



ChildServe  
2350 Oakdale Blvd.  
Coralville, IA 52241

[childserve.org](http://childserve.org)

**OUR MISSION**

We partner with families to help children with special healthcare needs live a *great* life.



If you have an update to your contact information, please contact us at [foundation@childserve.org](mailto:foundation@childserve.org).

## JOIN US FOR LAUNCH + LEARN

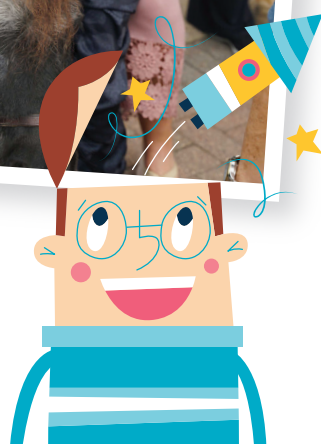
When others see cardboard boxes, kids see rocket ships... and that sense of creativity, wonder and possibility is what believing in the spirit of a child is all about. Join ChildServe at the Heights Rooftop on Wednesday, July 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and hear from Dr. Teri Wahlig, ChildServe CEO; Marie Hassel, ChildServe Director of Eastern Iowa; and a parent whose child receives services at ChildServe.

Visit [childserve.org/launch-and-learn-iowa-city/](http://childserve.org/launch-and-learn-iowa-city/) to learn more and reserve your spot today!

# great LIFE



Sam, Launch + Learn's guest star in 2023



SPRING 2024



# great LIFE



Briley and speech therapist Payton

## Everyone Has a Voice

ChildServe Speech Therapy Uses Collaboration, Customization and Fun to Help Kids Connect with Their World

ChildServe's Speech-Language Pathology program helps children communicate effectively and connect with their world. Our speech therapists have a wide range of expertise to treat special conditions that may impact a child's developmental areas like talking, understanding, feeding, social skills and decision-making. From practicing articulation to learning how to navigate a new communication device, we're celebrating all the ways speech therapy at ChildServe brings out each child's unique voice.

**Freddie** was born 16 weeks early and spent the first five months of his life in the hospital. Like many children born prematurely, Freddie's development was delayed. When he began speech therapy at 2, he had less than 20 words in his vocabulary and could not communicate effectively. After just nine months in speech therapy, Freddie's vocabulary has skyrocketed.

"Freddie has learned his colors and ABCs, can count to 20 and knows many other words," said his mom, Kellie. "Now he is better able to communicate, and his growing vocabulary has helped reduce his frustration. Freddie loves going to ChildServe and playing with his therapists."

By time he was 2, **Weston** was not speaking or making many sounds besides "mama" and "dada." Understandably, Weston was often frustrated when unable to communicate his wants, needs and feelings, causing harmful and disruptive behavior that was taking a toll on the whole family. When Weston began receiving speech therapy at ChildServe, things quickly took a turn for the better.

"Weston's speech therapist, Lindsay, immediately began teaching him sign language to help him easily communicate, and he picked up on it right away," said Weston's mom, Becky. "Weston is doing exceptionally well and has met many of his goals. He is putting more than two words together to make a sentence and can communicate his needs without frustration. We're so grateful for ChildServe and Lindsay for their dedication to helping kids like Weston succeed."



Freddie



Weston & Lindsay

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When **Emerson** began speech therapy two years ago, his goal was to begin speaking verbally. Since receiving an autism diagnosis, his goals have shifted and today, 4-year-old Emerson is working toward communicating his wants and needs in whatever way works best for him.

"His speech therapist, Payton, goes the extra mile with Emerson by working to meet his sensory needs while providing speech therapy," said his mom, Denicia. "I can see the trust Emerson has developed with Payton over the last two years. Today, Emerson can communicate with his electronic augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device, can speak some words verbally and uses guided sign language."

At 18 months old, **Leo** had three words in his vocabulary. When Leo was enrolled in ChildServe's Autism Day Program, he began receiving speech therapy to help him communicate his thoughts, feelings, wants and needs more effectively. Now, 4-year-old Leo's communication skills are flourishing.

"Leo is speaking in full sentences and continues to increase his verbal output," said his mom, Anna. "The team at ChildServe has been amazing at helping Leo achieve his goals. They helped us trial an AAC device which helped tremendously with his communication. Everyone on Leo's team has collaborated to provide the best outcome for his speech goals. They have done an excellent job communicating with us as a family and working with Leo's strengths to tailor an approach that works best for him to learn. We are so impressed with the support Leo has received at ChildServe and the progress he has made."

Whether practicing verbal speech like Freddie, learning sign language like Weston, mastering an AAC device like Leo, or a combination of communication methods like Emerson, at ChildServe, we believe every child has a voice. The ChildServe speech therapy team is proud to partner with families to connect little hearts and minds with their world.



### ChildServe Receives Workplace Culture Award from the Corridor Business Journal

Each year, the Corridor Business Journal's Coolest Places to Work award identifies and honors local organizations that have created the most engaging and rewarding work environments. We're excited to share that ChildServe was recognized with a "Coolest Places to Work" award! Scores were based on voluntary and anonymous employee surveys about our workplace culture.

ChildServe team members use their curiosity, imagination and expertise to help children with special healthcare needs and their families live a *great* life. We're proud to create a workplace culture that encourages our team to incorporate the spirit of a child into the care we provide.



Helping cool kids like Ilyas inspires us to achieve our mission every day!



## The Community Foundation of Johnson County Supports ChildServe's Autism Day Program Amid Expansion

The Community Foundation of Johnson County has partnered with ChildServe to support our Autism Day Program. ChildServe received a \$5,000 grant from the organization to purchase supplies for the two Autism Day Program classrooms that will be added to our building in Coralville. These classrooms are part of a larger, on-going expansion project that will double the footprint of ChildServe – Iowa City. The generosity of the Community Foundation of Johnson County also helped purchase sensory learning walls and child-sized tables and chairs for the classrooms.

ChildServe's Autism Day Program is the only one of its kind in Iowa and currently serves 30 children, ages 2 through 6, and their families. The program offers specialized weekday care for children with autism spectrum disorder. Children receive positive behavioral support from staff along with occupational, speech and physical therapy on-site during the day to promote overall health and development.

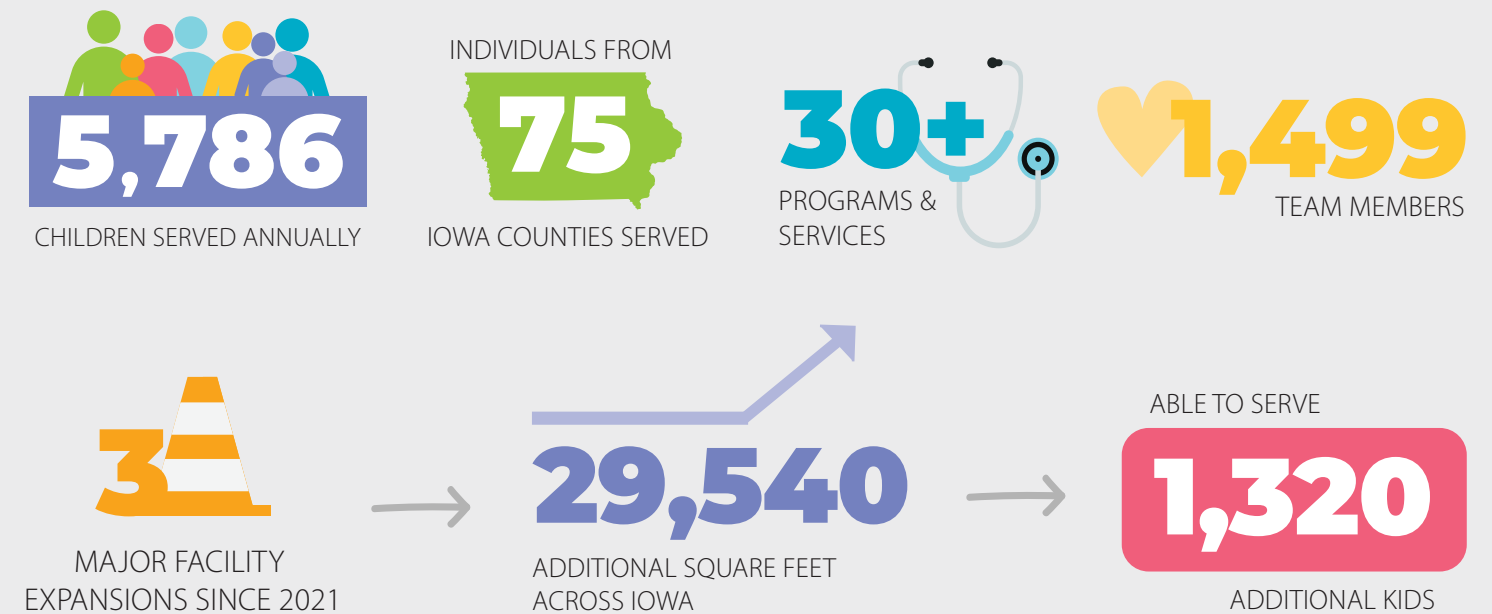
**Thank you, Community Foundation of Johnson County, for your generosity, support and partnership in helping us transform the lives of children with autism in our community.**



Autism Day Program kids playing with toys and supplies from the Community Foundation of Johnson County grant



## ChildServe's Growth by the Numbers



\*Statewide numbers