Each year, the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) presents four awards recognizing outstanding contributions to the child support program. We are honored to share that Katie Heath, Establishment Supervisor for Montgomery County CSEA, was selected as this year’s Emerging Leadership Award winner.

According to Chris Williams, NCSEA’s Executive Director, Katie was selected “from an outstanding pool of candidates, with the committee judging that her leadership and vision set her apart from the field.” NCSEA noted that Katie’s unit reduced a 30,000 case backlog, despite staff reductions, by utilizing technology to increase efficiency. NCSEA also recognized Katie’s outstanding oversight of MCSEA’s PTOC screening process.

The Emerging Leadership Award recognizes a manager, with less than 3 years of leadership, who has improved a support program or enhanced its mission. According to NCSEA, “This improvement is recognized as exemplary; that is, one to be emulated by others.” Katie’s achievements serve to inspire future leaders to further advance the child support program.

Katie received her award August 1st at the NCSEA Leadership Symposium in New Orleans. We’d like to congratulate Katie and Montgomery County for this well-deserved national honor!
**Cognoa: Parenting Advice & Child Development**

Ever want to know if your child is on track with his/her development? How much should he/she be able to say? How much should he/she understand? What should he/she be doing? The free app Cognoa provides feedback on your child’s developmental milestones. After completing a brief questionnaire, Cognoa provides input on your child’s current play, communication and social skills. You can ask Cognoa questions about your child’s development, and the app can recommend activities to help ensure your child meets important milestones. Cognoa is a great tool to reassure parents, teach them about their child’s development, and provide ideas for enhancing their child’s growth.

**Pokémon GO!**

This game is all the rage right now! You walk to find and catch little creatures called “Pokémon.” It’s a fun way to connect with your children ages 9 and up. It gets you outside and going new places together. The more you walk, the more Pokémon you will find. There are hot spots with abundant Pokémon in public places such as museums, art installations, historical markers, monuments and parks. You can turn this game into a learning opportunity by visiting these public venues. Sometimes the best app is one that allows you to connect and enjoy time with your child.

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**In the News**

**Information on effective parenting:**

According to Newsweek, there are four important facts to know about America’s public school system:

1. About 15 million American children live below the federal poverty level
2. 11% of American children under age of 3 live in deep poverty
3. Poverty negatively affects brain development in young children
4. There is a direct correlation between poverty during age 0-5 and the ability to thrive in kindergarten.

According to Maryanne Kane, Ph.D., brain growth, approaches to life and learning, and language skills are all shaped by what does or does not happen in a child’s first days and years. Author Judith Colbert agrees that “What happens in the earliest months and years is of greatest importance and has long-term consequences for later life.”

As parents we have a responsibility to assist in our children’s education from the moment they are born. Taking time to educate our children helps them succeed later in life. Even when we feel exhausted, it’s important to spend quality time teaching our children skills that will help them develop.

MCCSEA PTOC encourages you to take a few minutes each night to read to your child. It is a perfect opportunity to enjoy the complimentary FirstBooks we mail each month. You can use these FirstBooks to teach your child the alphabet and review sight words (like “book”) that will improve their chances for success. We, as parents, will always be the primary educators for our children. Use your knowledge to enrich your children.

**FAMILY FUN**

**Workout with a Superhero**

*Oct. 8, 10-11:30 a.m.*  
Indian Riffle Park  
Age(s) 7 – 11. Join in the fun for a full range of fitness activities from agility to strengthening to endurance. Enjoy a fun, fitness-filled morning with a superhero! **Fee is $6** for Kettering residents and **$10** for non-residents.

**Halloween Howl Fun for Little Ones**

Kettering will also be offering **Halloween Howl Fun for Little Ones** on  
*Saturday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to noon.* Age(s) 2 to 6 years old (with parent). Preschoolers and their families can enjoy a morning of Halloween fun including games, crafts, inflatables and much more. Costumes are optional. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **$5 per family.**

**Spooky Swim & Skate**

The Halloween fun continues in Kettering with **Spooky Swim & Skate** on  
*Saturday, Oct. 29 starting at 1 p.m.* at the Kettering Recreation Complex, 2900 Glengarry Drive in Kettering. Activities include ice skating, trick or treating, costume contest and swimming, all for one low price. **Cost is $8** for Kettering residents and $12 for non-residents. Fee covers one child, skate rental and snack. Pre-registration is required.

You can register for Kettering Recreation events at [www.playkettering.org](http://www.playkettering.org), at Kettering recreation facilities, over the phone or through the mail. To learn more about activities and events being offered by the City of Kettering.

**Fall Festival of Fun**

Check out all the fun fall has to offer at the **Fall Festival of Fun** on *Oct. 8 from 5 to 9 p.m.* at the Vandalia Recreation Center, 1111 Stonequarry Road, Dayton, Ohio 45414. Enjoy the Climbing Wall, Luther’s Jungle, gymnasium, pumpkin decorating and door prizes. A hayride around the Vandalia Sports Complex will take you to a campfire to make s'mores. Hayrides start at 6 p.m. All ages welcome. No registration necessary. **Cost is $10 per family** (up to five people).

To learn more about activities and events offered by the Vandalia Recreation Center this fall, go to [http://vandaliaohio.org/download/Parks%20and%20Recreation/Rec%20Guide/VRC_WebGuide_Sep-Dec16-FINAL2.pdf](http://vandaliaohio.org/download/Parks%20and%20Recreation/Rec%20Guide/VRC_WebGuide_Sep-Dec16-FINAL2.pdf)
Halloween

On Oct. 8, 2016, the Learning Tree Farm, 3376 South Union Road, Dayton, will be hosting a Spooky Scavenger Hunt. Families will hunt together to find clues all over the farm property with the help of Peter Pumpkin and a good map. Costumes that are able to get dirty on the farm are welcome. Learning Tree Farm requests a $5 admission per family to help support their family programs. Registration is encouraged but not required. Registration is closed prior to the event.

If you like your Halloween fun a little less on the spooky side, Dayton Metro Library has you covered. Celebrate a fun, not-too-spooky Halloween with these library events:

- **Halloween Storytime:** Saturday, Oct. 22, 10:30 to 11 a.m., Burkhartd, all ages.
- **Halloween Scavenger Hunt & Crafts:** Monday, Oct. 24, 4 to 5 p.m., Northwest, ages 5-12.
- **Wump Muckets Spooky Puppet Show:** Thursday, Oct. 27, 4 to 5 p.m., Huber Heights, all ages.
- **Creepy Halloween Fun:** Monday, Oct. 31, 4 to 5 p.m., Westwood, all ages.

AniMangaCon

If you’re a fan of anime and manga, don’t miss AniMangaCon at the Northwest Library on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 1 to 5 p.m. Cosplay, crafts, gaming, art contest, taste tests, prizes and more.

Fundamentals of Acting

For tweens, the Dayton Metro Library will also offer Fundamentals of Acting on Oct. 10 and Oct. 24 at the Trotwood Branch from 6 to 7 p.m.

Get Outside Book Club

Dayton Metro Library and Five Rivers Metroparks will be presenting the Get Outside Book Club for preschoolers from Sept. 1 through Oct. 31. This program is designed to help little ones develop a love of reading, learning and nature. Activities for Get Outside Book Club include Animals at the Library and special story times at Five Rivers MetroPark locations with naturalists guiding participants in outdoor activities at various MetroParks. To learn more about the Get Outside Book Club and other activities being offered by the Dayton Metro Library system and Five Rivers MetroParks, go to: http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/docs/highlights/sept_oct_highlights.pdf and http://www.metroparks.org/programs-events-finder/

Feast of Giving

A Miami Valley tradition, the Feast of Giving Thanksgiving Dinner will return to the Dayton Convention Center, 22 East Fifth Street, on Nov. 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a free event.
Dear Adam,

I just found out that my daughter wants to participate on the swim team during the upcoming season. I can pick her up from practice and take her home but that is not written into our parenting time agreement. Do we have to go back to court and get that changed for one sport season?

Thanks,
Dad of an Athlete

Dear Dad of an Athlete,

If you and your co-parent agree on the new schedule, then you do not need to modify the court order for a short-term arrangement. Remember, if you do not agree then you should follow the terms of your parenting time order. If you and your co-parent would like to make a permanent change, then we recommend you consult with legal counsel and file a motion to modify with the appropriate court.

- Adam

If you would like to ask Adam a question, please email him at: MCPTOC@jfs.ohio.gov

Adam is Managing Attorney & Coordinator for MCCSEA PTOC.
Leaf Imprinting

1. Collect leaves of various shapes and sizes.
2. Place leaf so bottom side is facing up on a flat surface.
3. Cover with a piece of plain white paper.
4. Rub over the leaf with a crayon and observe as the leaf shape starts to appear.
5. Continue until you have rubbed over the entire leaf.
6. Remove the leaf and repeat using other leaf shapes and colors.

Ingredients:

- 5 Apples
- 5 Wooden Sticks
- 1 (11-14 oz.) package of caramels (unwrapped) or caramel bits
- 2 tbsp. of Water
- Large plate or pan covered with aluminum foil or waxed paper, sprayed with cooking spray

Instructions:

1. Wash apples, remove the stems and dry.
2. Insert one wood stick into stem end of each apple. Place on large plate or pan.
3. Place caramel in medium saucepan. Add water; cook on medium-low heat 3 minutes or until caramels are melted, stirring constantly.
4. Dip apples into melted caramel until evenly coated, spooning caramel over apples if necessary. Allow excess caramel to drip off.
5. Scrape bottoms of apples; place on prepared plate or pan.
6. Refrigerate at least 1 hour. Remove from refrigerator 15 minutes before serving. Store any leftover apples in refrigerator.

Reference: kraftrecipes.com
WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Finish the turkey below, then sit with your family and write five things you are thankful for.

Parents can email your art to MCPTOC@jfs.ohio.gov.
Submissions will be displayed at the CSEA.

1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________

Reference: dltk-holidays.com
Montgomery County Juvenile Court Citizen Services

Although PTOC enables parents to obtain parenting time without filing in court or paying any cost, either parent may eventually need to file a motion in court. Montgomery County Juvenile Court, a PTOC partner, has a Citizen Services Office to help you file pro se. Filing “pro se” means you are filing without the assistance of an attorney (i.e. self-represented).

Fillable forms for custody, visitation, paternity and child support matters are available on the Montgomery County Juvenile Court Website (www.mcjcohio.org) or may be picked up at the Citizen Services Office, located in the lower level of the Juvenile Justice Center, 380 W. Second Street, Dayton, OH 45422.

Once all required forms are completed, take them to the Citizen Services Office for review and make any corrections noted.

Some things you should know:

- Once your forms are approved for filing, make copies. The Clerk’s office can make copies for $5.
- Filing fees may be waived for eligible parties through the Volunteer Lawyer’s Project. Clerks otherwise accept cash, debit, credit cards or money orders for filing fees.
- Hours for filing are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- If your case is dismissed, you will not get a refund of your filing fee!

To contact Citizen Services call: (937) 224-3977 or (937) 496-7808

MCCSEA
Montgomery County CSEA
14 W. Fourth St., P.O. Box 8744
Dayton, OH 45422

http://on.fb.me/1NIyhOf
http://twitter.com/mcdjfs

Chat with a child support specialist at www.mcsea.org