

# Parent News

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## College Scholarship Opportunity from the Ability Center

Ensuring that people with disabilities have opportunities to achieve higher education is important to The Ability Center (ACT).

ACT provides college scholarships to area students with disabilities. Last year, The Ability Center and our Auxiliary collaborated to give out several college scholarships totaling \$20,000.

The deadline for the 2019-2020 academic year is March 29, 2019.

Find out more and apply at [www.abilitycenter.org](http://www.abilitycenter.org). Or call 419 885 5733 for more information.

## The Parent Mentor Program

### What exactly is a Parent Mentor?

A Parent Mentor is a parent of a child with a disability, and provides a support network to school districts and parents of children with disabilities. The Parent Mentor can provide information and resources to families and school districts free of charge. Services provided by the Parent Mentor include guiding families through the special education process, listening to and providing support for families and educators on an individual basis, attending Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings or other school meetings, organizing workshops or trainings, and building collaborative partnerships between families, schools, and committees to benefit students with disabilities. As a Parent Mentor for Wood County, we are just a phone call away if you need help with your child's special education services, if you need information, or if you have questions.



Sincerely,

Jennifer Vanlerberg and Jenny Myers

**“You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think” — Winnie the Pooh**

# Training Opportunities

**March 6th** - STABLE Account Training - Lima Community Church, Journey Building, 2945 N. Cole St., Lima - 6:00-7:30 p.m. Presented in cooperation with the Ohio Treasurer's Office, the Allen County Parent Mentor Program and Autism Life Center. Reservations requested. Call Jennifer Slechter at 419-222-1836, ext. 114. Free.

**March 30th** - Regional Disabilities Conference - Union Chapel Missionary Church, 4869 Ada Rd., Lima - 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Co-sponsored by Allen County Parent Mentor Program, Allen County ESC, Allen County Board of DD, West Central Ohio Abilities Collaborative and Autism Life Center. Free for individuals with disabilities; \$10 for families and professionals

**May 7th** - Journey to Adulthood: What Parents Need to Know - Allen County ESC, Bldg 2, 1920 Slabtown Rd., Lima - 6:00-7:30 p.m. Presenter: Pam Cotrell, RN/Information Specialist with OCECD. Tools for helping parents to support their children with disabilities in navigating puberty and the challenges of understanding sexuality. Call Jennifer Slechter at 419-222-1836, ext. 114. Free.

Check out the free Special Needs Planning Series. All trainings are 6 to 8 p.m. Learn about transportation on 3/14, SN trusts on 4/11, Government Benefits on 9/12, and Guardianship on 9/12. Location is Toledo Port Authority Second Floor Conference Room 1 Maritime Toledo, RSVP to James Schade at 419-885-0015 or jschade@financialguide.com

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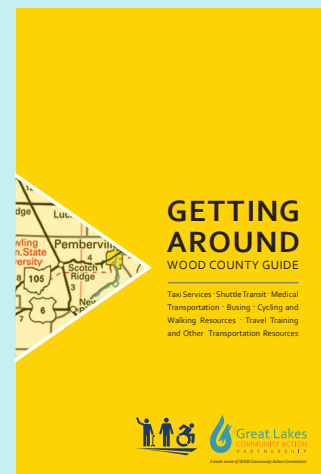
**“Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there someday.”  
— Winnie the Pooh**

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## TRANSPORTATION HELP FOR WOOD COUNTY RESIDENTS

If you have ever struggled to get around in Wood County, help is now available. You can download or request a “Getting Around, Wood County Guide.”

The guide was produced in 2018 by Great Lakes Community Action Partnership Mobility Management. It has loads of helpful tips and current agency information. To learn more, call 1-800-775-9767 or visit [glcap.org/programs/transportation/mobility-management](http://glcap.org/programs/transportation/mobility-management).



## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

Our spotlight falls on the Great Lakes Autism Collaborative. “We are dedicated to growing the opportunities, future, and lives for all touched by autism.” Check them out at [greatlakesautism.org](http://greatlakesautism.org). Here you can find a link to the “Greater Toledo Community Resource Guide” and many other helpful links. You can find trainings, locate resources, learn about grants, and so much more. They are located at 2040 West Central Ave in Toledo, or you can call 419-291-7031 for more information.



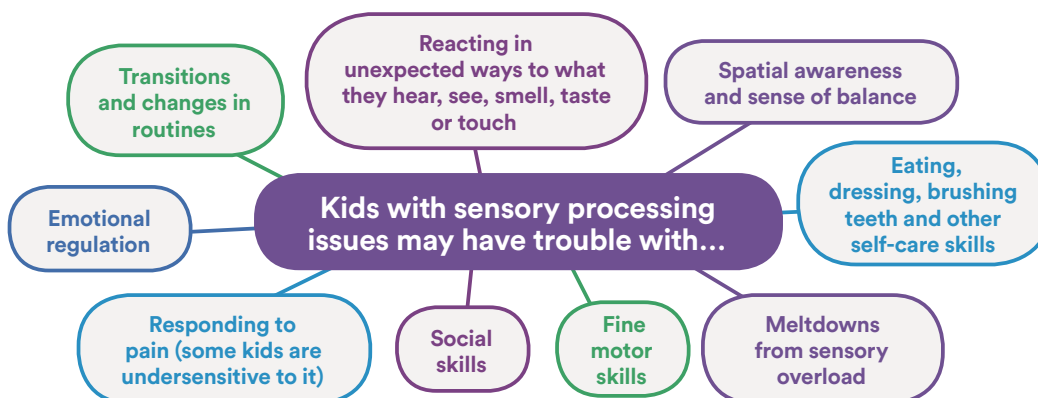
# Sensory Processing Issues Fact Sheet

## Sensory processing issues are...

- ✓ **Difficulties in organizing information from the senses.** These include responding to sights, sounds, smells, touch and sensory input related to balance and movement.
- ✓ **Often called *sensory processing disorder* (SPD).** Doctors might not use this term, but many occupational therapists do.
- ✓ **A common co-occurrence.** Sensory issues are often found in kids with ADHD or autism.

## Sensory processing issues are *not*...

- ✗ **Just kids being "too sensitive."** Sensory issues can be overwhelming and can make it hard to function in school and at home.
- ✗ **A sign that kids need more discipline.** Adults need to find out what's causing kids to melt down, not punish them for it.
- ✗ **Always consistent.** Responses to sensory input can vary from kid to kid and from day to day.



## Ways to help kids with sensory issues



**Occupational therapy** can help kids with sensory issues feel less overwhelmed, learn how to self-regulate and cope with challenging situations.



**Classroom accommodations**, positive behavior intervention plans and informal supports like chewing gum or using a fidget can help at school.



**Self-advocacy training** can help kids understand, ask for and explain to others what they need to succeed.

## Success stories



**Temple Grandin, Ph.D.,**  
Professor of animal sciences



**James Durbin,**  
Lead singer of Quiet Riot



**Mayim Bialik,**  
Actress, author and neuroscientist



**Understood**

For more information on sensory processing issues and how to help, go to [u.org/sensoryprocessing](http://u.org/sensoryprocessing)

## Amazing Apps and Wonderful Websites

Check out these fantastic apps for your IPAD - "Top Tip See", "Say Text", "Sound Literacy", "Access Note", "Dyslexia Quest", "Read 2 Me", "Sequences for Autism," and "Speech with Milo."



Have you visited the website [redtreehouse.org](http://redtreehouse.org)? How about our own State Support Team for Education - [sstr1.org](http://sstr1.org)? Another valuable website to check out is the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities at [www.ocecd.org](http://www.ocecd.org). Questions about education? Visit [www.education.ohio.gov](http://www.education.ohio.gov). And while you are checking out sites, visit [understood.org](http://understood.org) and sign up for their newsletter.

G.R.G SUPPORT GROUP

## GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

G.R.G meets in a casual and welcoming environment, offering support to grandparents who are raising grandchildren. Grandparents have the opportunity to meet other caregivers, develop a network of support, and receive information about services available.



### MEETING INFORMATION:

Second Wednesday of the month

6:00PM - 7:30PM

Wood County Educational Service Center  
1867 N. Research Drive  
Bowling Green, OH 43402

Dinner and child care will be available. Free of charge.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.wcesc.org/GRG](http://www.wcesc.org/GRG)

You Can Also Find us on Facebook!  
@GrandparentSupportWC



SPONSORED BY THE WOOD COUNTY EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICE CENTER AND OHIO COALITION  
FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

### *"The Bull Stops Here: Understanding Bullying and What You Can Do to Help"*

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
FREE TRAINING!**

**March 28, 2019**

Wood County Educational Service Center  
1867 North Research Drive,  
Bowling Green, OH 43402

**5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Presenter:  
Kelly Buerger  
OCECD Information Specialist/Trainer

#### REGISTRATION:

Parents of children with disabilities and professionals are invited to register for this free training by calling (419) 354-9010 or by emailing Jennifer Vanlerberg [jvanlerberg@wcesc.org](mailto:jvanlerberg@wcesc.org) or Jenny Myers [jemyers@wcesc.org](mailto:jemyers@wcesc.org)

Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD)  
165 West Center Street, Suite 302  
Marion, Ohio 43302  
844-382-5452

[www.ocecd.org](http://www.ocecd.org)

CONNECT WITH US



This training is designed for parents and professionals and will overview bullying, special considerations needed when addressing bullying in youth with disabilities, and resources for youth who are bullied, or who bully others.

Participants will gain an understanding of the dynamics of bullying. The various types of bullying and common characteristics of children who are targeted and children who exhibit bullying behaviors will be explored. Strategies to develop self-advocacy skills for the student being bullied, to develop peer advocacy skills for bystanders to speak out on behalf of others, and to modify the behavior of the child exhibiting the bullying behavior will be presented. Cooperative approaches for parents and educators to address and prevent bullying will be discussed.