



Mark your calendar..

(MONTH) EVENTS

* March for Moms & Babies 5/6

* Texas Children's Family Fun Run—5/5

Inside Story

Here at RPTS nothing makes us happier and more proud than our patients improving due to therapy. That's ultimately why we do what we do. This month we are featuring our sweet patients, twins Carson and Carter. They both receive therapy in all three disciplines at RPTS. These little guys started their life off in ICU as premies in the hospital. They both were receiving therapy prior to starting with Reliant but since the time they've been patient's of RPTS starting back in January 2018, they have

already shown so much progress. They receive PT with Christian and Naisha, ST with Akilah and Yaesha, and OT with Michelle and Josh. They've gained improvement with their ambulation, fine motor and speech!

We are SO PROUD of Carter and Carson and the amazing progress they've made while at RPTS. We are also so proud of their family for being consistent and diligent in making sure they receive the quality care they deserve!!



Special thank you to...

All of our therapist who continue to give your all to our patients and make a lifelong impact in our patient's and their families lives.



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Employee Highlight

Each month in our monthly newsletter we will highlight an employee who has really stood out and gone above and beyond in their RPTS duties. We are thankful for our entire staff and wanted to find a way to publicly make it known each month. Our May employee of the month goes to our newest PT Megan Lewis. Upon starting with RPTS Megan immediately built up her caseload, stepped up for supervision of PTA's, & helped with new PT orientation & training. Here's a little bit about Megan in her own words below:

I was born and raised in the Houston area. I graduated from Texas A&M with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. I then went on to pursue a Doctorate of Physical Therapy at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. When I was searching for where to begin my physical therapy career, I knew I wanted to work at a Pediatric Therapy Clinic in the Katy area. When I was doing my research, I stumbled across Reliant Pediatric Therapy Services. I saw that they had just moved into a large new facility with a pool for aquatic therapy and had some new therapy equipment, like the Lokomat. When I came and saw the facility, I fell in love. The staff were so kind and the facility was amazing. It felt like the perfect fit for me! I have a passion for working with kids to help them achieve their maximum functional potential. I love seeing progress in the kids and watching them soar to new heights as a result of their hard work in therapy. Reliant Pediatric Therapy Services is a great place to be and I am happy to be here! I can't wait to see what the future holds for both me and RPTS!

INDUSTRY SPECIFIC



[https://
www.multivu.com/
players/
English/8294051-asha-
psa-communication-](https://www.multivu.com/players/English/8294051-asha-psa-communication-)

Results of a new national poll released on May 1st, 2018 by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) for May Is Better Hearing & Speech Month show a majority of communication professionals say parents are generally not aware of the early warning signs of communication disorders—nor do they recognize the benefits of early treatment.

According to the poll of more than 1,100 ASHA members—audiologists and speech-language pathologists—the number one barrier to early identification of communication disorders is lack of awareness about the warning signs among parents (46% said this was the case). A full 69% say parents of young children are not aware of the early warning signs of speech/language disorders—and 32% say that, on average, the symptoms of hearing loss are going undetected in children for 1 year or longer.

“Communication disorders are among the most common childhood disabilities—and they are highly treatable in most cases,” said Elise Davis-McFarland, PhD, CCC-SLP, ASHA 2018 president. “Yet even with all of the information available to today’s parents, our members report they are still seeing children much later than what is optimal for achieving the best outcome.”

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

Each May, Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHSM) provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and role of speech pathologist in providing life-altering treatment. The 2018 theme is “Communication for All.”

Here at RPTS we want to use this month to better educate our families on communication disorders in children. We should also use this opportunity to provide our patients and their families with tools on how to better identify early signs of communication disorders & along with appropriate treatment.

Let’s also continue to inform families that we now offer on-site hearing screenings now!!!

“Quote of the month”

*“Not being able to speak is not the same as not having anything to say”
Rosemary Crossley*

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We know parents want the best for their children. However, they may hear messages that encourage a ‘wait and see’ approach by suggesting a child may grow out of a communication issue. Unfortunately, this often is not the case. Delaying treatment means children may miss a critical developmental window where they acquire a

THERAPIST NEWS

majority of their foundational speech and language skills, which occurs between birth and 3 years of age. Hearing and listening to language is the primary way young children learn. The skills achieved during this time lay the groundwork for later success with reading and writing, academics, social interactions, and career options and advancement—making early intervention for any speech/language or hearing problem, preferably well before age 3, so important.

More than half of the polled experts (56%) say parents are not aware that by addressing the symptoms of communication disorders early,

treatment is often less expensive and takes less time. Other findings of interest include:

Only 12% say parents are generally acting within 6 months of first observing symptoms of a speech/language delay. On the hearing side, this number is only slightly higher at 20%.

70% say they don’t think parents of young children fully appreciate how vital everyday communication—talking, reading, singing—is to their child’s development.

Yet they remain optimistic: 68% say they

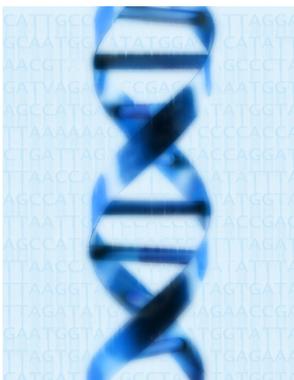
Therapist News Cont.

expect public awareness to improve over the next 5 years.

“Our take-home message for parents is ‘Don’t delay if you have any question about your child’s ability to hear, speak, or understand,’” said Davis-McFarland. “Some of these disorders can be reversed or even prevented if a child is treated early enough. Parents should familiarize themselves with communication milestones—which are very specific and begin within the first few months of life—as well as the early warning signs of communication disorders,

which can be subtle. We encourage them to seek help from a certified audiologist or speech-language pathologist if their child isn’t meeting milestones and/or is showing warning signs.”

Learn more about these disorders and find help at <http://IdentifytheSigns.org>.



ABA Updates!

We have officially hired a director of behavioral Health Services. Her name is Maryam and she will start at RPTS the first week in June. Until then we have Lori Tipu (BCBA) and Lora Peters (BCBA/LPC) covering until Maryam starts.

Credentialing:

We started the credentialing process in February 2018. Since then we've gotten in network with Blue Cross Blue Shield and Cigna. We are now waiting on our contracts that outline our effective date with both insurances. We are very close!

We are also working on getting in network with the following insurances:

- Aetna, Beacon, and Tricare

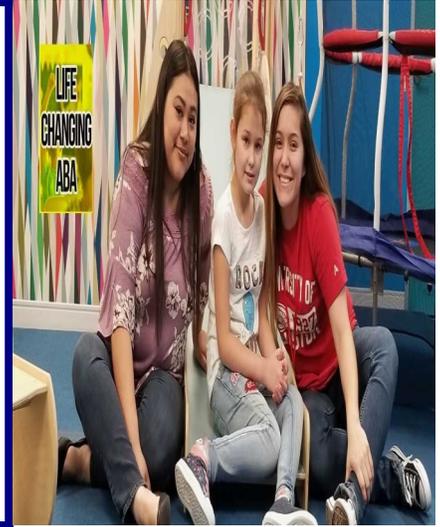
Staff:

We just hired out second RBT who starts on 5/7

Patient:

We just got our second patient authorized who will begin therapy this week.

Check out our awesome patient Elizabeth to the right with her therapist Iriam!



Company/Project Updates....

- We have officially made it through our 1st week with Raintree. We still have a lot to work on but we are making huge strides in the right direction.
- We still have access to clinic source. If there's anything that you need from patients charts in clinic source you will be able to continue to log in to access this data. Clinic source will be officially terminated on May 12th
- Moving forward payroll will be ran from a report that we will pull from Raintree on visits that have been documented and signed off as completed. This has to be done to be compensated.
- To log into global use mobile.raintreeinc.com.
- You will need the global user ID and password that has been sent to you.
- Documentation for visits prior to 4/23 should be completed prior to May 12th. Conversion notes in RT should be completed by no later than May 5th.
- Deleasa is now in the billing depart. Tammy has taken over in intake!



Memorial Day Fact:
 Each year on the final Monday in May the United States celebrates the federal holiday Memorial Day. Originally Memorial Day was known as Decoration Day, meant to honor the Union and the Confederate soldiers who died during the American Civil War.

Employee Birthdays/Anniversaries/New hires

MONTH BIRTHDAYS

- Silvia 5/8
- Laurenne 5/13
- Kathy 5/11
- Nancy 5/13

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

LET'S WELCOME...

- Tammy (Intake)
- Lauranne (OT)
- Kathy (OT)
- Lori (BCBA)
- Lora (BCBA)

FUTURE EVENTS/PLANS

This section will be used to highlight future plans in our efforts of community outreach. We want to make RPTS a household name in 2018 and in order to do that we have to be more proactive as a unit in participating in more outreach events that allows us to get our name out there on a larger scale.

Please consider participating in the events to the right by creating a team or helping fundraising efforts. It takes a group effort to make these type of events successful. Let's aim to be involved in one community outreach event per month for 2018!

- **March for Mom's and Babies:** When you join March for Babies you stand with thousands of people across the country who share your commitment to building a brighter future for us all. You raise money to expand programs and educate medical professionals to make sure that moms and babies get the best possible care. Date: Sunday May 6th. For more information visit: <https://www.marchforbabies.org/EventInfo?EventID=19282>
- **Texas Children's Hospital Family Fun Run:** Saturday May 5th. <http://>

www.texaschildrens.site/funrunwoodlands/



EMPLOYEE SURVEY OF THE MONTH

1. Rate RPTS commitment to providing you with the necessary tools to be efficient at your job
2. Please Check all the items that appeal to you as recognition for an accomplishment:
3. Rate the work environment in your work unit?
4. I have a good understanding of the mission and the goals of the organization?

We understand that surveys can feel a little impersonal. We care about what you think and rely on people like you to not only provide honest feedback, but also to make suggestions on how we can improve things. Please share your thoughts—all completely confidential of course!

Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VJGG7BX> to submit your answers.

Primary Business Address
61230 Merchants Way
Katy, TX 77449

Phone: 832-230-1518
Fax: 281-741-7355
E-mail: admin@reliantpediatrictherapy.com



Reliant
Pediatric Therapy Services

Our mission here at RPTS is to provide quality, comprehensive, and compassionate therapy services to our patients. We feel very privileged to serve our patients and their families. We strive to provide family centered care by identifying families' needs and providing them with the quality services and/or resources to empower them to make the best decisions for their loved ones. We will non-judgmentally deliver the highest quality of care, with empathy and understanding. We will continually pursue excellence through continuing education, educational in-services, trainings, personal and team growth and mastery of evidence based treatment techniques. Due to the difficulty challenges some of our patients' families face, we also strive to function as child advocates by facilitating and coordinating resources to meet our patients' needs.