

EAST CENTRAL ISD SPECIAL EDUCATION *newsletter*

Nov/Dec 2024

Letter from the Directors

Dear ECISD Families,
We are incredibly proud of how hard our students have been working this semester! Their dedication and effort are truly commendable, and it's exciting to see the progress they're making.

As we approach the holiday season, we encourage all students to keep up the great work and to attend regularly. Consistent attendance is key to ensuring they get the most out of their learning experience.

We hope that during the upcoming breaks, students find time to relax and enjoy precious moments with their families. Let's return recharged and ready to finish the semester strong!

Thank you for your continued support at home. Together, we can help our students thrive!

Best regards,
Director of Special Education
Marissa Perez and Josh Kohutek



Check Out the Community Calendar!



It's updated monthly with events that are happening in and around East Central ISD.

<https://ecisd.cc/spedevents>

Holiday Support





Academics



Keep Math Skills Fresh Through the Holiday Breaks!

Both November and December feature some longer breaks in instruction -- a week in November and two weeks in December. While typically, we look forward to celebration and rest during these breaks, unfortunately, math (and reading!) skills can slip during this time, especially for many of our students with IEP's.

Working fun math practice into holiday activities keeps skills sharp through the breaks. Here are some ideas from our friends at [Scholastic](#) (see whole article):

- Help plan travel
- Conduct surveys of family members
- Relate math to holiday toys

And remember that the kitchen is the perfect place to practice measuring skills AND reading! Have fun!

BLIS

As we enter the holiday season, it is time to begin planning how to help your child navigate the season with joy and wonder.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) offers a series of 1.5-2 hour training on evidence-based strategies at no cost. See the [AFFIRM website](#) to learn about visual supports, behavioral momentum, and more!

Life Skills

Have any big changes coming up for the holidays and want to prepare your child? Here are some help links:

[Social Stories](#)

[Visuals](#)

Reach out to the special education department and ask for visuals or social stories if you are having difficulty finding what you need.



Please provide feedback!

Dyslexia

[Being Considerate of Neurodiversity at Christmas](#)

[Christmas Crafts for Children with Dyslexia](#)

[Dyslexia at Christmas: Tips and Tricks](#)

Christmas break is here and most people get very excited for some down time! But sometimes, especially for young people, the school holidays can get a little boring when you're waiting for Santa to come. Here is a list of Christmas crafts and activities that somebody who has dyslexia might enjoy doing on their own with little to no external support, and that don't rely heavily on extended reading or instructions.



Behavior

Explanation of the Feedback with DBRC Intervention

The Daily Behavior Report Card (DBRC) is a tool to support the development of behavioral skills & strategies. The DBRC helps staff to provide specific feedback to students throughout the day regarding their behaviors. In addition, the DBRC is a vehicle to collect valuable data regarding student progress. Periodically students may bring home a copy of the DBRC or a graph of progress for review. Similar to teachers, families should provide feedback in an objective manner. If students fear a consequence from home as the result of a difficult day, they may be hesitant to share. Below is an example script to support families with the process of DBRC reflection:

- Let's reflect and talk about your day.
- I noticed you did really well in _____, what choices did you make during that time?
- I see some challenges in _____, what choices did you make during that time?
 - What can you do tomorrow to be successful?

An example video of this feedback process at home can be found on the Emergent Tree Education YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4y1-mafh8pG9qZUN8UdSgg>

Transition

Have you signed up for the Texas Medicaid Waiver for your student?

There is now a convenient way to look up where your student is on the waiver list!

If you have questions about the Medicaid Waiver list contact your special education facilitator and they can get you in contact with a community specialist such as The Arc of San Antonio or AACOG.

[CLICK HERE FOR INSTRUCTIONS!](#)

