

A heartfelt

Thank You!

for making BIG things happen!



Thank You for Supporting our Kids!

On behalf of all of us at BTLC, we wish to convey our heartfelt thanks for your generous donations during our 2013/14 Pledge-a-thon. Together, we can all be proud of the impressive result of surpassing our goal of \$32,000!

Our staff, families and Board of Directors are grateful to each and every one of our donors. Your contributions impact the lives of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) by helping them develop skills and gain abilities in every developmental area. Your contribution goes directly toward BTLC's exceptional programming and is a huge step for each child in achieving his and her educational goals.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to Sean Phillips of Riverwood Photography for capturing some of the magic in our classroom and showing the amazing qualities of each student. Thank you for your support!

Nearly a Decade of Success

Established in 2004, BTLC is entering its tenth year of changing lives! Over the past decade, BTLC has helped numerous children diagnosed with ASD and other developmental disabilities make incredible strides in behavior and skills development.

BTLC's special education teachers, registered therapists and program assistants deliver comprehensive, specialized and individualized education for each child to meet their complex learning needs. It's the individualization and intensive support from the small class size and high staff-to-child ratio, the application of Applied Behaviour Analysis and Discrete Trial

Teaching within a group format, and an expert clinical team that sets BTLC apart. Year after year, our students make exceptional strides because of our unique programming.



Exceptional Progress

Big things are happening in the classroom!

Social Butterflies

We have a very social class this year! After months of focusing intensively on individual functional skills, our kids are ready to take things to the next level! The children are now much more motivated to be with each other, truly experiencing shared enjoyment. Their social awareness and motivation has expanded remarkably. They are interacting naturally with each other now and our teachers are even noticing that they are being silly with each other when the teachers' backs are turned! Now that the kids have the social desire, our next goals are learning how to comment on others' actions, answer social questions and engage in basic conversation and play interactively within play centres that you would find in most typical preschool classrooms.



Captain's Coming!

Because ASD affects the development of social and communication skills, it can also affect the development of important skills needed for interactive play and social games, such as the ability to learn from others by watching and copying their actions, following group directions, and being expressive when excited without going overboard. Our classes are making big strides in these areas. We are now working on typical gym instruction and games like "Captain's Coming" and other structured activities where the kids find partners, pass a ball to one another or tag each other. To the kids, it's just pure fun but it is also much more - it's a huge step towards inclusion and integration in a typical classroom.

We continue to work on social awareness and social motivation using various methods including, for some, written text prompts and instruction. The children have done exceptionally well. After mastering the act of pausing to greet someone that has entered the room, we have found that our staff can sometimes get in trouble if we walk in and forget to appropriately greet the kids!



Effective Tools

There's an App for that!

The same device that you use to check your email or catch up on missed TV is also key to enabling children with ASD to express themselves. New research indicates that children with autism who are minimally verbal can learn to speak earlier than previously thought and iPads are playing an increasing role in making that happen. Speech generating software on iPads promotes language development for the



kids and iPads with specialized communication software are used on a regular basis at BTLC. Our students who have had limited communication have responded exceptionally well to specialized software that makes use of picture icons and the ease of touch-screen technology. With proper instruction, these kids can now express their needs, can give directions, and can answer questions. As a result, we have noticed significant increases in positive behavior as these children are now being heard and have an empowering sense of independence.



Classroom Learning

We are working on essential classroom skills for kids that will be moving onto kindergarten next year. Our students have truly benefitted from intensive behavioural intervention and, as a result, we have seen significant improvement in our children's ability to learn and develop.

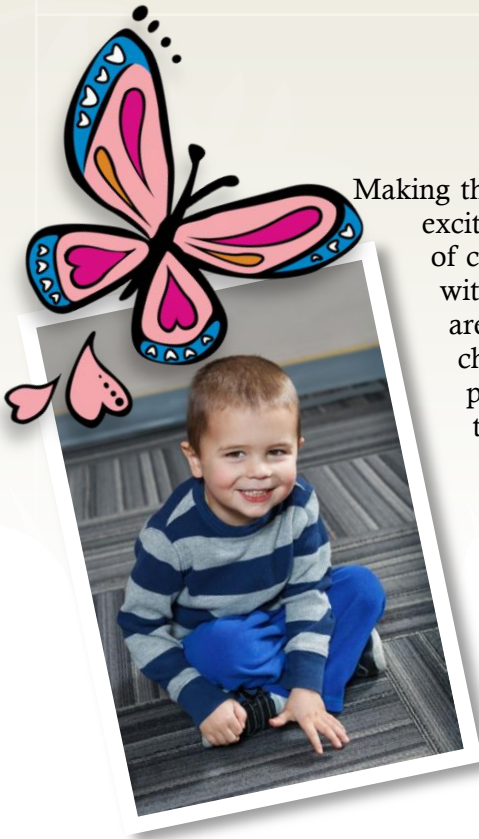


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To prepare them for kindergarten, we have been working on following along in their own copy of a book at story time, putting together crafts from models, drawing and introducing math and early literacy activities.

Let Them Soar!



Making the transition from preschool to elementary or community school is an exciting time but it is certainly a time of anxiety and uncertainty for families of children with ASD. We monitor each child and their individual needs with a focus on the eventual transition to community schools. Our staff are working closely with parents in selecting the next level for their children and working on strategies to prepare them for the next stage. In preparation for integration, we ensure we have a solid understanding of the new school through inter-school networking, discussion with parents and offsite visits. We have six children who will be partially integrating in the next school year and two that will be fully integrated with our support. We also have one child who has shown exceptional progress and has made such big gains that integrating mid-year to a community preschool was possible. This is a significant achievement but we are not done yet. We are now working with the student's individual needs with the goal of full time integration in the next school year. Way to go!



Your Support is Essential and we are so grateful!

Our kids have made remarkable strides this year. BTLC is able to continue offering the highest quality programming because of the thoughtful contributions from people like you. The cost of such intensive and individualized education and maintaining high staff-to-child ratios far exceeds the funding provided by the Alberta government. As a result, we rely heavily on parent and donor contributions. Your donation not only ensures our kids can continue and excel in their development, but also provides relief to the parents and families who have, in addition to dealing with the emotional and physical stresses that come with having a child with ASD, taken on the financial burden of this shortfall.

BTLC offers unique and highly effective programming and our goal is to expand our reach and make big things happen for more families with children with ASD and other developmental disabilities. We are so grateful for your continued support!



Thank you!

Behaviour Therapy and Learning Centre
Suite #12, 2451 Dieppe Ave SW
Calgary, AB T3E 7K1



Photographs courtesy of Riverwood Photography