Resource list for families who have a child, youth or adult diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder - ASD

Having a child with an ASD can be a life-altering experience. Searching for a diagnosis, information, and parent-to-parent support can be time consuming. It is our hope that this list, while not an exhaustive list, will reduce the amount of time needed to locate available supports and services.

This list is organized in categories. Resources include therapies, private schools, respite resources, social skills training, higher education, advocacy groups, parent-to-parent supports, government resources, national organizations and more...

If you have a favorite resource and we have missed it, please forward the information to: arcnetc@att.net.

As new information becomes available we will update the list monthly and post it on our website at: www.arcnetc.org.

Disclaimer: This list, created by The Arc of Northeast Tarrant County, is designed for educational purposes only. The contents of this document are not medical, legal, technical or therapeutic advice and must not be construed as such. Listings of resources found in this document do not imply endorsement by The Arc of Northeast Tarrant County.
Advocacy

Advocacy, Inc.  
[http://www.advocacyinc.org/index.cfm](http://www.advocacyinc.org/index.cfm) - State Protective and Advocacy Agency for Texas

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities  
[http://www.cotwd.org/](http://www.cotwd.org/) - Through governmental advocacy, public awareness activities, and professional disability consulting, CTD ensures that persons with disabilities may work, live, learn, play and participate fully in the community of their choice.

Community Now!  

Disability Policy Consortium  
[http://www.dpctexas.org/aboutdpc.php](http://www.dpctexas.org/aboutdpc.php) - An independent group of statewide advocacy organizations that strives to achieve the development and full implementation of public policy that promotes and supports the rights, inclusion, integration, and independence of Texans with disabilities.

Government Funded Resources

Center on Disability and Development – Texas A&M University  

Partners Resource Network (Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center for Texas)  

Texas Center for Disability Studies – University of Texas at Austin  
[http://tcds.edb.utexas.edu/](http://tcds.edb.utexas.edu/) - Serves Texas as a catalyst so that people with disabilities are living the lives they choose in supportive communities. We emphasize cultural and linguistic diversity as a foundation that guides our work.

Texas Council on Autism and PDD  
[http://www.dads.state.tx.us/autism/](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/autism/) - The Council makes recommendations to the agencies providing services to persons with autism and other PDD, and advises the legislature about legislation needed to develop and maintain quality intervention & treatment services.

Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities  
[http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/](http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/) - Using a variety of methods, the Council works to: ensure that the service delivery system provides comprehensive services and supports that meet people's needs, are easy to access and are cost effective and to improve people's understanding of disability issues.
Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)
http://www.dads.state.tx.us/ - DADS administers long-term services and supports for people who are aging and who have cognitive and physical disabilities.

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ - Works in partnership with Texans who have a disability and families with children who have developmental delays to improve the quality of their lives and to enable their full participation in society. Services include but are not limited to...

- Autism Program
- Blind Services
- Disability Determination Services
- Early Childhood Intervention Services
- Finding Supported Employment Providers
- Rehabilitative Services and more...

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) including the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Program
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/ - Covers state programs that help protect all Texans from illness, prevent the spread of disease, provide direct health services, and promote emergency preparedness. Direct link to the CSHCN Program http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/cshcn/

Texas Medicaid Program Including Medicaid Waiver Programs
http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/index.html

Medicaid Waiver Programs fund services that help people (of all ages) who have a disability, blindness, or who are aging, live in the community instead of an institutional setting. Within each program you will find different eligibility requirements, rules, service options, and funding amounts. When you call to access services in Texas you will learn of an “interest list,” known by families and individuals who have a disability as actually being a “waiting list.” These lists vary in length (apx. 7 – 10 years) depending on the Waiver Program. For information, visit the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) website: www.dads.state.tx.us/services/listofservices.html#physical. This site includes information on the following: services for older adults (60+) & caregivers, adults and children with medical or physical disabilities, adults and children with mental retardation, and additional services.

For a brief overview of Texas Medicaid Waiver programs you can view a 14 minute video: Medicaid Waiver 101 at http://uttcds.org/MedicaidWaiver101.html.

Texas Social Security Administration
http://www.ssa.gov/dallas/state_tx.html

Texas Technology Access Project
http://tatp.edb.utexas.edu/ - Leads the state effort to carry out the Assistive Technology Act of 2004. Their mission is to increase access for people with disabilities to Assistive Technology that provides them more control over their immediate environments and an enhanced ability to function independently.

Guardianship/Alternatives to Guardianship
Texas Guardianship Association
http://www.texasguardianship.org/index.html - Texas Guardianship Association (TGA) was formed in the fall of 1992 in order to promote communication and cooperation among individuals, organizations, agencies and courts concerned with guardianship and its alternatives.

The Arc of Northeast Tarrant County – Guardianship & Alternatives
http://www.arcnetc.org/uploads/Guardianship_and_Alternatives_.pdf - resources and articles relating to guardianship and alternatives to guardianship.

### Parent-to-Parent Support

**ASPIRE – Autism Spectrum Parent Information, Resources & Empowerment Meetup Group** – Ft. Worth
http://www.meetup.com/ASPIRE-Tarrant-County/ - ASPIRE helps families and individuals who have an ASD connect to resources and each other through social activities for children, parent-to-parent gatherings, and informational meetings held the 3rd Saturday of each month.

**Autism Society of America** – improving the lives of all affected by autism.
http://www.autism-society.org/

**ASA DFW Area Chapters:**
- Collin County Chapter http://autism-ascc.org/
- Dallas County Chapter email: autismsociety_dallas@yahoo.com

**Autism Spectrum Association of Parents (ASAP)** – Mansfield
A support & information group for families who have a child with and Autism Spectrum Diagnosis through meetings and a Big Tent discussion group. Contact, Theresa Ely Jasonandtheresaely@att.net

**D.A.N.I.S.H.** – Dallas Area
http://www.aspergerinfo.org/index.html - Dallas Asperger Network for Information and Support

**Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT North Texas)** Richland Hills
www.featnt.org - Provides information and support for families with children with autism, professional education, and referrals.

**Our Children’s Circle** – McKinney
http://www.deltos.com/occ/ - A support group comprised of parents, educators and community leaders who strive to provide resources for parents of children with autism spectrum disorders in order that these children may lead individual, productive, and fulfilling lives.

**Parent to Parent Texas** – Statewide
http://www.txp2p.org/ - A nonprofit organization created by parents to provide support & information to families of children with disabilities, chronic illness & special health care needs.

**Parents of Children with Autism** – Mesquite
http://www.parentsofchildrenwithautism.org/ - Provides help so parents get answers to their questions, and assist them in making informed decisions for their children.
Parents of Special Needs Children – Keller
http://www.meetup.com/Parents-ofSpecialNeedsChildren1/about/ - This is a meet up group for parents of children who have a disability and a course of meet ups for our children to interact too.

RISE – Resources, Information, and Supports that Empower – Haltom City
http://www.arcnetc.org/uploads/RISE.pdf - a cross disability information/support group that meets the 2nd Saturday of each month to network and obtain information from a presenter on a specific topic.

Texas Autism Advocacy
http://www.texasautismadvocacy.org/ - A listserve for parents, caregivers, and professionals whose lives have been touched by children, youth and adults who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Grand Prairie Asperger’s Syndrome Meetup Group – Grand Prairie

Post Secondary Education

AHEADD – Achieving in Higher Education with Autism/Developmental Disabilities
http://www.aheadd.org/ - Coaching, Mentoring & Personal Advocacy for College Students who have: Asperger’s Syndrome, Attention Deficit Disorder, High-Functioning Autism, Learning Disabilities, and Non-Verbal Learning Disability.

Association for Independent Living - Dallas

College Autism Spectrum
http://www.collegeautismspectrum.com/ - Providing support for students on the autism spectrum and the schools and colleges they attend.

College Internship Program at the Berkeley Center
http://www.cipberkeley.org/ - provides individualized, post-secondary academic, internship and independent living experiences for young adults with Asperger’s Syndrome and other Learning Differences.

College Living Experience – Austin
http://www.cleinc.net/locations/austin.aspx - College Living Experience helps students, young adults who have autism, Aspergers, learning disabilities, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy and other disabilities successfully transition to independent adulthood with tailored support. CLE provides support in three areas: academics, social skills and independent living skills.

Eastern New Mexico State University – Roswell Campus
http://www.roswell.enmu.edu/student-services/special-services/special-services-home - ENMU-Roswell provides services and programs to students with disabilities. The Special Services Department seeks to maximize the educational and career opportunities for all students with disabilities.
Midwestern State University – Autism Support Program – Wichita Falls
http://education.mwsu.edu/asp/ - A program designed to give students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder the opportunity to experience traditional college life.

nonPareil.Institute - Plano
http://www.npidx.org/ - provides technical training for adults on the Autism Spectrum

Tarrant County College
http://www.tccd.edu/Continuing_Education/Dev_Challenged_Students.html - The goal of these programs is to successfully prepare students with developmental disabilities make the transition from codependency to independent living. Each is designed to prepare students for vocational training and job readiness through the enrichment of academic skills and the enhancement of critical life skills.

- Northeast Campus - Pathways Program
- Northwest Campus - Stepping Stones Program
- Southeast Campus - First Choice Program
- South Campus - College Explorations

Think College!
http://thinkcollege.net/ - A database of post-secondary options for persons who have a disability.

Van Guard Living For Success – Supported, Transitional Living for Young Adults – Dallas
http://vanguardlivingforsuccess.com/ - Vanguard Living For Success provides a supported, transitional living experience for young adults not fully ready for life on their own.

Private Schools/Therapy

ABA Academy – Arlington
www.ABAacademy.com – Provides applied behavior analysis services (ABA) in a fun, caring environment to families and caretakers of children with autism and other developmental challenges

Autism Intervention Group – Ft. Worth
http://www.autisminterventiongroup.com/ParentTraining.html - Treating children and adolescents with Aspergers, ADHD, and NLD.

Academy of Social and Sensory Development – McKinney
http://socialskillsacademy.com/index.html - Focuses on developing social skills for children pre-K through 9 years.

Autism Consulting and Educational Services – Dallas
http://www.aces4you.com/index.php

Autism Solutions of Granbury
http://www.autismsolutionsofgranbury.com/ - Provides ABA Therapy and related services.
Behavioral Innovations – Dallas & Ft. Worth
http://www.behavioral-innovations.com/ - These North Texas Autism Programs are designed and managed by Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and include center-based and home based therapy.

Brent Woodall Foundation – Coppell
http://www.woodallkids.org/ - Empowers parents of children who have autism and developmental disabilities and encourages their involvement in their children’s therapy by providing educational training, customized academic and behavioral plans, psychological assessments, and modest financial support.

Chase’s Place – Addison
http://www.chasesplace.org/ - a private day school serving students with developmental disabilities including intellectual disabilities, PDD/Autism, traumatic brain injuries and neurological disorders.

Child Study Center – Ft. Worth
http://www.cscfw.org/ - The Child Study Center (CSC) provides diagnosis and treatment services to children who have, or are at risk for, developmental disabilities and related behavioral and emotional problems so that these children may achieve their full potential.

Easter Seals North Texas – DFW Area
http://ntx.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=TXNW_homepage - A non-profit organization providing services to children and adults who have a disability including an Autism Treatment program.

Focus on the Future Training Center – Plano
http://www.focussped.com/ - Serves students in Pre-K to Grade 12 who have autism and other mental disabilities.

Fourth Street Project – Arlington
www.fourthstreetschool.com – Provides an academic and therapeutic environment for families with students who are challenged with learning, social, emotional, and/or behavioral difficulties.

Gateway School – Arlington
http://www.gatewayschool.com/ - A private organization that provides an education and nurturing environment to individuals who have a learning disorders and/or attention deficit. Including but not limited to autism, Asperger’s Syndrome, dyslexia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia.

Giggles Therapy, Autism Treatment Center – River Oaks
http://www.giggles-therapy.com/index.html - Provides a variety of teaching methods individualized to each child’s needs

Help, Hope, Solutions – Plano

Hope Center 4 Autism – Ft. Worth
Imagination and Social Instruction Station (I.A.S.I.S.) - Lewisville
http://www.iasislearningcenter.com/index.html - Social programs for all children, including individuals who have an Autism Spectrum, Attention Deficit, or in a Gifted and Talented program.

Jane Justin School – Ft. Worth
http://www.cscfw.org/School/tabid/70/Default.aspx - Fosters the knowledge and life skills necessary for students (ages 3-12) to achieve productive and meaningful lives while respecting and embracing the individuality of each child.

Journey Learning Center – Grapevine
http://www.journeylearning.org/ - Provides a multi-disciplinary treatment approach for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to maximize the development of their communication, social, sensory-motor and academic skills within a single setting.

LoneStar Solutions – Arlington
http://www.rivervalleyandaffiliates.com/lonestar/disabilities.html - autism services including the LoneStar ABA Academy for children ages 5 and under.

Notre Dame School – Dallas
http://www.notredameschool.org/About-School/ - The School serves students with developmental disabilities ages 6 through 21.

Our Children’s House at Baylor Grapevine – Fancy Feet Social Skills Class
http://www.baylorhealth.com/PhysiciansLocations/AllTypesofFacilities/Hospitals/OCH/Pages/OCHEventsandClasses.aspx

Pumpkin Littles - Dallas

Spectrum Autism Services – Tarrant County
http://www.spectrumautism.com/index.html - enriching education, family relationships and community interaction.

Speech Enterprises, Inc. - Dalworthington Gardens
http://www.denisegage.com/ - provides speech-language evaluations and therapy to a predominately pediatric population.

Teach Me, LLC – Lewisville
http://www.teachmebec.com/ - Provides behavioral and educational consulting, and speech therapy services for individuals who have a disability.

Texas Star Academy - Grapevine
http://ntx.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=TXNW_TSA - a pre-school program open to both typically developing children and children diagnosed with autism. TSA serves children ages 18 months to 5 years of age and is the only program in Texas to provide an inclusive licensed toddler and preschool program in which ABA treatment is fully embedded.

The Arc of Northeast Tarrant County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership driven organization.
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The Behavior Exchange – Plano
http://www.behaviorexchange.com/ - Offers individualized, early-start therapy and education programs for children of all abilities and ages, including those with attention deficits, autism, language delays, behavioral issues, learning differences and other special needs.

The Flint Academy – Arlington
http://www.flintacademy.com/ - Provides education in the classical tradition for all students regardless of their learning needs.

The Spectrum Place – Dallas
http://www.thespectrumplace.com/ - Makes available need-based services and resources designed to enhance the quality of life for children and young adults with an ASD and related disorders and to assist their families with the urgent support they need, for a lifetime.

The Warren Center - Richardson
http://www.thewarrencenter.org/rck.aspx - Serves children aged three to ten who have challenges with sensory regulation, behavior, attention and social awareness.

Therapy 2000! – North Texas

UT Dallas Callier Center for Communication Disorders School of Behavior & Brain Sciences - Dallas
http://www.utdallas.edu/calliercenter/clinic/autism/ - Provides services for individuals (children and adults) who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder

Respite/Childcare

Adventure Kids Playcare
www.adventurekidsplaycare.com - Drop-in childcare and entertainment center that welcomes children who have a disability.

Apt. G: A Place To Go – FUMC Allen
http://www.fumcallen.org/NurturingOthers/SpecialNeeds.html - a monthly night out for youth with special needs and their families

Breakaway Respite – Christ Chapel Ft. Worth
http://www.ccbfamily.org/ministries/childrens-ministry/ministries

Bryan’s Buddies Special Needs Respite Care – First Methodist Church Grapevine
http://www.firstmethodistgrapevine.org/about/dreamteam.html - Respite care that provides a safe and fun evening out for children who have a disability and their siblings. This allows a much-needed time off for parents to relax and refresh.

Care.com
http://www.care.com/ - Babysitters, nannies, pet sitters, tutors, housekeepers and more...

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Evening Stars – First Baptist Church Colleyville
http://www.fbccolleyville.com/children/evening-stars-special-needs-ministry/ - The Evening Stars Respite Program is designed to give a period of break/or relief for caregivers of special needs children.

First Friday at First United Methodist Church Arlington
http://www.arlingtonmethodist.org/templates/System/details.asp?id=47673&PID=715145 - FUMC offers a free first Friday respite care program for children who have a disability and their siblings.

First United Methodist Church – Mansfield
http://www.firstmethodistmansfield.org/programs--ministries/childrens-ministry/special-needs/ - offers a monthly respite night for parents of children who have a disability.

Friday Fun Night – Lake Point Church Rockwall
http://lpkidsrw.lakepointe.org/Parents/specialNeeds.aspx - Lake Pointe currently offers a parent night out, the 3rd Friday of each month from 6 pm to 9:30 pm for children ages 6 months to 13 years old. Friday Night Fun offers our families with special needs the opportunity to enjoy a night out while their children are being taken care of in a safe and loving environment. Siblings with or without special needs are welcome.

Friday NITE Friends – Custer Road United Methodist Church Plano

FunZone – Stonebriar Community Church
http://www.stonebriar.org/get-connected/special-needs/monthly-respite-program.html - Once a month, the FunZone program provides respite for families with children who have a disability.

HIS Kids – FUMC Lewisville
http://fumc-lewisville.org/Page.aspx?Abs_WP_ID=BD41143F-4BF0-4897-B439-42607206B856 - This care program addresses the need for a place of fun and fellowship for children with special needs and their siblings, while offering a night off for their parents.

Ladybug Home Care

Night OWLS (Out With Loving Sitters) – Highland Park United Methodist Church
http://www.hpumc.org/pages/Night_Owls - Night OWLS is a respite program for children with identified disabilities and their siblings.

Overflow - Custer Road United Methodist Church Plano
http://www.crumc.org/templates/cuscusterroad/details.asp?id=33399&PID=387050 - respite care program one Friday a month, and a special time for social interaction, friendship and fun for teens with special needs between the ages of 12-18 years.

REVIVE at Northwood Baptist Church Keller
http://www.northwoodchurch.org/kids_ministry.php?id=1&tab=2 - A parents' night out program for children who have a disability and their siblings.
Saturday Evening of Rest – First United Methodist Church of Coppell Loving HANDS Ministry
http://newsite4009.web08.intellisite.com/439805.ihtml - Respite program for families who have a child with a disability.

Special Education

It’s A New IDEA! Manual for Parents and Students about Special Education Services in Texas
http://www.thearcoftexas.org/resources/families/inclusionresources.asp#newidea – available in English and Spanish

Texas Education Agency (TEA) – Special Education Main Page
http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/

Texas Organization of Parent Advocates and Attorneys (TOPAA)
http://www.topaa.org/ - Provides assistance to advocates, attorneys and parents in securing appropriate and quality educational services for children with any type of disability.

Texas Project First – Website
http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/ - Created by parents, for parents, the website provides consistent information to parents and families of students who have a disability.

Wrightslaw

Miscellaneous

AMC Entertainment and the Autism Society – Sensory Friendly Films
http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=sensoryfilms#theatres

Autism Research Institute (ARI)
http://www.autism.com - ARI conducts research, and disseminates the results of research, on the triggers of autism and on methods of diagnosing and treating autism. Research-based information is provided to parents and professionals around the world.

AutismSpot
http://www.autismspot.com/about - AutismSpot provides parents, educators, professionals and those living with Autism with unbiased, comprehensive information. From the moment of diagnosis through all of life's stages,

Future Horizons

Social Thinking
http://www.socialthinking.com/
The Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding
http://www.thegraycenter.org/store/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&page_id=21 - A non-profit organization dedicated to individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and those who work alongside them to improve mutual understanding.

The Ziggurat Group – Plano

University of North Texas Autism Research, Technology and Applied Research in Autism – Denton
http://tara.unt.edu/ - TARA is an exploratory, research-driven, hands-on laboratory designed to support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders in grades K-6.

UT Center for Brain Health – Dallas
http://www.brainhealth.utdallas.edu/ - Research and treatment institute focused exclusively on brain health for all.