



The Learning Lane  
The Woodlands, TX

Newsletter Date  
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Volume 1, Issue 1

# The Learning Lane Tribune

## Academic Achievements

All of our students are adjusting very well to the structure of the room. This month, in Pre Academic class, we will continue focusing on classroom routines, procedures, and rules. Along with begin to implement their goals from our program director. We are also working on our unpacking skills in the morning. We are looking forward to another great month of learning.

The Pre A Team: Keri, Amanda, Margaret,

## Social Learning

Social Site ( EYE)

Using Our Voice: Learning to Speak More Quietly and With The Appropriate Emotion

For sensory and other reasons, many children on the autism spectrum find it difficult to control how loudly they speak and use a tone of voice that appropriately reflect their emotions. Learning modulation is important in interactions with others as it is a part of effective communication.

Music is a fun and effective way to help children understand and control their voice tone and volume. Parents can do these activities with their child at home, or they can be done as a group activity at home.

Step One: Dynamics/ Soft, Medium, and Loud Voices

Using an Instrument can make it easier to demonstrate "soft", "medium" and "loud" sounds. Ask the child to copy you.

Keep practicing!

Life is Good!

The Social Team: Ree and Diana

## Program Director Corner

Since I'm new at the Learning Lane, I would like to introduce myself to all of you! I have been a Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst since 2001 and have worked with a wide range of learners in private practice. I'm excited to join the team of a facility where I can see the children on a daily basis and work intensively with their teachers. My areas of interest related to teaching are developing vocalizations in non-vocal learners, shaping articulation in vocal learners, and managing problem behavior. In my position I will assess and develop goals for all the students at The Learning Lane in collaboration with Jennifer. I will then monitor and update those goals and support all of the teachers in implementing these plans.

Outside of my life as a behavior analyst, I am the mom to a 5 year old boy named Owen. My husband and I grew up in the area and two years ago moved back to The Woodlands. I've worked with children in this area for many years and now it's nice to not have to drive so far!

It has been a busy few weeks getting to know all of your children. I have been working with each of them individually to assess their current skill levels and develop programming goals for the year. The new space of the Learning Lane has allowed me a wonderful space to get to test, and most importantly, play with your children! My goal as the Program Director is to work collaboratively with all of you to develop meaningful goals for your children. I am looking forward to meeting each of you during our Parent Conferences but if you have any concerns in the interim, please feel free to call or email.

Steph

## Student of the Month

Alex Fisher

One of Alex's best friends is his dog, Boca. Ever since Boca became part of the family, Alex was instantly attached and happy to have her around. From using her as a pillow to playing with her, you can always find them interacting. At first Alex was more physical in his play with Boca, but now he has learned to give her commands and usher her up the stairs or into the house. He finds joy spending time with her, like "walking" her around the neighborhood (but at 110 lbs Boca does all the leading).

Boca is very protective of Alex; no one can lift Alex up without Boca running over to make sure no harm comes to him. In my opinion it is their "understanding" at the dinner table that keeps the friendship thriving (Alex always seems to drop a not-so-incidental piece of food every time Boca is near).

No matter what Boca is always there when Alex needs her. Having her has taught him so much about interaction and increased his awareness of other things. Their friendship grows every day, and we are so blessed to have found a dog that loves Alex as much as he loves her.



## The Art Cart

I am so excited to be starting a new school year with your children. I am looking forward to seeing just how creative our students will be this year. We are going to have some great art projects this year. Our classes will be held twice a month, on Thursdays, during our third rotation. October is a fun month full of autumn colors and Halloween fun. Our schedule for this month will be as follows:

Oct. 8th - Leaf Collage

Oct. 22nd. - Gauze Ghosts

As you can see we are off to a great start.

Let's have fun and be creative!!!

Mrs. Patti ©





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## Staff News

Dear Parents,

The kids are off to a great year of learning so far. With our new space, we have also added some new faces here at The Learning Lane that will be working with your child during their day here. Please see the information below to learn about the new staff.

Our Program Director will also be sending home dates to begin our parent training with you and your child.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Jennifer

### Margaret - Pre Academic Room

(M, W, F)

My name is Margaret Wood. My husband and I moved to The Woodlands, with our three children over 10 years ago from the Chicago area. I received my CDA credentials, (Child Development Associate), from the Child Development Association in Washington, DC. It is a joy to walk into the classroom and see children smiles.

My classroom goals are to try to touch each child's spirit and help him/her discover new and exciting ways to learn. I hope to provide each child with a safe, loving and learning environment. Most importantly, I hope to help each child be prepared for their school experience.

### Amanda - Pre Academic Room

My name is Amanda Allen and I am a new Pre Academics teacher here at The Learning Lane. Last year in 2008 my family relocated to the Houston area from California. My husband works in the gas and oil industry. Prior to this we were a military family for 10 years as my husband was a Navy Deep Sea Diver. In those 10 years we were stationed in San Diego, California, and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. We have been married for 18 years and have 2 children. Our son is 16 and our daughter is 11. We also have a loving 10 year old chocolate lab. Off and on for the past 21 years I have been a paraprofessional in the California public school system as well as the Honolulu Community Action Program's Head start for Early Childhood Education. In 2003 I was provided an opportunity to work in Special Education as a paraprofessional. It was then that I realized I had found my true calling. I have been given the privilege to work with some of the most wonderful children. I have worked with children who have Autism, Down Syndrome, Mental Retardation, Asperger's Syndrome, and Speech and Language challenges. I once again have been blessed with a tremendous opportunity of working with your children in helping them to develop mentally and physically in a safe, patient, nurturing, respectful environment. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

"The Secret of education is respecting the pupil." Emerson

### Alexandra - Acquisition

I recently relocated to Texas from New York where I was teaching a class of elementary children on the Autism Spectrum in NYC Department of Education. I received my master's degree in NY for elementary and special education with a concentration in Autism. I am currently Texas certified to teach Special Education EC-12 and General Education EC-8. I am happy to be here and love working with children.



### Helpful Websites

<http://www.houstonautismdisabilitynetwork.com>

<http://www.autism-world.com/>

<http://intramural.nimh.nih.gov/pdn/pubs/pub-24.pdf>

### Upcoming Events

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> – Staff Development Center Closed

Oct 30<sup>th</sup> - School Halloween Party

Nov 4<sup>th</sup> - Discovery Toy “FUN “Raiser

Nov 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Break Center Closed

## Kamp Acquisition

### Knowledge Appreciation Memories Possibilities

We have had a great beginning to the 2009-2010 school year. Getting to know the new children has been fun & exciting.

This month we will continue working on their school routine; carline, unpacking/packing backpacks, transitioning between classes, & lunchroom skills. We will begin to work on their individual goals developed by our program director.

We look forward to seeing everyone in his or her Halloween costumes this year.

Have a wonderful October!



The Acquisition Team:  
Kris, Ashley, Patti, Maria, Alexandra