

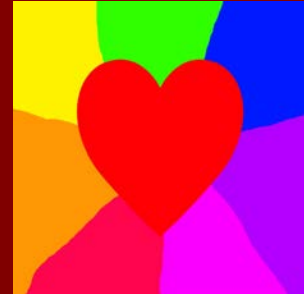


presents

IMPACT:

*Information, Motivation, Playing, Activities,
Connections, Training*

Fall 2025 Edition



A quarterly newsletter for families of children 3 to 12 supported by the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Like our logo?

We are thrilled to share that it was created by JC Thompson, a young man supported by our Early Childhood team. We wanted to thank him for his work and share a little about him.

"JC is super creative and enjoys art, coding and creating with Legos. JC loves all things dinosaurs and enjoys sharing his wealth of knowledge with others. JC has a great memory and amazing attention to details. JC plans to use his interests and strengths to be a software engineer, creating code for new video games."



MEET OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD TEAM

Supporting children age 3 to 12



Diane Dodson
Developmental Specialist
(Only ages 3-6)



Laura Middleton
Early Childhood
Service Coordinator



Connie Bryant
Early Childhood
Service Coordinator



Christina Rines
Early Childhood
Service Coordinator



Rachel Harper
Early Childhood
Service Coordinator



Tiffany McClain
Early Childhood
Service Coordinator



Hallie Mayabb
Early Childhood
Service Coordinator



Cheree Nelson
Director of Early
Childhood Services



Amanda Smith
Early Childhood
Service Coordinator



New accessibility options added to the Hartford Fair!

Visitors to the Hartford Independent Fair this year will find two new accessible options to meet their needs!

Working in partnership with the Hartford Fair Board, the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) will offer an accessible restroom with a universal changing table and a sensory room in the building located between the Commerce and Arts and Crafts buildings.

Both the accessible restroom and the sensory room will be available to the public from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Aug. 4 to Aug. 8.

The accessible restroom offers a universal changing table and a Hoyer lift. Those planning to use the Hoyer lift should bring their own sling. There is also a private restroom with a toilet, sink and roll-in shower. The sensory space will offer a quiet space with low lighting and sensory-friendly seating. It may be helpful to those with autism or others who need a break from the sounds, smells and crowds of the

fair.

LCBDD received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding to renovate a portion of the building and create the accessible restroom and sensory space.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



Early Childhood Family Fun Day!

Visit LCBDD's Family Resource Center on Wednesday, Aug. 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hartford Fair. Bring the little ones for a day of games, fun and information for parents about local resources for families.



Preparing for Back to School

Going back to school after an extended break is never easy for kids or

parents. Help your child prepare for "back to school" by practicing skills such as getting ready in the morning, packing a backpack, and knowing transportation plans for getting to and from school each day. It is also helpful to practice a consistent schedule each day. This makes children feel safer and happier, which often leads to better behavior and cooperation. When they know what to expect, and what's expected of them, kids feel more comfortable and confident about what lies ahead!

More tips about preparing for the first day back to school and setting a daily routine can be found [here](https://www.pbs.org/parents/back-to-school).

Source: <https://www.pbs.org/parents/back-to-school>



My Back-to-School Checklist

- ☐ I know my school bedtime and how to get myself ready for bed.
- ☐ I practiced my morning routine 3 times: clothes on, eat breakfast, brush teeth, put on shoes – then off to school!
- ☐ I know how I am getting to school and back home each day.
- ☐ I have a special place at home to keep my backpack and supplies.
- ☐ I have practiced packing and putting on my backpack.
- ☐ I know my teachers' names.
- ☐ I know how to be a germ-buster! I wash my hands with soap and water, stay home when I'm feeling sick and put on a mask when I need to.
- ☐ I have created a weekly schedule with a grown-up in my family that includes time for play when I finish school!



Find more games and activities at pbskids.org

PBS KIDS and the PBS KIDS Logo are trademarks owned by Public Broadcasting Service. Used with permission.

Find your school supplies list!

- [Licking Heights Local Schools](#)
- [Newark City Schools Elementary](#)
- [Southwest Licking Early Learning Center](#)
- [Etna Elementary](#)
- [Kirkersville Elementary](#)
- [Pataskala South Fork Elementary](#)
- [Garfield Elementary](#)
- [Northridge Elementary](#)
- [Newton Elementary](#)
- [Granville Elementary](#)



Before and After School Care Options

- **Newark City Schools:** Buckeye Valley Family YMCA before and after school care. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- **Licking Heights Local Schools:** Buckeye Valley Family YMCA before and after school care. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- **Heath City Schools:** Buckeye Valley Family YMCA before and after school care. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- **Montessori Community School:** Before and after school care. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- **My Place Child Care and School Age Center:** Before and after school care. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Fall time fun!

Upcoming Events:

- Family Fun Fest: 8/9 from 1-5 p.m. at Newark Station in Newark.
- Pataskala Street Fair: 8/13-8/16, Main Street in Pataskala.
- Little Sprouts Paint & Plant Jack O'Lantern Flower Pot: 9/14 from 1-3 p.m. at Wilson's Garden Center in Newark.
- Family Fall Festival: 9/20 from 1-4 p.m. at Freedom Park in Pataskala.
- Johnstown Homecoming Festival: 10/1 from 5-9 p.m. at Johnstown High School Chambers Stadium in Johnstown.
- Licking Park District Harvest Moon Festival: 10/4 from 12-5 p.m. at Infirmary Mound Park in Granville.
- Little Sprouts Baby Scarecrow: 10/12 from 1-3 p.m. at Wilson's Garden Center in Newark.
- Pataskala Hometown Festival: 10/19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

Pumpkin Patches and Orchards:

- Charlie's Apples – 1740 Sportsman Club Road NW, Newark
- Timbuk Farms – 2030 Timbuk Road, Granville
- Van Buren Acres – 5066 Keller Road, Hebron
- Dupler's Pumpkin Land – 5766 Jacksontown Road, Newark
- Pigeon Roost – 4413 National Road SW, Hebron
- Lynd's Fruit Farm – 9399 Morse Road SW, Pataskala
- Branstool Orchards – 5895 Johnstown-Utica Road NE, Utica
- Heartland Orchard – 13029 Laurel Hill Road, Thornville
- Legend Hills Orchard – 11335 Reynolds Road, Utica



Learn more about: Autism Spectrum Disorder



Autism Spectrum Disorder (ADS) is a developmental disability that can cause social, communicational and behavioral challenges. People with ADS may behave, communicate, interact, and learn in ways that are different from others. They may also have restricted or repetitive behaviors or interests, and have different ways for learning, moving and interacting socially.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/autism/about/index.html>

Places for developmental evaluations for ASD diagnosis:

- **Nationwide Children's Hospital:** Offers interdisciplinary assessment and treatment for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism. Has a Child Development Center (CDC) and a Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD). Provides consultation, assessment, therapy, and support services. **Contact:** (614) 722-1800.
- **Ohio Guidestone:** Offers autism treatment services, including diagnosis and early intervention. Provides autism therapy services and education for families. **Visit:** <https://ohioguidestone.org/contact-us/>
- **Kadiant:** Provides ABA services, diagnostic assessments, and social skills training in Franklin, Delaware, Union, Fairfield, Madison, Pickaway, and Licking counties. Offers in-home, in-school, and in-clinic services. **Visit:** <https://www.kadiant.com/>
- **Cook Counseling and Consulting:** **Visit:**

<https://cookcounselingandconsulting.com/autism-assessments/>

- **Mindscales:** Visit: <https://mindscalesohio.com/>
- **Hopebridge Autism Therapy Centers:** Visit: <https://www.hopebridge.com/contact/>
- **As You Are: Virtual Diagnostic Evaluations for Kids:** Child has three telehealth video appointments; clinical interview, standardized behavioral observation appointment and results appointment. Examples of other diagnoses a child could get other than Autism are: expressive and/or receptive speech delay, Sensory Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Global Developmental Delay. Visit: <https://asyouare.com/>

Save the date!

Mark your calendars from 1 to 4 p.m. on September 20, for a family friendly day at Freedom Park, 5261 Taylor Rd SW, in Pataskala. The festival is FREE and OPEN to all! There will be a petting zoo, food trucks, games, giveaways, and various community partners, along with Momentum Refresh providing an accessible restroom!

We hope to see you there!



FAMILY FALL Festival

Food trucks - Petting zoo
Giveaways - Family fun
Free and open to all!

September 20 | 1 - 4 PM

FREEDOM PARK
5261 Taylor Rd SW Pataskala, OH

INCLUSION MATTERS! THIS EVENT INCLUDES A FULLY-
ACCESSIBLE MOBILE RESTROOM WITH A UNIVERSAL/ADULT
CHANGING TABLE PROVIDED BY:



Brought to the community by:



Unique Lending Items

Licking County Library's unique lending items are a collection of fun and practical items, games, and equipment you can check out with your library card!

Here are a few of the lending items available!



The Dawes Arboretum Pass
Pass admits up to six individuals (adult or child). Children under 5 receive free admission.

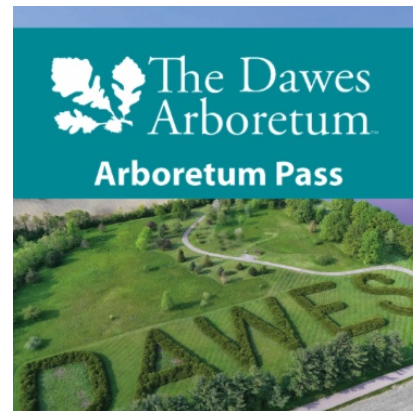
- Valid for one visit within 14 days of checkout.
- Valid for general admission; excludes admission to registered programs or special events.

The Works Museum Pass

Pass admits up to four individuals (adult or child).

- Valid for one visit within seven days of checkout.
- Valid for general admission; excludes special events.
- May not be combined with any discount.
- May not be combined with another Library pass.
- Valid for SciDome admission.
- Lost passes have a \$100 replacement fee.
- More information can be found on [The Works website](#).

- Passes cannot be used for entry during the arboretum's member-only hour from 8 - 9am.
- One pass per individual will be issued at a time, allowing for greater availability of passes to the community.
- Library cards do not provide complimentary entry at the gate; a Library Arboretum Pass is required for admission.
- More information can be found on [The Dawes Arboretum website](#).



Board Games

Find a range of options from traditional card games, classic board games and new family favorites that are housed at the Johnstown (Mary E. Babcock) location. Board games check out for seven days and can be renewed two times if there are no holds. Games can be sent to any LCL location or Mobile Library. For a current list of games, please contact info@lickingcountylibrary.org.



To view more items available for lending visit:

<https://www.lickingcountylibrary.org/books-beyond/unique-lending-items/>

Learn more about the Licking County Library:

Engaging a child's desire to learn can be a challenge—that's why Licking County Library offers a variety of resources to foster a child's love of literacy. From access to eResources like Hoopla to specially curated classroom collections, LCL has the tools to encourage children to become life-long learners.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and they'll send them a FREE BOOK every month until their fifth birthday. If your child lives in Licking County, register for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library [here](#) or at any library location in Licking County. For details on the program or to print a registration form, click [here](#).

Story Time

At 10:30 a.m. each day, one of Licking County Library's locations brings early literacy to life!

Locations and Times

Enjoy stories, songs and activities for the whole family. Every forth week (and fifth if applicable) will be a special program. [Check the program calendar online for details.](#)

Mondays | 10:30 a.m. | Utica

Tuesdays | 10:30 a.m. | Johnstown (Mary E. Babcock)

Tuesdays | 10:30 a.m. | Downtown Newark (ages 3 - 5)

Wednesdays | 10:30 a.m. | Downtown Newark (Birth through 2)

Wednesdays | 10:30 a.m. | Hebron

Thursdays | 10:30 a.m. | West Newark (Emerson R. Miller)

Fridays | 10:30 a.m. | Buckeye Lake

*Schedule is based on the school year and is subject to change

Self-Regulation Strategies for Reducing Anxiety

Many children have fears and worries and may feel sad and hopeless from time to time. Strong fears may appear at different times during development. Children can often become very distressed about being away from their parents, even if they are safe and cared for. Practicing these strategies on a daily basis can help your child know what to do to help them reduce anxiety and stay in control when you are not present.

To promote a calm body, try these simple activities:

- **10 wall push ups**
- **Press your hands together in a prayer position for 10 seconds.**
- **Hug yourself as tight as you can for 10-15 seconds. This can**

also be done by using a stuffed animal.

- 10 toe touches
- Take a deep breath 3 times: smell the flowers, blow out the candle.

Source: [Diane Dodson, LCBDD Developmental Specialist and CDC Children's Mental Health](#)

Cooking Corner: Apple Fruit Lollipops!

Ingredients:

- Large apples (red or green)
- Lollipop sticks
- Toothpick
- Caramel sauce
- Dark chocolate, melted
- Semi-sweet chocolate, melted

Optional:

- Crushed peanuts
- Shredded coconut flakes
- Crushed graham crackers
- Mini marshmallows



Instructions:

1. Wash and slice the apples into rounds, about 1/2 inch thick
2. Poke a hole on one end of the apple round with a toothpick, then insert a lollipop stick. Repeat with remaining rounds.
3. Dip or drizzle half of the apple round with caramel or melted chocolate. Allow to cool slightly, then sprinkle with the toppings of your choice!

Source: <https://helloyummy.co/apple-fruit-lollipops/>

Craft Corner: Fall Sensory Table

What you'll need:

- Plastic bin with a lid
- Corn kernels
- White rice
- Food coloring- color of your choice
- Vinegar
- Resealable plastic bag

- Felt or real leaves
- Tractor toys

Directions:

1. Add rice to the resealable plastic bag
2. Add in the vinegar and food coloring of your choice
3. Shake the bag to distribute the color
4. Spread out the rice to dry
5. Add the corn kernels, leaves, and rice (once dry) into the plastic bin
6. Add in tractors or other toys of your choosing
7. Place the lid on the plastic container to store your sensory bin!



Source: <https://www.autismadventures.com/fall-sensory-fun/>

**Find the fully accessible mobile restroom,
Momentum Refresh, throughout Licking County!**

momentum[®]

EVENTS SCHEDULE

refresh

	Aug 13-16	Pataskala Street Fair 6 - 10 PM (8/13), 12 - 10 PM (8/14-8/16) Main Street Pataskala, OH
	Sept 20	Family Fall Festival 1 - 4 PM Freedom Park Pataskala, OH
	Oct 1	Johnstown Homecoming Festival 5 - 9 PM Johnstown High School Chambers Stadium Johnstown, OH
	Oct 4	Harvest Moon Festival 12 - 5 PM Infirmary Mound Park Granville, OH
	Oct 19	Pataskala Hometown Festival 11 AM - 2 PM Foundation Park Pataskala, OH
	Dec 6	Olde Town Holiday Cookie Walk & Christmas Parade 3 - 6 PM Main Street Pataskala, OH

Brought to you by:

LICKING COUNTY
Board of
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Made possible by ARPA Funds

Follow us on social media!

- The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities shares stories, resources and information about community events on its Facebook page. Like or follow us: [@LcountyDD](#).
- LCBDD also can be found on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#): [@lcountydd!](#)
- Check out our Youtube channel: [@LickingCountyDD](#)
- LCBDD also has a Youtube playlist, specifically focused on videos for families of young children. Check it out by clicking [HERE](#).

Licking County Board of DD | 116 N. 22nd St | Newark, OH 43055 US

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