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ASK E-Newsletter | MAY 2021

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PARENT TO PARENT
USA

May is Mental Health Awareness Month



Mental Health Awareness Month gives us all the opportunity to combat the negative attitudes, misconceptions, prejudices and discriminations around **mental health** in our communities. Check out NAMI's website for some great resources [HERE](#) or call an ASK Parent Liaison.

The Children's

ASK Welcomes Keana Thompson to our Team



It is with great pleasure that we wish a warm welcome to Keana Thompson. Keana will be joining us for seven months as an intern as she completes her degree in Social Work from Indiana Wesleyan University. Keana sends this message to you - our ASK friends and supporters:

Hello everyone, My name is Keana Thompson. I am married with two children. My husband's name is Steffen Thompson, and my children's names are Sophia, who is twelve, and Seth-Allen, who is one. I grew up in Richmond, IN but moved to Indianapolis about 13 years ago. I have an Associate's Degree In Human Services from Ivy Tech Community College and will be receiving my BSW From Indiana Wesleyan University in October of this year. I have worked with many populations, and I am very excited to be a part of the ASK organization.

I was introduced to this program because my son was born at 24 weeks and was what they call a micro-preemie. He was in the NICU for 111 days. We finally got to bring him home, but we needed a lot of support and help. We were referred to ASK, and they have truly helped us on our journey. I loved the compassion and empathy I felt from my parent liaison and decided to see if I could complete my internship here. I look forward to growing and gaining knowledge from the many programs offered by ASK.

Please join us in welcoming Keana! She can be reached at keana@abousspecialkids.org.

ASK Walking for Dreams

Museum Accessibility Survey

ASK has partnered with The Children's Museum of Indianapolis to improve accessibility in our community! Take this survey [here](#) to let the museum know how they are doing on accessibility and what could be improved. At the end of the survey, you can enter to win a \$25 Amazon gift card.

More information about the Children's Museum is available [here](#).

ASK Wishes You a Very Happy Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9th!



Save the Date for the ASK Founders Breakfast



ASK and The Children's Museum of Indianapolis have recently entered into a partnership with the desire to work collaboratively to serve families raising children with special needs who would benefit from increased accessibility or additional accommodations while visiting the museum. Although the main goal of the collaboration is to ensure museum exhibits are accessible for all families, the partnership is also in place to support each other's critical work.



We walk to ensure our programs remain free and available to families.

Single mom, Laperria, was feeling isolated and overwhelmed before learning about the Parent Liaison peer support available through About Special Kids. When Laperria called ASK, she suspected her five year old son, Elijah, could be on the Autism Spectrum and she was looking for resources and support for what she described as very difficult behaviors. Laperria states her ASK Parent Liaison encouraged her to talk directly to her doctor about her concerns and advocate for an autism evaluation. Laperria said "ASK offered me the support that was very beneficial to a single mom. She did not assume his bad behavior was a discipline problem."

When asked how the family had benefited from their connection with ASK she said, "Without my ASK Parent Liaison, I have no idea where I would be. I feel like I have a support system. When I was at the ABA center to get my son an Autism evaluation, Elijah acted out and broke my glasses. I reached my limit and got emotional. The center told me I had to reschedule. I called ASK for support and she called the center and talked them into letting me stay." Elijah received his autism diagnosis that day and the family was moving forward to get the services they needed.

Elijah is now on the Medicaid Family Support Waiver. Laperria has all the confidence and skills necessary to advocate for Elijah's needs, knowing ASK is just a phone call away if she needs information, resources, or support.

More information about the Walk and opportunities to get involved in support of families like Elijah's is available on our website [here](#).

Understanding Waivers Free ASK Zoom Training

We are excited to announce that the 2021 ASK Founders Breakfast will be held at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. Please save the date of Thursday, October 14th from 7:30 to 9:00 am. For more information please contact Kathy Berman at kathy@aboutspecialkids.org.



Date: 6/07/2021 **Event Times** 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Learn about the different types of waivers, who is eligible and what services they offer, and how to apply. The presentation will be followed by time for specific questions and answers. More information and registration is available on the ASK website [here](#).

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