



August 2020



Community Partner:



Autism
in
Motion
Clinics

Your Child's Future Is Full of Hope.



ABA can help them achieve milestones.

Autism in Motion (AIM) Clinics believes that Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) can transform the lives of children with autism, and strives to provide the highest-quality service to the kids and families we serve.

We have brought ABA to places where it hasn't been easily accessible and currently have two locations in NWA in Fayetteville and Rogers. Another in Bentonville is coming this fall.

ABA therapy

Grounded in the science of learning, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) immerses your child in a caring, positive environment. Broad, complex concepts are broken down into small tasks that are easier to understand, process, learn and repeat in everyday life.

At AIM Clinics, we work one-on-one with your child at their own pace to target their specific needs and challenges.

Creating a treatment plan that fits

Before you start our program, we will assess your child's abilities and challenges and design an individualized treatment plan that targets their unique needs. ABA therapy sessions are always one-on-one and we spend between 15–30 hours per week with your child.

For our Early Learner Program, sessions include a variety of activities, such as circle time, art time, toy time and active time.

How do I pay for ABA?

Most major insurance companies (including Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, Cigna, UnitedHealthcare and Tricare) and most Medicaid plans cover ABA therapy.

ABA therapy can help your child or teen achieve milestones in these areas:

- ✓ Social skills and interaction with their peers
- ✓ Communication skills
- ✓ Self-care (e.g., potty training) and daily living (e.g., hygiene)
- ✓ Challenging behavior

Connect with us

If your child has been diagnosed with autism, we would love to talk with you about ABA and how we can help.

aimclinics.com
info@aimclinics.com
(833) 825-5246

AIM2Help

This year AIM has been able to help 17 families in NWA through our AIM2Help Grant Program.



Michael Rodriguez enjoys jumping on his trampoline, but not only is he having fun he is working on increasing his core strength, improving awareness and control of body movements, and receiving proprioceptive and vestibular input

John Johnston on top of his climbing dome that helps facilitate motor planning and provides functional play



Jayden Barker received a crash pad that helps with sensory regulation



Erik Vanhecke received a vacuum cleaner that serves as a positive reinforcer for completing challenging tasks. While using the vacuum it also activates his tactile, auditory, vestibular systems



Alex Engelbart enjoys riding his stationary recumbent bike which helps him with endurance, lower extremity strengthening and motor planning



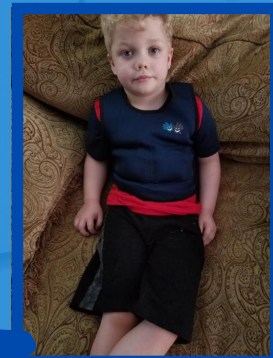
Isabella Hammock loves swinging in her pod swing as it helps her to calm during a difficult moment and helps improve her sleep



Eden Paine loves her Cozy Canoe She says "it feels so good and comfy"



Link O'Neals weighted compression vest provides him with the sensory input need to regulate behaviors, and improve processing skills



If your child is in need of therapeutic, sensory, or educational items that will help them thrive during virtual learning, homeschooling, or therapy sessions, we encourage you to apply for an AIM2Help Grant. Applications are open until August 15th. Please visit www.aimnwa.org/aim2help to apply.

LEARNING NEW THINGS TAKES TIME



GRACE AND MASKS FOR EVERYONE



Learning New Things Takes Time

On July 20, 2020, a mask mandate went into effect in Arkansas as a much-needed way to slow the spread of the Coronavirus. This mandate requires masks that cover the nose and mouth in all indoor environments where exposure to non-household members will occur, and enforcement of 6-foot social distancing rule is not possible. Children under the age of 10 are not required to wear a mask, but it is strongly encouraged. Mask use will likely be a requirement for students for the coming 2020-21 school year and learning now will help with the transition.

This mandate is going to save lives, and we could not support it more, but it requires the learning of a new Activity of Daily Living (ADL): mask-wearing.

Information for Parents:

We understand the challenge of learning a new ADL with sensory implications for children with disabilities. We know the journey you are embarking on and challenges ahead, and we are excited to help.

Camp Acacia and AIM are working together to help educate Northwest Arkansas businesses about the difficulties of teaching mask-wearing through the Learning New Things Takes Time Campaign. Our purpose is straightforward: Learning New Things Takes Time, and we ask that you give a little grace as we teach our children a new ADL. We are not looking to get anyone out of wearing a mask. We are not looking for exclusion ever, but we are educating the broader community about the difficulties that come with teaching new skills to people with disabilities, especially those with sensory issues.

Camp Acacia and AIM we will have orange bracelets and buttons (pictured below) to give out to anyone who needs one. We have asked business and community members to give grace around masking to people wearing the button or the bracelet.

We cannot stress enough the importance of teaching your child to wear a mask. Mask-wearing will be an essential skill for a while, both at school and in the broader community, and we want to make sure your child is fully included. We have compiled some resources to help with the transition and teaching mask-wearing more broadly. You can find the resources by visiting <https://campacacia.org/lnttt-resources>.

If you have any questions, please contact Camp Acacia at info@campacacia.org or call (479) 466-2006 or contact AIM at Paula.George@aimnwa.org or call (479) 381-5570. If you need more help with how to teach mask-wearing than what we've provided, contact the above, and we will get you the help you need.

Button



Bracelet





Learning New Things Takes Time

Information for Businesses:

Learning new ADL skills can be a challenge for children with disabilities. Also, children with diagnoses such as Autism Spectrum Disorders, Downs Syndrome, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder struggle with sensory issues. These sensory issues can make even the most mundane tasks most of us never think about, such as wearing shoes and shirts, a challenge to teach. Mask-wearing is a new skill, with sensory issues involved, and it is challenging to teach. It is not a challenge that is impossible to overcome, but it is a challenge that may take time to master.

The Learning New Things Takes Time Campaign asks for just that - a little time while people with disabilities learn a new ADL. We are not looking for exclusion from the mandate - we are always fighting tooth and nail for inclusion - but we are asking for a little grace while learning a new skill.

Camp Acacia and Autism Involves Me will be giving out orange bracelets and buttons to families who are embarking on the challenge of teaching mask-wearing. We ask that if you see someone, or their parent/guardian, wearing a bracelet or button struggling with a mask, you offer them a little grace.

Grace can be giving the parent/guardian a little extra time to get the mask back on before asking them to leave. Grace can be understanding when someone has to be asked repeatedly to put on their mask. Grace can look like not stepping in and making a situation worse when a parent/guardian is trying to deal with a meltdown. Grace can be anything that shows patience to people working hard to learn something new.

Again, we don't ask that you change rules for anyone, or even your expectations, we ask that you be kind and generous to those struggling.

We ask that you remember: Learning New Things Takes Time.

If you want to show your support visually, we offer decals (vinyl, non-adhesive) to put up in your window to let people know learners are welcome at your place of business (see picture below). You can order one (there is no charge) at <https://campacacia.org/lnttt-store>

If you have any questions, please contact Camp Acacia at Info@CampAcacia.org or (479) 466-2006 or contact AIM at Paula.George@aimnwa.org or (479) 381-5570. You can learn more about the Learning New Things Takes Time, get resources to help kids with disabilities learn how to mask, order bracelets or buttons, and help spread the message by visiting <https://campacacia.org/lnttt-store>.



We would like for you to meet Aly Hubbard and her little brother Luke

In May Aly was given a school assignment where she was to do a project that helped her community. Aly chose to create and sell stickers, one of which included puzzle pieces and the words Be Kind. Aly didn't stop there though, since her project would be generating funds she decided to donate the funds to AIM in honor of her little brother Luke who is on the autism spectrum. Her sticker sales soared and in doing so, her project has impacted more people than she thought it was going to.

When AIM learned about Aly's wonderful school project and her decision to donate her proceeds to AIM we immediately decided to allocate the donation to our AIM2Educate Grant Program.



On Tuesday, July 21st, thanks to Aly's school project Ms. Michaela Jones was awarded a \$1000 AIM2Educate Grant. Ms. Jones is Lukes Special Education teacher at Shaw Elementary School in Springdale. Ms. Jones will be using her grant funds to purchase an iPad for her classroom. The iPad will be equipped with audio books to aide in building students reading foundation as well as Boom Task Cards, internet based flashcards.



Pictured above, left to right, Ms. Michaela Jones, Paula George, Luke Hubbard, Lukes Service Dog Bailey, Naonna Mitchell, and Shanise Weatherman



We know everyone is wondering about plans for the 11th Annual AIM Walk; we want to reassure you that there are so very fun plans in the making! It is our goal to keep our families safe and healthy while following health recommendations from our governor. Please stay tuned into our website and Social Media pages for updates and details!

AIM Programs

AIM2Help Grants- Applications are open until August 15th

AIM2Acknowledge- Therapists Nominations will open on August 3rd

AIM Care Binder/Resource Guide- If you are in need of a Care Binder/ Resource Guide contact Paula at Paula.George@aimnwa.org

Did you know you can support AIM while shopping online?

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Select Autism Support Group of NWA as your non profit of choice on Amazon.



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Suite 9
Bentonville, AR 72712
www.aimnwa.org
479-381-5570

Follow us on Social Media



AIM Community Partners

Kitchens Counseling
34 N Colt Square Suite 3
Fayetteville, AR 72703
479-200-0965
www.kitchenscounselingservices.com

PlayStrong Pediatric Therapy
3625 W, Chestnut
Rogers, AR 72756
479-246-0101
www.playstrongtherapy.com

The Counseling Affect
4241 Gabel Dr 2B
Fayetteville, AR 72703
479-430-2323
www.counselingaffect.com

BlueSprig Pediatrics
2601 N Walton Blvd Suite 1
Bentonville, AR 72712
479-802-4798
3155 N College Ave, Ste 108
Fayetteville, AR 72703
479-957-9121
www.bluesprigautism.com

Kids SPOT, LLC
105 S. Blair St
Springdale, AR 72764
479-259-2339
www.kidsspotllc.com

Autism In Motion
1704 W Industrial Dr
Rogers, AR 72756
479-439-6906
www.aimclinics.com

If you are interested in becoming an AIM Community Partner
contact us at Paula.George@aimnwa.org

AIM Teens

NEWSLETTER

August 1, 2020

New group specifically for Teens on the Spectrum in NWA!



Welcome Parents of AIM Teens!

This new teen division will focus on providing social opportunities for teens on the Autism spectrum to find and make lasting connections and lifetime friendships. Social skills are an important foundation of having positive relationships with others like friends, partners, and peers. Each social event will focus on key social skills lessons and will provide them with a structured social atmosphere to practice! We have partnered with AIM to provide at least once social event per month for our teens, and we would LOVE to see you there! Be watching for information on our first event and how to sign up!

Also, please join us on Facebook - AIM TEENS <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AIMTeens>