



Connections

Summer 2019
Newsletter

A message from Paul & James

Summer is upon us! The 4th of July has come and gone and we are still hoping for consistent summer weather! Summer means happy times and good sunshine. It means going to the beach, playing outside, and having fun!

The summer spirit of fun is one we like to promote in all of our programs. This can be seen in our annual summer programs, which have started in Bellevue, Kent, and Federal Way; our initial visits saw students' programs up and running and everyone having a lot of fun. These summer programs allow us to serve students who have been on our waitlists for a while and concurrently give our BT's summer work. With an emphasis on learning, our summer programs have a focus on social skills through play activities.

This year we have been fortunate to partner with "We Rock the Spectrum" in Bellevue and Federal Way. These play centers for children have trampolines, climbing walls, ziplines, and other activities that offer a wonderful learning environment that promotes student communication and social interactions in a safe environment. So as your children have fun learning with Connections staff, take this time to go and enjoy each day to the fullest!

Whether you are partial to spending time at the beach, enjoy camping, or love hosting barbecues in your backyard, we hope you have a wonderful summer filled with great weather and even better memories.

-Paul & James



"I can't say enough about the personalized care we received from CBPI. Such smart and caring folks. Parents in our situations often lost and need a lot of support, and the Connections staff is always eager to help address anything we wanted help with, as well as training us to better support our son outside of the center."

-From a Discharged Kirkland Family

Company Updates

- Our new Intake Packet/Parent Handbook is ready to go!
- The search for the Northern Center continues! We are searching between Lynnwood and Everett and are in negotiation with a 6,300 square foot building. Stay tuned for updates!
- Congratulations to Victoria Rosales and Patty Stutzman for passing their boards and joining our behavior specialist team!
- Connections is currently providing consultative and/or RBT services to 9 different school districts!
- Connections' brand new website has launched! Check it out at Connections-behavior.com



Questions? Email Hope.P@connections-behavior.com

Stay Connected and follow us!



Instagram: @connectionsbehavioraba



Facebook: [Facebook.com/ConnectionsBehavior](https://www.facebook.com/ConnectionsBehavior)

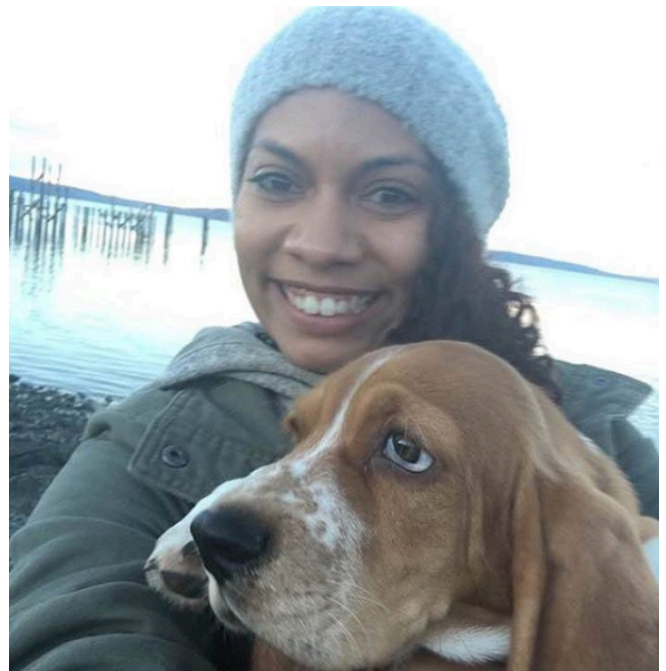


In-Home Update

- A lot of our home clients are attending one of our three summer centers this year. It has been great to see so many of them socialize with peers and generalize skills to a new setting!
- Shane continues to make her rounds to all of Connections in-home cases so she can become familiar with all of the cases and make sure Connections is providing high-quality services!

Policy Highlight:

- Behavior Technicians and Analysts are able to transport clients to and from community outings.
 - Prior to driving a client to an outing in the community, please ensure that you have an updated and signed passenger liability waiver on NPA.



If you're interested in learning more about Connections In-Home Services, contact Shane by emailing: Shane.B@connections-behavior.com



Kent Center



Update

Kent Welcomes:

- Kent has welcomed Alex R. to our team and Nina D. will be joining the Kent team on July 8th.
- We welcomed Matt S. and Karli S. to the Kent training team

Kent Farewells:

- Shelby P will be leaving the training classroom and will be switching to a floater position
- Bittna O. and Patty S. have transferred from the Kent Center to join the Slater team
- We bid farewell to Jenny Pham



Kent Reminders:

- We are excited to have our Connections scheduling coordinator Princeda here with us in Kent for the month of July.
- Kent summer program is in full swing and will be joining us until the end of August
- Please make sure we have 2 extra pairs of clothing for your child (socks, underwear, pants, and shirts)
- Summer is coming! Please let us know if you have any travel plans.
- The Elephant room is freshly painted and looks amazing!
- New carpet is completed in the Whale room and is coming soon to the Elephant Room!

Questions or Comments? Email Elizabeth.M@connections-behavior.com





Kirkland Center Update



Kirkland Welcomes:

- Caitlyn S. for the month of July to hold down the fort while Sarah B is on summer vacation
- Kori H. finished training and has joined the Kirkland Crew.

Kirkland Farewells:

- We bid farewell to Megan M so she can pursue her Occupational Therapy Degree
- We bid farewell to Jessica W at the end of June so she can continue her PhD program!

Kirkland Reminders:

- We made small changes to our schedule so we could start doing stations! The whole center comes together once per day to do stations. There are 4 stations, and each one focuses on something different like social skills, fine motor, independent work, and matching. It's going great!
- Please send in summer clothes and sunscreen for your kiddo! Water play is a big deal here 😊
- We are excited to finish out the summer strong and "graduate" 7 of our students from our program to school full-time this fall!
- Jaimee Johnson got married on June 9th and is now Jaimee Oberlin (yay!!) Please note that she has a new email address: Jaimee.O@connections-behavior.com

Questions or Comments? Email Annie.T@connections-behavior.com or





Celebrations!

Hi! I wanted to give an update with R's potty training. For the past week and a half, R has transitioned to wearing panties all day. She's been very successful, with only 2 accidents during this time.

She also finally tried strawberry yogurt and tacos and asks for them verbally regularly.

Further, the big news is R is talking lots more by leaps and bounds. She's becoming more aware of things we ask her and her responses are so amazing.

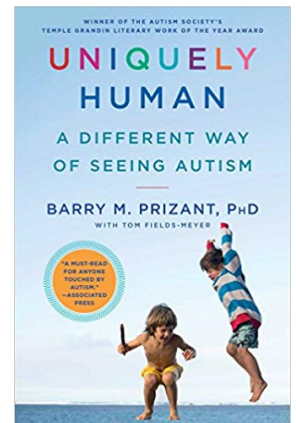
My husband and I thank you all at Connections so much for her success in her journey.

S recently was able to attend a 3-hour drop off camp at MyGym. He had a great time and didn't have any meltdowns. I didn't know this would be possible anytime soon. He has really come so far with following directions and being a part of a group.

We had a successful trip to the park the other day, our son attempted to play with other children something he has never done before.

The Book Nook

"I don't agree 100% with what the author said, but I still think it was a super helpful book"





Tips From The Parent Pros

Pictello by AssistiveWare

This is a really good app for creating social stories with your own photos and audio.

We've been using it for many years (at least 7).

It's a little clunky and not intuitive in some spots. But once you get the hang of it, it's super effective.

M likes looking at previous stories... like when he got his wisdom teeth removed, when Mom and Dad took brother to college, etc.

I just made him one for his first overnight respite stay... Which is happening tonight!

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/pictello/id397858008>



Parent Advisory Board

Join us the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm for a virtual meeting using Zoom!

The purpose of the Parent Advisory Board is to get your feedback on your experience at Connections, learn how we can improve, and promote transparency so you know what's going on in the company.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Tuesday, August 13th @7pm
- Tuesday, September 10th @7pm

For more information, email Hope.P@connections-behavior.com



Timers for everything!!! 😊





Resource Highlights



Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is now a certified Sensory Inclusive facility, registered with KultureCity. Our staff is trained, and we offer headphones, lap pads and other tools to help guests with sensory needs and challenges have the best experience at the Zoo. And you can bring your caregiver or therapist for free with a paid membership or admission: just mention it at the front gate.

<https://www.pdza.org/>

Mo Pop-Sensory Friendly Mornings

- Free early access before the museum opens to the public
- Advanced notice of what to expect during your visit
- Lowered sound and lighting in galleries and *Sky Church*
- Art activity from 8am-11am and low-sensory break spaces
- Noise cancelling headphones available

<http://www.mopop.org/>



Pacific Science Center

On the third Saturday of each month, all families affected by autism spectrum disorder are invited to explore Pacific Science Center during a special free morning visit from 8-10 a.m. – before it is open to the public (entry through our North Entrance only). Experience the exhibits without heavy crowds with have softened general lighting and decreased noise level and visual stimulation on interactive exhibits wherever possible.

<https://www.pacificsciencecenter.org/exploration-for-all/>





Upcoming Events

What?	When?	Where?	The Details
Ranch Day	July 18 th 10am-2pm	Whidbey Island M-Bar-C Ranch	Free Event! 10:00 AM Activities start Noon Horse rides end 12:30 PM Lunch is provided Wagon rides, play in the Western town, crafts, and all other activities will continue until 2:00 PM *RSVP Required For more info, email: info@m-bar-c.org
Spider Man-Far From Home	Tuesday, July 9 th	AMC Kent Station	AMC Sensory Friendly Movies
Toy Story 4	Saturday, July 13 th	AMC Kent Station	AMC Sensory Friendly Movies
Sensory Sunday @ Chuckie Cheeses	Sunday, July 7 th @ 9am.	104 th Ave SE, Kent, WA 98031	We open 2 hours early on the first Sunday of every month, specifically for children with autism and other special needs. • Reduced lighting and noise • Food and games offered • Trained and caring staff
\$1 Summer Movie Express	Varies by movie	1402 SE Everett Mall Way Everett, WA 98208	Visit their website for a full list of movies, dates, and times
Summer Movie Camp	Wednesday Mornings	AMC CLASSIC Gateway 8 2501 Gateway Center Blvd S, Federal Way, WA	\$4 deal for a movie, popcorn, fruit snacks and a drink (for children under the age of 12)





Important Dates

July

- Wednesday 7/3-Friday 7/5: **Connections is closed** for the 4th of July
- Tuesday 7/9: Parent Advisory Board Meeting @ 7pm

August

- Tuesday 8/13: Parent Advisory Board Meeting @ 7pm

September

- Monday 9/2: **Connections is closed** for Labor Day
- Tuesday 9/10: Parent Advisory Board Meeting @ 7pm

Stay tuned for upcoming Coffee with a BCBA Dates! A survey was just sent to parents to determine which days and times

