



The Center for Autism


BETTER OUTCOMES FOR LIFE



Our Mission

*To improve the quality
of life for individuals with Autism
Spectrum Disorders and their families.*

*We continually strive to be the premier
resource for specialized autism services
in the Philadelphia region by providing
programs that meet the needs of each
person affected by autism.*

The background features two stylized human figures in a light blue color. Each figure is composed of a circular head and several elongated, tapered limbs extending downwards and outwards, resembling a tripod or a simple stick figure. The figures are positioned at the bottom of the page, with one on the left and one on the right, partially overlapping the text.

What is Autism?

Autism is a spectrum disorder that affects each individual differently and to varying degrees. It is a complex and lifelong disability that is defined by numerous characteristics. The hallmark feature of autism is impairment in social interactions, ranging from a lack of emotional contact with others to social awkwardness in maintaining relationships. A diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder indicates significant and potentially life-long challenges.

There is no one cause for autism. While there is no known cure, The Center for Autism's services are focused on the reality that autism is treatable.



Dr. Ruttenberg, founder

About The Center

The Center for Autism, a non-profit organization, has helped thousands of individuals and their families since it was founded in 1955 by Dr. Bertram A. Ruttenberg. As the oldest specialized autism center in the nation,

The Center for Autism offers comprehensive evaluation, treatment and training services to children, adolescents and adults with autism throughout the Philadelphia region.

The Center works with intensity to capture the window of opportunity when those with autism are capable of greatest change. Drawing upon the latest research on effective treatments and a broad base of methodologies, the Center's approach is tailored to support individual needs and strengths.

Our Services

The Center for Autism offers a variety of comprehensive, year-round programs and services for individuals and families affected by autism.

All of the Center's services maintain the primary goal of helping people with autism interact with others using a viable communication system. To achieve this goal, the Center offers Specialized Autism Services (SAS), evaluation services and professional consultation.

Specialized Autism Services

Specialized Autism Services (SAS) are intensive treatment programs that are specifically designed to meet an individual's needs. In SAS, parents and caregivers are full partners of the Center's therapeutic team. These services are available to individuals of all ages and include one-on-one therapy, group therapy, family support, medication management and case management.

The following SAS programs are available:





Preschool-aged Children: a daily, intensive treatment program for children ages 2-5 years old

Early Assessment and Treatment: a program designed for children who are newly diagnosed and/or transitioning to SAS for Preschool-aged children

Social Competency: individual and group programs designed to facilitate social competency skills in children and adolescents

Evaluation Services

Early evaluation and diagnosis are vital to successful autism treatment. The Center for Autism offers diagnostic evaluation to people of all ages. Through the observation of a person's behaviors and collection of a developmental, medical and family history, the Center's team of specialists is able to determine an individual's diagnosis and make appropriate recommendations.

Professional Consultation

To better serve people with autism, the Center provides professional consultation services to



area educators, mental health providers and early education interventionists. Types of consultation include workshops and seminars on assessment and intervention techniques, staff training, behavioral observation, and the development of individualized education, treatment program or life-plan. All consultation services are specialized to meet varying needs.

Donations

Donations are a valuable resource to The Center for Autism, and your investment in our programs and services will guarantee our future success.

We are grateful to all who support our work and include us in their philanthropic vision. We encourage you to consider a gift today.

The Center is a registered non-profit organization exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Center are tax-deductible as provided to the extent of the law. For more information on how you can support The Center for Autism, please visit www.thecenterforautism.org/support.

“My son continued to be hard to manage at school and at home. He would not sit still. His batteries never seemed to need recharging. It wasn't until he nearly was six years old that I could accept his placement at The Center for Autism. There he was exposed to a developmental approach and I was fortunate to meet Dr. Bert Rutterberg, a child psychiatrist who had spent the last 45 years working with children with autism. He and his amazing staff loved my boy like he was their own. They celebrated every little step he made.”

Robert Naseef, Ph.D.,
parent of a child with autism.



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3965 Conshohocken Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131-5469

Phone: 215.878.3400 Fax: 215.878.2082

info@thecenterforautism.org

www.thecenterforautism.org

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