



Happy Easter

From Benchmark Family Services!



"Spring; a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be."

-Anonymous

The warm weather is on it's way! Spring has begun, and we want to encourage everybody to make the most of it. Whether it's family picnics, Easter Egg hunts, or just taking a stroll through the park; there are plenty of outdoor activities that allow you to spend quality time with the children, while getting a healthy dose of natural vitamin D.

April is also Child Abuse Prevention Month, a cause very near to our hearts. You can visit childwelfare.gov to learn more and find out how you can spread the word or get involved.

Welcome Julie Carter!



Assistant Executive Director, for Benchmark Family Services

Julie Carter grew up in Southern Indiana, where she continues to reside with her husband and son. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Addictions Counseling from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2012, and in 2016 received her Master's Degree from Ball State University in Applied Behavior Analysis. Julie joined the Benchmark team in 2019 as Director of Development for Indiana. In October 2020, Julie began serving as the Director of Strategy and Development for the Indiana team. Prior to joining Benchmark, Julie spent 11 years employed by another therapeutic foster care/behavioral health agency serving in various roles including Executive Director, Development Director, and Regional Director. Julie served on the local CASA Board for six years and is also a CASA volunteer. She also began serving on the Purdue Extension Board in 2022.

Special Dates

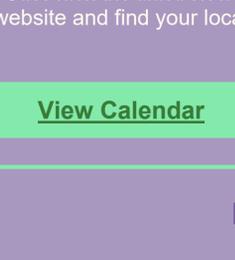
- Month of April:**
 Child Abuse Awareness Month
 Autism Awareness Month
- 4/1: April Fool's Day
 4/2: World Autism Awareness Day
 4/17: Easter
 4/22: Earth Day
 4/23: World Book Day



Program Outcomes



Upcoming Trainings



Virtual Training Opportunities

Our virtual training sessions are live webinars, and count toward your face-to-face training hours for the year. We added all virtual training opportunities for the year to our website. [Click here](#) to easily find and sign up for the courses that are most convenient for you!

Don't miss out on training opportunities or any of your office's upcoming events! Just click the link below to go to our website and find your local office!

[View Calendar](#)

- April 7th:** Domestic Violence
- April 14th:** Trust Based Relational Intervention
- April 23rd:** Time In vs. Time Out

Easter Crafts

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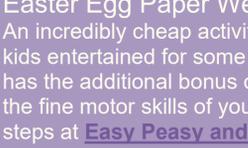
With Easter just around the corner, it's the perfect opportunity to get the kids engaged in some creativity. Here, we have compiled a list of our favorite easy, fun, and affordable Easter craft ideas, which are sure to get their creative juices flowing!



Salt Dough Easter Eggs
These are such fun ornaments to hang around the house at Easter time. They're made from three basic ingredients and can be decorated in whatever colors your child likes. See steps at [The Best Ideas for Kids](#).



Peek-a-boo Clothespin Eggs
These are great for the younger kids with shorter attention spans. They are quick and easy to make, and kids love the hidden chicken inside. See steps at [One Little Project](#).



Painted Bunny Heads
Who would have thought you could have so much fun with those old toilet rolls?! This idea is so simple it can be done by kids of almost all ages. See steps [here](#).

Easter Egg Paper Weaving
An incredibly cheap activity that will keep the kids entertained for some time. This activity also has the additional bonus of helping to improve the fine motor skills of younger children. See steps at [Easy Peasy and Fun](#).



Shaving Cream Easter Eggs
Inject some color (and fun!) into your Easter holidays with these beautiful fun marbled Easter eggs. They are heaps of fun to make, and the swirly colors are almost mesmerizing. See steps at [Country Living](#).

Referral Bonus Opportunity



With over 420,000 children in the foster care system, and over 250,000 children entering each year, we need your help!

Every month, our agency receives more referrals for children in foster care than we have beds to accommodate. With your help, we will be able to provide more of these children with a good home and a bed to rest their head. Please help spread the word and get your friends and family involved in our mission. Remember, if you are currently a foster parent with us and you successfully refer a new foster parent to our agency, you will receive a referral bonus. Please reach out to your regional office for more information!

Employee of the Month

Kentucky: Kelley Eads
Office Manager, Lexington Office

Kelley has been the Office Manager for the Lexington office since July 2020. During this time Kelley has cemented herself as an absolute vital member of our family. She has a tremendous attitude and never hesitates to assist with things around the office and/or anything her coworkers may need. Kelley is friendly and kind and strives to make any guests that enter our office feel comfortable and welcome. We've recently relocated our office and Kelley was instrumental in this process and made the move easier for everyone in the office and orchestrated all the details and made the move simple and stress free. Simply put, our office wouldn't be the same without Kelley. She truly embodies the Benchmark Culture and we're fortunate to work with her.

Indiana: Elizabeth Bailey
Therapeutic Support Specialist, Columbus Office

Elizabeth has been going above and beyond the past month in line with the Benchmark customer service standard to support a foster parent and maintain a placement. Elizabeth has responded, after hours, numerous times- even when not on-call, since she is familiar with the child and the home and is the best person to support the family. Just recently, a child had to go to a hospital for a mental health assessment due to aggressive behaviors. After the child was discharged home to the foster parent, Elizabeth followed the foster parent home and ensured that she was able to get the child calmly and safely to bed.

Ohio: Josh Twiggs
Network Specialist, New Carlisle Office

Josh has been with the Benchmark IT department since March of 2021. Since joining the IT Department, he has been a valuable member of the team. Josh has always done a great job, assisting and supporting our regional staff. Josh has recently moved into the Network Support role and continues to offer his technical knowledge as a way to assist with outages and various other functions, maintaining Benchmark's network. He always has a positive attitude and is ready to assist with all phases of IT. Josh is a great addition to the team!

[Visit Website](#)

