



# Look What's Sprouting



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Skill Sprout, LLC.

128 Washington Square

Washington, IL 61571

1-800-773-1682

## The State of Skill Sprout

Dear Skill Sprout Team,

As we approach the launch of summer program, I cannot tell you how incredibly proud I am to call Skill Sprout my career home. This summer will be my 4th year with the company and I feel as if I have seen it all. Tremendous growth, exceptional team work, individual team member success stories, and most of all I have witnessed premier services being provided by some of the most talented clinicians in the industry. And let's not forget our operations team! Sometimes when walking through the office I take a look around and I'm amazed by the level of dedication and drive in this team. Skill Sprout has truly collected all of the pieces of the puzzle.

In addition to the scurry of summer scheduling, we have participated in many provider outreach sessions, recruiting events, marketing events, and the Autism Walk at Soldier Field. Did I mention we moved our entire Operations Team to a different office while all of this was happening? Thank you to all who have participated, volunteered, raised funds, and simply lent a helping hand to accomplish all of these tasks.

Due to the success of our Team Member of the Month program, we are excited to announce our new Summer Star program! The purpose of the Skill Sprout Summer Star program is to positively reinforce achievements and continued dedication of qualified team members who have had a positive impact on our summer program. It is the goal of our Human Resources department to recognize the accomplishments of those individuals who have contributed to the success of Skill Sprout.

The Summer Star nomination process will run similar to the Team Member of The Month program allowing team members to vote for individuals throughout the summer who excel in a particular area such as: customer/team member service, outstanding performance, positive attitude, team player, excellent communicator, positive parent/team member feedback, going the extra mile, demonstrating leadership, and good problem solving. At the end of summer, HR will elect a winner from both the clinical and operational teams. These individuals will not only be receive DOUBLE the Skill Sprout points but will also qualify with a nomination towards Employee of the Year! Good luck and make sure to cast your votes!

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to Skill Sprout. We are very much looking forward to another successful summer program.

*Nicole A. Butler*

Nicole Butler  
Director of Human Resources





# Did You Know?



## Early Intervention:

"It is important for a child's development to have both structured and unstructured play time. Unstructured play is a fancy word for free play. This provides an opportunity for kids to explore toys at their own pace and in their own way. This allows kids to relax and expand their creativity. Structured play is an organized activity or play with a driven purpose. This provides an opportunity for kids to directly learn a variety of tasks, play, and learning concepts." ~Susie Hulse



**Mental Health:** "Did you know... we are offering free screenings in Effingham, IL? We have partnered with a pediatric clinic in town to better help support the needs in their community. Future initiatives may involve local ABA therapy and monthly free parent training seminars." ~Emily Miller



## Illinois ABA:

"Did you know that ABA consultants have clinical rounds each month? Our consultants meet and discuss ways to best support our staff, families, and clients." ~Jennifer Edgington



**Social Skills:** "There is a growing body of research that discusses the need for children with ADHD to have access to Social Skills therapy. Research is showing a connection between ADHD and pragmatic language deficits, and also a connection between pragmatic language deficits and poor social functioning." ~Josey Schouweiler



## Texas ABA:

"Did you know that The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE Act) allows for tax-free savings accounts to help individuals and families finance their long term disability needs." ~Melissa Lamb



## Occupational Therapy:

"Did you know OT's work on dressing skills? The ability to remove socks, place arms and legs through garments, zip, button, and tie shoes all require multiple skills for children to complete independently. Working with children to promote independence in dressing targets fine motor coordination, bilateral coordination, right/left discrimination, body awareness, motor planning and self-confidence." ~Colleen Carley

## Meet Skill Sprout's Service Directors



**Emily Miller**  
*Director of Clinical Services*

Provides clinical and operational management of all services offered by Skill Sprout across all regions, both in-home and in-clinic, to ensure high quality and effective services and continued growth as a premier provider.



**Jennifer Edgington**  
*Regional Director of ABA-Illinois*

Monitors productivity, motivate and encourage staff, ensure consistency across ABA services, problem solve, clinical work, and project work.



**Melissa Lamb**  
*Regional Director of ABA - Texas*

Duties include: lead and train the Texas ABA in-home therapy team, collaborate with other department leaders and assist in developing and re-vising processes for Skill Sprout.

## Who's Who?



**Josey Schouweiler**  
*Director of Social Skills*

Duties include: Overseeing the day to day operations as well as clinical service delivery within the Social Skills Program.



# Celebrations!

## New Team Members!

Sarah Giacobbe ~ Physical Therapist, Champaign  
Nina Van Beuning ~ Intern, Peoria  
Cassie Lucchesi ~ Office Assistant, Peoria  
Leslie Kokotek ~ Speech Language Pathologist, Normal  
Tessa Lee ~ Line Therapist/Developmental Therapist, Lombard  
Jillian Haggerty ~ Line Therapist, Lombard  
Sara Schmitt ~ Social Skills Therapist, Springfield



## May Anniversaries

Angela Black ~ 1 year  
Melissa Lamb ~ 1 year  
Trisha Purdy ~ 1 year  
Wesley Garrard ~ 2 years  
Liz Ryan ~ 3 years  
Pam Harvey ~ 4 years



## May Birthdays

Amanda Nielsen ~ 1st  
Betsy Vogt ~ 1st  
Diane Crumpley ~ 2nd  
Angela Black ~ 3rd  
Breanna Damarin ~ 10th  
Emily Salzman ~ 18th  
Debra Day ~ 25th  
Susie Hulse ~ 29th

*"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary."  
-Vince Lombardi*



"**Patti Shannon** is our Early Intervention Coordinator and Rehab assistant. She is extremely beneficial to our team providing scheduling support with families and keeping communication with the seven CFC offices Skill Sprout serves. Patti works daily to ensure therapists are notified of

their referrals, service authorizations have been received and staff schedules in Central Reach are upheld. She makes it possible for her team members to provide effective services to our clients. We are grateful for your dedication and all you do Patti!" ~Pam Harvey



"I would like to celebrate our HR team **Michelle Sexton, Jessi Slusher, and Heather Atkinson.**

Between moving, covering office staff, doing events out of state and on the weekends, knocking out summer scheduling and planning for the Institute training they have also done an amazing job at upholding their REAL job at Skill Sprout. You are all doing an amazing job! I appreciate having such dedicated team members in HR!" ~Nicole Butler



"We want to celebrate **Rose Cree**, previous Peoria Office Assistant, now Washington Office Assistant. Rose is friendly and always professional, willing to help out with extra operational support whenever needed. She also is detail-oriented and has great follow-through. Rose has been an

enormous asset to our Peoria clinic!" ~Emily Miller



"I would like to congratulate **Emily Miller** on her promotion to Director of Clinical Services. Emily has been the back-bone of almost all clinical services at Skill Sprout for some time. Leadership team is beyond excited to continue to grow our programs and make new

clinical developments under her direction!"

~ Josey Schouweiler



"**Stacey Emmert** is doing a phenomenal job in Indiana. From starting a parent support group to material drops, she is working hard every single day. Great Job, Stacey!" ~Jennifer Edgington



"**Angela Black** is thorough, bright, organized, and has solid clinical skills for as early in her career as she is. I am pleased with her performance and the quality of her work every day. I know ABA team has always said good things too."

~Emily Miller



"Texas is continuing to grow and we would like to welcome **Liz Thullen** to the Texas ABA team!"

~Melissa Lamb





## TECH-BITS

### POWERPOINT TIPS

**Note:** All of these PowerPoint tips apply to PowerPoint being in **Slide Show** mode.

**Jumping Slides.** You can jump to a particular slide by entering the slide number and pressing Enter.

**Display Hidden Slides.** Press H to advance the presentation to the next hidden slide.

**Return to Start.** Quickly return to the first slide by holding both mouse buttons for two seconds (or press the number 1 and then press Enter).

**Blank Screen.** Display a black screen (or return to the slide show from a black screen) by pressing B or the period key.

**Write on Your Slide Show.** When displaying a presentation, press Ctrl+P to change the pointer to a pen to annotate your slide show, and press the Esc key to return to a pointer. Press E to erase annotations.

**Display List of Slides.** When displaying a presentation, press Ctrl+S to display a list of all slides with slide titles, then double-click a selection to jump to that slide.

**Publish Your Slide Show as a Video.** Start by recording your slide show with your narration from the **Slide Show** tab by selecting **Record Slide Show, Start Recording.** When you are done, from the **File** tab, select **Save & Send, Create a Video.**

If you have any IT questions or concerns, please remember you can reach me whenever at [itsupport@skillsprout.com](mailto:itsupport@skillsprout.com) or at extension 410.



Mike Eagan  
IT Specialist  
800-773-1682 ext 410  
[itsupport@skillsprout.com](mailto:itsupport@skillsprout.com)

# Meet Skill Sprout's Service Directors

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Colleen Carley  
Regional Rehab  
Manager

Duties include: evaluation and treatment for clinic based and

Early Intervention clients, monitor and promote OT services for increased productivity, supervision of COTA/L's, scheduling, part of the Skill Sprout Diagnostic Team, staff training of specific treatment approaches, individual projects and team work, motivate and problem solve and program development.

## Who's Who?



Debbie Harper  
Regional  
Rehab  
Manager

Duties include: monitoring productivity,

motivate and train staff, supervise early intervention program, early intervention evaluator, company projects.



### Employee of the Month

April 2015 - "Marvelous Motivator"

Jennifer Edgington

Regional Manager of ABA ~ Peoria, IL

#### How long have you been with Skill Sprout?

I have been with Skill Sprout for 3.75 years. My anniversary is in September!

#### What location do you work in?

I work in Eastgate, but I am in the process of moving back to my home office.

#### How many positions have you held since beginning with Skill Sprout?

I have held three positions; Consultant, Regional Manager, and Regional Director.

#### What do you like most about working for Skill Sprout?

I love the people, our families, and our clients. I just love the ABA team and our clinical leadership team. I work with those two groups the most! It is truly what makes my job great!

#### What are your long term career goals with Skill Sprout?

While I am here with Skill Sprout, I have two goals... I desire to create an incredible work environment for our staff, and I want to ensure that our families receive the best ABA services. This can only be done through growth of our department and continuing education.

#### Tell us something about yourself, which we may not know?

If you know me well, then you will know this. I am in love with my family (Todd, Devin, Christian, Sophia, Erica, and Aidan). I am also in love with my dogs (Bella, Tin-ka, and Cinda). I ask Todd every single day if we can get another dog (her name will be Rella - get it? TinkaBella and CindaRella)!