



# Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21

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August 26, 2024

Greetings, All!

Early Intervention is excited to announce that a four-legged staff member has joined our team! Bobby Ray (pictured below) is a facility dog who interacts with students throughout the school day. Research has found that training dogs to work in the school setting can assist students in building social skills, empathy, and interpersonal skills. Furthermore, facility dogs have also been shown to



increase overall student attendance and confidence, which directly impacts our mission of "Helping Children Learn".

The purpose of a Facility Dog is to provide support for our youngest learners. Our students arrive at school with diverse emotional, behavioral, mental health, physical and/or academic needs. Bobby Ray will support the learning atmosphere while providing added warmth and comfort to our school environment.

Although we are very excited about Bobby Ray's arrival, we also understand that there may be some concerns about his presence in our programs. If your child has an allergy to dogs, is uncomfortable around dogs, and/or if you have any other concerns; please feel free to contact Rebecca DeFeo or Dr. Susan White, Supervisors of Early Intervention.

Bobby Ray has been a model student throughout his training, and we are thrilled to watch this little guy grow along with all the rest of our Early Intervention crew!

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**Helping Children Learn**

*"CLIU is a service agency committed to Helping Children Learn."*