



Easterseals TN

ALL ABILITIES. LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

Easterseals Tennessee proudly offers Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy services which provides comprehensive treatment to meet the individualized needs of children. ABA therapy focuses on reducing challenging behaviors and increasing replacement skills that can impact the development, communication, and social interactions for children, especially those children with Autism.

ABA Therapy Continues to Make a Profound Difference in the Lives of Children

Jackson, a non-verbal seven-year-old came to Easterseals Tennessee to receive ABA therapy because his parents wanted to reduce his stress level and quell his challenging behaviors. At the time, Jackson was a second grader who had never spent an entire day in the classroom due to his escalating behaviors that teachers described as out of control.



Subsequently, with the recommendation from the school, Jackson began receiving therapy services at Easterseals Tennessee. Within days of being supported, Jackson’s father noticed a happier and calmer child who would prompt his dad each morning “to hurry” so he could go to his new classroom at Easterseals Tennessee. His dad expressed that he was convinced the Easterseals Tennessee Registered Behavior Technicians saw something in his son that nobody else had ever seen in him before. Their method of teaching with patience and respect and using photo cards to teach him to communicate “opened a whole new world” for Jackson. It gave him a voice, enhanced his self-esteem, and he began to interact with others more often and with greater confidence. Jackson learned the alphabet within a few weeks and had a newfound excitement when it came to learning. With the one-on-one attention, Jackson was able to increase his tolerance for non-preferred actions and increase his communication skills. Jackson’s father also commented that their home life changed dramatically. Jackson’s sister smiles more and enjoys playing with her brother. Jackson’s dad explained, “There is an unspeakable joy that you can see now” in his son’s daily living.

Jackson recently started the 2024-2025 school year as a third grader who is now an enthusiastic full-time student who has transitioned out of the Easterseals Tennessee therapy program. His third-grade teacher recently communicated with excitement that Jackson enjoys interacting with his classmates and is teaching other children to use picture cards to communicate. Dad shared that what his family has gained in the last few months because of Easterseals Tennessee is “remarkable and the biggest blessing”. He concludes that Jackson’s time at Easterseals Tennessee opened the door to his son’s future happiness and well-being.



Dr. James E.K. Hildreth, Sr..... 2024 Nashvillian of the Year

Dr. James E.K. Hildreth, Sr., was recently honored as the 2024 Nashvillian of the Year at the Hilton Downtown Nashville. Sponsors, friends, and family celebrated his accomplishments in leadership and community service which have proven advantageous to our city, as well as beneficial to improving health and well-being on the national and international level.

Thank you to the Centennial presenting sponsors Curb Records, FINN Partners, and Meharry Medical College along with all the Parthenon and Coliseum sponsors for their endorsement and support. Proceeds from the celebration will assist Easterseals Tennessee in continuing to offer children and adults living with disabilities more opportunities for inclusion, access, and well-being.



Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Made Many Summer Adventures Possible



Summer is a time of enjoying the great outdoors and discovering new adventures. The Direct Support Professionals at Easterseals Tennessee took advantage of the season and assisted the people they support in exploring new and exciting places within their communities.

They experienced the beauty of the outdoors of multiple Tennessee state parks, local parks and recreation centers, museums, and amusement attractions, just to name a few. Several people also joined a softball league and enjoyed the thrill of competition along with additional exercise.

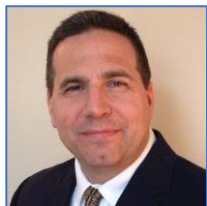
The forethought of the Easterseals Tennessee staff, coupled with the person-centered programming in which those supported make choices for themselves, enabled many memorable times and socialization over the summer of 2024.

Recent Happenings



The theme of the 2024 DSP week at Easterseals Tennessee.... *One Mission...One Vision...We are Family.... We are Easterseals Tennessee...* represents the heartfelt compassion and care that each DSP provides daily to the people they support. With gratitude and in recognition of the extraordinary efforts of the Easterseals Tennessee DSPs, a family tree inscribed with each DSP's name was crafted in each office. All were gifted with a specifically created t-shirt and a DSP Week video expressing a sincere thanks from Easterseals TN Management and the people supported.

President and CEO Corner



Tim Ryerson, President and CEO

Easterseals Tennessee is re-accrediting with The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) which provides nationally a proven framework related to impacting the lives of people with disabilities daily. Recently leadership reflected on the past four years with amazing stories of the day-to-day individual achievements. Through CQL and their unbiased approach, Easterseals Tennessee continues striving towards extending the highest level of support within the disability service community.

For years Easterseals Tennessee's leadership has strategically placed objectives, goals, and targets to monitor, adjust as needed, and attain the highest standards. Staff have remained focused on this vision while making huge strides for individuals with disabilities.

In September, two Easterseals Tennessee staff were rewarded by the Tennessee Community Organizations (TNCO) as the 2024 Outstanding Direct Support Professional (DSP) of the Year and the 2024 Outstanding Manager of the Year. Congratulations to DSP, Eboni Harris for the individual award, and supporting Chris (member) on the State of TN DDA licensure panel. Congratulations to Manager Jesse Nash for being recognized for enhancing technology capabilities for a few DSPs to help each of them be as successful as possible in their job duties. It's wonderful to see the outside recognition for our staff having the highest level of impact within the disability community as Easterseals Tennessee receives national re-accreditation with CQL.

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