

Spectrum Center Schools and Programs has more than 40 years of experience using a data-driven approach to design personalized programs for students ages three to 22 with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Spectrum Center's autism programs are guided by proven, research-based strategies, including the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA).

Approach

Applied behavior analysis, a discipline devoted to the understanding and improvement of human behavior, is the foundation of Spectrum Center's approach to teaching children with autism. This includes specific strategies for increasing student's communication and social skills, academic skills, adaptive living skills, and vocational skills; strategies for decreasing behaviors of concern based on the results of functional analysis assessments, teaching alternative appropriate behavior; and teaching self-control strategies.

Instruction

Spectrum Center programs follow a research-based curriculum that aligns to state learning standards taught in classrooms that provide an environment that is predictable, consistent, structured and positive. The curriculum involves repeated learning opportunities using both highly structured and naturalistic teaching strategies and focuses on generalization of skills across stimuli, people, and environments. The curricula require the use of various evidence-based teaching methods identified in recent reports by two distinguished research groups:

- National Autism Center - National Standards Project (2015)
- National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders - Evidence-Based Practices for Children, Youth, and Young Adults With Autism Spectrum Disorder (2014)

In addition to providing direct support and supervision to teachers on the methods described above, the behavior analyst will support teachers in conducting a comprehensive curriculum-based assessment to identify present levels of performance and prioritize educational needs. Special education teachers and instructional aides will follow a developmental progression of scripted lesson plans to increase skills in critical areas for students with autism such as:

- Expressive/receptive/spontaneous communication
- Self-management
- Social skills
- Adaptive living skills
- Academics

Behavioral Support

Spectrum Center provides an instructional team that consists of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA), certified special education teachers and instructional assistants to ensure that students have the appropriate support. The behavior analyst works with district IEP teams to identify target behaviors and conduct functional behavioral assessments (FBA) and functional analysis assessments (FAA) as needed to design positive behavior support plans. The behavior analyst will support staff with behavior plan implementation and data collection and provide close supervision to ensure plans are being implemented with fidelity.

