



AUTISM ACADEMY

for Education & Development



AUTISM NEWS

March 2023 Edition

DTAs: Building Social and Community Skills as Adults

For children and teens, school is the center of their social world. It's where they see their friends and build relationships outside of the family. But what do you do when school isn't an option anymore? Young adults with autism often struggle with this very question. Some choose to find jobs. Some attend college or trade school programs. Others join specialized programs for adults with disabilities.

What is a DTA?

DTA stands for Day Treatment for Adults. These programs are set up to provide a structured environment for adults with special needs to spend their time. They are staffed by professionals trained to assist and encourage members to participate in a variety of activities and community outings. Like school, they can encourage continued development and lifelong learning. Unlike school, they also provide more freedom to choose which activities they participate in and what they spend their time doing.

What is the benefit of joining a DTA?

DTAs are great for adults with disabilities who can't work at a typical job. Their members may need extra assistance throughout the day or they may just be looking for a way to get out of the house. Whatever the reason, DTAs are able to provide a welcoming environment full of people who understand their unique needs and want to help them have a happy, fulfilled adult life. Often, members are able to find common interests through the daily activities and build friendships that can last a lifetime.



Empowered Adult Services

<https://www.aaed.org/dta/>

AZ DDD

<https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-disabilities>

Provider Search

<http://providersearch.com/category/day-treatment-and-training-adults-dta/location/arizona/>

Try this fun activity at home with family and friends!

Chase The Rainbow Skittles Dice Game

<https://www.playpartyplan.com/skittles-dice-game/>



Happy
ST PATRICK'S
Day

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How do I pay for a DTA?

Some individuals may be eligible for funding through the Arizona Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). For those outside of Arizona, you can reach out to your state's Department of Economic Services to inquire about programs in your area. DTA programs also often know of benefits available in your area to help with costs.

How do I find a program near me?

A simple Google search may help, but there are lots of resources out there for you. In Arizona, DDD has a searchable database accessible to families. You can also ask your teen or young adult's school or your DDD support coordinator for recommendations. When looking into a program, it's important to tour the facility and include the adult who will be attending in the search process as much as you can.

In the Arizona valley area, there are quite a few DTA programs including one run by Autism Academy's sister company, Empowered Adult Services (EAS). Check out the links below for more information on DTAs in our local area.

Transition Corner

Autism Academy recently hosted 2 webinars with experts on financial planning and services for people with disabilities. If you missed them or would like to hear the information again, you can view the webinars on demand at or download the slides here:

Need more information about planning for your child's future? Here are some other resources from the financial planning experts:

What can an ABLE be used for?

<https://www.voya.com/article/use-able-account-qualified-disability-expenses-qdes>

Social Security Rent: 1/3 reduction rule

<https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-one-third-reduction.htm>

What to charge your child for rent?

<https://planningacrossthespectrum.com/blog/why-charge-adult-child-rent-ssi/>

<https://www.specialneedsalliance.org/blog/avoiding-ssi-reductions-when-an-adult-with-disabilities-lives-with-family/>



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Parent Partnership Program

Thank you to everyone who participated in our raffle for Taylor Swift tickets. The winners were both families with students at the Gilbert campus. Keep an eye out for our next concert ticket raffle in quarter 4!

Need more information? You can email P3 for your campus. We would love to see you there!

Tucson - p3tucson@aaed.org

West Valley - p3westvalleyaaed@gmail.com

Gilbert - p3.gilbertcampus@gmail.com

Tempe - p3tempe@aaed.org



March Trivia



Trivia Time!

A small gift will be sent to the first 10 families to send the correct answer to autismnews@aaed.org.

March Question: Autism Academy was founded 10 years ago by a family who wanted to provide a safe, supportive learning environment for all students with autism. What is their last name?

Thank you to everyone who responded to the February trivia question! Prizes were sent to everyone who responded, so please reach out if you have not yet received it from your student's campus.

February Answer: Augmentative Alternative Communication

Upcoming Events - Valley & Online

March 13th - 24th - Spring Break

April 7th - No School

Upcoming Events - Tucson

March 20th - 24th - Spring Break

April 7th - No School

