



SECOND QUARTER 2022

WELCOME!

Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities is proud to collaborate with a number of local entities to improve health, safety, and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities within our community. We provide support for infants, children, and adults with developmental disabilities in Putnam County and offer a full range of services throughout all the stages of their lives.

NEWS & UPDATES

“WE ARE JUST LIKE YOU!”

- We have a job, just like you.
- We are members of our church, clubs and organizations, just like you.
- We have families that love us, just like you.
- We have a voice and advocate for ourselves, just like you.
- We have hopes and dreams, just like you.
- We are valued members of our community, just like you!!!



DD Awareness month is in March. It's a celebration of people with special needs who do many of the same things people without special needs can do. People First is a self-advocacy group made up of individuals who have special needs and are served by the Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Help us celebrate these strong and resilient individuals!

OHIO EMPLOYMENT FIRST CELEBRATES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

Ohio is celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Employment First in 2022. In the past 10 years, provider agencies, schools, families, businesses, and people with developmental disabilities across Ohio have all worked together to shift expectations, and to ensure they have access to the supports needed to have a job in the community. Help us celebrate this milestone in March and throughout 2022.



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Our Mission

“To assist and support individual choices in social, emotional and economic growth by providing the highest quality services through a team approach.”

Address:

124 Putnam Parkway
Ottawa, OH 45875

Hours:

Mon. – Fri. 8am – 4pm

www.putnamcountydd.com

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ARE IN NEED!

Do you know anyone who is looking for a meaningful and rewarding career? Consider telling them about becoming a Direct Support Professional (DSP) or Independent Provider! They are an essential link in improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. Their primary purpose is to assist those who need support to lead independent lives and be a part of their local community.

[Check out these videos](#) to see how much it means to have this rewarding career.

Ready to become a DSP? Check out our [brochure](#) or [click here](#) to get started.

Ready to become an Independent Provider? Check out our [brochure](#) or [click here](#) to get started.

Create a bond.
Learn a skill.
Earn Money.

Free training.
Hands-on experience.
Make a difference.

Be a DSP

“WE ARE JUST LIKE YOU”

MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

The Putnam County Commissioners met with self-advocates from the Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities People First chapter and a family receiving Early Intervention services. The Commissioners signed the Proclamation for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month March 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022. This is a celebration of people with special needs. Putnam County has chosen “WE ARE JUST LIKE YOU” as our theme for 2022 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The Putnam County Board of DD along with the Commissioners encourage all citizens to foster and support opportunities for persons with disabilities that include having a job, being members of our church, clubs and organizations, having families that love us, having a voice and advocating for ourselves, having hopes and dreams, and being valued members of our community, just like you; we urge all citizens to join in this celebration of people with special needs who do many of the same things people without special needs can do, and by celebrating these strong and resilient individuals!



Front row L-R: Commissioner, John Schumbohm, Advocates; Jim and Lisa Burkhart, People First Advisor; Christine Leathem, Constance, Callum and Braden Skilliter; and Early Intervention Specialist, Kelly von der Embse. Back row L-R: Michael Boaz, Putnam County Board of DD Superintendent; and Michael Lammers, Commissioner

BOOKS DONATED TO HELP EDUCATE CHILDREN ABOUT DISABILITIES

In celebration of March being Developmental Disability Awareness month, advocates from the Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities self-advocacy group, People First, sent books to all the elementary schools and the main library in Putnam County. The books are aimed at helping educate young children about people with disabilities. Each year People First focuses on a different disability and this year the group picked out a book about being blind. People First's goal is to help educate young children about different disabilities and to accept each other's differences. People with disability “are just like you”, but may need a little extra help. This is the 4th year People First has gifted the schools with these books.

Pictured L-R: People First Advisor; Christine Leathem, People First President; Lisa Burkhart and People First Vice President; Jim Burkhart.



WORKING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY IS AN OPTION FOR ALL

THE PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF DD IS COMMITTED TO HELPING JOB SEEKERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES EXPLORE COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS.

Ohio's Employment First Initiative celebrates 10 years of working together with provider agencies, schools, families, businesses, and people with developmental disabilities across Ohio to shift expectations, and to ensure that access to the supports needed to have a job in the community are available and high-quality.



We have shifted expectations for students with developmental disabilities transitioning from school, as well as developed new supports and state-of-the-art planning so that every working-age adult with developmental disabilities can explore their career options and seek jobs that fit their skills and interests. Celebrating our accomplishments at this 10-year mark allows all of us to look up from all our hard work and see how we have been able to begin transforming to a system and culture that creates opportunities and pathways for integration, independence, and full community participation. [Visit Ohio Employment First to learn more.](#)

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

There are 5 things to know about community employment. Please click on the link below to listen to a provider agency explain what is important about getting a job within the community.

[5 Things About Community Employment](#)



ADDITIONAL WAYS TO LEARN ABOUT OR SEEK OUT COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) is the State of Ohio agency that partners with Ohioans with disabilities to achieve quality employment and independence, and makes determinations on Social Security disability. To learn more, visit the Opportunities for Ohioan with Disabilities website link below.

[Welcome to OODWorks](#)

Ohio Means Jobs is another agency that assists in helping individuals with a disability find employment. They also help you learn more about your rights and benefits while searching for a job. To learn more or to start searching for a job, visit the Ohio Means Jobs link below.

[Ohio Means Jobs](#)

Do you have a disability?

Do you want a job?

We can help!



QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or concerns about seeking employment within the community, we are here to help! Visit <https://putnamcountydd.com/employment-navigation/> or contact your Service & Support Administrator.

PEOPLE FIRST NEWS AND UPDATES

PEOPLE FIRST UPDATES

Hello fellow advocates! We want to let you know of some important dates coming up.

At this time, our next big People First meeting is scheduled to be held on April 21, 2022.

Guest speaker, Pam Jones, from the Putnam County Transportation Coalition, will speak to advocates about transportation needs in Putnam County.

If you would like to join the meeting, check out the information below or contact a People First Advisor representative.

Date & Time: April 21, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Location: Putnam County ESC
124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa, OH

PCBDD Event Calendar Link:

<https://putnamcountydd.com/calendar/>

KNAP SACK UPDATES

KNAP Sack food distribution is on the third Wednesday of each month.

Location: Putnam County ESC
124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa, OH

Time: 2:00 to 4:00 pm (or until food is gone)

Visit the link below for distribution updates:

[KNAP Sack Facebook Page](#)



QUESTIONS? WE CAN HELP!

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PEOPLE FIRST NEWS

Social Media Safety Presentation and Pizza Party!

On March 17, 2022, advocates from the Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities People First chapter asked Katlin Shuherk and Anne Rockwell of Crime Victim Services to speak to the group about Personal Safety while on Social Media. The presentation focused on how our technological world changes rapidly and relationships span from physical to digital. It is vital to educate people and their community on how to stay safe and build healthy connections online.

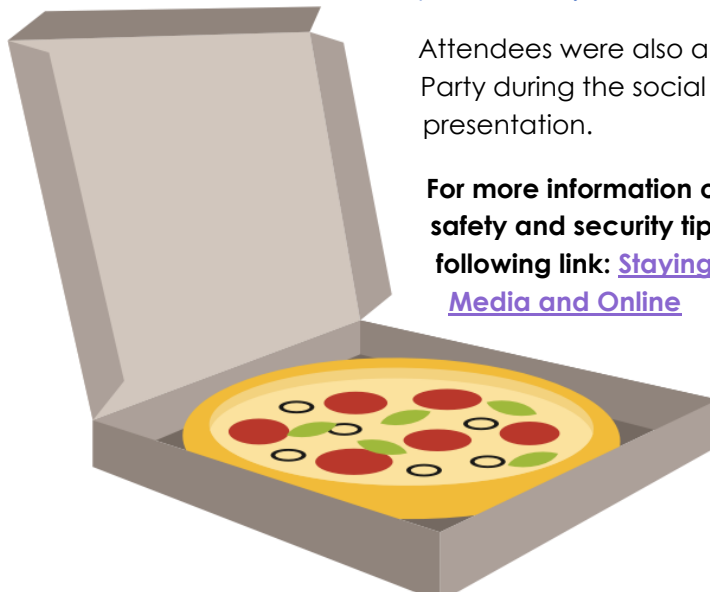
Crime Victim Services provided this instruction to People First members and discussed having boundaries, private settings, what active and passive use on your devices means, and having your 5 trusted people that you can tell anything too. Crime Victim Services provides this instruction through the award-winning Digital Citizenship Curriculum designed by Common Sense Education in partnership with Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



Pictured: Anne Rockwell shows Sue Sisson how to put privacy settings on her phone and apps for added personal security.

Attendees were also able to enjoy a Pizza Party during the social media safety presentation.

For more information on social media safety and security tips, click on the following link: [Staying Safe on Social Media and Online](#)



DATES & DETAILS

CHECK OUT THE EVENT CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES OR UPDATES TO SCHEDULED EVENTS HERE: [HTTPS://PUTNAMCOUNTYDD.COM/CALENDAR/](https://putnamcountydd.com/calendar/)

[April: Autism Awareness Month](#)

- April 9: Special Olympics Bowling Fundraiser
- April 12: Board Meeting
- April 12: What Color is Monday? An Autism Presentation
- April 21: People First Meeting with Guest Speaker

[May: Mental Health Month](#)

- May 6: People First Spring Dance @ Leipsic Community Center
- May 10: Board Meeting

[June: Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month](#)

- June 14: Board Meeting
- June 16: People First Meeting

**Please note that these dates are tentative and subject to change.*



WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING OUTDOORS

The school season is nearing an end, and summer break is just around the corner! Many families find themselves spending more time outside during the summer season. Children often have their go-to activities when playing outdoors. Some may enjoy exploring nature around them, while others may enjoy playing with toys. Here are some ways to make your child's outdoor play a rich learning opportunity. You can view, share, or print a flyer version of these tips (courtesy of Family, Infant and Preschool Program) by click on this link: [Support Your Child's Outdoor Exploration](#)



Notice what your child finds interesting.

Children often enjoy climbing, running, swinging, jumping, splashing in puddles, kicking and throwing balls when outside. When you see what your child's interests are, join in with them. Children are more likely to learn and engage longer in activities when they are interested in them and when parents are involved.

Wait and see what your child begins to do on their own.

Children tend to engage in multiple activities when playing outside. They may slide several times then play in the sandbox before beginning to pick wildflowers. Follow your child's lead and give them opportunities to be more independent with their choices in play. This provides greater chances for children in development.

Let your child explore what they hear and see around them.

The sounds and sights of nature can be very exciting for some children. Take the time to talk about the things around them, whether it be a cardinal singing in a tree, a squirrel rustling around in the woods, or flowers and leaves blowing in the wind. Use this as an opportunity to help your child learn about new and interesting things in nature.

Help your child learn new things.

If you notice your child trying to climb up on a large rock, step across creek stones, or jump into a swimming hole, rather than saying "don't climb on that" or "don't do that", find a way to help them safely explore new ways to move in their environment.

CONNECT WITH US! [WWW.PUTNAMCOUNTYDD.COM](http://www.putnamcountydd.com)

- Superintendent**.....419-523-0123
- Business Office**419-523-0122
- Early Intervention**.....419-523-0124
- Service & Support Administration**419-523-0116
- 24/7 On-Call Phone**419-889-2980



Address: 124 Putnam Parkway, Suite D, Ottawa, OH 45875
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm