



# STARLIGHT

MAY  
2023

## Early Intervention Helped Noah Thrive

When Noah Gerbers entered Blanchard Valley Center’s Early Intervention program in August, his eye contact and random jabbering was a sure indication that the little guy want badly to communicate.

However, he had only mastered one word: “Wow!” And he used it frequently. He would say “Wow!” while playing with his cars, while looking at his baby brother, and, as two-year-olds are prone to do, after picking his nose.

Noah’s family jumped into action and got him enrolled in Early Intervention.

Early Intervention, which is more commonly known as EI, is a program designed to help children with developmental delays from birth to their third birthday. At Blanchard Valley Center, the EI program focuses on coaching parents and other caregivers. The program guides parents and caregivers in working with children, showing them how to encourage growth within the child’s home environment and in their daily routines.

While any child or family could benefit from learning new ways to build their relationships, EI targets

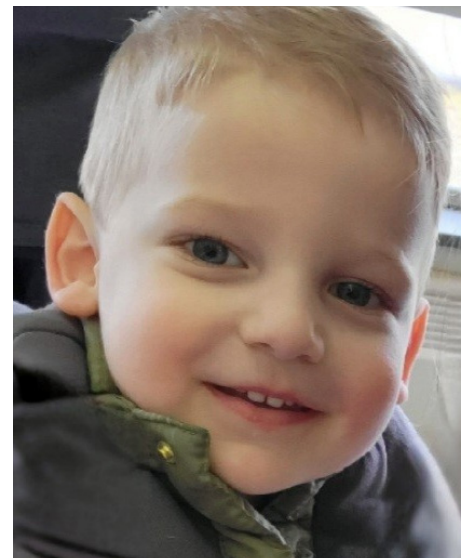
the very young age because of the rapid growth that occurs in the brain prior to the third birthday.

And, the program has worked for Noah. Thanks to the support of his family, and Noah’s reception to all our ideas, his growth has been great. In fact, he has pushed past the point where he did not qualify for an Individualized Education Plan, and he no longer presents as having a language delay.

“We practice learning language primarily through enhancing the parent-child interaction during play, so our visits are frequently filled with fun, and a little chaos, too,” said Developmental Specialist Cory St. Myers.

Today, Noah is putting together three- and four-word sentences and is happy to tell everyone about the things he’s doing. He has significantly improved his ability to articulate, speaking much more clearly than before.

“Noah is a real success story,” said Blanchard Valley Superintendent Kelli Grisham. “He’s an example of just how effective our Early Intervention program is at Blanchard Valley



Center. Parents and caregivers should understand that we have a great program at Blanchard Valley Center, and the earlier they can get their children into the program, the more likely they are to see positive results.”

To learn more about Early Intervention or to make a referral, visit the EI webpage at [www.ohioearlyintervention.org](http://www.ohioearlyintervention.org), or call Blanchard Valley Center at 419.422.6387 to speak to a Service Coordinator.

DATES TO REMEMBER | VISIT [WWW.BLANCHARDVALLEY.ORG](http://WWW.BLANCHARDVALLEY.ORG) FOR MORE DETAILS

May 10 – 10am  
**Provider Council**

May 13  
**Special Olympics Golf Outing**

May 15 – 4:30pm  
**Game Night at Stevi B’s**

May 22 – 5:30pm  
**Board Meeting**

May 29  
**Memorial Day  
BVC Closed**

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

# Our Annual Report Should Be Landing In Your Mailboxes



This might be my favorite time of year. The daffodils, tulips and hyacinths are in bloom and we're heading

toward summer. Goodbye, gray skies of winter... we'll see you in November.

Our 2022 Blanchard Valley Center Annual Reports have started hitting mailboxes in Hancock County. Please take the time to give them a read. The information in the annual report will inform you on the progress made to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Blanchard Valley Center is accepting nominations for its annual BVC Effect Awards. These include the Kelli Grisham Award, Hurdle to Success Award, Extra Mile Award, and Kenny Bender Award for Advocacy & Success. These awards reflect outstanding commitment in supporting people with disabilities in Hancock County. If you know someone who fits one of these categories, please let us know.

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent



## STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Cooper Chiow

# Hancock County SO Dominates Regional Games

Hancock County Special Olympics' Athletes dominated the Ohio Special Olympics Regional Spring Games, capturing 48 medals, including 20 golds.

A total of 29 athletes competed in the event. Each athlete competed in at least two events, while eight competed in three events.

Hancock County's "Need 4 Speed" relay team captured the gold medal in the 4x100M relay in just over 57 seconds. "Team Flash" came in fourth place, barely missing a bronze medal.

Along with the 20 gold medals, Hancock County won 18 silver medals and 10 bronze medals. The team also garnered 18 fourth-place finishes.



BVC provides resources and supports that empower people with DD to live lives with meaning and purpose.



**Blanchard Valley Center**  
Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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**Service & Support  
Emergency Number**  
419-722-9262

