

AUTISM **RESOURCES, DEFINITION & CRITERIA**

Local Resources

A-List

The A-List is a “Parents Only” discussion list about Missouri special education resources and issues in autism. Parents can join by sending an email to a_list_subscribe@yahoo_groups.com.

Action for Autism

16052 Swingley Ridge Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017
636-449-0352
www.afastl.org

Action for Autism is a St. Louis based charitable organization, founded in 2008 to address the growing need to assist children and their families with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Funds assist families to attain care, treatment and educational support.

Autism Speaks

9378 Olive Blvd. # 206
St Louis, MO 63132
(314) 989-1003
www.autismspeaks.org

The Autism Speaks website provides information on national initiatives including community service grants, a video glossary, IEP video, autism everyday video, national online database of resources and a federal legal aid appeals project. Opportunity to serve on local volunteer committees.

BJC Behavioral Health

www.bjcbehavioralhealth.org

Provides mental health services, therapy, targeted case management to children and adults with mental illness or mental health needs.

Edgewood Children’s Center

330 N. Gore
St. Louis, MO 63119
www.eccstl.org

Offers special education and treatment for children ages 5 to 17 who are severely emotionally or behaviorally disturbed. Residential Treatment Program. Short term respite care. Day treatment program for non-residents. New residential program for children with autism: www.eccstl.org/programs/childrenwithautism.aspx.

Gateway Chapter – Autism Society of America

1311 Wells Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119
314-749-7225

Local Chapter of the Autism Society of America: [//www.autism-society.org/](http://www.autism-society.org/).

Giant Steps of St. Louis

2685 Metro Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63043
314-395-7445
www.giantsteps-stlouis.org

Offers an alternative to traditional approaches and provides an overall support system for families. Nonprofit organization contracts with school districts to provide therapy and educational support to children with autism spectrum disorder.

Howard Park Center

15834 Clayton Rd.
Ellisville, MO 63011
636- 227-2339
www.howardparkcenter.org

Offers full inclusion preschool elementary, middle and high school,

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extended daycare, direct therapy, splinting and casting for children with various disabilities. Also family counseling and support group.

International Coalition for Autism and All Abilities (ICAA)

200 Crestwood Plaza

St. Louis, MO 63126

www.icaaonline.org

Dedicated to advocacy, education, inclusion and support for all people with autism, and all different abilities.

Knights of Columbus Developmental Center – Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital

1465 South Grand Boulevard

St. Louis, MO 63104

314-577-5609

<http://www.cardinalglennon.com/medicalspecialties/developmental%20pediatrics/Pages/default.aspx>

Provides diagnostic services and therapeutic evaluations to aide in managing developmental disorders in children. Offers referral service, parent training and research.

Mercy Child Development Center

641 N. New Ballas Road

St. Louis, MO 63141

314-872-3345

<http://www.mercy.net/stlouismo/practice/mercy-childrens-therapy-and-development-center>

Serves infants and children with delayed development of motor, speech/language, social or learning skills, behavioral problems, attention deficit disorder or learning disabilities.

MO-FEAT (Missouri Families for Effective Autism Treatment)

314-993-0806

www.mo-feat.org

MO-FEAT is an organization of parents and professionals throughout Missouri, with headquarters in St. Louis. Its mission is to provide education, advocacy and support for the autism community.

St. Louis Arc

1177 N. Warson Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63132

314-569-2211

www.slarc.org

Not-for-profit agency conducts programs and provides opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. • Early childhood program • Childgarden School • Capable Kids & Families toy and equipment lending library • Family Organization with workshops • ARCH (respite care in the home) • leisure services • residential services • adult day & employment services • support groups • community integration services.

St. Louis Regional Office

9900 Page, Suite 106

St. Louis, MO 63132

314-877-2711

www.dmh.mo.gov/slro/index.htm

Operated by the Missouri Department of Mental Health’s Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Every person who requests services is entitled to an initial diagnostic evaluation and case management. Eligibility is determined and arrangements are made to obtain services within the available resources of the division (in such areas as therapy, family support, training, residential services and more).

Touchpoint Autism Services

1101 Olivette Parkway

St. Louis, MO 63132

314-432-6200

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www.touchpointautism.org

Provides day services, residential services, employment services, family support (respite, family-centered, family and sibling support, supported recreation, natural support workshops), training and community education for individuals with autism and their families. Support groups offered at multiple locations: parents of a child with an autism spectrum disorder, sibling support groups, social support group for young adults with Asperger's syndrome.

State Resources

Central Missouri Autism Project
107 Waugh St.
Columbia, MO 65201
573-874-3777

Eastern Missouri Autism Project
Regional Office
111 N 7th St, 6th floor
St. Louis, MO 63101
314-244-8800

Missouri Association for Behavior Analysis – MO-ABA
www.moaba.org
Nonprofit and state chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis.

Missouri Developmental Disability Resource Center
2220 Holmes, Room 342
Kansas City, MO 64108
www.moddrc.org
Linking You to Information, Parent to Parent Support, Peer Support & Volunteer Opportunities

MPACT (Missouri Parents Act)
800-743-7634

Trains and supports parents so they can effectively advocate for their children's educational rights and services.

www.ptimpact.org

Project ACCESS
Missouri State University
901 S. National
Springfield, MO 65804-0088
866-481-3841
www.missouristate.edu/access/
Provides technical assistance in the area of autism to public schools.

Southeast Missouri Autism Project
107 S. Broadview
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
573-339-9300

Southwest Missouri Autism Project
1740 S. Glenstone, Suite 5
Springfield, MO 65804
417-890-1399

Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders
205 Portland St.
Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-6081
www.thompsoncenter.missouri.edu
Offers neuropsychological assessment of children and adolescents with medical or neurological concerns, including diagnosis and assessment of autism.

National Resources

Autism Research Institute (ARI)
www.autism.com/ari/
Conducts research on autism (auditory training, dietary concerns, vitamin therapy and more) and maintains a database of information for parents and professionals. Publishes *Autism Research Review International*.

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Autism and PDD Support Network

www.autism-pdd.net

Offers support to cope with autism spectrum disorders.

Autism Society of America

www.autism-society.org

Provides information and referral, education and public awareness. Publishes *The Advocate* newsletter.

Autism Speaks

www.autismspeaks.org

Dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with this disorder.

Asperger Syndrome

Asperger Information

www.aspergerinformation.org

Targeting information to parents and professionals about Asperger Syndrome.

OASIS @ MAAP

www.asperger.org

Provides articles, educational resources, links to local, national and international support groups, sources of professional help, lists of camps and schools, conference information, recommended reading, and moderated support message boards.

Publishers/Book Stores

Autism Asperger Publishing Company

www.asperger.net

Source for practical solutions related to autism, Asperger syndrome, and other pervasive developmental disorders.

Future Horizons

www.futurehorizons-autism.com

Publishes books and tapes including Autism Society of America conference papers.

Indiana Resource Center for Autism Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities

www.iidc.indiana.edu/index.php?pageid=32

Offers an extensive publications list that includes videos.

Jessica Kingsley Publishers

www.jkp.com

Jessica Kingsley Publishers offers books related to autism both for families and for teachers.

Online Resources

Family Village

<http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu>

Library (click on first letter of a specific disability in the card catalog to go to resources)

National Dissemination Center of Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)

<http://nichcy.org>

Sibling Support

St. Louis Arc

1177 N Warson Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63132

Contact: Ann Mangelsdorf

314- 569-2211

www.slarc.org

The Belle Center

1082 Old Des Peres Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63131

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314 -821-5230
Contact: Theresa Strohkamp
www.bellecenter.com

Delta Gamma Center
5030 McRee
St. Louis, MO 63110
314 776-1300
www.dgckids.org

Touchpoint Autism Services
1101 Olivette Parkway
St. Louis, MO 63132
314-432-6200
www.touchpointautism.org

United Services
414 Old Mill Pkwy.
St. Peters, MO 63376
636 926-2700

DEFINITION & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FROM APPENDIX A OF THE MISSOURI STATE PLAN

Autism Definition

“Autism” means a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal or nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age 3, which adversely affects a child’s educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism are engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences.

The term does not apply if a child’s educational performance is adversely affected primarily because the child has an emotional disability as defined in this document.

A child who manifests the characteristics of autism after age three could be diagnosed as having autism if the criteria above are satisfied.

Criteria for Initial Determination of Eligibility

A child displays autism when:

A. Through evaluation that includes a review of medical records, observation of the child’s behavior across multiple environments, and an in-depth social history, the following behaviors are documented:

- 1) Disturbances of speech, language-cognitive, and non-verbal communication: The child displays abnormalities that extend beyond speech to many aspects of the communication process. Communicative language may be absent or, if present, language may lack communicative intent. Characteristics may involve both deviance and delay. There is a deficit in the capacity to use language for social communication, both receptively and expressively.
- 2) Disturbance of the capacity to relate appropriately to people, events, or objects: The child displays abnormalities in relating to people, objects, and events. There is a deficit in the capacity to form relationships with people. The capacity to use objects in an age appropriate or functional manner may be absent, arrested, or delayed. The child may seek consistency in

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environmental events to the point of exhibiting rigidity in routines.

B. The condition adversely affects the child's educational performance.

C. The autism is not a result of an emotional disability as defined in this document.

Other Behaviors That the Child May Exhibit Include:

A. Disturbance of developmental rates and sequences: The child may also exhibit delays, arrests, or regressions in physical, social, or learning skills. Areas of precocious skill development may also be present, while other skills may develop at normal or extremely depressed rates. The order of skill acquisition frequently does not follow normal developmental patterns

B. Disturbances of responses to sensory stimuli: The child's behavior may also range from being hyperactive to being unresponsive to people and objects in their environment and can alternate between these two (2) states over periods ranging from hours to months. Disturbances may be apparent in auditory, visual, olfactory, gustatory, tactile, and kinesthetic responses. The child may respond to stimulation inappropriately and in repetitive or non-meaningful ways.

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