

Autism Beacon ™

The Autism Beacon is Lighthouse Autism Center's virtual monthly newsletter. Take a look and learn about new center updates, client and staff spotlights and valuable resources for the autism community!





Introducing Lighthouse Fusion™

An Innovative Approach that Fuses ABA and Speech Therapy Into One Enhanced Therapy Solution



ABA has long been the gold-standard for autism therapy. Research shows that building motivation and rewarding success is effective in delivering superior outcomes for children. Lighthouse Autism Center is offering an innovative approach to ABA therapy called Lighthouse Fusion™. Lighthouse Fusion integrates ABA therapy and speech therapy into a one-of-a-kind clinical model. Designed by Lighthouse's team of dually certified BCBA/SLPs, some of only a handful in the world, children benefit from a team of world class clinicians collaborating on goal development and delivering therapy.

- Integrated therapies: Fusion brings together speech and ABA into one comprehensive program.
- Collaborative team: Each child has a dually certified SLP/BCBA, behavior analyst, and

registered behavior technician working together to support their progress. Three clinicians, one goal.

- Enhanced Progress: proven success in delivering better outcomes, faster, for children with autism.

[Learn More About Lighthouse Fusion](#)

Meet Janine Shapiro, M.S., CCC SLP-BCBA

Director of Lighthouse Fusion™, Janine Shapiro, M.S., CCC SLP-BCBA is a leading expert in the fields of speech-language pathology and behavior analysis. In undergrad, Janine studied communication sciences and disorders and later earned her graduate degree in speech-language pathology and certificate in applied behavior analysis. With over 16 years in the field, Janine brings an incredible depth of experience and expertise to the Lighthouse Autism Center Team.



What made you decide on a career in therapy?

I have two younger siblings who presented with developmental speech disorders. I grew up in clinical waiting rooms! My parents had enormous respect and gratitude towards my brothers' speech therapist; she was a hero in our house!

What inspires/drives you?

I'm inspired by the progress I see each day. I am driven to create new techniques- Fusion procedures- that produce results parents and other practitioners never dreamed possible.

What is your favorite part of your job?

Working alongside and collaborating with some truly brilliant speech and behavior analytic clinicians. I look forward to going to the office each day. I'm passionate about my career, which I don't view as work. I'm extraordinarily lucky.

How has this career path impacted you?

I do not take anything for granted. I live a very grateful life. I'm most thankful for the families who trust me to give their children a voice.

What advice would you give to those seeking a Similar career path?

When offered an opportunity to learn, raise your hand! Add as many techniques to your toolbox as possible; each one will one day bring a learner a step closer to better communication and a more independent life. Seek out great mentors.

[Meet our team of dually-certified clinicians!](#)

Child Spotlight: Oliver



Meet Oliver. When Oliver first came to Lighthouse he struggled with communication, toileting, and aggression. With the help of his dedicated team of clinicians at Lighthouse, Oliver has made incredible progress!

- Oliver now independently asks for things he wants or needs using his picture exchange system.
- When Oliver started he would rarely use vocal words to communicate. With Lighthouse Fusion, we have seen Oliver drastically increase his vocal communication.
- Oliver was not toilet trained prior to coming to Lighthouse. He has made great progress! While he still wears pull-ups, he stays dry all day and can now ask to use the bathroom.
- With his new vocal communication skills combined with the help of a picture exchange system, Oliver is now able to communicate his wants and needs which in turn, has significantly reduced the amount of aggressive behavior seen at home and in the center. These newfound skills are having far reaching impacts for Oliver and his family!

"I have overseen Oliver since July of 2021. In this time, Oliver has grown tremendously. He's been using the toilet consistently, utilizing his picture icons to request preferred items and even the bathroom. His speech has just soared over the last 2 months with Oliver's participation in co-treat sessions with Janine. With the Lighthouse Fusion model, we have seen Oliver echoing words consistently, vocally saying hi and bye while he waves, and he vocally addresses his pet cat "Ivy" whenever she's in the room with him, all things Oliver could not do before coming to Lighthouse. While Oliver has absolutely blown everyone away with his progress, I cannot wait to see what his future holds through his time at LAC and even beyond!"

- Elizabeth Zeese, Jr. Program Manager at Lighthouse Autism Center

Resource of the Month: AWS Foundation

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH: AWS FOUNDATION



AWS Foundation helps children and adults with enduring intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities live as independently as possible, be included in the community and function at their highest potential.

We envision a community in which people with enduring intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities are engaged fully and meaningfully in all aspects of community life.

[Learn More Here](#)

Upcoming Community Events & Resources

Parent Support Group (Online)

June 14, 2022 at 10:00 am - June 14, 2022 at 11:00 am

Autism Speaks presents a virtual parent support group. Calling all parents and caregivers who want to learn, share, and grow in a supportive environment.

Join us to:

- Learn more about the diagnosis of autism
- Share experiences, strengths, and challenges
- Learn about coping and self-care strategies

[Learn More Here](#)

Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder (Online)

Wed, June 22, 2022

9:00 AM EDT

The Delaware Network for Excellence in Autism (DNEA), housed at UD's Center for Disabilities Studies, offers training and technical assistance that benefits individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals who serve them. We are pleased to announce our winter statewide virtual training schedule designed to introduce participants to the core characteristics of autism and practices that provide support in a variety of settings.

[Register Here](#)

The 7 Considerations of Autism: ASD & The IEP (Online)

Wed, June 22, 2022

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM EDT

Learn to advocate for a child with autism by becoming familiar with the state guidelines surrounding autism spectrum disorder and the development of the IEP.

This training is open to all, but primarily intended for parents, caregivers, and family members

of an individual with autism.

[Register Here](#)

Providing Autism Therapy Services to Families in Indiana, Illinois and Michigan

[Find A Center!](#)



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