

Alternative Community Resource Program Helping Youth & Families

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ACRP Autism Spectrum Disorders Unit Achieve Summer Therapeutic Activities Program









This unique program provides treatment for children and adolescents 5-18 with Autism Spectrum Disorders. This program is tailored to provide a positive social and learning environment that is designed to meet the individual needs of each child. The ultimate goal of the

program is to develop a child's social and functional skills.

Each child receives an individually designed treatment plan, based on a principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis, which is monitored and modified as necessary. The plans are carried out under the supervision of mental health professionals, specially trained staff, and a psychologist.

Children are placed in two groups of up to 18 based on age with 6 staff members to supervise activities. The group stays together throughout the day and participates in activities which include: coping skills, communication skills, peer interaction, and verbal behavior.

The Autism Summer Program works to achieve the following goals:

- Improve interaction with other children
- Reduce anxiety over changes in routine
- Reduce aggressive behaviors
- Successful integration into community settings
- Develop life skills and social awareness
- Learn to improve attention & concentration
- Learn to follow through with instructions, & complete tasks
- Improve self-esteem

For information on summer programs:

### Cambria County

Brian Nagle, MS Randall Harris, Psy.D.

814-536-5611 Ext. 311 814-535-2277 Ext. 389

### Blair County

Amber Myers	Troy Kline, MA
14-942-9425	814-525-9784



## **About ACRP**

The goal of ACRP is to prevent out-ofhome placement of children and adolescents and enable the family unit to remain intact.

Through the introduction of available community resources and through guidance, mentoring, and assistance with skill building, youth and families at-risk of being separated and/or experiencing problems within the home, school, or community will be able to help themselves.

To achieve this goal, ACRP provides a variety of programs and services for children, adolescents, families, and adults in the community at large.

### For more information please contact:

Brian Nagle, MS 814-536-5611 Ext. 311

Randall Harris, Psy.D. 814-535-2277 Ext. 389

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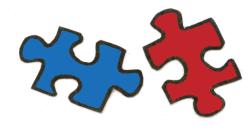
ACRP /Blair County 3010 7th Avenue Altoona, PA 16602

# What are the signs and symptoms?

There are several different diagnoses classified as Autism Spectrum Disorders. Children diagnosed with these conditions often have difficulty with social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, and display repetitive behaviors and/or restricted interests.

Symptoms can be numerous and varied. Some symptoms may include:

- Various developmental delays, including speech, motor, cognitive & social skills
- Using specific words or phrases repeatedly
- Poor eye contact
- Difficulty making and keeping friends
- Unusually strong, restricted, or odd interests
- Flapping of hands or flicking of fingers
- Exaggerated reactions to light, sound, touch, texture, etc.
- Difficulty with change or transitions
- Exaggerated emotional reactions ("meltdowns"), seemingly without reason



# What can you do?

## **Be informed**

While there is no cure for Autism Spectrum Disorders, there are a number of scientifically proven treatments that assist individuals with these diagnoses. Though children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder face particular challenges, they also have a number of strengths. For that reason, it is ACRP's philosophy that treatment should be strength-based and child-centered.



## **Be active**

When working with a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, the best thing you can do is *be an advocate*. This includes being a strong voice for the child in the home, school, and community setting. It means obtaining the best possible treatment for the child to assist him or her in reaching his or her potential. And ACRP is committed to work with you to meet this goal through various services.



## How can ACRP help?

The goal of ACRP's Autism Spectrum Disorders Unit is to provide interventions and services aimed at helping children and families improve their functioning and quality of life.

Accurate, early diagnosis is key to successful outcomes with ASD. The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) is the "gold standard" for assessing and diagnosing autism and pervasive developmental disorder (PDD) across ages (toddlers to adults), developmental levels, and language skills.

ACRP is a community based mental health organization servicing the mental health needs of children, adolescents, adults, and families in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield and Somerset counties. We offer diagnostic evaluations for Autism Spectrum Disorders including, but not limited to the use of the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), which is the most valid and reliable assessment tool available for diagnosing ASD. For more information please contact Dr. Randall Harris at 814-536-5611 ext. 389.

Additionally, ACRP can provide an array of auxiliary services such as:

- Outpatient Therapy
- Medication Management
- Partial Hospitalization
- Alternative Education Classrooms
- BHRS (Wraparound)

For more information, or if you believe that your child may qualify for these services, please call (814) 535-2277 and ask to speak with a case manager or call **toll-free 1-888-308-6783**.