

Support Services to Families:

- Family inclusion in parent meetings, in-services, workshops, parent education and home visits.
- Incorporating the TEACCH approach within the home setting with home visits by school psychologists and classroom teachers.
- Consulting Psychiatrist, Pediatrician, and Neurologist on staff.
- In-home and in-center respite.
- Service coordination (case management).

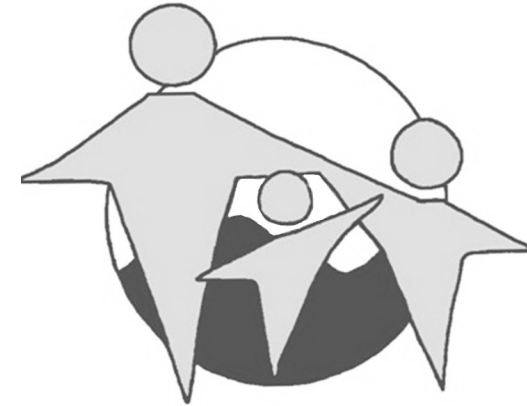
Support Services to Staff:

- Workshops and in-services based on a behavioral model provided by SUNY Albany's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD).
- Workshops and in-services addressing the biological basis of autism and treatment modalities provided by our own school psychology staff.
- Prospect is a training site for the NYS Education Department's mandatory certification curriculum in autism for teachers and administrators.

Our goal is to enhance our students' abilities to function in school, home and community settings.

**For more information contact:
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Autism Specialty Services



Prospect Child & Family Center

*Sharing Visions...
Building Futures*

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Autism Specialty Services

There is a heightened awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) / Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD) with a reported 53% increase in the diagnosis of Autism in the past 10 years. The underlying causes of 85-90% of cases of Autism are unknown. The other 10-15% can be traced to specific genes, as in the case of Rett's Disorder and Fragile X Syndrome.

It is hypothesized that the causes are multi-factorial. Both genetic and environmental factors likely play a role. There may be as many as 15 genes involved in varying combinations interacting with as yet unspecified environmental factors producing the array of variations of symptoms observed in each unique individual. For this reason, it is said that there are many types of Autism as there are people who are autistic. Because each person has a unique combination of symptoms varying in intensity, Autism is known as a spectrum disorder. It is defined only in terms of behavior.

Perhaps the main reason for defining Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) / Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD) in terms of behavior is that the behaviors are observable and are, therefore, a certainty while so little is certain regarding the causal mechanisms of these disorders and the manner in which the disorders in the spectrum may or may not be related. While we wait for science to unravel the mysteries of Autism, the need to help affected children is pressing and immediate. Behaviors can be worked with. While there is no "cure" for Autism, children with Autistic symptoms can be taught to live more functional lives.

Prospect Child & Family Center provides diagnostic, education and family support services for children and families facing the challenges of Autism. Services vary based on age, presenting issues, and the needs of each student and their families. The Center responds to the unique learning style and challenges of each student by developing an individualized approach tailored to that particular child's needs and abilities. We are eclectic because we have discovered through years of experience that *one size does NOT fit all!*

Outreach Autism Services

Prospect Child & Family Center has been the recipient of a grant from the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

This grant supports individuals in Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties who are unserved or underserved and have been diagnosed, or in the process of being diagnosed, on the Autism Spectrum. These services include the provision of advocacy, linkage, clinical support, short term counseling, technical assistance and referral services for this target population. These services will address a variety of issues and needs identified by consumers, families or others.

Examples of services include such things as:

- one-on-one individual meetings to discuss characteristics of autism
- appropriate behavioral and autism rating scales as deemed necessary
- one-on-one individual meetings with parents to develop social stories
- specialized education regarding other parenting programs for this target population
- linkage & education regarding other medical services
- discussion on safety issues, and sleep disturbance
- financial, funding issues and any other issues identified by the consumer or their families

**This project is very successful and can be accessed
by calling (518) 798-0170**