the Madison Premier School during the last week of May and was a separate camp offered to the community.

Information on the social skills group will be available in upcoming newsletters.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Thank you for coming out and supporting the Autism Walk! It was great to see all of you!*

### By Request!

On June 12, Betsy Walczak will host a Mom's Meeting to discuss treatments that are available. This is an informal meeting to share information. Call her at 539-0201. The meeting will be held at 212 Bob Wallace Ave-

*The Autism Resource Foundation has been set up to help families in the Huntsville area and will include the North Alabama Information. The mission of ARF is to provide both a financial and family support network.*

nue, Huntsville at 9:00 a.m.

**Summer Camps for June begin on June 4. Summer Camps for July begin on July 2**

### Autism Society

July 11: Scottsdale Arizona

### Fundraiser

August 13: Country-wide Golf Tournament will be held at the Ledges, to bene-

fit the Autism Resource Foundation, a non-profit organization (see inset). Contact Jeff at 714-8464 to participate or sign up your team.

June 21: CrossRoads. 8 pm See Jeff Fisher who is currently working on this fundraiser. He can be reached at twinfishproductions@gmail.com.

*If you know of up coming conferences or events please let us know and we will put it in our next newsletter.*

## SPOTLIGHT ON TRACEY SYKES

Tracey Sykes, a therapist with Applied Behavioral Concepts, has started a new business! **Art Lane Studios** offers curriculum-based sensory art to children with sensory integration issues as well as a variety of art lessons for neuro-typical peers. Classes will be offered at Wis-Scrapers starting in August 6th.

Tracey received a bachelor of science in Psychology and Art from Athens State University. She is a member of the board of directors of the Mental

Health Association of Morgan County and co-president of the Decatur Arts Council. Tracey was awarded the Peggy Roberts Murphrey Award for excellence in promoting the mental health of children by the Mental Health Association of Morgan County in 2005.

Currently, Art Lane Studios is providing art for the children of the Huntsville Hospital on a volunteer basis, will be instructing the art projects for the summer camps offered through

Applied Behavioral Concepts and Premier, and will continue instruction in the fall by providing the Art Lane Studios Classroom Curriculum.

Stop by and meet Tracey or call for more information about Art Lane Studios, 256.337.5770. She is also available by email artlanestudios@gmail.com.