



# Therapeutic Early Autism Program (TEAP)

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN  
WITH AUTISM

## Therapeutic Early Autism Program

2400 East Carson St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

For more information, or to make a referral,  
call the Therapeutic Early Autism Program  
(TEAP) at **412-713-0855**.

## Therapeutic Early Autism Program (TEAP)

Early behavioral intervention can have profound and long-term benefits on child development. TEAP provides intensive, evidence-based treatment in a preschool setting for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The program serves children, ages 2 to 5, who have been diagnosed with ASD.

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## SERVICES AND TREATMENT

The Therapeutic Early Autism Program (TEAP) uses applied behavior analysis throughout the day via small group settings and one-to-one intensive teaching sessions. Activities are tailored to each child's needs and may include:

- Activities that promote social interaction
- Tailored treatment to address every child's cognitive, language, and social-emotional development, and self-care and adaptive behavior
- Use of targeted methods to enhance each child's learning, such as discrete trial training, applied verbal behavior therapy, and natural teaching methodology
- Continual reevaluation of a child's developmental and behavioral needs to monitor and measure progress
- Use of a verbal behavior milestones assessment placement program for the development of enhancing social competence, including teaching social skills and helping a child to interact appropriately with peers
- Parent support and an education program that helps parents enhance their child's development in targeted areas
- A referral system linking families to community services
- Mealtime opportunities targeting adaptive skills, food selectivity issues, and socialization during morning snack and lunch

TEAP is an Intensive Behavioral Health Service (IBHS) in Allegheny County. Treatment is based on behavioral analysis, which uses both one-on-one and small group intensive and behavioral teaching strategies that are tailored to each child's needs. Research on evidence-based interventions for autism and applied behavioral analysis affirms the value of beginning treatment for ASD as early as possible. In addition, providing a center-based program to preschoolers allows for flexibility and meets the needs of families.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of TEAP is to serve young children with ASD in a small, preschool-age group setting while providing an intense level of behavior support. TEAP provides early intervention with the goal of increasing skills and reducing the behaviors that inhibit the child's ability to reach his or her fullest potential. In addition to intensive interventions tailored to each child's needs, TEAP supports and educates families, empowering them to successfully manage the challenges associated with raising a child with special needs.

## ASSESSMENT

The program's social worker will coordinate a visit with the family in which the treatment team will complete an informal evaluation to determine the most appropriate placement for the child. This visit also allows the family to tour the program and meet the treatment team.

## STAFFING

TEAP is composed of a multidisciplinary treatment team that has extensive experience in the field of clinical programming for children with ASD. The team includes professionals who have substantial education and training in early childhood development, mental health treatment, applied behavior analysis, verbal behavior programming, discrete trial training, picture communication systems, and natural environment teaching.



## ELIGIBILITY

TEAP is appropriate for children ages 2 to 5 who have been diagnosed with ASD. The program includes two classroom options (group or individual applied behavioral analysis) to meet the needs of children across the autism spectrum. Our program staff will work with the family through the process of assessment, determining eligibility, and treatment planning.

## LOCATION

The program is located at the UPMC Western Behavioral Health office at:

2400 East Carson St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

## HOURS

The program runs 12 months a year, five days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

## REFERRAL INFORMATION

For more information or to make a referral, call the Therapeutic Early Autism Program (TEAP) at **412-713-0855**.