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Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Diagnostic Criteria

ASD is a set of neurodevelopmental disorders characterized by the presence of impaired social interaction and markedly restricted repertoire of activity and interests. The severity and manifestation of the disorder varies greatly from child to child. ASD has also been referred to as “early infantile autism,” “childhood autism,” “Kanner’s autism,” “Asperger’s Syndrome,” and “Pervasive Developmental Disorder.”

Early Warning Signs

Below are early indicators of autism that may be useful for parents to identify early warning signs.

- Child may appear deaf.
- Child may appear “very good” or “very fussy.”
- Child may exhibit self-stimulatory behavior.
- Child may be a “selective” eater.
- Child may not exhibit anticipatory responses.
- Child may avoid eye contact.
- Child may not appear aware of what is happening.
- Child may desire “sameness.”
- Child may not communicate at age level.
- Child may repeat words or phrases over and over without understanding what is being said.
- Child may appear to be a perfectionist.
- Child may have a wide range of skills inconsistent with developmental levels.
- Child may exhibit high or low tolerance of pain.
- Child may not imitate others.
- Child may not generalize acquired information.
- Child may exhibit hypo- or hyper-sensory sensitivities.
- Child may have difficulty interacting with other children.
- Child may form extreme attachments to objects.

Diagnostic Criteria

Below is a brief list of the diagnostic criteria used by psychologists to diagnosis autism.

A. Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts, as manifested by the following currently or by history (examples are illustrative, not exhaustive):

1. Deficits in social-emotional reciprocity, ranging, for example, from abnormal social approach and failure of normal back and forth conversation; to reduced sharing of interests, emotions, or affect; to failure to initiate or respond to social interactions.

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1 Information from the Commonwealth Autism Service and can be found at www.autismva.org
2. Deficits in nonverbal communicative behaviors used for social interaction, ranging, for example, from poorly integrated verbal and nonverbal communication; to abnormalities in eye contact and body-language or deficits in understanding and use of gestures; to a total lack of facial expression and nonverbal communication.

3. Deficits in developing, maintaining and understanding relationships, ranging, for example, from difficulties adjusting behavior to suit various social contexts; to difficulties in sharing imaginative play or in making friends; to absence of interest in peers.

B. Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities, as manifested by at least two of the following, currently or by history (examples are illustrative, not exhaustive):

1. Stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech (e.g., simple motor stereotypies, lining up toys or flipping objects, echolalia, idiosyncratic phrases).

2. Insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines, or ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behavior (e.g., extreme distress at small changes, difficulty with transitions, rigid thinking patterns, greeting rituals, need to take same route or eat same food everyday).

3. Highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus (e.g., strong attachment to or preoccupation with unusual objects, excessively circumscribed or perseverative interests).

4. Hyper- or hypo-reactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of environment (e.g., apparent indifference to pain/temperature, adverse response to specific sounds or textures, excessive smelling or touching of objects, visual fascination with lights movement).
How is ASD Diagnosed?3

Standard guidelines have been developed to help identify ASD in children before the age of 24 months. In the past, diagnosis of autism was often not made until late preschool-age or later. The new guidelines can help identify child with autism early, which means earlier, more effective treatment for the disorder.

The standard guidelines were developed with assistance from 11 different organizations and were published in Neurology, a journal of the American Academy of Neurology. According to the guidelines, all children before the age of 24 months should routinely be screened for autism and other developmental delays at their well-child check-ups. Children that show developmental delays and other behavior disorders should be further tested for autism. According to the guidelines, less than 30 percent of children undergo age-appropriate screening at their well-child check-ups. By screening children early for autism, those diagnosed with the disorder can be treated immediately and aggressively.

Currently, there are two different levels of autism screening. The first level should be performed by the child’s physician at the well-child check-up during the first two years of life. The physician should look for signs of developmental deficit. Typically this should include a screener like the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers - Revised (M-CHAT-R), which is a screening tool used for the early detection of autism. This screener can be used to screen children as young as 18 months. Although this screener cannot diagnose ASD, it can indicate when further assessment is appropriate. The following is a list of developmental deficits that could indicate ASD4:

Impairment in Social Interaction:
- Lack of appropriate eye gaze
- Lack of warm, joyful expressions
- Lack of sharing interest or enjoyment
- Lack of response to name

Impairment in Communication:
- Lack of showing gestures
- Lack of coordination of nonverbal communication
- Unusual prosody (little variation in pitch, odd intonation, irregular rhythm, unusual voice quality)

Repetitive Behaviors & Restricted Interests:
- Repetitive movements with objects
- Repetitive movements or posturing of body, arms, hands, or fingers

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3 Information adapted from Commonwealth Autism Service and can be found at www.autismva.org.
The second level of screening should be performed if there are warning signs of a developmental delay. The second level of screening is a more in-depth diagnosis and evaluation that can differentiate ASD from other developmental disorders. These evaluations are typically performed by psychologists and/or neurologists. This evaluation will assess a wide range of areas, such as the child’s medical history (including prenatal development), psychological assessments, neurological evaluations and speech and language evaluations. The Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R) and the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule – 2nd edition (ADOS-2) are typical assessments used. The ADI-R is a structured interview that assesses children as young as 18 months on three domains: quality of social interaction, communication and language, and repetitive, restricted and stereotyped behaviors and interests. The ADOS-2 consists of an observation of the child during various activities that allow the clinician to assess the child’s communicative skills, social interaction and repetitive, restricted and stereotyped behaviors and interests. This observation typically lasts about 45 minutes.

At the VT Autism Clinic & Center for Autism Research, we assess the child on four major domains: developmental history, behavioral evaluations and observations, cognitive evaluations, and adaptive functioning. Depending on the particular child, we may recommend other evaluations to assess other psychological concerns, such as anxiety or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. In addition to our evaluation, we may recommend an outside evaluation for additional concerns, such as from a physician to evaluate possible medical conditions that may be related to the current symptoms or from a speech-language pathologist to assess the extent of difficulty in language/communication.
What Treatments are Available?5

Parents of individuals diagnosed with ASD are frequently overwhelmed when confronted with the many treatments/educational approaches suggested for working with their children. The following is a list and brief explanation of some of the widely used techniques. This list is NOT exhaustive. Additionally, some of the techniques are comprehensive programs, while others are designed to target a specific area of difficulty. In addition, some of these intervention techniques are commonly used together to create the best intervention for the particular individual.

Applied Behavior Analysis

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a scientifically-based treatment approach consisting of several different specific programs which use the antecedent-behavior-consequence model as a basis for teaching. All actions are thought of as behavior, and each action is analyzed to determine what precedes it, how it occurs, and what follows the behavior in order to decrease inappropriate behaviors and increase appropriate behaviors.

Although often collectively referred to as ABA, there are some differences between many of the specific methodologies in ABA.

Discrete Trial Teaching

Discrete Trial Teaching (DTT) is a teaching strategy widely utilized in ABA interventions. This strategy allows individuals to master complex tasks by first learning and mastering subcomponents of the task. This strategy has been shown to be effective in teaching communication skills, gross and fine motor skills, social skills and daily living skills.

DTT has been shown to be a highly effective intervention for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. However, for the intervention to be most successful, it should be done for 30-40 hours a week in the child’s home, starting as early as possible, typically by 3 years of age.

Please note that because of the limitations of DTT, many current ABA organizations, such as the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) use other methods of teaching as individuals progress to learning more complex social skills. Therefore, it is important to research the specific teaching methods and their effectiveness that individual ABA organizations use.

ABA/DTT Resources:

Center for Autism and Related Disorders: http://www.centerforautism.com
This website offers more information about ABA interventions, including how to evaluate ABA programs.

5 Information adapted from Autism Society of America and can be found at www.autism-society.org.
**Behavioral Intervention for Young Children With Autism: A Manual for Parents and Professionals** by Catherine Maurice, Gina Green, Stephen C. Luce
This book gives a detailed overview of how to create an ABA program, from choosing professionals and therapists to dealing with funding issues.

**A Work in Progress** by Ron Leaf and John McEachin
This book provides behavior management strategies and a curriculum for intensive behavioral treatment of autism.

**Early Start Denver Model for Young Children with Autism: Promoting Language, Learning, and Engagement** by Sally J. Rogers and Geraldine Dawson
This manual presents the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) for toddlers and preschoolers with ASD, supported by the principles of developmental psychology and ABA, to promote development in imitation, communication, social, cognitive, and motor skills, adaptive behavior, and play.

**Teaching Social Communication to Children with Autism** by Brooke Ingersoll & Anna Dvortcsak
This book and DVD presents a parent training approach based on developmental and behavioral research. The guide provides step-by-step tools for promoting the social communication skills of young children with autism (up to age 6).

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**Pivotal Response Training**

Also based on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) theory, PRT is considered a Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention that focuses on an instructional method which teaches social communication that is functional and spontaneous in the child’s natural environments. This form of ABA offers a structured way to interact during the individual’s daily routine in a comfortable, more naturalistic manner. PRT teaches “pivotal” behaviors shown to be central to wide areas of functioning, including motivation, responsivity to multiple cues, self-management, and independent responding. PRT techniques are often taught to parents to allow the child to have the greatest exposure in their every-day lives. Additionally, this training is designed to enable the individual to be more involved in inclusive environments and thus lends itself to use in school settings. PRT has been shown to be effective.

**Local PRT Resources:**

Our clinic offers a 25 hour parent training in PRT, as well as social skills and emotion management groups. Please call for availability (540) 231-2053.

**PRT Resources:**

This website offers many resources on PRT, including various manuals for purchase.
Other Treatments:

Floor Time
This therapeutic approach seeks to improve developmental skills through analysis and intervention in six areas of functioning, centered on attentional skills, social interactive skills and communicative skills. More advanced skills, such teaching the child to create mental representation or emotional symbols through engagement in pretend play and emotional intention, are also addressed. Dr. Stanley Greenspan is the most well-known promoter of this intervention strategy.

TEACCH
The strategies of this program are visually based and relate individually on the basis of a detailed assessment of needs and abilities, trying to identify potential for acquisitions rather than focusing on deficits. A basis for this intervention is the concept of “structured learning.” This technique is based on the assumption that individuals with autism learn and integrate information differently than other children. It assumes that many non-compliant behaviors of children with autism are the result of a difficulty understanding what is expected.

Structured teaching places heavy reliance upon teaching through visual modes due to the difficulties that children with autism have with processing verbal information. Visual structure is provided at a variety of levels. Classrooms can be organized to add visual structure, daily visual and/or written schedules can be used and visual instructions and organization can be used to signal the beginning and the end of activities.

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
This therapeutic approach is a communication training system developed within the Delaware Autistic Program by Dr. Andy Bondy. PECS is used with students from the ages 2 through 21 years, although it can be adapted to meet the needs of older individuals. Its basis is applied behavior analysis and discrete trial training.

Individuals using PECS are required to give a picture of a preferred item to a communicative partner in exchange for the item. Requesting of items is the first skill targeted in the PECS teaching method. Within this teaching phase, the preferred items are presented as reinforcement of the response. This training is designed to be used in social
environments. The only prerequisite to the beginning of this training method is the ability to identify those items or activities that are preferred by the individual. Once the child learns how to use the pictures to communicate their wants and needs, the child is then encouraged to verbalize the request.

**Dietary Interventions/Megavitamins**

Several researchers have hypothesized that diet, food allergies or intolerance, or yeast may contribute to or even cause autistic symptoms. Interventions in support of this hypothesis include casein and gluten free diets, antifungal medications, herbal treatments and mega-doses of vitamin B6 and Magnesium. Although some parents report help with these treatments, no well controlled studies have supported or refuted this theory. At the VT Autism Clinic and the VT Center for Autism Research, we take the position that behavioral interventions have the best evidence for treatment of autism spectrum disorder, often supplemented with speech and occupational therapy for associated language and sensory/motor difficulties.

**Speech Therapy**

Many individuals with ASD have difficulties with communication. In general, speech therapy can help individuals improve both communication and behavior because it can target various communication deficits. In addition to speech therapy, some individuals with ASD can learn to use communicative devices to help meet their needs. Higher functioning individuals can also benefit from this type of therapy because it can be used to address language pragmatics or the give and take of conversation for social purposes.

**Occupational Therapy**

Many individuals with ASD also have difficulties with sensory reactivity and fine and gross motor skills. In general, Occupational therapy can help individuals improve in these areas by specifically targeting the individual’s sensory concerns and fine and gross motor deficits.

**Cognitive Behavior Therapy**

Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) is an evidence-based approach that targets emotional and behavioral problems often associated with ASD. CBT teaches individuals the relationship between thoughts, feelings, and behaviors in order to educate about emotions and provide coping skills. Because CBT is language-based, CBT is used with individuals who have some form of functional communication.

**Additional Resources:**

- American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry  
  http://www.aacap.org/
- Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies  
  http://www.abct.org/home/
- American Psychological Association  
  http://www.apa.org/
- National Institute of Mental Health  
  A Parent’s Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorder  
How do I Evaluate Treatments?

One of the major questions parents have in regards to treatment is to know how to assess whether or not a treatment is right for their child. To help parents, below is a list of questions to ask service providers. These questions are designed to help parents ensure that their child is obtaining services from a service provider who has expertise treating individuals with autism and can develop a quality individualized treatment plan.

Service Providers Qualifications

- What qualifications (e.g., BCBA, Ph.D., M.A., etc.) does the service provider have?
- How long has the service provider been providing these types of services?
- How many individuals with autism has this provider treated?
- What are the outcomes of their clients?
- What will their exact role in your child’s treatment be (e.g., overseeing program, conducting therapy, etc.)?
- How many hours a week/month will the service provider see your child?
- Can he/she provide three other referrals? Can you contact them?
- If there is an emergency, can you contact them and how?

Program Quality

General

- Is the program based on current research findings?
- Does the program keep up with current research findings?
- Are the hours of therapy recommended consistent with research findings?
  Note: For intensive ABA treatments, 25-40 hours a week has been shown to be most effective.
- Is consistency ensured (e.g., frequent consultation with family, teachers, and other people who may interact with the child on a frequent basis)?
- Is the program adequate for non-verbal children?

Individualized Treatment

- Is the program individualized to your child’s progress or is a “cookbook” approach used?
- How does the program measure progress?
- How often is your child’s progress reviewed?
- What happens if your child is not progressing on a particular skill?
- Is there emphasis put on generalizing skills?
- Can the program be specialized to my child’s strengths and interests?
- Can the program target reduction of negative behaviors, such as hitting, biting, etc?
Developing an IEP

Learning about an Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Meetings should always start on a positive note by discussing your child’s strengths. This is known as “current level of functioning” or “present level of educational performance.” In order for a child to be appropriately served by Special Education Services, each child must be viewed as a “whole child,” with gifts and talents and abilities. Focus on positive, not simply the deficits. The way in which a child learns should also be addressed. For example, some children focus on visual learning; while other children learn better by “doing” or experiencing. Others may need different supports to enhance their learning style. Every child is different. No two children in a class will (or should) have the same Educational Plan. A child’s strengths should be a part of any IEP, and these strengths should be drawn upon when developing goals and objectives.

You may want to:

- At least a week or two before your IEP meeting, start observing your child.
- Keep a journal or list of things that you notice that she/he CAN do.
- Also think about the things that you would like your child to be able to do that are developmentally appropriate.
- List your concerns about your child’s future.
- Think about what your child needs.

The school system is mandated by the federal government by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to provide for your child’s needs. They are also required to give your child a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). It is helpful to bring your ideas about what your child needs, in writing, with you to the team meeting.

When thinking of your child’s needs, don’t be limited by what you think may or may not be available at the school. It’s called an IEP because a program must be individualized to each student. The program must “fit” the student.

Common Parts of IEP and IEP meeting

Your Child’s Needs
Needs should be detailed, comprehensive and represent physical abilities, communication abilities, cognitive abilities, social and emotional behavior, developmental and educational growth, self-help skills and other areas specific to your child.

Goals
Goals should be realistic. What is important for your child to learn or to do from the perspective of the child, the parents and the family? Goals should not be written on the basis of what grade the child is in, what school the child is in or any other factor. Goals should be individualized to the child and have a strong correlation with the needs stated. Goals should be written in plain

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6 Information taken from Commonwealth Autism Service and can be found at [www.autismva.org](http://www.autismva.org).
terms, easily understandable to anyone who reads them. Remember that goals should be activities that the child can accomplish. They should not be isolated behaviors or skills.

**Progress Measurement**
Short-term objectives are the “baby-steps” a child will use in reaching the goals. Most goals will have more than one short-term objective, and the objectives usually build on one another. Once the child has mastered the first objective, he/she moves on to the next objective until the goal has been achieved.

**Short-term goals should be measurable and observable!** Make sure the IEP states how they will be measured. Below are common ways to test short-term goals:

- Testing
- Daily data collection
- Teacher notes
- Teacher observation
- Parent observation

Short-term goals need to have timelines that are met. Parents play an important role in meeting with school personnel to monitor the timelines and process. It is just as much the parent’s responsibility to initiate communication with school personnel as it is for the school personnel to keep the parents informed.

**Related Services**
There is no set formula for the delivery of Related Services; the formula should be individualized to the child’s needs and goals. Related Services are whatever the IEP team (which you as a parent are a part of) decides the child needs to be successful. Related Services need to be relevant to the student and her/his academic day.

Related Services can include:

- Therapy
- Transportation
- Counseling services
- Assistive technology
- Interpreters

**Parent Counseling and Training**
Parent counseling and training should also be discussed at the IEP meeting. The school is responsible for helping parents to acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child’s IEP.

**Extended School Year Services**
The team should talk about the possible need for extended school year services. This is exactly what the name implies—school extended beyond the regular school year. Please let the school know that you are aware of these services.
Signing the IEP
After the IEP has been written, the parent is asked to sign the forms. If you agree with what has been written, this is wonderful! If you have questions, don’t understand something or don’t agree with something on the IEP, you do not have to sign the form at that time. Schedule another meeting. Ask questions. Try to resolve the issues. You as the parent, have the legal right to object to any IEP that you think is not in the best interest of your child. If there are only a few minor sticking points, you may want to consider signing the forms and writing down what it is that you don’t agree with next to your signature. Plan to work things out at a later time. Schedule another meeting. This way your child can at least begin to receive the services he/she needs with which you agree. If you come to a total impasse, then you have the right to ask for mediation.

Mediation
Mediation is provided, free of charge, by the State Board of Education. They have hired impartial individuals who have gone through special training in order to help parents and school systems resolve disputed issues. The idea is to bring in a third party who may be able to help the two parties involved find some form of middle ground that they can agree upon. The hope is to have everyone agree to the new IEP in order to keep from going to Due Process.

Due Process
Due Process is what you request when you feel that mediation has failed, and you believe you have a situation with legal merit. If you feel you need to go this route, you may want to contact the Parent Education and Advocacy Training Center at 1-800-869-6782 for more information or visit the Commonwealth Autism Service website at www.autismva.org for additional resources.

Placement
The placement of your child should not be determined until after the IEP process has been written. The placement of where your child is to be educated is based on the Least Restrictive Environment. Can the child function in a regular education classroom with added supports? For example, some additional supports might be an aide, being close to natural light of the window, or having other things in the classroom moved around to assist with the child’s needs. If the child would have a difficult time in this environment, look at other classrooms that might have smaller group settings, more structure, or other things that would be able to assist the child in achieving her/his IEP goals. Always starts with the least restrictive environment and work toward the more restrictive settings until you find the proper match for your child.

IEP Resources:
The Virginia Department of Education, Division of Special Education

Judy Hudgins, Virginia Department of Education, Parent Specialist
Phone: (804) 371-7421
E-mail: Judy.Hudgins@doe.virginia.gov

Janet P. Lennon, Educational Advocate
Phone: (540) 460-4339
E-mail: janetplennon@gmail.com
**Pete Wright, Special Education Lawyer**  
http://www.wrightslaw.com/

**Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC), Virginia**  
Provides training & information to parents to enable them to participate more effectively with professionals in meeting the educational needs of their children.  
Website: www.peatc.org  
Phone: 1-800-869-6782 or 703-923-0010 (Voice/TTY)  
Email: partners@peatc.org

**Special Education Law**  
A multi-disciplinary internet resource for parents of special needs children, as well as attorneys, special education administrators, teachers, psychologists and others with a need for information relating to special education law.  
Website: [http://www.specialedlaw.org/services.html](http://www.specialedlaw.org/services.html)

**Books:**  

National Resources and General ASD Information

**Autism Science Foundation**  
Website: [http://autismsciencefoundation.org/](http://autismsciencefoundation.org/)  
The Autism Science Foundation is a national autism organization whose mission is to support autism research and organizations conducting autism research. The organization also provides information about autism to the general public.

**Autism Speaks**  
Website: [http://www.autismspeaks.org/](http://www.autismspeaks.org/)  
Autism Speaks is a national autism organization that seeks to promote autism awareness, advocacy and research.

Service providers can be found by state at: [https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/resource-guide](https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/resource-guide)

A 100 Day Kit for Newly Diagnosed Families of Young Children can be found at: [https://www.autismspeaks.org/docs/family_services_docs/100day2/100_Day_Kit_Version_2_0.pdf](https://www.autismspeaks.org/docs/family_services_docs/100day2/100_Day_Kit_Version_2_0.pdf)

**National Autism Center**  
Website: [www.nationalautismcenter.org](http://www.nationalautismcenter.org)  
E-mail: info@nationalautismcenter.org  
Phone: 1 (877) 313-3833

The National Autism Center is a new non-profit organization dedicated to supporting effective, evidence-based treatment approaches and providing direction to families, practitioners, organizations, policy-makers and funders. The center is bringing nationally renowned experts together to establish national standards, model best practices, and conduct applied research, serving as a vital source of information, training and services.

**National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder**  
Website: [https://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/national-professional-development-center-autism-spectrum-disorder](https://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/national-professional-development-center-autism-spectrum-disorder)  
Since 2007, the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder (NPDC) has worked to develop free professional resources for teachers, therapists, and technical assistance providers who work with individuals with ASD. Resources include detailed information on how to plan, implement, and monitor specific evidence-based practices.

**Organization for Autism Research (OAR)**  
Website: [https://researchautism.org/](https://researchautism.org/)  
E-mail: info@researchautism.org  
Phone: (866) 366-9710

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) was created in December 2001 – the product of the shared vision and unique life experiences of OAR’s seven founders. Led
by these parents and grandparents of children and adults on the autism spectrum, OAR set out to use applied science to answer questions that parents, families, individuals with autism, teachers and caregivers confront daily.

**University of California Davis Mind Institute**
2825 50th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817
Phone: (916) 703-0280
Massie Family Clinic: (916) 703-0300
Website: [http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/centers/iddrc.html](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/centers/iddrc.html)

The MIND Institute IDDRC provides resources to its member scientists that are designed to encourage and accelerate the pace of research that moves the field closer to treatments, strategies for prevention, and eventual cures. Established in 1963 by Congress as "centers of excellence" for research in intellectual and developmental disabilities, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers represent the nation's first and foremost sustained effort to prevent and treat disabilities through biomedical and behavioral research.

**University of Washington Autism Center**
1701 NE Columbia Rd
P.O. Box 357920, University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195
Toll-free: 877-408-UWAC
Phone: 206-221-6806

The UW Autism Center is a nonprofit organization devoted to supporting individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorders through exceptional clinical services, innovative scientific research and high-quality training. Their mission is: to offer state-of-the-art clinical services to individuals with ASD from birth through young adulthood, and their families, to increase community knowledge and service capacity through public awareness and professional training and to conduct research to understand what causes ASD, how it develops, and how it can be treated or prevented.

**Virginia Commonwealth University Autism Center for Excellence**
1314 West Main Street
P.O. Box 842011
Richmond, VA 23284-2011
Phone: (855) 711-6987
TTY: (804) 828-2494
Fax: (804) 828-2193
Website: [https://vcuautismcenter.org](https://vcuautismcenter.org)

VCU-ACE is a university-based technical assistance, professional development, and educational research center for Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
Yale Child Study Center
230 South Frontage Rd.
New Haven CT, 06519
Phone: (203) 785-2540
Website: http://medicine.yale.edu/childstudy/

Since 1911, the Center has been serving children and families from birth through adolescence. Their mission is to improve the lives of children and families through research, service, and training. They are committed to continual improvement in what they do for children and families and in learning from all that they do as to inform that growth and improvement.

Psychologists and Other Therapists

The following list of local or Virginia-based resources is organized by resource type and subdivided by location in alphabetical order. An asterisk (*) identifies professionals with ASD expertise.

Abingdon
Blue Mountain Therapy*
27018 Lee Hwy
Abingdon, VA 24211
Phone: 276.525.6043
http://bluemountaintherapy.com
Offering Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Speech, Occupational, and Physical therapies.

Blacksburg
Harvey Barker, Ph.D.
305 Washington Street SW
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Phone: (540) 230-7033
Email: hmbarker5@gmail.com
Website: http://www.harveybarkerphd.com/

Dr. Marilyn Hutchins
Licensed Professional Counselor, LPC
1999 South Main Street Suite 505 J
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Phone: (540) 961-9330
Associates in Brief Therapy, Inc.
200 Country Club Drive, Suite D-2
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Phone: 540-772-8043 (Blacksburg Office)
Phone: 1-877-895-8674 (Toll Free)
Website: http://www.abtcounseling.com/

The Cascade Group*
200 Professional Park Drive Suite 4
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Phone: (540) 951-4800
Fax: (540) 951-3081
Email: cascadegroup@earthlink.net
The Cascade Group is a team of therapists who offer services and are experts in these following areas: individual therapy, couple therapy, marital and family therapy, adolescent therapy, eating disorders, anxiety, depression, psychological assessments.

Family and Psychological Services
Roy Crouse, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Mark Prosser, M.S., Licensed Professional Counselor
Bozana Young, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist
820 University City Blvd Suite 1
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Phone: (540) 961-2380
Website: http://www.familyandpsychological.com/
Family and Psychological Services is a group of Licensed Clinical Psychologists and Licensed Professional Counselors who provide a wide range of services to individuals, couples, families, and organizations. Treatment is provided by clinicians who each have over twenty years of expertise in their areas of expertise. All therapists in our practice are licensed by the State of Virginia.
- The staff at Family and Psychological Services offers personalized care for a variety of life problems, including Depression, Stress and Anxiety problems, Health-related problems, Life Adjustment problems, Anger control, Addictive problems, Couples problems, and Family problems. Psychological assessments, career testing, personnel testing, and organizational consulting are also available.

Psychological Services Center*
Director: Lee Cooper, Ph.D., LCP
3110 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg VA 20461-0355
Phone: (540) 231-6914

Virginia Autism and Behavior Consulting*
106 Faculty St. Blacksburg, VA 24060
https://va-abc.com/
(540) 404-1189
ABA and occupational therapy
Virginia Tech Autism Clinic & Center for Autism Research (VTAC/CAR)*
Director: Angela Scarpa, Ph.D., LCP
3110 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: (540) 231-2053 or (540) 231-6914
E-mail: autism@vt.edu
Website: https://support.psyc.vt.edu/centers/autism; www.vtcar.science.vt.edu
Offering mental health therapy, pivotal response treatment parent training, social skills
groups, parent psychoeducation, community trainings and consultation, and ASD diagnostic
evaluations. Limited mobile services are also available through our Mobile Autism Clinic in the
Galax and Marion areas.

Christiansburg
Alexa Z. Casey, Psy.D.
159 Walters Dr.
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 381-3101

Kristine Barton, Ph.D.
Carilion Clinic Physical Medicine
2900 Tyler Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 731-2992

David Hamilton, Ph.D.
Carilion Clinic Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
2900 Lamb Circle
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 731-7311

Daleville
Associates in Brief Therapy, Inc.
44 Catawba Road
Suite 103
Phone: (540)772-8043 or toll free: (877) 895-8674
Fax: (540) 772-8242

Floyd
Rhoda Hurst, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., C.C.M.
Floyd Counseling and Care Management (Affiliated with Associates in Brief Therapy)
202 N. Locust Street
Lynchburg
Tim Barclay, Ph.D.*
Wyndhurst Counseling Center, ADHD Clinic of Lynchburg
105 Hexham Drive
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502
Phone: (434) 237-2655
Fax: (434) 237-4422

Terry W. Jefferson, Ph.D., LCP *
Yoder, Jefferson & Associates
3712 Old Forest Road, Suite 500
Lynchburg, Virginia 24501
Phone: (434) 385-0744
Fax: (434) 385-8358
Works with all disorders

Ann Luedke, Ph.D., LCP
66 Timberoak Court
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502
Phone: (434) 237-6236

Centra Autism and Developmental Center*
Bridges Treatment Center; Clinical Coordinator: Heather Newman, RN
693 Leesville Road
Lynchburg, VA 24502
Phone: (434) 200-5065
Fax: (434) 200-1662
Email: heather.newman@centrahealth.com
Website: http://bridgesrtc.com/index.php/centra-autism-services
Centra Autism and Developmental Center will test children and adolescents starting at age 3 who may be on the autism spectrum.

Radford
Anna R. Caldwell, LCSW, BCBA, LBA*
Spectrum Therapeutic Services, PLLC
140 E Main Street
Radford, VA 24141
Scarlett Williams, LPC*
600 E Main, Suite C
Radford, VA 24060
Website: scarlettwilliamslpc.com
Email: scarlettwilliamslpc@gmail.com
Phone: (540) 818-2838

Roanoke

Gudrun M Freeman, Ph.D.
Manassas Group
3635 Manassas Dr.
Roanoke, VA 24018
Phone: (540) 774-4686
Fax: (540) 989-8893
Active, self-empowering treatment for anxiety with a focus on the whole person or family group

Rob Lanahan, Psy.D.
1315 2nd St SW
Roanoke, VA 24016
Phone: (540) 344-5940
Fax: (540) 344-5941

Daniel B. Porter, Ph.D.
4248 Old Cave Road
Roanoke, VA 24018
Phone: (540) 989-5640

ACA Counseling Services
Michael Chiglinsky, Ph.D.
Joanne Chiglinsky, M.S.W.
Bethany Cook, M.S.W.
3247 Electric Rd.
Suite 1-A
Roanoke, VA 24018
Phone: (540) 772-0690
Fax: (540) 772-0692
Email: office@acacounselingroanoke.com

Appalachian Counseling Center
Alan Katz, Ph.D.
Klaire Mundy, Psy.D.
4330 Old Cave Spring Road
Roanoke, VA 24018
Phone: (540) 774-4211

Dominion Youth Services*
Contact: Danielle Yoder Hill, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA
3023 B Peters Creek Road, NW
Roanoke, VA 24019
(540) 632-9533
www.dominionyouthservices.com
Provider of a broad array of services to include ABA, mental health, and education, serving people with intellectual disabilities and autism.

Family Insight, P.C.
Director: Heather Moor, BA, QMHP
3433 Brambleton Ave.
Suite 201-A
Roanoke, VA 24018
Phone: (540) 266-7550
Fax: (540) 266-7230
Website: http://www.familyinsight.net/locations/roanoke/

Psychological Health Roanoke
Lisa Teegarden-Cabay, Ph.D., LCP*
David Meshorer, Ph.D.
Bruce A. Sellars, Psy.D.
Colonnade Corporate Center One
2840 Electric Road, Suite 200
Roanoke, VA. 24018
Phone: (540) 772-5140
Fax: (540) 772-5158
Email for appointments: scheduling@psychhealthroanoke.com
Website: http://www.psychhealthroanoke.com/clinicians.html

(Dr. Teegarden-Cabay) She has specialized in child, adolescent and family assessments and therapy since completing her training, mostly in private/group settings. Her specialties include working with children and adolescents on the Autistic Spectrum, including social skill development.

(Dr. Meshorer) Works primarily with adults having problems with anxiety, depression, and substance abuse, has special interest in geriatrics, working with people dealing with issues of aging and loss.

(Dr. Sellars) Virginia Autism and Behavior Consulting*
139 E. Court St. Rocky Mount, VA 24151
ABA and occupational therapy
Outpatient cognitive-behavioral treatment provided for a wide range of anxiety disorders, such as panic disorder, phobias, OCD, generalized anxiety, hoarding, PTSD, and trichotillomania. Adult and geriatric population. Many insurance plans accepted.

Rocky Mount
Virginia Autism and Behavior Consulting*
3243 Electric Road Building E Suite 1B Roanoke, VA 24018
https://va-abc.com/
(540) 404-1189
ABA and occupational therapy

Salem
Alan Beach, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., L.M.F.T.*
811 S. College Ave.
Salem, VA 24153
Phone: (540) 387-3977
Email: aebeach3@gmail.com
Dr. Beach is a child and family therapist in private practice, providing assessment services, traditional outpatient therapy, and social skills training groups.

Lissa Hoprich, M.A., B.C.B.A., L.B.A.*
ABC’s of Applied Behavior Analysis
1630 Braeburn Dr.
Salem, VA 24153
Phone: (540) 588-9582
Fax: (540) 380-8155
Email: abcsofaba@gmail.com
Website: http://www.abcsofaba.com/
ABC’s of ABA provide “in home” ABA interventions and programming, consulting, and training. The clinic’s primary goal is to prepare children for the transition to the school environment. Because of this, both the clinic’s physical environment and teaching environment are modeled after actual pre-school classrooms.

Associates in Brief Therapy, Inc.
508 East Main St., Suite 500
Salem, VA 24153
Phone: (540) 772-8043, (877) 895-8674
**Shawsville**

Lisa F. Pugh, M.S., L.P.C., N.C.C.*
Christian Counseling and Support Services
602 Radford Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 712-2177

As a solution-focused therapist, Ms. Pugh specializes in mental health counseling for individuals of all ages. Her therapeutic approach integrates biblical counseling with complementary methodologies and techniques. She specializes in depression, anxiety, and grief.

**Troy**

Damon Christoine Watson MPH, QMHP
Lafayette School
103 Zion Station Rd
Troy, Virginia 22974
Phone: (434) 808-0389

**Wytheville**

Blue Mountain Therapy*
1480 E Main St Suite 503
Wytheville, VA 24382
Phone: (276) 525-6043
http://bluemountaintherapy.com/

Offering Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Speech, Occupational, and Physical therapies.

**Psychiatrists**

**Blacksburg**

John I. Walker, M.D.
200 Professional Park Drive SE, Suite 1
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Phone: (540) 230-1120

General psychiatry in adults

**New River Valley Community Services**
700 University City Blvd
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Christiansburg

Gary M. Rooker, D.O.
Rooker Psychiatric Services
102 Miller St. SE
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 381-5832
General psychiatry

Carilion St. Alban’s Behavioral Health
David Dalrymple, M.D.
David A. Downs, Jr. M.D.
Douglass M. Anderson, M.D.
George Paul Hlusko M.D. (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry)
Ron Myers, M.D. (Adult)
2900 Lamb Circle
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 731-2000

Fairfax

The Child & Family Counseling Group, PLC
David Clayton, MD (Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatry)
Thad Garland, MD (Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatry)
Stacy Paggi, MD (Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatry)
3959 Pender Drive Suite 320
Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: (703) 352-3822 ext. # 12, 36, 16
Website: http://www.childandfamilycounseling.com/

Lynchburg

Edward Kuhnley, M.D.
Horizon Behavioral Health, Child and Family Services
2215 Langhorne Rd, Suite 101
Lynchburg, VA 24501
Phone: (430) 948-4831

Centra Piedmont Psychiatric Center
Office Manager: Jillian Collier, R.N.
Radford

Hal G. Gillespie, M.D.
Virginia Highlands Health Associates, PC
7457 Lee Highway
Fairlawn, VA 24141
Phone: (540) 731-1939

Roanoke

Carilion Clinic Psychiatry – Child & Adolescent
Anuradha Reddy, M.D.
Thomas R. Milam, M.D., M.Div.
Felicity Adams-Vanke, M.D.
J. Eric Vance, M.D.
Jeffry J. Wilson, M.D.
2017 South Jefferson Street, 2nd floor
Roanoke, VA 24014
Phone: (540) 853-0900

Salem

Himanshu S. Patel, M.D., Child Psychiatry
Sellars Center for Emotional Care
400 E. Burwell St., Suite A
Salem, VA 24153
Phone: (540) 387-3105

Specialists

Many Locations

Music Therapy of the New River Valley
Cindie L. Wolfe, MT-BC
Phone: 540-315-1357
cwolfe@musictherapynrv.com
http://www.musictherapynrv.com/
Blacksburg

Thomas Williams, Ph.D.
314 War Memorial Hall (0313)
Blacksburg, VA, 24061
Phone: (540) 231-8337
email: thwilli1@vt.edu
Website: http://www.soe.vt.edu/specialed/williams.html

Provides staff training on the topic of adults with severe developmental disabilities for New River Community Services.

Radford

Radford University Speech and Hearing Clinic
Clinic Director: Rebecca Epperly, M.S., CCC-SLP
Audiology Coordinator: Lauren Smith Flor, Ph.D., AuD, CCC-A
122 Waldron Hall
Radford, VA 24142
Phone: (540) 831-7166 (speech)
Phone: (540) 831-7737 (audiology)

Experience with older kids/teenagers and young adults

Roanoke

Amy Kageals, M.S., CCC-SLP* --Manager, Pediatric Therapy
Carilion Clinic Children’s Hospital
Carilion Pediatric Therapy (Speech, OT)
101 Elm Ave
Roanoke, VA 24013
Office: (540) 985-9813

Multi-disciplinary approach to pediatric feeding and swallowing disorders that includes parent/family involvement.

Hospital-Base Care
(Inpatient and Partial Hospitalization)

Lynchburg

Centra Adult Acute Psychiatric Program
Unit Manager: Jacob Cash, R.N.
Centra Virginia Baptist Hospital
Adult Acute Psychiatric Unit, Mundy building, 3rd Floor
3300 Rivermont Avenue
Centra provides comprehensive inpatient psychiatric treatment for adults (ages 18 and older) who struggle with daily life because of emotional crises or troubling thoughts and behaviors. They may suffer from depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, personality disorders or other psychological disorders.

**Centra Child & Adolescent Acute Psychiatric Program**
Director: Stephanie Loveridge, M.S.M., NEA-BC, RN-BC
Centra Virginia Baptist Hospital
3300 Rivermont Avenue
Krise Building, 6th Floor (Krise-6)
Lynchburg, VA 24503
Phone: (434) 200-4137
Fax: (434) 200-4145
Website: [http://mentalhealth.centrahealth.com/services/adult-psychiatric-program](http://mentalhealth.centrahealth.com/services/adult-psychiatric-program)

Centra treats children and adolescents who need immediate, intensive help with severe emotional or behavioral problems. Designed to provide short-term, acute, inpatient care for children ages 5-18, Centra Child & Adolescent Acute Psychiatric Program offers crisis stabilization, diagnostic evaluation, focused therapy, daytime treatment and further referral.

**Community Service Boards (multiple locations)**

**New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS) - [http://www.nrvcs.org/](http://www.nrvcs.org/)**

Tom Meadows, NRVCS ID Case Management Supervisor
700 University City Boulevard
Blacksburg, VA 24060
[tmeadows@nrvcs.org](mailto:tmeadows@nrvcs.org)

Early Intervention Services Manager for NRVCS
Phone: 540.961.8343
dbh@nrvcs.org

NRVCS REACH program for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities
824 W. Main Street
Radford, VA 24141
Phone: (855) 887-8278 (emergency and information line)
Phone: (540) 267-3435
Fax: (540) 267-3403
info@swvareach.org
NRVCS Child & Family Coordinator  
700 University City Blvd.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
Phone: (540) 961-8300  
Website: http://www.nrvcs.org/  
Phone: (540) 357-0058

NRVCS Pointe West Club  
810 University City Blvd.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
Phone: (540) 557-4060  
Fax: (540) 557-4062  
Website: http://www.nrvcs.org/  
Pointe West Club (PWC) is a day support program for adults with developmental disabilities.

NRVCS Floyd Clinic  
274 Floyd Highway South  
Floyd, VA  
Phone: (540) 745-2047  
Fax: (540) 745-2048  
Website: http://www.nrvcs.org/floyd-clinic

NRVCS Giles Clinic  
705 Wenonah Avenue  
Pearisburg, VA 24134  
Phone: 540-921-2238; 540-961-8400 (emergencies)  
Fax: 540-921-1028  
Website: http://www.nrvcs.org/

NRVCS Recovery Community Center  
1044 E. Main Street  
Pulaski, VA  
Phone: (540) 961-8300  
Fax: (540) 322-1853  
Website: http://www.nrvcs.org/

NRVCS New Horizons Crisis Stabilization  
7191 Warden Court  
Radford, VA 24141  
Phone: (540) 831-5916  
Fax: (540) 831-4034  
Website: http://www.nrvcs.org/  
New Horizons Crisis Stabilization is a 24-hour facility that serves adults (both male and female) with acute mental health issues.
NRVCS PACT / ICT
613 Second Street
Radford, VA 24141
Phone: (540) 961-8300 ext. 2706, 2702, 2708 or 2709
Website: http://www.nrvcs.org/

NRVCS Transportation (Community Transit)
2B Corporate Drive
Radford, VA 24141
Phone: (540) 831-5911
Website: http://www.nrvcs.org/

Social Services Board
Montgomery County
Health and Human Services Bldg.
210 S. Pepper St., Ste. B
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 382-6990

**ASD Medical, Neurologic, and Diagnostic Resources**

**Charlottesville**

**UVA Child Development and Rehabilitation Center**
University of Virginia
Battle Building, 4th floor
1204 West Main St.
Charlottesville, VA 22903
Phone: (434) 924-5161
Website: http://childrens.uvahealth.com/locations/profile/child-development-and-rehab-center

**Christiansburg**

**Jill Cramer, M.D.,** Neurology Specialist
Blue Ridge Associates in Neurology
2955 Market Street, Suite B
Christiansburg, VA 24073-6575
Phone: (540) 391-6211

**Pediatric Gastroenterology**
2900 Lamb Circle
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 985-9832
Fishersville
Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC)*
243 Woodrow Wilson Avenue
Fishersville, VA 22939
Phone: (540) 332-7000
Toll Free: (800) 345-9972
Website: http://wwrc.virginia.gov/default.htm

Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center provides people (aged 14 and up) with disabilities comprehensive, individualized services (both medical and vocational training opportunities) to realize personal independence through employment.

Lynchburg
The Rimland Center for Integrative Medicine
Elizabeth Mumper, M.D., FAAP, Pediatrician
2919 Confederate Ave
Lynchburg, VA 24501
Phone: (434) 528-9075
Website: http://www.rimlandcenter.com/index.php

Radford
Radford University Autism Center
Director: Diane Millar, Ph.D.
Phone: (540) 831-7635
Email: dcmillar@radford.edu

Radford University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic (RUSLHC)
Clinical Director: Rebecca Epperly, M.S., CCC-SLP
Audiology Coordinator: Lauren Smith Forehand, Ph.D., Au.D., CCC-A
Waldron Hall
Jefferson Street, Radford, VA
Mailing Address:
RUSLHC
P.O. Box 6961
Radford University
Radford, VA 24142
Speech-Language Referral Line: (540) 831-7166
Audiology Referral Line: (540) 831-7737
Email: speech@radford.edu
Website: http://www.radford.edu/content/wchs/home/cosd/our-clinic.html
Roanoke
Amy K. Barnhart, M.D., Pediatrician
Thomas J. Donohue, M.D., Pediatrician
Carilion Clinic Pediatric Medicine
4040 Postal Drive
Roanoke, VA 24018
Phone: (540) 772-4453

Steven Douglas Nack, D.O., Neurologist
210 Professional Park Drive SE
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Phone: (540) 961-0410
  General psychiatry in adults

Michole M. Pineda, M.D., Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Specialist
Carilion Clinic - Pediatric Neuro-Developmental Clinic
1030 South Jefferson Street, Suite 201
Roanoke, VA 24016
Phone: (540) 224-4520
Website: http://www.CarilionClinic.org

Carilion Clinic Children's Pediatric Neurology
J. Thomas Wilson, III, M.D., Chief, Pediatric Neurology
Michael A. Sisk, M.D.
Scott I. Otallah, M.D.
102 Highland Avenue, Suite 104
Roanoke, VA 24013
Phone: 540-985-8454
Website: https://www.carilionclinic.org/locations/pediatric-neurology-roanoke

Carilion Clinic Pediatric Therapy (Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital)
Amy Kageals: Pediatric SLP, Clinical Supervisor (contact her)
Sandra Leet, Pediatric SLP
Samantha Litz, Pediatric SLP
101 Elm Avenue, 2nd Floor
Roanoke, VA 24013
(540) 985-9813
Website: https://www.carilionclinic.org/pediatric-speech-therapy

Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition
Michael H. Hart, M.D. (Professor of Pediatrics; Chief, Pediatric Gastroenterologist)
102 Highland Avenue, Suite 305
Roanoke, VA 24013
Phone: (540) 985-9832
Email: mhhart@carilionclinic.org
Website: https://www.carilionclinic.org/locations/pediatric-gastroenterology-roanoke

Roanoke Neurological Associates
Dr. Christopher J Scherer, MD, Neurologist
Dr. Michael A Sisk, MD, Child & Adolescent Neurologist, Pediatrician
Dr. Nordeli Estronza, MD, Neurologist
Dr. James T Wilson III, MD, Pediatrician, Child & Adolescent Neurologist
Dr. John G Burch, MD, Neurologist
Dr. Zakia D Bell, MD, Neurologist
Dr. Mark A Scialabba, MD, Neurologist
4461 Starkey Rd SW
Ste 101
Roanoke, VA 24018
Phone: (540) 342-0211
Website: http://www.roanokeneuro.com/

ASD Community Resources

Amherst
Central Virginia Autism Action Group (CVAAG)
Contact: Jennifer Keller
Phone: (434) 851-0955
Email: eva.autismactiongroup@gmail.com
The mission of the Autism Action Groups is to provide leadership in the implementation of a regional system of services and resources to maximize the potential and quality of life of each individual with autism spectrum disorder, and their families, across the lifespan.

Laurel Regional Program Autism Specialist
Contact: Jennifer Berkeley
Phone: (434) 851-0955
Email: berkeleyjk@lcsedu.net
Website: http://www.lcsedu.net/schools/laurel/school-information/autism-specialist-news

Bedford
Central Virginia Autism Action Group (CVAAG)
Contact: Jennifer Keller
Phone: (434) 851-0955
Email: eva.autismactiongroup@gmail.com

The mission of the Autism Action Groups is to provide leadership in the implementation of a regional system of services and resources to maximize the potential and quality of life of each individual with autism spectrum disorder, and their families, across the lifespan.

**Laurel Regional Program Autism Specialist**
Contact: Jennifer Berkeley
Phone: (434) 851-0955
Email: berkeleyjk@lcsedu.net
Website: http://www.lcsedu.net/schools/laurel/school-information/autism-specialist-news

**Blacksburg**
**New River Valley Autism Action Group (NRVAAG)**
Contact: Latrelle Rogers
700 University City Blvd.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Email: lrogers@nrvcs.org

The mission of the Autism Action Groups is to provide leadership in the implementation of a regional system of services and resources to maximize the potential and quality of life of each individual with autism spectrum disorder, and their families, across the lifespan.

**Virginia Tech Autism Clinic & Center for Autism Research (VTAC/CAR)**
Director: Angela Scarpa, Ph.D., LCP
3110 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: (540) 231-2053 or (540) 231-6914
E-mail: autism@vt.edu
Website: https://support.psyc.vt.edu/centers/autism
www.vtcar.science.vt.edu

**Buena Vista**
**Blue Ridge Autism and Achievement Center (BRAAC)**
2424 Magnolia Ave
Buena Vista, VA 24416
Mailing Address: PO Box 611, Buena Vista, VA 24416
Phone: (540) 261-1289
Email: braac.bv@gmail.com
Website: http://www.blueridgeautismcenter.com/
Campbell
Central Virginia Autism Action Group (CVAAG)
Contact: Jennifer Keller
Phone: (434) 851-0955
Email: cva.autismactiongroup@gmail.com
Website:
The mission of the Autism Action Groups is to provide leadership in the implementation of a regional system of services and resources to maximize the potential and quality of life of each individual with autism spectrum disorder, and their families, across the lifespan.

Laurel Regional Program Autism Specialist
Contact: Jennifer Berkeley
Phone: (434) 851-0955
Email: berkeleyjk@lcsedu.net
Website: http://www.lcsedu.net/schools/laurel/school-information/autism-specialist-news

Floyd
Strengthening Our System, Inc.*
464 Christiansburg Pike
Floyd, VA 24091
Email: info@strengtheningoursystem.com
Phone: (540) 585-4078
Offers in-home residential support, mental health support, therapeutic psychological consultation, service facilitation, and intensive in-home services

Lynchburg
Central Virginia Autism Action Group (CVAAG)
Contact: Jennifer Keller
Phone: (434) 851-0955
Email: cva.autismactiongroup@gmail.com
Website:
The mission of the Autism Action Groups is to provide leadership in the implementation of a regional system of services and resources to maximize the potential and quality of life of each individual with autism spectrum disorder, and their families, across the lifespan.

Laurel Regional Program Autism Specialist
Contact: Jennifer Berkeley
The ARC of Central Virginia - Day Support Services*
1508 Bedford Ave
Lynchburg, VA 24504
Phone: (434) 845-4071 or 1-888-604-2677, ext. 5
Email: info@arcofcva.org
Website: www.arcofva.org
Located in Lynchburg, the Central Virginia chapter of The Arc of America provides day support services for persons with a variety of special needs, including autism.

Radford
Regional Education Assessment Crisis Services Habilitation (REACH)
Children’s Crisis Services
824 West Main Street
Radford, VA 24141
Phone: 1 (855) 887-8278
REACH children’s providers will be available 24/7 to provide mobile crisis intervention and stabilization as well as on-call services to eligible youth and their families. REACH does not offer out of home residential crisis placement to individuals under the age of 18 years.

Adult Crisis Services
Project Manager: Erica Whiting, Psy.D.
824 West Main Street
Radford, VA 24141
Phone: 1 (855) 887-8278
REACH provides 24/7 mobile crisis intervention and stabilization as well as on-call services to eligible individuals and their families.

Richmond
VCU Autism Center for Excellence
1314 West Main Street
P.O. Box 842011
Richmond, VA 23284-2011
Phone: (855) 711-6987
TTY: (804) 828-2494
Fax: (804) 828-2193
Website: www.vcuautismcenter.org
Email: autismcenter@vcu.edu
Roanoke
Blue Ridge Autism and Achievement Center (BRAAC)
312 Whitwell Drive, Roanoke, VA 24019
Phone: (540) 366-7399 or (540) 777-1218
Website: http://www.blueridgeautismcenter.com/
Email: braac.roanoke@gmail.com

Greater Roanoke Valley Autism Action Group (GRVAAG)
Contact: Heather Overstreet
Blue Ridge Independent Living Center
1502 B Williamson Road NE
Roanoke, VA 24012
Email: info@roanokeforautism.org
Website: http://www.blackwood.tierranet.com/GRVAAG/GRVAAG.htm
The mission of the Autism Action Groups is to provide leadership in the implementation of a regional system of services and resources to maximize the potential and quality of life of each individual with autism spectrum disorder, and their families, across the lifespan.

Roanoke Valley Resources For Autism
Website: http://www.roanokeforautism.com/

Salem
Lissa Hoprich, M.A., B.C.B.A., L.B.A.*
ABC’s of Applied Behavior Analysis
1630 Braeburn Dr.
Salem, VA 24153
Phone: (540) 588-9582
Fax: (540) 380-8155
Email: abcsofaba@gmail.com
Website: http://www.abcsofaba.com/
ABC’s of ABA provide “in home” ABA interventions and programming, consulting, and training. The clinic’s primary goal at the clinic is to prepare children for the transition to the school environment. Because of this, both the clinic’s physical environment and teaching environment are modeled after actual pre-school classrooms.

Education Resources

Bedford
Bedford County Public Schools Special Services
Director of Special Services: Sara Staton
Blacksburg  
**Virginia Tech’s Training & Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC)**  
250 South Main Street, Suite 326 (0254)  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
Phone: 1 (800) 848-2714 or 1 (540) 231-5167  
TTY: 1 (540) 231-3315  
Website: [www.ttac.vt.edu](http://www.ttac.vt.edu)  
E-mail: ttac@vt.edu  
The goal of T/TAC is to improve educational opportunities and contribute to the success of children and youth with disabilities (birth–22 years). T/TAC provides high-quality professional development that fosters access to the general education curriculum, achievement in the least restrictive environment, and the knowledge and skills to transition to adult settings. These services are provided in the context of a school’s improvement plan in collaboration with building and division administrators.

**Tutor for Students with ASD (available during summer time)**  
Colleen Gentry: Special Education Teacher at Price’s Fork Elementary, MCPS  
cgentry@mcps.org

Christiansburg  
**Montgomery County Public School System, Special Education Office**  
Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education  
Email: patnelson@mcps.org  
Phone: (540) 382-5100 (ext. 1081)  
Fax: (540) 394-4448  
200 Junkin Street, Christiansburg, VA, 24073  
Website: [http://www.mcps.org/departments/special_education](http://www.mcps.org/departments/special_education)

**Montgomery County Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**  
Special Education Office Phone: (540) 382-5114  
Website: [http://www.mcps.org/departments/special_education/s_e_a_c](http://www.mcps.org/departments/special_education/s_e_a_c)  
The Montgomery County Special Education Advisory Committee was formed in 1972. We recruit members who are persons with disabilities, parents of persons with disabilities, representatives from civic organizations, business or industry or any public agency concerned with the care of persons with disabilities.

The purpose of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is to:
1. Advise the local school division of needs in the education of children with disabilities;
2. Participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of children with disabilities;
3. Submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of children with disabilities to the division superintendent for transmission to the local school board;
4. Assist the local school division in interpreting plans to the community for meeting the special needs of children with disabilities for educational services;
5. Review the policies and procedures for the provision of special education and related services prior to submission to the local school board; and
6. Participate in the review of the local school division's annual plan.

All meetings are open to the public. The SEAC welcomes anyone interested in special education. There is designated time for public comment during the meeting. This is an opportunity to share successful educational experiences and express general concerns regarding educational issues for students with disabilities. Meetings take place at the MCPS Special Education Office.

**Floyd**

**Floyd County Public School Office**
Josie Loomis, Special Education Director
140 Harris Hart Rd NE, Floyd, VA 24091
Phone: (540) 745-9400
Email: loomisj@floyd.k12.va.us

**Harrisonburg**

**Commonwealth Autism**
c/o Harrisonburg City Public Schools
Contact: Michelle VanSetten
1 Court Square, 3rd Floor
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: (540) 434-2752
Website: www.autismva.org
  Provides consultation services to teachers to assess student strengths and needs, develop an action plan, support staff and students.

c/o Rockingham County Public Schools
Autism-Behavior Interventionist: Kara Hartman
100 Mount Clinton Pike
Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2507
Phone: (540) 434-2061
Fax: (540) 564-3250
[www.autismva.org](http://www.autismva.org)
  Provides consultation services to teachers to assess student strengths and needs, develop an action plan, support staff and students.
Minnick School, Harrisonburg Campus
Principal: Allison Stein
779 Massanutten Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: (540) 437-1814
Website: http://lfsva.org/educational-services-minnick-schools/locations-school-calendars/
Minnick Schools offer an opportunity to take a different path. Highly trained educators help students learn about behavior choices, how to make better decisions, and how to respond to stressful and challenging situations. All students participate in a curriculum based on the Virginia Standards of Learning and have access to the tools of technology that help learning come alive. Experiencing academic success focuses students on a new way of interacting with teachers and classmates. Learning becomes fun again as they acquire strategies to achieve academic and transitional goals.

Lynchburg
Centra Autism Program (CAP) in Rivermont Schools
Coordinator: Crystal Collette
Phone: (434) 363-5306
Email: crystal.collette@centralhealth.com
Centra Autism Program (CAP) provides academic and behavioral services focusing on family-centered, evidence-based treatments with a foundation in Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Verbal Behavior for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders. CAP is available in Lynchburg, Danville, Roanoke, Virginia Beach, Lexington and Greater Petersburg.

Norfolk
Commonwealth Autism
c/o Southeastern Cooperative Education Programs (SECEP)
6160 Kempsville Circle, Suite 300B
Norfolk, VA 23502
Phone: (757) 892-6100
Website: http://www.secep.net/
Provides consultation services to teachers to assess student strengths and needs, develop an action plan, support staff and students.

Pearisburg
Giles County Public School Office
Michele Thompson, Special Education Director
151 School Rd, Pearisburg, VA 24134
Phone: (540) 921-1421, Ext 21
Fax: (540) 921-1424
Email: mthompson@giles12.org
Pulaski
Pulaski County Public School Office
Dr. Benjamin R. Tickle, Special Education Director
202 N. Washington Ave, Pulaski, VA 24301
Phone: (540) 994-2546
Email: telitharp@pcva.us

Radford
Radford City Public Schools Office
David Sable, Special Education Director
1612 Wadsworth St., Radford, VA 24141
Phone: (540) 267-3223
Email: dsable@rcps.org

Richmond
Commonwealth Autism Service
4108 East Parham Road
Richmond, VA 23228
Phone: (804) 355-0300
Website: www.autismva.org
Provides consultation services to teachers to assess student strengths and needs, develop an action plan, support staff and students.

Roanoke
Minnick School, Roanoke Campus
Educational Coordinator: Ashley Wittl
775 Dent Rd NW
Roanoke, VA 24019
Phone: (540) 265-4281
Fax: (540) 265-4287
Website: http://lfsva.org/educational-services-minnick-schools/locations-school-calendars/
Minnick Schools offer an opportunity to take a different path. Highly trained educators help students learn about behavior choices, how to make better decisions, and how to respond to stressful and challenging situations. All students participate in a curriculum based on the Virginia Standards of Learning and have access to the tools of technology that help learning come alive.

Starkey Station (Branch Campus of Minnick School, Roanoke Campus)
Minnick Schools offer an opportunity to take a different path. Highly trained educators help students learn about behavior choices, how to make better decisions, and how to respond to stressful and challenging situations. All students participate in a curriculum based on the Virginia Standards of Learning and have access to the tools of technology that help learning come alive.

**Roanoke County Public Schools**

5937 Cove Road  
Roanoke, VA 24019  
Phone: (540) 562-3700  
Website: [http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/pages/Roanoke_CPS/Departments/Special_Education](http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/pages/Roanoke_CPS/Departments/Special_Education)

**Director of Special Education and Pupil Personal Services: Dr. Jessica McClung**

Phone: (540) 562-3900, ext 10181  
Fax: (540) 562-3984

**Preschool Program**

Each RCPS elementary school has a pre-school program that serves students with disabilities, including autism. Service delivery within the preschool class is determined by the IEP team, but may include additional adult supports, accommodations and modifications, consultations from the RCPS Autism Department for recommendations for academic, behavioral, communication, and self-help skills, and/or specially designed programs for the student with ASD that are implemented within the pre-school classroom setting. Each preschool teacher/student case manager participate in annual trainings on various topics including, but not limited to, First Aid and CPR, autism and autism related issues, data collection and behavioral issues.

**Roanoke’s Elementary Autism Program (REAP)**

Each RCPS elementary school has access to the REAP. For students working within the REAP model, the IEP team has determined that student’s needs warrant an individualized program based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).  

*ABA* is utilized as the fundamental approach to address behavioral challenges and teach new skills. This instructional approach emphasizes the importance of looking at the ABC's (antecedents, behaviors, and consequences) of behaviors, teaching new behaviors, and developing systematic instructional plans to teach new skills. Skills are broken down into small units through task analysis. New skills are taught through the systematic use of techniques such as reinforcement, shaping, prompting, fading, chaining, and discrimination. Data collection and analysis is an important component of an ABA
instructional program. Data is used to measure progress on the acquisition of new behaviors and new skills.

**REAP Within the Home School Setting**
When the IEP team determines that the student is in need of the REAP within the home school the RCPS Autism Department may be asked to assist classroom teachers and instructional assistants with the implementation of Applied Behavior Analysis principles and methods through regularly scheduled visits to assigned classrooms. This includes assistance in program development and modification, assessment and data collection, and on-site and follow-up training to classroom staff. In addition, the RCPS Autism Department support school teams with the completion of functional behavior assessments, behavior intervention plans, crisis intervention and development of crisis plans.

**REAP – Center Based**
IEP teams may determine that a rising kindergarten student’s needs warrant placement within the Center Based REAP. This is a self-contained classroom for students with intense needs. There is an application process for the Center Based REAP which is based on student need, availability within the program, a complete understanding of the home schools’ responsibilities and the current make up of the classroom (to help determine if this really is the most appropriate placement for the student). The classroom student to adult ratio is 1:1, with a class maximum of 8 students, and all instruction is based on the principals of ABA. Generally, students spend one to two years within the program before returning to their home school with trained support staff.

**For information about the DD Waiver:**
Terri Martin
Roanoke City Health Department
1502 Williamson Road N.E. 2nd Floor
Roanoke, VA 24016
Phone: (540) 204-9991

**Winchester**
**Commonwealth Autism Service**
c/o Northwestern Regional Educational Programs
1481 Senseny Road
Winchester, VA 22602
Phone: (540) 665-0103
Provides consultation services to teachers to assess student strengths and needs, develop an action plan, support staff and students.

**Wise**
**Minnick School, Wise Campus**
Educational Coordinator: Lori Long
Minnick Schools offer an opportunity to take a different path. Highly trained educators help students learn about behavior choices, how to make better decisions, and how to respond to stressful and challenging situations. All students participate in a curriculum based on the Virginia Standards of Learning and have access to the tools of technology that help learning come alive.

Woodstock

Commonwealth Autism
c/o Shenandoah County Schools
600 N. Main Street, Suite 200
Woodstock, VA 22664
Phone: (800) 649-8481
Website: www.autismva.org

Services provided are information & referral, consultative services for individuals with autism, workshops for family members and professionals, training for professionals in evidence-based strategies, Action Groups, and coordination of effective statewide services. No minimum/maximum age.

Wytheville

Minnick School, Wytheville Campus
Educational Coordinator: Cynthia Preuss
425 Grayson Road – Building #6
Wytheville, VA 24382
Phone: (276) 228-8088
Website: http://lfsva.org/educational-services-minnick-schools/locations-school-calendars/

Minnick Schools offer an opportunity to take a different path. Highly trained educators help students learn about behavior choices, how to make better decisions, and how to respond to stressful and challenging situations. All students participate in a curriculum based on the Virginia Standards of Learning and have access to the tools of technology that help learning come alive.

Parent/Family and Other Resources

Bedford

Bedford County Parent Resource Center
c/o Bedford Community Resources Center
Coordinator: Lula Bowyer
403 Otey St. Suite B4
Bedford, VA, 24523
Phone: (540) 587-8990, ext 103
Email: lbowyer@bedford.k12.va.us
Website: www.bedford.k12.va.us
Information includes Information & Referral Services, Autism Action Group information across the state, as well as Family Support Groups; Assistance with Transition & Adult Services; Transition Council Meeting Information; Public Safety Training Opportunities for local and statewide police officers, first responders, judges, attorneys, and caregivers.

Blacksburg

Community Opportunities (Co-Op), Inc. (The Arc of the New River Valley)
Community Opportunities is an organization dedicated to forming circles of support and microboards around people with significant disabilities. A microboard is a small group of committed family and friends that form a non-profit association with a person with a disability. The microboard exists to provide support and empowerment to that person.

Executive Director: Mac McArthur-Fox
Phone: (540) 961-7346
P.O. Box 11204
Blacksburg, VA 24062-1204
E-mail: microboardsnrva@communityopportunities.org
Email: communityopportunities@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.thearcofva.org/about-the-arc/local-chapters/

Montgomery County Public Schools Special Education Parent Resource Center
Center Coordinator: Cassie Fitzgerald
208 College Avenue
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 381-6100
Website: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/special-education/parent-resources/
Contact Email: cassiefitzgerald@mcps.org
The Parent Resource Center of Montgomery County Public Schools promotes parent awareness of the services provided by MCPS for children with special needs. Our center encourages parent participation in the educational decision-making process and provides support, mentoring and information to strengthen the parent/teacher partnership in all activities.

STEMABILITY, Exploring Science and Engineering
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Website: www.stemability.org
Email: Stemability@vt.edu
Families served: Rising high school junior & senior students with disabilities who expect to attend a 2 or 4 year college, are seeking an advanced studies or standard diploma, have
a letter of recommendation from a teacher or counselor, are able to function independently in residential and dining activities, and want to explore science, engineering and technology related fields. July 10-11, 2017.

Blue Ridge

Camp Virginia Jaycees
2494 Camp Jaycee Rd.
Blue Ridge, Va. 24064
Phone: (540) 947-2972
Website: [www.campvaje.org](http://www.campvaje.org/)

Camp Virginia Jaycee is located in Blue Ridge, VA. A summer outdoor recreational and educational program for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, ages 5-18+. Family camp and respite weekends are also offered. Offers swimming, horseback riding, crafts, music, sports, nature, fishing, tent camping, and well-supervised fun.

Boones Mill

Healing Strides of Virginia
672 Naff Road
PO Box 456
Boones Mill, VA 24065
Phone: 540-334-5825
Website: [http://www.healingstridesofva.org](http://www.healingstridesofva.org)

Located in Boones Mill, Va., offers an equine assisted activities and therapies, therapeutic riding, hippotherapy, mental health support through equine assisted learning and psychotherapy.

Bristol (Tennessee)

River’s Way Outdoor Adventure Center
Contact: Tom Hanlon
10 6th Street
Bristol, TN 37620
Phone: (423) 789-2011
Website: [www.riversway.org](http://www.riversway.org)
Email: [tom@riversway.org](mailto:tom@riversway.org)

During the summer months, Rivers Way provides team building and adventure programming for a wide variety of organizations, the majority of who serve youth from disadvantaged families and/or youth with disabilities. River’s Way also runs a weeklong inclusive camp for youth and young adults with disabilities.
Charlottesville

Charlottesville Area Riding Therapy
Director: Sarah Daly
5924 Fried Farm Road
Crozet, Virginia 22932
Phone: (434) 823-1178
Website: http://www.cartcrozet.org/
CART serves children and adults with a range of special needs including autism, cerebral palsy, spinal cord/brain injuries, ADD/ADHD, stroke, cognitive defects, muscular dystrophy, amputations, spina bifida, learning disabilities, hearing/speech/visual impairments, and many other emotional and physical disorders.

Camp Holiday Trails
400 Holiday Trails Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22903
Phone: (434) 977-3781
Website: http://www.campholidaytrails.org/
Camp Holiday Trails located in Charlottesville, Va., offers a camp for children and youth with special health care needs. They believe that all children with special health needs should be given an opportunity to enjoy a summer camp experience.

Chesterfield

Camp Baker
7600 Beach Road
Chesterfield, Virginia 23838
Phone: (804) 748-4789
Website: http://www.richmondarc.org/services/developmental-services/camp-baker-services/
Camp Baker, located in Chesterfield, Va. offers a variety of support services for families living with children with developmental disabilities such as: Summer Camp- Day and Overnight and Respite Care Services.

Christiansburg

Creative Family Solutions, Inc.
Corporate Office/NRV Branch
180 Teel Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 381-3940
Website: http://www.creativefamilysolutions.net/
Offers intensive in-home intervention, mentoring, mental health supports, supported residential services/in-home intervention under the MR and DD Waivers, and crisis stabilization and/or supervision under the MR and DD Waivers.

Family Preservation Services
Regional Director: Laura Taylor, LPC
3 N. Franklin Street
Christiansburg, VA, 24073
Phone: (540) 381-7500
Offers intensive in-home services, home-based counseling, therapeutic day treatment, mental health support, parental sensei services, therapeutic mentoring, and therapeutic foster care.

**Fairfax**

**The Washington Group: Special Care Planning Team**
Jerry L. Hulick, CLU, ChFC, ChSNC, CLTC
3925 Old Lee Highway
Suite 53-B
Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: 703-865-6501
Email: [jhulick@financialguide.com](mailto:jhulick@financialguide.com)
The Washington Group Special Care Planning Team’s mission is to help make a positive difference in the lives of individuals with special needs, their caregivers, and other family members. The Special Care Planners, many of whom focus on this field because of close ties to Special Needs individuals in their own lives, assist families with developing valuable financial strategies, and creating strategic financial solutions that integrate with Government programs and other community supports. Through their network of organizations, professionals, and specialists, they can provide appropriate referrals to further assist families with their unique situations. They also help coordinate family education and communication.

**Fries**

**Camp Dickenson**
801 Camp Dickenson Lane
Fries, VA 24330
Phone: (276) 744-7241
Website: [http://www.campdickenson.com/](http://www.campdickenson.com/)
The week is designed for mild to moderate developmentally challenged youth & adults grades 7-12, and ages 18 and up. Campers must be ambulatory & self-sufficient in caring for their own personal restroom needs. Activities are lead with ability in mind, so that all campers experience the joy of a sense of accomplishment. 3 nights and 4 days of camp fun, excitement, support, nurture, and challenge.

**Lynchburg**

**Lutheran Family Services of Virginia Developmental Services**
3601 Old Forest Road
Lynchburg, VA 24501
Phone: (434) 385-0262
Lutheran Family Services offers in-home services available for individuals of all ages. Day support, respite care, and group homes available for individuals 18 & up.

**The ARC of Central Virginia - Camp Meadowlark**
Contact: Connie Blackwell  
1508 Bedford Ave  
Lynchburg, VA 24504  
Website: [http://arcofcva.org/programs/camp-meadowlark/](http://arcofcva.org/programs/camp-meadowlark/)  
Phone: (434) 845-4071  
Email: cblackwell@arcofcva.org

Summer day camp for those with disabilities ages two through adulthood.

**United Methodist Family Services**
2420 Memorial Avenue  
Lynchburg, VA 24501  
Phone: (434) 846-2002  
Email: Lynchburg@umfs.org  
Website: [www.umfs.org](http://www.umfs.org)

Offers a range of in-home services that support children and families, which include individual and family counseling, case management, crisis intervention, behavior management/parenting education, & communication skills counseling.

**New Castle**
**Autism Society of America-Greater Roanoke Valley Chapter**
Contact: Shirl Light  
Phone: (540) 864-5478  
Email: chapter705@autism-society.org  
Email: swlight12@juno.com

**Pulaski Parent Resource Center**
Coordinator: Jackie Fagan  
202 North Washington Av.  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Office Phone: (540) 994-2559  
Work Cell: (540) 235-4581

**Camp Easter Seals UCP Virginia**
900 Camp Easter Seals Rd.  
New Castle, VA 24127  
Phone: (540) 777-7325  
Email: camp@eastersealsucp.com
http://www.easterseals.com

Camp Easter Seals UCP is an overnight camp in New Castle, Va. for children and adults with disabilities offering weekend respites, summer camps and family camps. Ages: 7 yrs. – adult. Fee schedule depending upon the program; financial assistance available.

Radford

Radford University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic
Radford University
Radford, VA 24142
Email: speech@radford.edu
Phone: (540) 831-7640

Families served: Toddlers & preschoolers with a variety of communication needs and Kindergarten through 8th grade students who are having difficulty meeting age or grade level expectations in reading, writing, spelling, speaking and/or listening comprehension.

Richmond

Camp Rainbow Connection
Camp Coordinator: Stacy Roberts
The Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church
10330 Staples Mill Road
Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606
Phone: 1 (800) 768-6040 or (804) 521-1100
Email: stacvroberts@vaumc.org
Website: http://www.vaumc.org/camprainbow

A week-long respite camp held once in July and once in August for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Center for Family Involvement
Partnership for People with Disabilities
Virginia Commonwealth University
Director: Dana Yarbrough
Box 843020
Richmond, VA 23284-3020
Phone: (804) 828-0352
English / Spanish Phone: (877) 567-1122
Email: dvyarbrough@vcu.edu
Website: www.centerforfamilyinvolvement.vcu.edu

Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)
600 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: (800)-552-8627 (in state)
(804) 786-4231 (out of state)
Website: www.dmas.virginia.gov
Oversees the Virginia Medicaid Waiver System, including Developmental Disabilities
(DD) and the Mental Retardation (MR) Waiver Services

**Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia**
1220 Bank Street, 9th Floor
P.O. Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23219-1797
Phone: (804) 786-3710
Fax: (804) 371-7959
Website: www.infantva.org
A system of services and supports designed to promote the greatest possible
developmental outcomes for Virginia’s infants and toddlers (birth to age 3) with
developmental delays or disabilities. The system has been established in accordance with
the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C - Early Intervention.

**Ridgeway**

**Infinity Acres Ranch**
Contact: Rick and Laura Steere
136 Joppa Rd.
Ridgeway, VA 24148
Phone: (276) 358-2378
Website: www.infinityacres.org
Enriching Nurturing Animal Based Learning Experiences (ENABLE) Program meets
twice a week, applications required

**Roanoke**

**Blue Ridge Independent Living Center**
1502 B Williamson Road NE
Roanoke, VA 24021
Phone: (540) 342-1231
Website: http://www.brilc.org/
Offers information, referrals, housing assistance, employment services, transition
assistance, support groups, and assistive technology.

**Blue Ridge Autism and Achievement Center (BRAAC) Summer Programs**
312 Whitwell Drive
Roanoke, VA 24019
Phone: (540) 366-7399, (540) 777-1218
Website: http://braacroanoke.org/our-programs/summer-programs
BRAAC hosts a summer program for children with autism, learning disabilities and
children without unique learning challenges. Special emphasis is placed on social play
and development, communication skills and social skill development, while targeting certain learning goals. Please go to their website for application, schedules and program information.

**Friday Night Friends - Roanoke**
Free respite care for parents of children with a disability
Website: [http://www.fnfroanoke.org/](http://www.fnfroanoke.org/)
Email: fnfroanoke@gmail.com

Roanoke Location:
Cave Spring Baptist Church Family Life Center
4873 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018
Contact: Larry McCulloch
Phone: (540) 890-1244
Email: larry68@cox.net

**iCan Bike Roanoke**
Spectrum Sports Academy
Contact person: Lea & Ginny Riddle
3710 Tom Andrews Rd. NW
Roanoke, VA 24019
Website: [http://icanshine.org/ican-bike-roanoke-va/](http://icanshine.org/ican-bike-roanoke-va/)
Email: icanshineroanoke@gmail.com

iCan Bike program teaches individuals with disabilities to ride a conventional two-wheel bicycle and become lifelong independent riders. Families of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, special health care needs and sensory or physical disabilities can participate. Riders attend one 75-minute session each day for five consecutive days where they learn to ride while accompanied by spotters.

**Staunton**

**Goodwill Valleys**
1106-C Greenville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
Phone: (540) 886-2001
Fax: (540) 886-2211
Website: [http://www.goodwillvalleys.com/](http://www.goodwillvalleys.com/)

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people with disabilities and disadvantages overcome barriers to employment. We provide workforce development programs that empower people to achieve and retain a level of independence to participate more fully in life.

**Ridgeway**

**Infinity Acres**
136 Joppa Rd
Animal handling activities, games, crafts & lots of FUN! Session 1: June 26- June 30, Session 2: July 10- July 14, Session 3: Special Needs TBA.

Housing Resources for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

De Paul Community Resources
www.depaulcr.org

Since 1991, DePaul Community Resources has been a leader in offering people with developmental disabilities a family-based solution to their needs. Individuals are supported by experienced, well-trained staff and dedicated leaders who provide ongoing oversight. It is their mission to provide the supports for each individual to choose services which increase self-sufficiency and promote hope, growth, quality of life, and inclusion in his or her community.

DePaul Community Resources is licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and funded primarily through the Intellectual Disabilities Medicaid Waiver and the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver. Referrals for services are accepted from community services boards, Departments of Social Services, state training centers, or an individual’s family. The following De Paul Community Resources are the types of services provided: Family Care Homes, Group Homes, OPTIONS Day Support Centers, and Respite Care Services.

Provided below are the locations of De Paul services, please contact your closest location for more information about the type of services you’re interested in.

106 Abingdon Place
Abingdon, VA 24211
Phone: (276) 623-0881
After Hours: (855) 337-2857

15409 Patrick Henry Hwy
Amelia, VA 23002
Phone: (804) 561-7400

2677 Steelsburg Hwy
Suite 10
Cedar Bluff, VA 24609
Phone: (276) 963-2360
After Hours: (855) 337-2857

522 Hillsdale Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901
Phone: (434) 977-9847
Fax: (434) 977-2809

80 College Street
Suite H
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 381-1848

203 Riverview Drive
Danville, VA 24541
Phone: (434) 793-5358
De Paul Community Resources – Family Care Homes

DePaul Community Resources’ care providers provide safe and supportive homes for individuals with developmental disabilities. Care providers offer an environment that protects and encourages the individual’s independence, dignity, choice and decision-making.

Care providers ensure each individual receives:

- Assistance with Personal Care and Daily Living
- Behavior Intervention
- Care and Compassion
- Medical and Health Care Coordination
- Community Access
- Leisure Activities
- Emotional Support

Locations:
- Amelia
- Cedar Bluff
- Lynchburg
- Roanoke
- Waynesboro

De Paul Community Resources – Group Homes
De Paul group homes are staffed 24/7, giving individuals the option to not participate in a day program. We require that residents be supervised at all times when off the group home property. Therefore, individuals will not be able to walk the neighborhood without staff supervision. The level of supervision and assistance provided by our staff is based on the needs of each resident. Residents are given the choice to participate in a variety of community activities including work, school or vocational training, day support, volunteer opportunities, and recreational activities. DePaul has 24-hour emergency coverage that staff can utilize if necessary.

Call (434) 455-3727 for more information about homes.

Locations:

**Forest**
Forest Park Home
117 Forest Park
Forest, VA 24501
   Male-only home

**Waynesboro**
Harvard Home
1828 HARVARD ROAD
Waynesboro, VA 22980
   Female-only home

**Lynchburg**
Rustburg Home
20190 Timberlake Rd
Lynchburg, VA 24502

De Paul Community Resources – OPTIONS Day Support Centers
OPTIONS (Opening People To Individual Opportunities in a Network of Support) offers day support to individuals with developmental disabilities. The activities at OPTIONS include a variety of individualized and group projects which are both center and community-based.

The goals of the OPTIONS program are to:
- Develop self-esteem and self-worth
- Increase social, recreational and leisure activity levels
- Increase integration into the community
- Teach individuals effective ways to interact in their environment
- Provide volunteer service opportunities to enhance positive community impact

Individuals must be 18 years or older to be enrolled in the OPTIONS Day Support Program. DePaul Community Resources currently operates four OPTIONS Day Support Centers; two in the Lynchburg area, one in Roanoke and one in Waynesboro. For more information about OPTIONS, please contact the closest DePaul Community Resources location.
New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS)
New Life Recovery Center
7193 Warden Court
Radford, VA 24141
Phone: (540) 831-4000
Website: http://www.nrvcs.org/
   New Life Recovery Center is a residential treatment facility for adults living with
   substance use disorders.

New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS)
Elmtree
205 Tazewell Street
Pearisburg, VA
Phone: (540) 921-3203
Fax: (540) 921-4956
Website: http://www.nrvcs.org/
   Elmtree is a residential group home for adults with developmental disabilities. The 13-
   bed facility offers congregate care for residents with staff on site 24-hours a day.

New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS)
Fairview Home
5140 Hatcher Road
Dublin, VA
Phone: (540) 674-5260
Fax: (540) 674-1570
Website: http://www.nrvcs.org/
   Fairview Home is a 24-hour Assisted Living Facility.

Wall Residences
Wall Residences provides residential support to individuals ages five to 90 and over with a
diagnosis of intellectual disabilities (ID Waiver / Comprehensive Services Act funding), mental
illness (Discharge Assistance Planning funding) and/or other developmental disability (DD
Waiver funding).

PO Box 235, Floyd, Virginia 24091
Phone: 540-745-4216
Email: info@wallresidences.com
Website: http://www.wallresidences.com/about_us/