

Issue 13, February 16, 2017

OUR HOUSE

IN FOCUS



PRO-KIDS THERAPY

Lori, Brittany, and the Children They Serve



PRO-KIDS THERAPY

A cornerstone of our Children's Programs is our partnership with Pro-Kids Therapy. Pro-Kids provides speech and occupational therapy for Little Learners (infants through four-years-old) and helps ensure that each child reaches developmental milestones necessary to succeed in school and life in general.



Click here to learn more about Pro-Kids Therapy!

Through this partnership, we have gained two daily on-site therapists, Lori Clark and Brittany Ruckle. With Lori and Brittany's expertise, Our House is able to provide unique and valuable resources to meet the needs of each individual child and provide a collaborative approach to child development.

Our House is incredibly grateful for this partnership that has helped so many of our children! We've asked Lori and Brittany to talk about the importance of their work and why they chose to serve at Our House.



LORI CLARK

Occupational Therapist

"A child's work is play. That is their literal occupation. That's how they learn about the world--through exercising their five senses during play. We are observing the way they approach a toy, which toys they choose (whether or not they choose age appropriate toys) and the way they choose to manipulate it. We collaborate with the teachers from day one, consulting them on their perception of the child. We are basing the indicators on three categories: fine motor, visual/perceptual skills and sensory processing abilities. It is very important to be aware of your child's sensory experiences and the way they manipulate their environments."

King, a four-year-old in our program, receives Occupational Therapy every week. Together, Lori and King work on improving his fine motor and visual/perceptual skills. The overall goal is to prepare him to be comfortable and successful in a kindergarten class.

"Not only has it been amazing to see his skyrocketing progress in such a short amount of time but it has been rewarding for me through my relationship with him. King lights up the entire room he's in. He makes my day and reminds me how to have fun. He is so gentle and has such a loving disposition. I have enjoyed every moment I have spent with him and he makes the hour we spend together full of love and encouragement."

BRITTANY RUCKLE

Speech Therapist

"Speech therapy entails so much more than most people realize. We deal with cognitive functioning, feeding, swallowing, receptive language delays, expressive language delays, articulation disorders, social interaction abilities (pragmatics)...I could go on and on. It is for that reason that I can't even begin to describe indicators for delays in the areas of speech language pathology. So much is completely dependent upon the age of the child. If a 1-year old is able to recognize the meaning of at least 100 words and is beginning to use/say 20 of those words - that is normal and wonderful! But fast forward 6-months to a year and if an 18-24 month old is doing the same, he or she may be delayed because those totals should be double. My best advice to parents, caregivers and teachers is: Spend time in your child's classroom. Pay attention to the other children and compare your child to the others around them. If you notice the other kids are doing things your child isn't, have your child screened or assessed."

J.C., one of our three-year-olds, is one of the many children in Little Learners that receives Speech Therapy with Brittany. Through their work together, J.C. has been able to improve his speech and reading skills and, like King, is preparing himself for success when he begins school.



WHY OUR HOUSE?



Brittany Ruckle, Speech Therapist



Lori Clark, Occupational Therapist

"I love working at Our House! It has, by far, been the best experience of my career. ALL of the staff are so involved and considerate! The kids are clearly the #1 priority and the employees are always so eager to learn what more they could be doing for the children!"

"It's as simple as this--it's the best experience I've had in my 21 years as a therapist. "It's like a family--like a team--we all work together, supporting each other, to focus on the needs of each child. I feel like I belong here."



Click here for more information about Little Learners and the services we offer!