



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 29, 2008

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Weiant Center still accepting preschool applicants

NEWARK – The E.S. Weiant Center, operated by the Licking County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (LCBMRDD), has a limited number of preschool openings available for the upcoming 2008-2009 school year. Transportation to and from school is available in many areas for a nominal fee.

The center strongly encourages parents of typically-developing children, ages 3 to 5, to enroll their young ones in the program, which begins August 25. Typically-developing children and those with disabilities are enrolled in each classroom and are encouraged to interact and learn from each other.

“Typically-developing kids enjoy learning strong leadership skills while accepting and appreciating the friendships of others who may be different than they are,” says Molly Kurtz, the LCBMRDD’s director of education. “The benefits of learning from peers are critical for children with developmental disabilities.

Kurtz notes there are many benefits for typically-developing children when integrated in an inclusive program such as the E.S. Weiant Center.

“They learn at a very young age to respect diversity of ability and to be sensitive to others’ limitations,” Kurtz says.

No more than 12 children are placed in each classroom, putting the teacher to student ratio at 1 to 4. Each child attends preschool for half-day sessions -- Monday through Thursday of each week.

Teachers and assistants plan daily activities to meet each child’s individual needs. Teachers develop lesson plans in accordance with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Early Learning Content Standards for kindergarten readiness. All E.S. Weiant teachers hold college or graduate degrees and are certified by ODE in early childhood education.

The E.S. Weiant Center is located at 116 N. 22nd St. in west Newark. To learn more about associated fees, transportation availability and the registration process, please call the E.S. Weiant Center at (740) 344-6921.

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The LCBMRDD provides comprehensive services to more than 1,300 children and adults with mental retardation and developmental disabilities including early intervention and preschool services at the E.S. Weiant (formerly Starlight) Center in Newark and the Ann Davino Center in Pataskala; adult services at the LICCO Inc. workshop in Heath; residential support; family respite; transportation; and service coordination. The LCBMRDD is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for providing high-quality support services to individuals with disabilities and their families.