



Shawn's Dream Comes True: Attends Miami Dolphins Game and Meets a Player

Shawn had the chance to fulfill one of his lifelong dreams: attending a Miami Dolphins game. Those who know him are aware that he is their biggest fan. He attended the pre-season game between the Miami Dolphins and the Chicago Bears. After the game, he was fortunate enough to meet one of the Miami Dolphins players.



From our Superintendent

It's hard to believe how quickly summer has flown by! It has been wonderful to see so many of you enjoying the season through our events and activities. From our Annual Family Picnic, to cheering on the Mud Hens, to the many other summer gatherings, it was clear that fun and connection were at the heart of it all.

We also enjoyed seeing everyone who stopped by our booth at the county fair—it's always a great opportunity to connect with families, share information, and celebrate our community together.

Thank you for being part of these special moments and for helping make this summer such a success.

Robin Shepherd

Technology Spotlight

In recent months, the FCBDD has been developing a Technology Lending Closet, allowing individuals to explore various types of adaptive and assistive technology that can enhance everyday life. This issue's featured device is a Smart Microwave.

This smart microwave includes an important safety feature designed to prevent accidental use by family members who are learning meal preparation. It integrates with Alexa, enabling hands-free operation through voice commands or app control via a separate Amazon Echo device. The microwave comes with preset menus for popular foods such as pizza, popcorn, potatoes, vegetables, and more. A built-in humidity sensor automatically adjusts the cooking power to ensure optimal heating and simplify the cooking process. Additionally, a sound on/off button allows you to silence the beeping when cooking is complete, so you won't disturb others in the home.

For more information or to test out this product, please contact your SSA and request an Individual Assessment.





**Department of
Children & Youth**

Help Me Grow Early Intervention

*Helping children and families wherever
they choose to live, play, and spend
their day.*

The Power of Play: Helping Toddlers Learn & Navigate Big Feelings

For young children, play is not “just for fun” – it is how they learn, explore the world, and build important skills. Whether it is stacking blocks, pretending to cook, or playing peek-a-boo, play strengthens language, problem-solving, motor skills, and social-emotional growth.

One of the biggest benefits of play is that it gives toddlers a safe space to work through their feelings. Big emotions – like frustration when a tower falls, excitement over a new toy, or disappointment when playtime ends – are a normal part of development. In Early Intervention, we look at play not only as a way to learn, but as an opportunity to help children recognize and manage those emotions.

Ways to Support Your Child During Play

1. **Follow their lead.** Let your child choose the activity and set the pace. This helps them feel in control and builds confidence.
2. **Name the feelings.** “I see your mad”, “I see your sad”, “You are so excited!”
3. **Model coping strategies.** Show them how to try again or ask for help.
4. **Join in.** Get on their level, make eye contact, and share in the fun. This strengthens your bond and shows that play is fun.

Remember: Big feelings are a sign that your toddler is learning about themselves and the world. By combining play with gentle support, you are helping them build both skills and resilience that will last forever.

If you would like more ideas for play-based learning or ways to help your toddler manage emotions, talk with your Early Intervention Team today!



Chrystal's Inspiring Journey: Sharing Her Story and Embracing New Opportunities

Chrystal has had some amazing opportunities these past few months, where she was able to share a part of her story.

Chrystal was a part of SALUTE Storytellers, Stories of Disability Pride where she had the opportunity to share her story, “All Dogs Go to Heaven” at the Toledo Museum of Art. Chrystal noted, “I was able to choose these dogs that needed adopted and I can relate as my parents adopted me.”



Chrystal was invited to speak at the Fulton County Democratic Party Picnic. Chrystal enjoyed having the opportunity to share her story “All Dogs Go to Heaven” and her Advocacy story that she wrote after attending Project Stir. Chrystal was able to ask the party questions that she had, and she was given the opportunity to meet Representative Marcy Kaptur who told Chrystal, “She is so proud of her.”

Most recently, Chrystal also had the opportunity to share her story, “All Dogs Go to Heaven” on WGTE Public Broadcasting studio for an upcoming podcast.



Chrystal has had an amazing few months filled with lots of opportunities. Chrystal is looking forward to furthering her education by attending Owen’s Community College in the fall where she is most excited for her labs as she will be able to put her baking skills to work!!!



FULTON COUNTY
BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

2026 Calendar



Thursday, January 1, 2026	Closed	New Year's Day
Monday, January 19, 2026	Closed	Martin Luther King Day
Monday, February 16, 2026	Closed	President's Day
Friday, April 3, 2026	Closed	Good Friday
Wednesday, May 13, 2026	Closed	Staff In-service
Monday, May 25, 2026	Closed	Memorial Day
Friday, June 19, 2026	Closed	Juneteenth Day
Friday, July 3, 2026	Closed	Independence Day
Monday, September 7, 2026	Closed	Labor Day
Wednesday, October 14, 2026	Closed	Staff In-Service
Thursday, November 26 & Friday November 27, 2026	Closed	Thanksgiving
Thursday, December 24 through Tuesday, December 29, 2026	Closed	Christmas

Board Approved: August 19, 2025

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



DEADLINE EXTENDED

TAKE OUR ANNUAL SURVEY!

Annually, as part of our strategic planning process, we solicit feedback from families, agencies, providers, community members, and other stakeholders to assess our performance. If you have not yet completed our survey, we encourage your participation. Your insights are invaluable to us.

Extended until September 18th.

TAKE THE SURVEY