



Happy Thanksgiving and Fall Holidays!

Support Oklahoma Family Support 360° Center Families This Holiday Season

Each year, the [Family Support 360° Center](#) provides a Holiday Assistance Program for families in need during the winter holiday season. Included in items provided to families are winter clothes, culturally appropriate toys, food baskets, and emergency kit items. Please consider [making a donation](#) through the OU Foundation to help families with children with disabilities or special health care needs this holiday season. Your donation may be tax deductible and will be used to help when we cannot use federal or state money to assist a family in need. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Sooner SUCCESS Receives Inclusivity Award from OKC's Mayor Holt

On November 8th, Mayor Holt presented six individuals and organizations with the [Oklahoma City Mayor's Committee on Disability Concerns Awards](#) including [Sooner SUCCESS](#), who was given the Inclusivity Award. This past summer, Sooner SUCCESS held a first-of-its-kind, free, multi-night camp for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their neurotypical siblings. Sooner SUCCESS made sure that all the kids were given every opportunity to participate in every activity. Director Aietah Stephens, Region 3 Coordinator, Lori Wathen, and Statewide Sibshop Coordinator, Samantha Basave accepted the award. [All of the photos from the event can be seen here](#). Congratulations to the Sooner SUCCESS team!

The CDC Introduces Milestone Tracker App

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released an app that allows parents to track their child's milestones from two months through five years old. Parents can use checklists, get tips, record questions for future doctor's appointments, and more. The app is available for both iPhone and Android phones. [To learn more, visit the CDC website](#).

Oklahoma Deaf-Blind Project

The Oklahoma Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project (OKDBTAP) is a statewide program that provides support to children with both vision and hearing loss. Eligible recipients include family members, caregivers, Early Childhood Intervention (SoonerStart) administrators and providers, public school personnel, and individuals under 21 who are deaf-blind. The services provided include web conferencing, classroom observation, telephone support, research-based resources, in-service workshops, statewide training, and networking opportunities. Visit the [OK Deaf-Blind Website](#) to access a [School-Age Referral Form](#). E-mail Lisa Lawter at okdeafblind@ou.edu or call 405-325-0441 for more information.

Announcing AUCD's Equity Definition

The [Association of University Centers on Disabilities \(AUCD\)](#) recently released their new, board-approved working definition of equity in intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). "Equity is when we work to give everyone a fair chance in every area of life." AUCD has provided the full [definition on their website](#) alongside a plain language and easy read version.

Walmart Introduces Sensory Friendly Shopping Hours

After a successful test run during back-to-school season, Walmart has announced that it will be [offering sensory friendly shopping hours](#) everyday between 8am-10am at stores nationwide. Customers can expect to see options like TVs and electronics turned off and/or altered, no overhead music, and lights dimmed where available. Walmart welcomes feedback on how it can continue to enhance these sensory-friendly measures in stores.

Announcements & Events

November 15th | 6-9pm | Safari Lights Sensory-Friendly Night | OKC Zoo

Families are invited to enjoy Safari Lights at the OKC Zoo on their sensory friendly night. Guests can enjoy a less-stimulating experience with a smaller crowd, limited flashing lights, quieter music, and a designated quiet area inside the Zoo's Canopy Restaurant. Drive-up purchases will not be accepted. Tickets are limited to ensure optimal guest experience. Admission for the drive-thru experience is \$70/vehicle (\$60 for ZOOfriends members) and includes up to four walk-thru admission tickets. Admission for the walk-thru only is \$16/guest (\$14 for ZOOfriends members) ages 3 and older. [Visit OKC Zoo website to reserve your space and for more information](#).

November 16th | 6pm | OKmama Meeting | 2121 N. Portland OKC

This month, [OKmama's](#) monthly family support meeting will focus on adult health care with guest speaker, [Dr. Robert Salinas, MD](#). The goal of OKmama is to provide resources and information in Spanish to Hispanic families, developing friendships and reducing isolation, and giving families a place of belonging in the community where they can share the successes and challenges of having a child with disabilities. OKmama typically meets on the third Thursday of each month, except in January.

December 2nd | 10am-2pm | Minority Health Counts: Building a More Equitable Community

Join the [Supporters of Families with Sickle Cell Disease](#) and other community partners for a **FREE** Minority Health Counts event on December 2nd from 10am-2pm. Enjoy a **FREE** breakfast, door prizes, lunch, resources from local vendors and a panel discussion along with keynote speaker, [Rev. Michael McDaniel](#). This community engagement event will take place at Metro Tech Center, 1900 Springlake Drive in OKC. [Registration is required](#).

December 5th | 6pm-7pm | Sooner Works Virtual Open House | virtual (Zoom)

Learn about [Sooner Works](#), OU's college program for young adults with an intellectual / developmental disability at their [virtual open house](#) being held via Zoom on December 5th from 6-7pm where you can meet program staff, learn about Sooner Works, and hear from current students. [Registration is required](#).

December 16th | 1-3pm | Sensory Winter Wonderland | Draper Park Christian Church

Sooner SUCCESS invites families that have a loved one with a disability and/or special health care need to their [Sensory Winter Wonderland](#). Activities and guests include dancing, arts and crafts, hot cocoa, sensory bins, therapy dogs, Santa Claus, and more! The event is free and for immediate family only due to limited space. [Reservations are required](#).

We want to hear from you!

Do you have news or an event to share? Please send all information including a link (if applicable) to learn2lead-ucedd@ouhsc.edu. All submissions should be in no later than the fourth Friday of the month before publication (ex: 4th Friday in August for September's newsletter).

Sign-up to receive our free monthly newsletter *focus facts on community living* <http://tiny.cc/focusfacts>
Or use your cell phone camera and point it to this QR code



The University of Oklahoma advances a diverse, equitable, and inclusive university community by embracing each person's unique contributions, background, and perspectives. OU Norman, OU Tulsa, and the Health Sciences Center recognize that fostering an inclusive environment for all, with particular attention to the needs of the historically marginalized populations, is vital to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our institutional mission and enhances the OU experience for all students, faculty, and staff.

focus facts is published for the University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network members. Its purpose is to highlight specific information and data items relevant to developing and sustaining positive community environments. Individual information items are provided for use in this form, or for further circulation. When re-printing information please reference *focus facts* and the month of issue noted below the banner at the top of this page. The name of a contact person for additional information on items referenced in the newsletter is provided for your convenience. If you have data, information or a story to report relevant to community living, please send it to *focus facts* Editor at the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD OU Health Sciences Center, PO Box 2690, Oklahoma City, OK 73126. Please include the information source, by title, a one paragraph description or story, a contact name who can provide additional information on the subject, and a daytime or evening telephone number for the contact.

If you have questions regarding the format for submissions, please call the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Headquarters Office at (405) 271-4500. The University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network is open to membership by any organization or individual who shares the interests of Network members. The Network is dedicated to identifying opportunities for collaboration and information exchange among its participating members, which leads to improving our statewide, regional or local capacity to provide a better living environment in Oklahoma for people with developmental and other disabilities and their families. The Network is partially supported through a grant from the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services, and by the Offices of the Designated Representatives of the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Collaborating Partners.

If you have a disability (Deaf/hard-of-hearing, Blind/low-vision, mobility, cognitive, etc.), and require accommodations, please reach out to Learn2Lead@ouhsc.edu. It is helpful if you share what type of accommodations will be needed to ensure that you are able to use the resource materials.