

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/AFA Academy

636-227-2330

www.afastl.org

St. Louis-based charitable organization, founded in 2008, to address the growing need to assist children and their families with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). AFA serves children and families who reside within a 250 mile radius of St. Louis. ACTION FOR AUTISM provides financial support to families, while also facilitating therapy and learning, as well as preparing children for a successful future, within its AFA Academy facilities, providing services for children through age 21.

Adam Morgan Foundation

314-447-2326

<http://cfc-stl.weebly.com/adam-morgan-foundation.html>

Provides resources, equipment and interventions to families raising children with Autism Spectrum Disorders at the age of three and older at little to no cost to the families.

Autism Speaks

(314) 989-1003

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/site-wide/st-louis-chapter>

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and

throughout the lifespan, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of autism spectrum disorder; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.

BJC Behavioral Health

314-747-7491

www.bjcbehavioralhealth.org

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

Easter Seals Midwest

314-432-6200

www.eastersealsmidwest.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.

Giant Steps of St. Louis

314-932-1051

www.giantstepsstl.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

Parent Handbook — Section IV

educational support to children with autism spectrum disorder.

Great Circle

844-424-3577

<https://www.greatcircle.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

Judevine Center for Autism

800-780-6545

www.judevine.org

Provides direct supports and services to children with autism spectrum disorders and their families in specialized parent training, social groups, school consultation, parent workshops, in-home behavioral support, functional behavioral assessments, behavior plan development, residential and supported living services, discrete trial training, staff training, and respite care.

Knights of Columbus Developmental Center

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.

Love U 2 Pieces

8790 Manchester Rd, Suite 200A

St. Louis, MO 63144

314-952-5072

<http://www.loveu2pieces.org>

Works to raise awareness among families living with ASD, as well as

their extended family, friends and the greater community by providing opportunities for awareness, connection, self care, and overall support.

Mercy Kids Autism Center

314-872-3345

<https://www.mercy.net/practice/mercy-kids-autism-center>

Provides a comprehensive, child-centered approach to autism treatment, including: Diagnosis and assessment, Medical consultation, Physical, occupational and speech therapy, Intensive early intervention program (18 months to kindergarten eligibility), Social communication groups.

MO-FEAT (Missouri Families for Effective Autism Treatment)

636-527-3328

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

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

314-587-4800

Parent Handbook — Section IV

www.dmh.mo.gov/dd/facilities/stlouis.html

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).

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Heartland
636-227-6030

www.ucpheartland.org

Serves all disabilities, children and adults. Services include at-risk early intervention for children birth to age 6, after school care, Childgarden Child Development Center for children 6 weeks to 6 years, summer day camp, car seat loan program, in-home and residential supports.

State Resources

Eastern Missouri Autism Project
Regional Office
314-877-2711

<https://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/east/index.html>

Missouri Association for Behavior
Analysis – MO-ABA

www.moaba.org

Nonprofit and state chapter of the
Association for Behavior Analysis.

Missouri Family to Family

<http://mofamilytofamily.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.missouriparentsact.org

Project ACCESS

Missouri State University

866-481-3841

www.missouristate.edu/access/

Provides technical assistance in the area of autism to public schools.

Thompson Center for Autism and
Neurodevelopmental Disorders

573-884-6052

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.

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.

Sibling Support

St. Louis Arc
314- 569-2211
www.slarc.org

Easter Seals Midwest
314-394-7100
www.eastersealsmidwest.org

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 environmental events to the point of exhibiting rigidity in routines.

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

Parent Handbook — Section IV

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.