

Center for New Beginnings

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dr. Allen Kicklighter
- Jan Griffin
- Dr. Shelley Griffin
- Julie Mitchell
- Carolyn Junkins
- Mark Flowers
- Joy Rowell
- Susan Swanson

Center Staff:

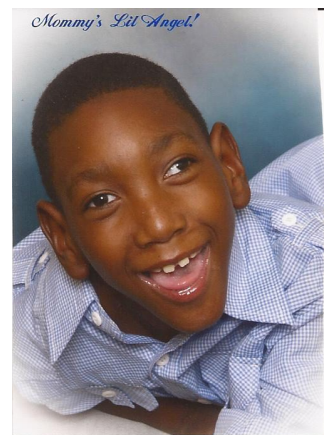
- ◆ Director: Sarah Ashe
- ◆ Counselors: Celeste Vernon, Faith Edmondson
- ◆ Lead Instructor: Janice Dyson
- ◆ Instructor/Office Manager: Sheila Keller
- ◆ Instructor: Christy Word, Mary Bell
- ◆ Assistant Instructors: Hannah Prescott, Abbie Bryan
- ◆ Tutors: Sandy McFeet, Mary Jane Mathews, Justin Mathews, Debbie Lively, Kayla Smith

Spotlight on a Child: Aaron Jones

As it states “to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven”, in saying that my time came July 28, 2002. On this blessed day a miracle was born named, Aaron Jones. Aaron was born at 8:24 a.m. at Burke Medical Center at 29 weeks early. He weighed in at 1125 g, which is a low birth weight. He remained in the hospital for two months.

While being hospitalized he encountered a staph infection, which is an infection of various tissues of the body. To go along with the staph infection, he endured two lifelong scars from IV’s, due to the medicine being

strong. Upon coming home he was having some swallowing delays and as a result he was on a feeding tube. Due to the feeding tube he was placed on a feeding schedule to receive Pediasure every three hours through a pump. As time passed at the age of two he was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, which is weak muscles. Cerebral palsy is caused by a lack of oxygen to the brain. Cerebral Palsy (CP) does have a piece of a good side to it, which is it can never get any worse than the state you are in; it does not go away, but it can improve through therapy. Following diagnosis of CP, he was also



Aaron Jones, age 9, has the most infectious grin!!

diagnosed with epilepsy. **Epilepsy** is a brain disorder involving repeated, spontaneous seizures of any type. Seizures (“fits,” convulsions) are episodes of disturbed brain function that cause changes in attention or behavior.

VBS was a Success!!!

For the 6th year, we have partnered with First Baptist Church of Waynesboro for a Vacation Bible School (VBS) that accommodates all kids. We provide shadows for children with special needs who would otherwise be unable to attend. They participated in

music, crafts, teaching, dancing, recreation & of course snack time, right alongside their peers. Around 30 kids from the Center, plus siblings & cousins they brought along, attended VBS along with over two hundred children from the local commu-

nity. First Baptist always does an awesome job, with hearts that shine with love of Christ. Thanks to all the extra volunteer shadows who helped with VBS week to make sure that all children were able to participate & have lots of fun!!

Director's Letter

Even as we approach our one year mark in the new building, I continue to walk around amazed at the blessing God has provided for the work of the Center. To see its rooms filled with kids & families getting the help they need is truly a joy. The Center's staff are serving over 100 children a month, with many more children being served solely by the private therapists & counselors working here. Through these services a wide range of disabilities & needs are being met.

Our new location & increase in referrals from area schools & physicians seems to have almost doubled our numbers! The distance that several of our families traveled this summer (One family travels over an hour) demonstrates the

**For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared
beforehand, that we should
walk in them. Eph. 2:10**

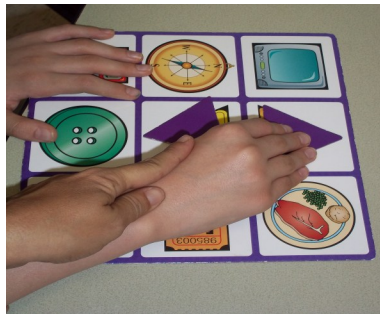
great need, and also the sacrifice families are willing to make to find services for their children. We continue to look for ways we can better meet the challenges facing our families & continually pray for guidance on how we can better serve, while bringing glory to our Lord through this work.

We deeply appreciate your prayers and support as we navigate this mission field. Please visit us and see a bit of the good work happening here at CFNB!

Spotlight on a Program: ITT

Intensive Teaching Time (ITT) is a program we use with children who have limited to no formal communication skills; basically, they are not talking or communicating effectively. This program is set up on the principles of research based programs of Applied Behavior Analysis with an emphasis on Verbal Behavior. These programs are commonly used with children with Autism, but are also effective with other disabilities, such as, Down Syndrome & Cerebral Palsy. The essential pieces of this program are that they are done 1:1 with the child in two settings & the use of strong reinforcers (things the child really likes!) to promote language, decrease problem behaviors & increase attention while learning new skills. The sessions run for one to two hours & are broken down into smaller rotated sessions. Table Time work sessions are typi-

cally 20 minutes, while the Natural Environment Teaching (NET) in the larger playroom are 30/40 minutes (depending on the child). During



the Table Time work, the adult works the child through specific activities related to language, academics, fine motor, etc.

The activities are ordered in a way to promote child's engagement in several ways: liked or easier activities are paired with harder or new activities, only 20% of activities are

new or "challenging", while 80% are review or preferred, a child's specific strong reinforcers are imbedded throughout all sessions. The reinforcers are given in small but frequent doses in the beginning & then faded to less as the child learns to work more cooperatively. Reinforcers may be food items such as candy or drink, social - tickles or hugs, often music or video time is given in short doses of 10-60 seconds at a time. This "formula" is research based & lessens resistive behaviors that would otherwise halt or decrease the likelihood of learning any new skills at all! We also move through the activities at a quicker pace than you might expect. This helps keep attention, while lessening opportunities for problem behaviors. If you know of a child who would benefit from our ITT program pass along our information. We would be glad to help!!

Summer Wrap Up

Summer flown by already. We had a great time with our many activities

- Making a book about ourselves
- Summer Olympic Games
- Learning from Snickers the Monkey
- Water Day

- Music Therapy with David Symons
- Adaptive Aquatics with Julia Herring and Fred Lamback
- Tumbling with Brooke Flakes
- Art with Kelly Barton

- Creating a vegetable garden with Master Gardener Anne Resseau.
- Old Fella Rescue with Sandy McFeat

Summer is always such a fun time here at the Center. Thanks to all who participated with us in our summer adventure.

4th Annual Bird Dog Breakaway coming soon!!

As the weather starts to cool here in GA, it's time to lace up your running shoes & join us for our 4th annual **Bird Dog Breakaway**. Every year it gets bigger & better. This year's race will be held **Saturday, September 17, at 8am at the Waynesboro City Park.**

There will be a 5k (3.1mi)run & a 2mi. walk for those who go at a slower pace. Children's races will be held immediately following these events. Prizes are awarded by age & gender. Sign up forms are available online at www.birddogbreakaway.com and at the Center. Last year we had

two cross country teams join us, & we would love to have other area schools join in this year. If your business or group is interested in being a sponsor for the race, please contact Betsy Veldboom through the Center. We also need volunteers for set-up & clean up. We will present a child from the Center with the annual Sheila Goode Running with Perseverance Award. This is given to a child who has persevered in spite of all the obstacles that he or she faces on a daily basis.



Come cheer on & support Center kids who are running the race of life with great perseverance.

Spotlight on a child: Cont.

Epilepsy occurs when permanent changes in brain tissue cause the brain to be too excitable or jumpy. The brain sends out abnormal signals. This results in repeated, unpredictable seizures. (A single seizure that does not happen again is not epilepsy.) Upon getting diagnosed, Aaron started receiving in-home therapy through Babies Can't Wait, which is an early intervention program in Georgia. He was followed by one of CSRA Therapy members, Tara Simms, for occupational therapy. During that timeframe we also became a consumer of the Healthy Start Enterprise. Johanne McGee followed Aaron and me for two years. As he got older, he transitioned to going to private therapy with Rochelle Clarke also of CSRA Therapy. Aaron progressed tremendously while receiving services at Mrs. Rochelle's.

Another result of Aaron getting old-

er he was able to be rid of the N-G tube and convert to a feeding tube in his stomach. Aaron later started school at Waynesboro Primary, being led by Cindy Blackstone.

While attending school, Aaron gained more progression with operating switches and occupational skills. Aaron later started attending therapy with Sarah Ashe and the Center at the First Baptist Church.

While keeping up exercise with Aaron at home, I noticed something strange about Aaron's legs. I scheduled an appointment for him to be seen, and I was told he was okay. I did not stop there; I proceeded further to have him examined and discovered that his left hip

was out of place. As a result, he had surgery September 28, 2010, to have his hip put back in place. The surgery went very well, he was casted from his waist down for 3 ½

Aaron's mom, Petrice Wilson, recently became the team leader of Parent to Parent of Georgia for Burke, Glasscock, Washington and Jefferson Counties. If you have questions or would like to be involved, you can contact her through the Center .

months. He got to bring the New Year in with straighter legs and comfort. Therapy was required to strengthen his leg and that is how we are so blessed to be back in the Center for New Beginnings with the amazing Sarah Ashe. Aaron continues to improve, and we are blessed to have him in our lives!! ~ Petrice



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A Place of Healing and Hope

CFNB is a Christian non-profit center serving children and adolescents with special needs (behavioral, educational, emotional, intellectual, physical), as well as their families and caregivers in the rural counties south of Augusta.

It is our mission to offer healing and hope to families in need through the provision of resources, services, and support to meet the challenges they are facing.

CFNB Headline News

Special Thanks to the youth group at Burkeland Menonite Church for their great help in building our fence and cleaning at the Center.

Thank you summer volunteers for giving of your time and service:

- Kathy Smith
- Hilda Phillips
- Montine Huffman
- Mary Jane Matthews
- Justin Matthews
- Julie Mitchell
- Miranda Kitchens

CFNB Programs Start Back August 22nd. Call us about the new schedule for the school year!

**CPR Class at CFNB
Friday, August 26, 2011
9 AM - 12 Noon
Cost: \$8**



LISTEN OUT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE DINNER THEATRE FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER!!

