

It is our goal to:

- Support young children with autism spectrum disorders in attaining their potential for a fulfilling life.
- Provide a comprehensive and integrated array of effective intervention services for children with autism and their families.
- Be an exemplary model of collaboration between families and professionals.
- Provide advocacy for children with autism and their families.
- Provide training and complete research in best practices.
- Promote a joyous life for children with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

"When a child has a disability, his whole family is affected. JCFS treats the whole family. We like how the staff works together as a team so that our son receives all the important therapies daily. The individual attention Andy gets is giving him a strong start for the years ahead."

Parent of a Child with Autism



It is the mission of Jewish Child & Family Services to enable individuals, children and families to grow and develop positively throughout their lives, by providing a continuum of quality services and resources that assist and support them and the community in the context of Jewish tradition calling upon us to care for those in need regardless of religion or heritage.

For more information, please call the office nearest you or contact:

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Accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc. and Charter member of the Child Welfare League of America.

We are a partner in serving our community, supported by the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation.



JCFS

Early Childhood Autism Academy



Building Lifelong Learners



Jewish Child
& Family Services



Founded in 1996, the Early Childhood Autism Academy

at Jewish Child and Family Services combines the latest innovations in therapeutic methods with a profound respect for children.

Educating Children

At the Early Childhood Autism Academy, our highly trained professional staff follow the Structured Teaching Method, which was developed by Division TEACCH at the University of North Carolina. We work to enhance each child's ability to communicate effectively and to build each child's independence free from reliance on adults and teachers. Our program prides itself on blending various intervention techniques with the intention of individualizing each child's daily program.

Our preschool program offers a minimum of 215 days of intensive treatment throughout the year; children attend school Monday through Friday for five hours a day. The small student-to-staff ratio ensures that each child receives the attention he or she needs to succeed and encourages children to reach their fullest potential. We pride ourselves in helping children learn to share space and engage in activities with peers, which prepares them for future placement in their local school setting.

Our highly trained professional staff include speech pathologists, occupational therapists, social workers, special education teachers and teachers aides that

work together to give each child the most integrated and comprehensive treatment possible.

The Early Childhood Autism Academy is certified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Council on Accreditation (COA).

Partnering with Community

At the Academy, we promote social development by taking children out of the classroom and into the community for both field trips and community outings. Outings have included Chicago Botanical Gardens, a day at the beach or a visit to the public library, movie theatre, shopping mall or grocery store. These outings have a significant impact on each child's overall social integration. Parents are encouraged to attend field trips and community outings with their child.

Furthermore, our unique relationship with the Bernard Weinger Jewish Community Center (JCC), located next to our school, has benefits that include weekly swimming classes and facilitated social interaction between the children in our program and their peers from the JCC.

EMPOWERING PARENTS

The intensive treatment and education at the Academy aims to foster a child's independence, particularly in the areas of self-regulation and communication. In order to accomplish this, parental involvement is an integral part of our program. We place a high value on establishing a trusting and beneficial relationship between families and our professional staff.

Family is included and supported in all phases of the educational program. Our state-of-the-art facility includes classrooms with one-way mirrors that allow parents to observe their child's progress during the school day.

The Academy offers parent support and parent education groups, which each cover a range of topics pertinent to raising a child with an autism spectrum disorder. Our experienced staff will conduct home visits to discuss treatment techniques and address other concerns.

Ultimately, the parent-staff partnership ensures that children experience a seamless transition from the Academy to home.

*For more information
please contact*

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Early Childhood
Autism Academy

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