



# JANUARY 2018 Kountry Kids News

Happy  
New Year!



## January Birthdays

- Paxton Sneed (4th)
- Oliver Carter (7th)
- Marissa Maddox (12th)
- Trenton Marr (18th)
- Charlotte Neuman (19th)
- Owen Darr (24th)
- Ms. Luanne Loving (2nd)
- Ms. Amanda Coe (6th)

## Ring in 2018!

With a new year comes new excitement at Kountry Kids Learning Center! A new year is a time to not only celebrate all the lessons taught and learned and memories made, but also the perfect opportunity to dream into the future of what great things are to come in 2018; first steps will be taken, first words will be spoken, new adventures will be experienced, and new smiles will be introduced to the KKLC family. Here at KKLC, we feel truly blessed and we cannot think of a better time to step back and reflect. I encourage you to take a moment to do the same for yourself and your family at home. Cheers to a great 2018!



Is one of your New Year's Resolutions to declutter and cut down on paper? Switching to ACH deposits can help you with this by cutting down on check writing, making a run to the center to make a payment, and late fees! Just stop by our form center by the water fountain, fill out an ACH form, and drop it by the office! Payments are automatically taken out of your bank ac-

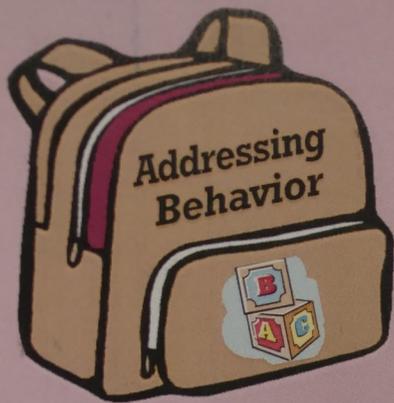
### 2017 ABC News Top New Year's Resolutions

1. Exercise More! (38%)
2. Lose Weight (33%)
3. Eat More Healthily (32%)
4. Take a more active approach to health (15%)
5. Learn a new skill or hobby (15%)
6. Spend time on personal wellbeing. (12%)
7. More time with family & friends (12%)
8. Drink less alcohol (12%)
9. Stop Smoking (9%)
10. Other (1%)  
What are your New Year's Resolutions?  
See inside for some ideas from KKLC!



## WINTER WEATHER ALERT!

As January and February are generally the worst Winter weather months, we want to remind you of our Severe Weather Policy. If New Berlin School District (CUSD #16) decides that it is too cold or road conditions are too dangerous for the busses and children, then KKLC will follow suite and close as well. Once we receive word from the school district, we will send out a Tadpoles note informing parents of our closing procedure. The new year is a great time to make sure that you are receiving Tadpoles notifications, and if any changes need to be made, please contact the office and let us know! Thank you for your understanding! Safety is our main priority!



## Backpack Connection Series

### About this Series

The *Backpack Connection Series* was created by TACSEI to provide a way for teachers and parents/caregivers to work together to help young children develop social emotional skills and reduce challenging behavior. Teachers may choose to send a handout home in each child's backpack when a new strategy or skill is introduced to the class. Each *Backpack Connection* handout provides information that helps parents stay informed about what their child is learning at school and specific ideas on how to use the strategy or skill at home.

### The Pyramid Model

The Pyramid Model is a framework that provides programs with guidance on how to promote social emotional competence in all children and design effective interventions that support young children who might have persistent challenging behavior. It also provides practices to ensure that children with social emotional delays receive intentional teaching. Programs that implement the Pyramid Model are eager to work together with families to meet every child's individualized learning and support needs. To learn more about the Pyramid Model, please visit [challengingbehavior.org](http://challengingbehavior.org).

### More Information

For more information about this topic, visit TACSEI's website at [www.challengingbehavior.org](http://www.challengingbehavior.org) and type "social stories" in the Search Box in the upper-right corner of the screen.



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# How to Use Social Stories to Teach Your Child New Skills and Expectations

Brooke Brogle, Alyson Jiron & Jill Giacomini

Children love to listen to stories. Not only are stories used to entertain children, they can also be used as tools to teach new skills and expectations. Many parents read books to teach their children the alphabet or numbers, but stories can also be used to:

- Teach social skills, such as how to take turns.
- Teach clear behavior expectations for a time of day (e.g., quiet time) or event (e.g., road trip).
- Reinforce routines, such as getting ready for bed.
- Prepare for new experiences, such as the first day of school.
- Address a challenging behavior, such as hitting.

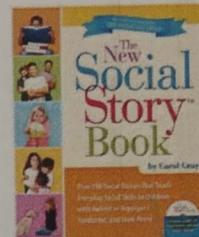
**Social stories™**, developed by Carol Gray of the Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding, can be used to help children and adolescents understand social situations and expectations. Social stories are brief, simple stories that are created to show your child what to expect, and what is expected of him, during a specific activity. Social stories can include pictures of your child and are written in a way that he can understand. They also use positive language to show your child what he can do and provide healthy ways to deal with strong emotions. For example, a social story that teaches a new skill to replace hitting might say, "If my friend tries to take my toy, I can say 'Stop. This toy is busy.'" Social stories validate how your child feels, but also can show him how others feel. For example, "My friend feels sad when I hit him." When used for specific situations, social stories help children to make wise choices and give them the confidence to try new experiences.



### Try This at Home

- Choose a situation that has been challenging for your child. For example, if your child and her friend Ben have been having problems with sharing when they play, you can write a simple social story to teach her how to share with him.
  - Page 1: I feel excited when I go to Ben's house!
  - Page 2: We play with trains, do puzzles and build towers.
  - Page 3: Sometimes, we both want to play with the same train.
  - Page 4: If we both want the same toy, I have choices!
  - Page 5: I can find another train and ask Ben to trade.
  - Page 6: I can get a timer and we can take turns.
  - Page 7: I can ask my mommy for help.

- Page 8: I can choose to play with something else.
- Page 9: I feel proud when I make wise choices!



- This type of social story helps your child to see that her problem is normal, teaches her words to help her express her feelings and gives her choices by telling her what she can do. In addition to helping her share with Ben, it will also help her to understand that she can make choices in other difficult situations.
- Social stories are very helpful to children when they go into a new situation. For example, if your child is going on an airplane for the first time, you can create a social story to provide him with clear expectations and help him understand all the things he can do at the airport and on the plane.
- There are many social stories already created that address issues such as hitting, safety, going to school, emotions and more. For a book list and free downloadable scripted stories for social situations, you can go to <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/strategies.html#scriptedstories>.



### Practice at School

Teachers create social stories to help children:

- Adjust to new experiences, such as saying goodbye to a parent at drop-off.
- Understand expectations, such as what we can do on our new playground.
- Learn social skills, such as how to share.

Teachers work together with families, and often read the same book at home and at school, to reinforce the skill or expectation.



### The Bottom Line

Reading stories to your child provides a time for everyone to relax. These moments are a perfect time to teach your child or talk to her about feelings. Social stories are a great tool you can use to teach your child expectations or new skills before she is expected to use them. When you read a book with your child again and again, she feels confident about making choices that help her to have a positive experience.



[www.challengingbehavior.org](http://www.challengingbehavior.org)

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# Classroom Spotlight

## Newborns



Hi! I'm Ms. Jessica and I am the head teacher in the newborn room. I have been working at Kountry Kids since September. I love how much KKLC feels like and is one big family! Some of the fun things that we do in the Newborn classroom is finger painting and feet painting, we sing a lot of songs and we listen to different styles and types of music. We are always working on our fine and large motor skills. Newborns are so much fun to work with because I get to help them discover their world. I have been in child care for three years and I have



# NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS AT KKLC!

"Lose Weight/Eat Healthier" ~Ms. Ashlynn

"To go to Disney Land more!" ~Lola K.

"Travel! It means to go somewhere far away!" ~Noah S

"Run more." ~Cora R.

"To go to Toys R Us and get new Legos." ~Mason M.

"To try indoor soccer." ~Peyton H.

"To stay in the house more often." ~Evelyn M.

"To stop drinking soda!" ~Ms. Luanne

"Travel some more with my mom and dad." ~Annabelle C.

"To lose 100 pounds!" ~Ms. Amanda D.

"Exercise, Lose Weight, and to Learn 3 New Things!" ~Mr. Kris

"To try and eat better." ~Ms. Tiffany

"To try new recipes in my InstaPot!" ~Ms. Mary

"To remain awesome and pet more dogs! :)" ~Ms. Jessica

"To learn to color in the lines better." ~Mason M.

"To more healthy decisions!" ~Ms. Lacey

"To love my friends and my family." ~Ellisyn N.

"To not eat McDonald's for a whole year!" ~Ms. Dara

"To be more positive!" ~Ms. Tiffany

"To learn all of my letters more better." ~Sunni G.

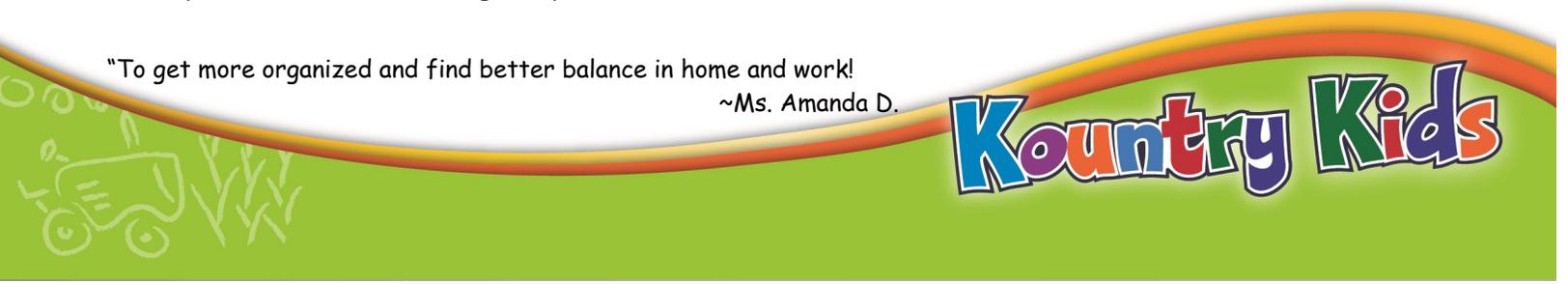
"Be a big girl and use the potty chair!" ~Ireland D.

"To try and eat better and be a good sport!" ~Elliana N.

"To work out more for my legs." ~Kam R.

"To get more organized and find better balance in home and work!

~Ms. Amanda D.



# JANUARY 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Happy New Year!!	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Back to School!	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 NBE No School KKLC OPEN	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## Annual Reminder: Pest Control

**KKLC has an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program for both our Berlin and Rushville locations. The safety of the KKLC families is always in our front of mind here and our pest control management plan is just one more way we can insure the well-being of the children we educate. Our facilities are monitored and serviced by CT Adam's Pest Control and our IPM meets all the requirements set forth by the DCFS Part 407.**

