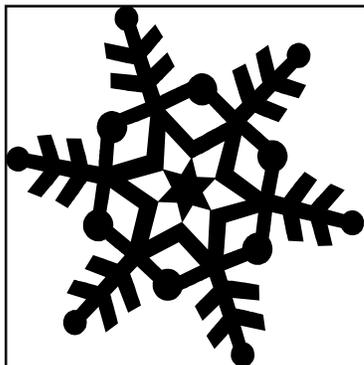


As January approaches, we turn our thoughts to kindergarten screenings and IEP meetings. As preschoolers, we are always working on scissor skills, writing, therapy skills, and self-help skills. Amy and Tyren are working on walking in a gait trainer. Jordan is learning to drive his new powerbase wheelchair. Benna, Peyton, Landin, Ari, Alex B., Alex J., and Addie are all working on skills that will ready them for public school programs. Maddy continues to work and improve on self-feeding. Ryland will be walking independently by spring, I am almost certain. He tries to take steps everyday without his walker.

# ROOM 5

As a teacher, I cannot be more proud of how much our students grow throughout the school year. Thanks to all our parents who help me and all of our students.



LINKING FAMILIES TO:  
HAPPY DAY SCHOOL  
2500 BRADY LAKE ROAD  
RAVENNA, OHIO 44266  
330-678-2400  
[www.portagedd.org](http://www.portagedd.org)



## PLAYING “PRETEND” WITH YOUR CHILD HELPS BUILD INTERACTION AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

taken from [www.language-express.ca](http://www.language-express.ca) (issue 18)

Children love to play “pretend.” Pretend play is the most advanced form of play. Encourage your child to engage in pretend play by modeling this form of play yourself:

- Feed pretend food to a doll.
- Drive a bus made out of a cardboard box.
- Wash the car using a bike or toy car.
- Shave with dad using a block for a razor.
- Talk on the phone using a cardboard roll or a banana.

Stages of	Play Description
12-18 months old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pretend by themselves using real life objects or realistic looking toys.</li> </ul>
18 months-2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plays pretend on people or toys.</li> <li>• Substitutes toy object for the real thing if the toy looks similar to the real object.</li> <li>• Pretends to do things they see adults do.</li> </ul>
2 years-2.5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pretends to do a familiar routine with several steps.(e.g. feed a teddy bear, give it a bath, put it to bed)</li> <li>• Pretends to be a person they know well.</li> <li>• Substitutes objects as long as they are similar to the real object.</li> </ul>
2.5 years-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to act out less familiar routines.</li> <li>• May talk during play, but not always.</li> <li>• Uses imaginary objects during play.</li> <li>• Uses objects that don't look like the real thing in their play (e.g. small pillow for a steering wheel.)</li> </ul>
3-5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plays pretend with others using make believe objects. (e.g. eating, drinking with invisible dishes.)</li> <li>• Talks about what they are doing and using in their pretend play.</li> </ul>

### Help to Increase Your Child's Ability to Take Turns in Play

Learning to take turns is very important for children as they develop communication skills. Turn-taking starts without words. For example, you smile and your child smiles back, or you roll a ball and your child rolls it back. The more your child comes to learn the social rules of communication, the more these rules can be expanded to include language. Encourage turn-taking during pretend play with your child by choosing activities that you can play together. e.g. Take turns answering the pretend phone, feeding the baby, pouring tea, etc.

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

1/8/2013	6:00-7:30pm	Board Eligible Family Swim
1/10/2013	3:15-4:15pm	Market Day Pickup
1/11/2013	9:00am-3:00pm	Genetics Clinic
1/11/2013	9:30-10:15am	EI Motor Playgroup
1/15/2013	6:00-7:30pm	Board Eligible Family Swim
1/15/2013	5:30pm	PCBDD Board Meeting-Board Office
1/18/2013		Report Cards Sent Home
1/18/2013	9:30-10:15am	EI Motor Group
1/21/2013		MLK DAY-Program Closed
1/22/2013		Program Resumes
1/22/2013	6:00-7:30pm	Board Eligible Family Swim
1/25/2013	9:30-10:15am	EI Motor Playgroup
1/25/2013	5:30-7:15pm	School-age Parent Group-Dinner and Kindermusik-cafeteria
1/29/2013	6:00-7:30pm	Board Eligible Family Swim
2/1/2013		Room 4 Home Visits-class in session
2/1/2013	9:30-10:15am	EI Motor Playgroup
2/5/2013	6:00-7:30 pm	Board Eligible Family Swim
2/7/2013	3:15-4:15pm	Market Day Pickup-MPR
2/8/2013		Room 5 Home Visits-Class in session
2/8/2013	9:30-10:15am	EI Motor Playgroup
2/11/2013	4:00pm	Parent Council Meeting

### SHOP FOR CASH FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS



SAVE YOUR ACME RECEIPTS FROM SEP. 24-FEB. 11TH AND SEND THEM TO HAPPY DAY SCHOOL IN CARE OF DIANA HARROD. SPECIAL OLYMPICS EARNS 5% OF CASH BACK AMOUNT PRINTED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RECEIPT.



PLEASE VISIT THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WEBSITE AT [www.portagedd.org](http://www.portagedd.org).

## Three Cheers For The Special Needs Parent

To Those of You That Just Don't "Get It" and to the Those of you that Do:  
Special needs parents wear so many hats! We also provide many services to our children that many people cannot fathom. And, we did it with remarkable skills we did not know we possessed, until we needed to stand and deliver for our child. Three cheers for those of us that completely comprehend this list!

Sometimes I feel like a:

Night Watchman – Late nights because our child does not sleep.

Gourmet Chef – Preparing Special Diets which may include several different meals for different family members.

Service Coordinator – Planning for a wide variety of therapists.

Chauffeur – How else would my child get to all those therapy appointments?

Researcher Extraordinaire!

Fearless Advocate – Because our child deserves it!

Cheer Leader – We celebrate EVERY victory large or small. Believe us... NOTHING is small.

We possess the following abilities or qualities:

Grace under fire (or not) when encountering annoying stares from others when out in public.

Gratitude for those that do "get it".

Above and beyond nursing skills.

The patience of a Saint.

The bravery of a Warrior.

The heroics of an Army General.

The ability to persevere under excruciatingly difficult circumstances.

Last but not least, here are a few other things you should know. We gave up countless vacations, parties, social engagements and dinners because our child would be uncomfortable or we could not find adequate care. We love being social but not at the risk of our child's safety or emotional well-being.

We get tired of constantly advocating for our child, but we cannot rest until our voices are heard! Sometimes our faith is shaken, buried, hibernating but it always returns because every special needs parent is resilient!

So here's to us, the Special Needs Parent! Hip Hip Hooray!

Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray! ♥



~By autismstorybookmom