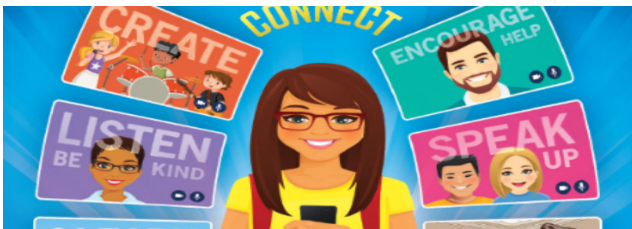




# The Mid-State Messenger

December 2021

## National School Psychology Week



During the week of November 9–13, 2020 schools throughout the country celebrated National School Psychology Week to highlight the important work school psychologists and other educators do to help all students thrive. This year's theme was "Let's Get in Gear" which conveys hope, growth, resilience and renewal. Please help us in recognizing and thanking our talented and dedicated School Psychologists who are an important member of each school team: **Lucas Altenberger** (Litchfield), **Kassi Charles** (Edinburg, Morrisonville, Panhandle, and St. Fork), **Amanda Cunningham** (Hillsboro), **Kristy Haston** (Bond County), **Tricia Kelley** (Carlinville), **Meg Marquardt** (Vandalia), and **Lisa Murfee** (Brownstown, Mulberry Grove, Ramsey, and St. Elmo).

## MTSS Reinvented

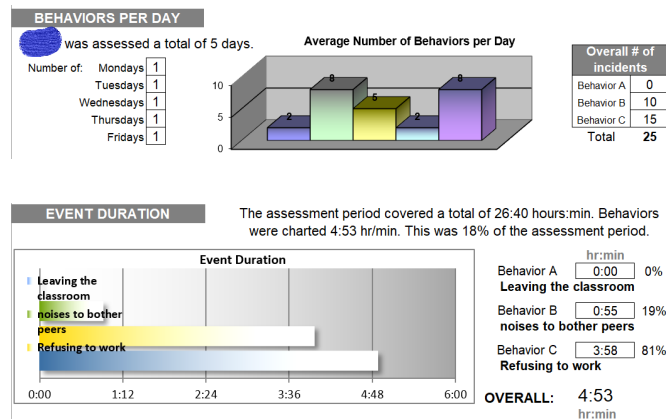
Litchfield CUSD#12 has redesigned and reinvented their district-wide MTSS for students. The addition of a new math curriculum (Envision) and Embrace MTSS to track progress, has led to reorganization of the MTSS process throughout the district. Teachers are loving the new curriculum that has built-in interventions, as well as a progress monitoring tool. Teachers have read the book and received training on

"Language at the Speed of Sight" and are making adjustments in the learning environment to account for the new knowledge acquired. Students are receiving more individualized instruction at their level and are having fun doing so! Buildings are also shaking up their Tier 1 behavioral interventions with some Harry Potter themed "houses" and expanding their Tier 2 system of supports with a CICO system. Data teams are evaluating student progress twice a month and making adjustments to student instruction accordingly. Overall, the district has seen a marked improvement in student learning and behavior.

## The Behavior Doctor

Student behavior is at the forefront of almost every educator's mind right now and the need for data collection on these behaviors can be overwhelming. Barb Daugherty, School Social Worker for Morrisonville, Panhandle, and South Fork Schools uses the FBA Data tool through The Behavior Doctor and [Teacheropedia](https://teacheropedia.teachable.com/p/how-to-use-the-fba-data-tool/?preview=logged_out) to easily and confidently track behaviors for functional behavior analysis and behavior intervention plans. Data sheets for staff to determine antecedents, behavior and consequence (result) are easily laid out and can then be entered into an Excel Spreadsheet that is downloaded to your computer (no student information is uploaded to the cloud!) to produce charts, graphs and other pertinent information in a very easy to read format. Check it out at [https://teacheropedia.teachable.com/p/how-to-use-the-fba-data-tool/?preview=logged\\_out](https://teacheropedia.teachable.com/p/how-to-use-the-fba-data-tool/?preview=logged_out)

Thank you to Barb for being such a great resource for students, teachers and parents!



## Developmental Disability Resources



During the November Life Skills meeting we shared and discussed evidence based practice resources for students on the autism spectrum. We also discussed the Do2Learn website which provides thousands of free pages on social skills, behavioral regulation activities, learning songs and games, communication cards, academic material, transition guides for employment and life skills to assist teaching students with developmental disabilities. More great resources can be found at the infinitec online classroom, infinitec webinars, IRIS Center <https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu>, The National Professional Development Center of Autism Spectrum Disorder <https://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/evidence-based-practices>. Additionally the team reviewed assessment needs, discussed DLM, and problem solved strategies to calm students when they experience high excitement and energy. Upcoming Life Skills Meetings; 2/17, 3/17, and 4/21. All meetings are held via zoom between 3pm-4pm. Email

[brandy.buske@midstatespec.org](mailto:brandy.buske@midstatespec.org) for zoom link to join.

## The Division for Specialized Care for Children

partners with families, doctors, schools and others to develop a plan of care that addresses a child's medical, social, behavioral, educational and financial needs. This process is called care coordination and is FREE, regardless of a family's income level. Our care coordination can include: Accessing diagnostic tests, finding specialized medical care, explaining insurance coverage/benefits, communicating with doctors, specialists and schools, assisting with transportation for appointments, connecting families for parent-to-parent support, and preparing for the transition to adulthood. DSCC can also help pay for eligible medical expenses, such as equipment, therapies, supplies and medical services, when families meet income guidelines. To find out more call 800-322-3722 or visit <https://dsccl.uic.edu/>.

## The Illinois Department of Human Services; Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS)

provides person-first services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Possible services include; in-home supports, respite care, training programs, and adaptive equipment. The first step to see what services a student might qualify for is having the family complete the PUNS application. [www.dd.illinois.gov](http://www.dd.illinois.gov) or [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us) A pamphlet is also provided to families during IEP meetings.

