

THE MESSENGER

THE LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOVEMBER 2009

LCB ~~M~~ RDD



Board Celebrates Name Change

In a ceremony that signifies the removal of the term mental retardation from the board's official name, Paul Patterson, a long time RTC associate holds the "M" as Susan Shawver, vocational support specialist removes the "R".

NEW CHOICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

RTC Employment Services on Columbus Avenue in Bellefontaine is the location of a new worksite and business opportunity for individuals with developmental disabilities. People who choose this place to work have competitive community employment as their primary vocational goal. The new worksite is focusing on retail items, primarily a new line of greeting cards including birthday, thank you, congratulations, get well, sympathy, thinking of you and Christmas cards. Each card is handcrafted by the individuals working in this program. When not creating greeting cards, individuals participate in instruction to increase employability skills.

Future development of this program will include additional products and the opening of a small store at the Columbus Avenue building. This will allow individuals to learn how to operate a cash register, monitor inventory and perform customer service duties. This will expand employment opportunities and choices for individuals with developmental disabilities the community.

The catalog for the greeting cards can be viewed on RTC's website at [www.rtc.org](#) or contact Tonya Reed or Amy Berger at 592-0534 for more information.



THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR CHICKEN BBQ!

Computers in the Preschool Classroom?

Through an Early Childhood Grant, the Discovery Center purchased an interactive computer known as a SMART Board for Rebecca Crisler's classroom. SMART Boards combine a life size interactive white board with a computer. The SMART Board is easily accessible to all children in the classroom and can be used in large groups such as circle time, where everyone has the opportunity to interact with the computer. The SMART Board allows the class to explore preschool topics on the internet together and view animated stories projected on the life size screen. It also provides the children an opportunity to touch, draw, and write on the screen carrying out preschool activities. While children, parents and grandparents have been fascinated with the computer, some may wonder why we need computers in a preschool environment.

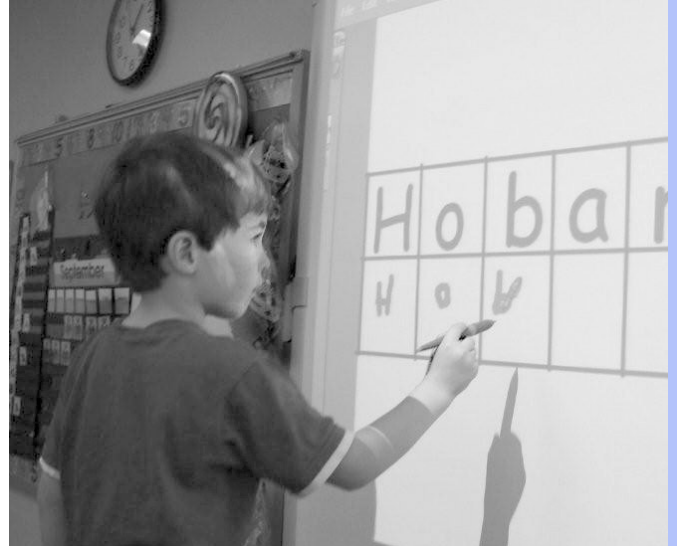
Technology plays a significant role in all our lives today, and this role will only increase in the future. As technology becomes easier to use and early childhood software becomes more readily available, young children's use of computers will become more widespread. One of the largest areas of growth in software development has been in the area of early childhood. In an article published by the National Association for Young Children, 70% of families with young children, who own home computers, have purchased educational software for their children to use. Let's face it, computers are here to stay and will play a vital role in our children's education.

Computers are intrinsically attractive to young children. The sounds and graphics gain children's attention. Children observe adults and older children working on computers and they want to try it as well. Children become interested because they can make things happen with computers. Developmentally appropriate software can engage children in creative play, mastery learning, problem solving, and conversation. Children control the pace and the action. They can repeat an activity as often as they like and experiment with variations. Computers can promote social development as children prefer working with partners over working alone. They ask for help from one another and engage in more language and cooperation when on the computer.

The teacher's role is to assure that good decisions are made regarding which technology to use in the classroom and in supporting all children in their use, especially those with special needs.

Computers do not take the place of highly valued early childhood activities, such as art, building blocks, sand, water, books, exploration with writing material and dramatic play; however when used appropriately, computers can support and extend traditional materials in valuable ways. For children with special needs, technology has many potential benefits in promoting independence. For example, computers can assist young children with communication needs by providing voice output, assist with writing needs when a child's motor skills are compromised, or provide the mobility to be independent.

Teachers will always continue to use their professional skills in evaluating and using the computers appropriately; applying the same criteria they would to any other learning tool or experience. Choosing appropriate software is similar to choosing appropriate books for the classroom. Teachers constantly make judgments about what is developmentally appropriate. Good teaching practices must always be the guiding goal when selecting and using new technology.



***We invite you to
visit our classroom
to see technology
at work in the
preschool
environment.***

A Man With A Mission -

Scott Wallace is a man with a mission. He decided a long time ago to spread happiness and joy in others. One way that he does this is by spending time with people and by acting as if he does not know a stranger. He has many friends, young and old, that he likes to visit with and spends a lot of time making others feel good. He has learned through talking with older people how important it makes a person feel to be on the receiving end of a smile or to hear a kind word. People sometimes forget how it feels to be forgotten and disregarded and Scott vows to make everyone he crosses paths with feel empowered.

Scott's job at the Kroger Company gives him the opportunity to talk to the customers while he bags their groceries and delivers the items to their vehicles. He strives to provide excellent customer service and he takes the time to actually listen to what people say. He may even surprise his repeat customers by picking up the conversation right where they left off the visit before.

Scott has worked for the Kroger Company for 11 years. He receives job follow along support from RTC Employment Services on an as needed basis, but he is very independent. He chooses to walk to work instead of using the transportation service that the Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities offers.

Walking to work keeps him physically active and he uses the money he saves to spend on the things he needs to support himself in his apartment. Scott enjoys life in the apartment complex he lives in. He has his own apartment but if he gets a bit lonely all he has to do is walk to a neighboring apartment where he has made many friends.

His family provides emotional support and helps him with a variety of areas of his life. His Mom assists him with following a budget and with helping him learn how manage his finances. His Mom, Dad and Stepmom also assist with grocery shopping and with medical appointments. Scott's family is a huge part of his life and he looks forward to his yearly visits with his extended family in Florida.

He is a member of the Job Club through RTC Employment Services; a support group that helps provide social and recreational opportunities for those competitively employed throughout Logan County. Scott has great ideas

about where the club should go every year and he is very helpful when it comes to deciding the details of the trips. Scott has participated in every fundraiser and has gone on every trip with the Job Club.

Scott is an important part of our community and he makes it his mission to ensure everyone else feels that way as well.





Staff Honored "Extra Mile" Award

Dr. Mancuso recognized several staff members (pictured) at the August in-service. Extra Mile Awards were given to staff for doing above and beyond their duties at various times throughout the year. Sixteen awards were given out at the in-service.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW...

The RTC Seniors took advantage of the beautiful weather and had a very active summer this year. One of their main projects focused on their garden. At the start of the summer the seniors teamed up with the teenagers from the Teens in Transition summer youth program and planted a vegetable garden on the seniors' patio. They planted tomatoes, carrots, bell peppers, banana peppers, cucumbers and sunflowers.



The teens and seniors shared the responsibility of watering and weeding the garden which made for a nice cross-generational activity for both groups. They raised a bumper crop of tomatoes and other fresh veggies which were enjoyed by all.

Other activities enjoyed by seniors included trips to Young's Dairy and the Columbus zoo, as well as a day spent fishing and a barbeque dinner at an individual's home in August. Everyone that cast a line out caught a fish that day. The group enjoyed trips around Indian Lake on a pontoon boat owned by Spend-a-Day Marina which is a favorite activity of many

of the seniors. As they rounded out their summer some of the RTC Seniors teamed up with the senior program in Hardin Co. and had a sing along with the Hardin Council on Aging in Kenton. From fishing to harvesting crops our seniors enjoyed their summer immensely.



NOVEMBER

- 11 Veteran's Day - All programs closed
- 19 LCBDD Meeting and Annual Public Forum @5:00pm - Bellefontaine H.S. Distance Learning Ctr.

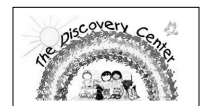
RTC Holiday Dinner @6:00pm Bellefontaine H.S.
- 26 - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 27 All programs closed

DECEMBER

- 18 Discovery Center Parent Ed. Exchange Day
- 21- Discovery Ctr. Winter Break
- Jan.1 Program closed
- 24 - Adult Services & Administrative staff
- Jan.1 Winter Break-Programs closed

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Holiday -Programs closed
- 18 Martin Luther King Day- All Programs closed
- 21 LCBMRDD meeting at Board office conference room @5:30 pm
- 21- Discovery Ctr. Parent Ed Event
- 22 Discovery Ctr. Parent Ed Event



THE LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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www.co.logan.oh.us/mrdd



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PROGRAM ENROLLMENT	
Early Intervention	58
Preschool	199
Adult Services	122
Community Employed	53
Case Management	
Adults	155
Children	56
Residential Services group Home/apt.	68