



## EMORY VALLEY CENTER

MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

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### PRESS RELEASE

## Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC Awards Grant to Emory Valley Center

Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS), the contractor at Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, TN and their Employment Advisory Investment Committee awarded a \$5,000 Community Investment Fund Award to Emory Valley Center's Early Learning Center. The CNS Community Investment Fund is administered by the East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) and with the leadership of an employee-based CNS Y-12 Investment Advisory Committee, CNS employees have the opportunity to recommend grant support where the need is the greatest and the resources are best allocated.

With this grant, the Emory Valley Early Learning Center was able to make a tuition scholarship available to a family and purchase equipment and materials to provide sensory experiences for children with disabilities and children typically developing while learning together.

The items afforded by this grant include a sensory playground with sandbox and water features, which helps children with Autism receive and respond to sensory information in a calming way. The water, sand and mixing different materials help all children discover different textures and new ways to play with it. The children were also able to create, tend and harvest from a vegetable garden they nurtured!

The grant also afforded musical instruments which allows children to make pleasant sounds while they control the volume. Children who may be sensitive to loud noises can experiment with sounds when they are the person making them. This helps them learn to anticipate and acclimate to the sounds while also developing their fine motor skills while playing and experimenting.



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“We are very grateful to CNS for this grant award,” said Terry Peek, Director of the Emory Valley Early Learning Center. “The sensory materials have been a wonderful additional to our playground, as they encourage the children to be more open-minded and creative with this type of play.”

By establishing the CNS Y-12 Community Investment Fund at ETF, CNS has created opportunities for its employees to award grants benefiting nonprofit organizations in their 20-county service area in East Tennessee, which includes but is not limited to the City of Oak Ridge, Anderson and Roane counties. Additional counties in their service area include Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Rhea, Scott, Sevier, and Union.

**Emory Valley Center** has been meeting the needs of people with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities in the East Tennessee community for **65 years** and currently provides a wide variety of services including: Behavioral Health, Community Integration, Education, Employment, Family Assistance, Pre-Vocational Training, Residential and Senior Services. This support reaches more than 1,400 adults and children monthly in multiple East Tennessee counties.

To learn more about Emory Valley Center and their programs and services, visit [www.emoryvalleycenter.org](http://www.emoryvalleycenter.org), follow them on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/emoryvalleycenter](https://www.facebook.com/emoryvalleycenter); Instagram, [emory.valley.center](https://www.instagram.com/emory.valley.center); LinkedIn, [linkedin.com/company/emoryvalleycenter/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/emoryvalleycenter/); and Twitter, [@EVC\\_OakRidge](https://twitter.com/EVC_OakRidge) for success stories, information and photos.