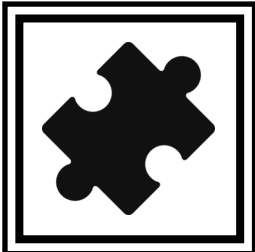


[Click here to view our newsletter on the web](#)



### **Advocates Speak Up at the Capitol**

Individuals with autism, their family members, friends of the community, and service providers around the state joined together at the Oklahoma Capitol on Wednesday, April 10th to advocate and spread awareness. Lawmakers, advocates and state leaders told their stories and urged lawmakers to help make a difference. To learn more, view our partners' websites here: [Oklahoma Autism Network](#), [Oklahoma Autism Center](#), [Autism Oklahoma](#)



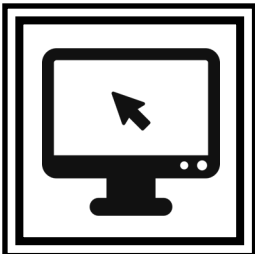
### **10th Annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament**

The CLL is a proud partner of the Oklahoma Adaptive Sports Association's (OKASA) 11th Annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, **April 25th, 5:30 – 9:00 PM** at Oklahoma City University's Freede Wellness Center. This fun, family friendly evening features an exciting match between the Wheels of Thunder basketball team and OU Physicians! All funds raised will support OKASA. The event features a silent auction, cool t-shirts, popcorn, and the Thunder Drummers. Click [here](#) for more information.



### **Sesame Street Introduces New Resources for Families with Children with Autism**

In 2017, Sesame Street introduced Julia, the first Muppet with autism. Now, to honor Autism Awareness Month, they are expanding the character's role and introducing her family. The company hopes Julia and her family will portray the challenges that real-life families face and provide resources and support. Julia and her family will show young audiences the love and strength of people with autism and their families. To learn more about Julia and her family click [here](#), and to view resources for other families click [here](#).



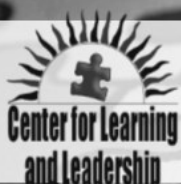
### **Siblings of Individuals with Disabilities Online Survey**

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities is conducting a survey about the experiences of siblings of individuals with disabilities. By taking this survey, you can help them learn more about needed supports for siblings of individuals with disabilities. This online survey will take no more than 20-30 minutes to complete. You are eligible to take this survey if you are over the age of 18 are a sibling of a person with a disability. To take this survey, click [here](#). Contact [meghanbm@illinois.edu](mailto:meghanbm@illinois.edu) or call 217-300-1226 for more information.



### **What We're Reading Now - click the link or copy and paste into your browser.**

- [Amy Schumer on Why She Revealed Her Husband's Autism Diagnosis](#) - CNN
- [How America's Individualistic Streak Shaped Design for Disability](#) - Curbed
- [News from CMS: Updated Guidance on Home and Community-Based Services Regulation](#) - Administration for Community Living
- [When Will K-12 Classrooms Scrap Those Age-Old, Rigid Desk-Chairs?](#) - EDWEEK



**April is Autism Awareness Month!**

**Learn more about advocacy and resources [HERE!](#)**



# Center for Learning and Leadership

A University Center for Excellence  
in Developmental Disabilities  
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

**focus facts** is published for the Center for Learning and Leadership, Oklahoma's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). It is disseminated to a statewide and national network of people interested in developmental disabilities. If you would like to submit information to be published in the newsletter, please e-mail or mail our Editor. Be sure to include the source, description, and contact information relevant to the information you are submitting.

**Email:**  
Learn2Lead-UCEDD@ouhsc.edu

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## CLL/UCEDD SPOTLIGHT

### OKSAN Goes to The Hill

Members of the CLL and OKSAN traveled to Washington DC in April to participate in AUCD's 2019 Disability Policy Seminar and AUCD Policy Forum. They will network with disability rights leaders and advocate on the Hill for all Oklahomans with disabilities.



### Congratulations to CLL/UCEDD and LEND Faculty!

CLL/UCEDD staff member and LEND Core Faculty in Family Advocacy, Wanda Felty and Core Faculty in Nursing, Mark Fisher have been selected to attend the 2019 AUCD Leadership Academy in Atlanta, Georgia in June. They will represent Oklahoma and enhance their already impressive leadership skills. Congratulations, Wanda and Mark!



### Mark Your Calendar

#### Sensory Easter Night in the Crystal Bridge

##### Myriad Botanical Gardens

April 18  
6PM - 8PM

Myriad Botanical Gardens  
301 W Reno Ave  
Oklahoma City  
73102

Sensory-friendly Easter event.

Registration: [here](#)  
Facebook: [here](#)  
Cost: \$10 - \$12

#### Blue Soiree @ We Rock the Spectrum Kid's Gym

##### We Rock the Spectrum OKC and Behavioral Innovations

April 20  
10AM - 1PM

We Rock the Spectrum Kid's Gym  
64 E 33rd Street  
Edmond  
73013

Autism Awareness Month Event. Superheroes, food, and fun.

Facebook: [here](#)  
Cost: \$8 (if wearing blue)

#### All Abilities Playground Grand Opening

##### City of Bethany

April 27  
10:30AM - 1:00PM

6700 NW 35th Street  
Bethany  
73008

Grand opening of the Library Complex All Abilities Playground!

Facebook: [here](#)

#### PieceWalk & 5K

##### Autism Oklahoma

May 4  
7:30AM

Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark  
2 S Mickey Mantle Drive  
Oklahoma City  
73104

Walk and 5k, fundraising, networking, and resource fair.

Facebook: [here](#)  
Registration: [here](#)

**Do you have an event to include in *focus facts*?**  
Email information to [jfearing@ouhsc.edu](mailto:jfearing@ouhsc.edu)