

Information and Community Resources for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Kent County, Michigan

Professionals and organizations on this list are not endorsed by Autism Support of Kent County. This list was compiled to help individuals find out information about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or to help locate services for individuals with ASD.



Autism Support of Kent County, Inc.

P. O. Box 150348

Grand Rapids, MI 49515

(616) 752-8577

www.autismssupportofkentcounty.org/

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What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Español (Spanish)

The following information is from the Centers for Disease Control and Protection

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/facts.html>

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. There is often nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart from other people, but people with ASD may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged. Some people with ASD need a lot of help in their daily lives; others need less.

A diagnosis of ASD now includes several conditions that used to be diagnosed separately: autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger syndrome. These conditions are now all called autism spectrum disorder.

Signs and Symptoms

People with ASD often have problems with social, emotional, and communication skills. They might repeat certain behaviors and might not want change in their daily activities. Many people with ASD also have different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things. Signs of ASD begin during early childhood and typically last throughout a person's life.

Children or adults with ASD might:

- not point at objects to show interest (for example, not point at an airplane flying over)
- not look at objects when another person points at them
- have trouble relating to others or not have an interest in other people at all
- avoid eye contact and want to be alone
- have trouble understanding other people's feelings or talking about their own feelings
- prefer not to be held or cuddled, or might cuddle only when they want to
- appear to be unaware when people talk to them, but respond to other sounds
- be very interested in people, but not know how to talk, play, or relate to them
- repeat or echo words or phrases said to them, or repeat words or phrases in place of normal language
- have trouble expressing their needs using typical words or motions
- not play "pretend" games (for example, not pretend to "feed" a doll)
- repeat actions over and over again
- have trouble adapting when a routine changes
- have unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel, or sound
- lose skills they once had (for example, stop saying words they were using)

[Learn more about symptoms »](#)

[Learn about developmental milestones that young children should reach »](#)

Diagnosis

Diagnosing ASD can be difficult since there is no medical test, like a blood test, to diagnose the disorders. Doctors look at the child's behavior and development to make a diagnosis.

ASD can sometimes be detected at 18 months or younger. By age 2, a diagnosis by an experienced professional can be considered very reliable.¹ However, many children do not receive a final diagnosis until much older. This delay means that children with ASD might not get the early help they need.

[Learn more about diagnosis »](#)

Treatment

There is currently no cure for ASD. However, research shows that early intervention treatment services can improve a child's development.^{2,3} Early intervention services help children from birth to 3 years old (36 months) learn important skills. Services can include therapy to help the child talk, walk, and interact with others. Therefore, it is important to talk to your child's doctor as soon as possible if you think your child has ASD or other developmental problem.

Even if your child has not been diagnosed with an ASD, he or she may be eligible for early intervention treatment services. The [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)external icon](#) says that children under the age of 3 years (36 months) who are at risk of having developmental delays may be eligible for services. These services are provided through an early intervention system in your state. Through this system, you can ask for an evaluation.

In addition, treatment for particular symptoms, such as speech therapy for language delays, often does not need to wait for a formal ASD diagnosis.

[Learn about types of treatments »](#)

Causes and Risk Factors

We do not know all of the causes of ASD. However, we have learned that there are likely many causes for multiple types of ASD. There may be many different factors that make a child more likely to have an ASD, including environmental, biologic and genetic factors.

- Most scientists agree that genes are one of the risk factors that can make a person more likely to develop ASD.⁴
- Children who have a sibling with ASD are at a higher risk of also having ASD. ⁵⁻¹⁰
- ASD tends to occur more often in people who have certain genetic or chromosomal conditions, such as [fragile X syndrome](#) or [tuberous sclerosisexternal icon](#).¹¹⁻¹⁴
- When taken during pregnancy, the prescription drugs valproic acid and thalidomide have been linked with a higher risk of ASD.¹⁵⁻¹⁶
- There is some evidence that the critical period for developing ASD occurs before, during, and immediately after birth. ¹⁷
- Children born to older parents are at greater risk for having ASD.¹⁸

ASD continues to be an important public health concern. Like the many families living with ASD, CDC wants to find out what causes the disorder. Understanding the factors that make a person more likely to develop ASD will help us learn more about the causes. We are currently working on one of the largest U.S. studies to date, called [Study to Explore Early Development \(SEED\)](#). SEED is looking at many possible risk factors for ASD, including genetic, environmental, pregnancy, and behavioral factors.

[Learn more about CDC's research on possible causes and risk factors for ASD »](#)

Who is Affected

ASD occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, but is about 4 times more common among boys than among girls.

For over a decade, CDC's [Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring \(ADDM\) Network](#) has been estimating the number of children with ASD in the United States. We have learned a lot about how many U. S. children have ASD. It will be important to use the same methods to track how the number of children with ASD is changing over time in order to learn more about the disorder.

[Learn more about CDC's tracking of the number of children with ASD »](#)

If You're Concerned

If you think your child might have ASD or you think there could be a problem with the way your child plays, learns, speaks, or acts, **contact your child's doctor, and share your concerns.**

If you or the doctor is still concerned, **ask the doctor for a referral to a specialist** who can do a more in-depth evaluation of your child. Specialists who can do a more in-depth evaluation and make a diagnosis include:

- Developmental Pediatricians (doctors who have special training in child development and children with special needs)
- Child Neurologists (doctors who work on the brain, spine, and nerves)
- Child Psychologists or Psychiatrists (doctors who know about the human mind)

At the same time, call your state's public early childhood system to request a free evaluation to find out if your child qualifies for intervention services. This is sometimes called a Child Find evaluation. You do not need to wait for a doctor's referral or a medical diagnosis to make this call.

Where to call for a free evaluation from the state depends on your child's age:

- If your child is not yet 3 years old, contact your local early intervention system.
- You can find the right contact information for your state by calling the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) at 919-962-2001.
- Or visit the [ECTA website](#)^{external icon}.
- If your child is 3 years old or older, contact your local public school system.
- Even if your child is not yet old enough for kindergarten or enrolled in a public school, call your local elementary school or board of education and ask to speak with someone who can help you have your child evaluated.
- If you're not sure who to contact, call the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) at 919-962-2001.
- Or visit the [ECTA website](#)^{external icon}.

Research shows that early intervention services can greatly improve a child's development.²
³ In order to make sure your child reaches his or her full potential, it is very important to get help for an ASD as soon as possible.

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Information in this Resource Directory is obtained either directly from organizations or from organizations' websites. Professionals and organizations on this list are not endorsed by Autism Support of Kent County. This list was compiled to help individuals find out information about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or to help locate services for individuals with ASD.

ADVOCACY, INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Arc Kent County

Tammy Finn, Executive Director
2922 Fuller Ave. NE Ste 201
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
Phone: (616) 459-3339
Email: info@arckent.org
Website: www.arckent.org

The Arc Kent County advocates for the rights and full participation of all people with Developmental Disabilities and is committed to building inclusive communities through advocacy, support and information.

Autism Alliance of Michigan

26500 American Dr.
Southfield, MI 48034
Phone: (248) 436-5606
Website: www.autismallianceofmichigan.org

The Autism Alliance of Michigan leads unprecedented collaboration that improves the quality of life for individuals with autism and their loved ones through education, comprehensive services, coordinated advocacy, dedication to community and navigation. The long-term vision of the Autism Alliance of Michigan is to ensure high-quality services, remove roadblocks and create opportunities for all individuals impacted by autism so they may lead purposeful and fulfilling lives.

Autism Society of Michigan

2178 Commons Parkway
Okemos, MI 48864
Phone: (517) 882-2800 and (800) 223-6722
Website: <http://www.autism-mi.org/>

The mission of the Autism Society of Michigan (ASM) is to assure full participation and self-determination in every aspect of life for each individual. We will realize this vision by opening avenues of self-advocacy and advocating on behalf of others in a way that values equity, respect, dignity and diversity in all communities.

Autism Support of Kent County, Inc.

Pamela Liggett, Executive Director
P. O. Box 150348
Grand Rapids, MI 49515
Phone: (616) 752-8577
Website: www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org

ASK provides support, resources and guidance to those who are diagnosed with, care for, and live with autism. . Meetings are generally the first Monday of every month during the school year at the Kent Intermediate School District Educational Service Center.

C.H.A.D.D.

3215 4 Mile Rd NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525
Phone: (616) 874-5662
Email: linda@chaddgr.org
Website: <http://chaddgr.org>

CHADD of Grand Rapids works to help ALL individuals affected by AD/HD reach their inherent potential, across the lifespan. At local levels, CHADD of Grand Rapids has been working to increase awareness and provide accurate information about AD/HD. It's been working collaboratively with other disability/advocacy organizations on common causes, to help build a community where everyone belongs and is valued, and can access what they need to succeed.

D.A. Blodgett – St. John's

805 Leonard Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
and
2355 Knapp Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Agency Phone Number: (616) 451-2021
Leonard Street Campus: Fax: (616) 451-8936
Knapp Street Campus: Fax: (616)-361-9923
Email: info@dabsj.org
Website: www.dabsj.org

D.A. Blodgett - St. John's is an agency that works in partnership with our community for the good of all children. We are local, non-profit and accredited. We provide comprehensive services to children and families, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, foster care, adoption, and family support, as well as, residential treatment and emergency shelter care at St. John's Campus.

Disability Advocates of Kent County

David Bulkowski, JD, Executive Director
3600 Camelot Drive Southeast
Grand Rapids MI 49546
Phone: (616) 949-1100
Website: www.dakc.us

Disability Advocates' mission is to advocate for, and facilitate action by, persons living with disabilities and our community in order to achieve equal access for all.

Early On - Kent ISD

1800 Leffingwell NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: (616) 365-2310
Website: <http://www.kentisd.org/instructional-services/early-childhood/early-on/>

Early On assists families with infants and toddlers, from birth until 36 months, who have a delay in their development or a diagnosed disability. We provide evaluations for your child's development right in your home. If they qualify, we create a plan and provide services and support to help your child reach their full potential.

Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan

161 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 211
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 454-7979
Website: www.epilepsymichigan.org

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan has a passionate and well-educated staff and a devoted team of volunteers, all of whom contribute to the fight against seizures. We offer a variety of educational, social, and supportive services to promote the goal of “Not Another Moment Lost to Seizures.”

Friendship Ministries

Tom VanWingerden, Executive Director
2215 29th St SE #B6
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
Phone: (888) 866-8966
Website: www.friendship.org/

Friendship Ministries is a not-for-profit organization that exists to help churches and organizations around the world share God’s love with people who have intellectual disability.

Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids

3035 Prairie St. SW
Grandville, MI 49418
Phone: (616) 532-4200
Website: www.goodwillgr.org

To assist people with disabilities or other barriers to employment to realize their full potential to be self-reliant, self-supporting, contributing members of society. Provides career development, employment and occupational skills training, and job placement services.

Hispanic Center of Western Michigan

1204 Grandville Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 742-0200
www.hispanic-center.org

The Hispanic Center of Western Michigan is a non-profit organization serving the needs of the Latino and broader community. We strive to provide an avenue for education and openness to promote discussion of the distinctions and values of different nationalities and cultures. The Center also focuses on the common thread that unites all people: a desire for understanding and respect of our differences. We believe that this shared human experience connects us all

Hope For Jabez, LLC

Cheri Brockman, Owner/Consultant
Grand Rapids, MI
Phone: (616) 915-3167
Email: cheribrockman@gmail.com
Website: <https://hopeforjabez.com/>

Hope For Jabez, LLC is an important resource for understanding, identification, and intervention referrals for the parents/caregivers and individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Please visit the website for additional services such as Mentorship Programs and Case Management Assistance.

Hope Network West Michigan

755 36th St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49548
Phone: (616) 301-8000
Email: talktous@hopenetwork.org
Website: www.hopenetwork.org

Hope Network is a non-profit Christian organization in Michigan that helps people with disabilities live independently. Hope Network provides services for people with brain injury and spinal cord injury, mental illness, developmental disabilities, drug and alcohol addictions, and other disadvantages. Hope Network also provides transportation, low-income housing and job training.

Kent CAN (Collaborative Autism Network)

Kent Intermediate School District
2930 Knapp Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: (616) 364-1333
Website: www.kentisd.org/instructional-services/special-education/services/kent-can/

Our Mission Statement: To build a comprehensive model for identification, training, shared resources, and effective practices which promotes collaborative and consistency between families, educators, and community partners in support of our students with ASD.

Michigan Alliance for Families

1325 S. Washington Avenue
Lansing MI 48910
Phone: (734) 994-8100 ext. 1590 and (800) 552-4821
Website: www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Michigan Alliance for Families is a statewide resource to connect families of children with disabilities to resources to help improve their children's education. We help facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving educational services and outcomes for students with disabilities. Michigan Alliance can assist you in knowing your rights, effectively communicating your child's needs, and advising how to help them develop and learn.

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc.

4095 Legacy Parkway, Suite 500
Lansing, MI 48911
Phone: (517) 487-1755 / (800) 288-5923 (Voice or TTY)
Website: www.mpas.org

Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc. (MPAS) is the independent, private, nonprofit organization designated by the governor of the State of Michigan to advocate and protect the legal rights of people with disabilities in Michigan. MPAS services include information and referral, short-term assistance, selected individual and legal representation, systemic advocacy, monitoring, and training.

MOKA Foundation - Kent County Regional Offices

5281 Clyde Park Avenue SW, Suite 2
Wyoming, MI 49509
Phone: (616) 719-4263 / TTY: (800) 649-3777
Website: www.moka.org

MOKA is a non-profit organization that serves individuals with disabilities in western Michigan. We provide supports and services to assist individuals to become valued members of their communities. We offer treatment in specialized community based homes, training and support to live in your own home, skill building with the goal of employment, skill development and job placement, and family support of children with autism and other disabilities. We believe in gentle teaching and created a gentle culture to treat the individuals we serve with the greatest respect so they feel safe and affirmed.

Network 180

Access Center
790 Fuller Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 336-3909 / Toll Free: (800) 749-7720
Website: www.network180.org

The community mental health authority for Kent County, network180 connects individuals and their families to services for mental illness, substance use disorders or developmental disabilities.

Real Life Living Services (RLLS)

Western Regional Office
2922 Fuller Ave NE #203-B
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
Phone: (616) 272-3064
Website: <http://www.rlls.org/>

Real Life Living Services (RLLS) is a non-profit agency that provides community and home-based care of developmentally and/or physically challenged adults and children, as well as Senior Care. We promote maximum self-sufficiency and services delivered in a dignified and humane manner. Our care staff is hand-picked, thoroughly screened, and insured and bonded. Each individual has undergone numerous background checks to verify that they are trustworthy, punctual, and professional. We offer several types of services, including the following:

- Community Living Support Services
 - Children's Waiver & Respite Services
 - Home Help Services
 - Supported Employment Services
-

Social Security Administration (The)

3045 Knapp Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: (877) 319-5710 / TTY: (616) 363-4128
Website: www.socialsecurity.gov

Administers the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. This Federal Government agency provides assistance for completing applications for retirement, survivor, disability and SSI benefits, and Medicare. Make appointments to file by calling 1-800-772-1213 from 7:00 am -7:00 pm, or file on the Internet at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Spectrum Human Services

Western Regional Office

3353 Lousma Dr. SE

Wyoming, MI 49548

Phone: (616) 241-6258

Website: www.spectrumhuman.org

Dignity and respect are simple human gifts. We believe they belong to everyone. Since 1976, we've worked to strengthen children, families and communities across the state of Michigan. Our assistance directly addresses the challenges SHS users face, including:

- Assessment and diagnostic services
- Family preservation
- Foster care and adoption
- Independent and assisted living programs
- Juvenile treatment and detention
- Short and long-term residential programs
- Small group living and outpatient mental health treatment
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment services
- Workforce development

START (Statewide Autism Resources & Training) Project

401 W. Fulton Street

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Phone: (616) 331-6480

Email: autismed@gvsu.edu

Website: www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter

START Mission: To work with schools, community partners, and families to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder to become active, engaged members of their schools and local communities and successfully move into adulthood as independent individuals with many choices and opportunities.

Thresholds

1225 Lake Drive SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Phone: (616) 774-0853

Website: www.threshnet.org

Thresholds is a non-profit social-service agency that provides assistance to Kent County residents with developmental disabilities. The people we help are actively engaged in making a life for themselves and we're here to support them as they move ahead. Our mission is to enable children and adults who have developmental disabilities to live as productively and independently as possible in the community.

Wrightslaw

Website: www.wrightslaw.com

Website contains information about legal advocacy for children with disabilities. For parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys who want information about special education law, education law, and advocacy. Articles, cases and free resources on many related topics. Has free online newsletter --The Special Ed Advocate.

SCHOOLS – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

CLC Network (Christian Learning Center)

4340 Burlingame Ave. SW
Wyoming, MI 49509
Phone: (616) 245-8388
Website: www.clcnetwork.org

CLC Network promotes the development of people with a variety of abilities and disabilities to live as active, integrated members of their communities. We partner with families and organizations to understand more fully the individuals we serve and to build support systems that enable their inclusion in all aspects of life.

Kent Intermediate School District Directory:

https://www.kentisd.org/downloads/superintendent_school_board/000_directory_2018-19_final.pdf

Kent Intermediate School District (ISD) Special Education Directory:

https://www.kentisd.org/downloads/sped_main/kent_isd_special_ed_directory_20121023_094258_1.pdf

Lake Michigan Academy

2428 Burton SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: (616) 464-3330
Website: www.mylma.org

Lake Michigan Academy strives to transform the lives of children with learning disabilities. We empower students to focus and build their strengths not their weaknesses. Students leave LMA with renewed self-esteem and lifelong tools for success. Our alumni continue to develop learning skills, social skills, and self-awareness techniques which help them become valuable individuals in society.

CHILDCARE, AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, AND REFERRAL AGENCIES

CARE.COM

Website: www.care.com

Care.com is an online service that helps families find high-quality care providers. We provide a trusted place for families and caregivers—including babysitters, nannies, special needs caregivers, tutors, senior caregivers, pet caregivers, and housekeepers—to easily connect and get advice. We help families find and select the best care possible based on detailed profiles, background checks and references for hundreds of thousands of caregivers.

Campfire West Michigan/Kent Regional 4C

233 East Fulton Street, Suite 107
Grand Rapids Michigan 49503
Phone: (616) 451-8281 or (800) 448-6995
Website: <https://www.campfirewestmi.org/the-merger>

The merger of Camp Fire West Michigan and Kent Regional Community Coordinated Child Care (Kent Regional 4C) represents a significant step in the history of both organizations. It aligns their innovative, research-based, results-proven programs that provide quality care and essential learning activities to children from infants through teens as well as the various training classes for licensed and regulated child care providers, relative caregivers and day care aides.

United Way's 2-1-1

Website: <https://www.hwmuw.org/211>

United Way's 2-1-1 connects people to thousands of services in 14 counties: Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Ionia, Kalkaska, Kent, Lake, Leelanau, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo, Oceana, and Osceola. Services include food, shelter, utility assistance, disaster recovery, childcare, transportation, and more. Whoever you are, whatever your needs, 2-1-1 makes it easy to find help for yourself, a neighbor, or a loved one. In 2017, we answered more than 60,000 calls for help.

SUPPORT GROUPS

ASK Parent Support Group

Autism Support of Kent County

1505 Ardmore SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Phone: (616) 752-8577 and (616) 822-0944 (cell phone)

Email: pam@autismsupportofkentcounty.org

Our Support Group Meetings are open to everyone (adults only please). Please join us — no reservation necessary! Unless otherwise stated, all Support Group Meetings are held at 7:00 pm at the new ASK Office at 2505 Ardmore Street SE, Grand Rapids, 49506 (lower level). Notices of meetings will be posted on the ASK website, on the ASK Facebook page, and in the ASK Newsletter. We'd love to have you join us! Contact Pam at (616) 752-8577 for questions or more information.

Parent Support Group for Families with Children with Special Needs

Kent County Health Department

Lobby Area - 700 Fuller NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Website: <https://www.accesskent.com/Health/Families/>

Tuesdays, 5:15 pm – 7:00 pm. Children are always welcome! (Please RSVP so we can plan food and child care.) Call/email Chris with questions at 616-632-7055 or chris.buczec@kentcountymi.gov

Parent Support Group for Spanish-Speaking Parents and Caregivers

Mi Casita Counseling Center Office

3168 Kalamazoo Ave SE, Suite 101

Grand Rapids 49508

Join us to hear about resources for individuals with autism, learn about programs and services, and connect with other parents and caregivers. This group will be conducted entirely in Spanish. Notices of meetings will be posted on the ASK website, on the ASK Facebook page, and in the ASK Newsletter. For more information, please contact Carmen at (616) 710-7368 or cjojejud@gmail.com. This group is supported by Autism Support of Kent County.

Sibling Group

Sessions are held at Family Tree Therapies

2251 East Paris

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Contact Andrea Vugteveen for more information: amvugteveen@gmail.com or by phone: (616) 460-3781

<http://familytreetherapies.com/event/spring-2019-sibling-group-dates/>

Groups are facilitated by a social worker who specializes in working with youth. Children will have the opportunity to meet other children who understand the unique experience of having a sibling with special needs, share their experiences and feelings about having a brother or sister with special needs, learn more about their sibling's special needs, learn new ways to cope with the challenges that come with being a sibling of a child with special needs, and have lots of fun!

ART, CAMPS, RECREATION, AND SPORTS

Aerials & Baranis Gymnastics Center

Special Needs Gymnastics Class

6001 Coit NE

Grand Rapids, MI, 49525

Phone: (616) 364-8320

Email: info@aerialsgymgr.com

Website: <http://www.aerialsgymgr.com/classes-special-needs.php>

Our Special Needs class will focus on students with autism, downs syndrome or whatever your special needs child needs. We meet Monday nights from 6:00 to 7:00 pm (walk-in class - so no need to register). The cost is \$10 each time you visit. Depending on the function of your special needs, parents are allowed to go in the gym to watch and/or participate.

Artists Creating Together (ACT)

1140 Monroe Avenue NW Suite 4101

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: (616) 885-5866

Website: www.artistscreatingtogether.org

Artists Creating Together empowers individuals with disabilities to learn, grow, and celebrate through the arts. ACT provides art and creative expression programming, which helps to enrich the lives of people with and without disabilities throughout all of West Michigan.

Arts in Motion Studio

147 Diamond SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Phone: (616) 446-7452

Website: www.artsinmotionstudio.org

Arts in Motion Studio specializes in adaptive instruction in the creative arts for the physically, emotionally or mentally challenged. Our adaptive instruction focuses on the potential for personal expression, not on the rules of technique. By using a variety of styles, music and props, students are able to outwardly express the beauty within. Courses are available for all ages, developmental levels and challenges. Special day camps and additional classes are available in summer.

Gymco Sports

2306 Camelot Ridge Court SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: (616) 956-0586
Website: www.gymco.com

Gymco offers **free evaluations** for your student with special needs to determine if private gymnastics lessons or a mainstream gymnastics class would be most beneficial. At Gymco, we focus on teaching skills in small increments and building one skill on another. This allows students to enjoy achieving small successes as each building block is mastered, creating a sense of self-worth and confidence. Participants increase their coordination, auditory processing, cognition and social skills as they gain independence.

Gymco also offers specialized curriculum for schools. When students are transported to our facility, they enter a world of awesome adventure and unique experiences! Join the many school systems that take advantage of Gymco's programs for their students with special needs!

Hearts for the Arts

Shannon Harris, Owner/Instructor
1141 Quarry Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Phone: (616) 450-1922
Email: hearts4thearts@live.com
Website: www.hearts4thearts.com

Hearts for the Arts provides a safe, positive, person-centered environment that celebrates the diversity of artistic expression for all abilities and backgrounds. Our studio is fully handicapped accessible. We work with a variety of specific needs including (but not limited to): developmental and physical disabilities, mental health issues and brain trauma injuries. For those with physical impairments, we also offer unique artistic tools and projects, as well as teach various artistic methods. If you have specific requirements, please contact us prior to your visit so we can accommodate your needs. We welcome those with special needs to attend any of our classes. If you'd like a smaller, low-sensory environment, we also offer weekly Art Therapy classes for all ages and abilities.

IKUS LIFE/Indian Trails Camp

Scott Blakeney, Executive Director
O-1859 Lake Michigan Drive
Grand Rapids, MI 49534
Phone: (616) 677-5251
Email: info@ikuslife.org
Website: www.ikuslife.org

IKUS Life Enrichment Services helps individuals with disabilities to discover their potential, experience greater freedom, learn new skills, and have fun in a safe environment. Ultimately, IKUS gives clients the tools they need to make every day another best day. IKUS serves individuals from five years old to eighty-plus. We also serve clients with a wide variety of abilities, including spina bifida, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, congenital anomalies, down syndrome, autism, multiple sclerosis, arthrogryposis, cognitive impairments, and other developmental and/or physical abilities, helping them to live joyful, productive lives through services that address each person's specific needs and goals.

Kentwood AYSO VIP (Very Important Player) Soccer

2674 44th St SE
Kentwood, Michigan
Phone: (616) 531-2552
E-Mail: rc@kentwoodayso.org
Website: www.kentwoodayso.org

Kentwood AYSO is an all-volunteer, non-profit, serving Kentwood, Wyoming, Caledonia, Kelloggsville, Cutlerville, and more. Kentwood AYSO is open to all 4 to 18-year-old children. Our volunteers organize and deliver soccer to 800 players each year, and includes coaches, referees, and people responsible for fields, schedules, equipment, planning and everything else required for safe, instructional, fun soccer for kids. The Six Philosophies are living tenets that separate AYSO from other sports organizations. These tenets are Everyone Plays™, Balanced Teams, Open Registration, Positive Coaching, Good Sportsmanship and Player Development.

Kentwood Parks and Recreation

355 48th Street SE
Kentwood, Michigan 49548
Phone: (616) 656-5270
Email: erecreation@kentwood.us
Website: www.yourkprd.org

Kentwood's adaptive recreation program exists to provide quality recreation and enrichment programs for people of all abilities. Alongside our community partners, we take pride in planning and implementing programs that encourage health and wellness, socialization and excellent quality of life for all. Through sports, clinics, social groups, and many other facets we strive to bring recreational opportunities to all people with disabilities in and outside of Kentwood.

Puzzle Partners (a program of Autism Support of Kent County for teens and young adults)

Phone: (616) 752-8577

A friendship/social group for teens and young adults who have Asperger Syndrome, high-functioning autism, or some other social impairment. Puzzle Partners creates a safe space for teens and young adults to belong, try new things, make friends, and expand their horizons. *Past activities:* bowling, writing group with published author, Craig's Cruisers, Griffins hockey Game, baseball game, dinner at restaurants, cooking new recipes, board game nights, learning Zentangle, discussion groups, Grand Rapids Public Museum, pottery, craft sale, building boats from recyclables and floating them down the Grand River, building and launching rockets, decorating gingerbread houses, Sky Zone.

Special Olympics Michigan - Area 11

1239 76th Street SW, Suite E
Byron Center, MI 49315
Phone: (616) 730-1367
Email: area11@somi.org
Website: www.somi.org/area11/

The mission of Special Olympics Michigan is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Athletes develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy while participating in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship among their families, Special Olympics athletes and the community. Athletes achieve their dreams with the support of caring volunteers, coaches, family members and staff. Donations from individuals and businesses provide funding for the program.

YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin

Respite Weekends for Young Adults with Special Needs -- Age 18-30

1095 N. Briggs Rd.

Middleville, MI 49333

Phone: (888) 909-2267

Email: camp@gymca.org

Website: <https://www.gymca.org/camp-manitou-lin/>

Respite weekends allow family to rest and relax while campers find new independence, make life-long friends and have fun. Campers will stay in heated, carpeted cabins. Activities include archery, canoeing, arts and crafts, hiking, hayrides and more. Campers should be independent in the bathroom. Approval and preregistration required.

YMCA Family Hope

YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids – Spartan Stores YMCA

5722 Metro Way

Wyoming MI 49519

Phone: (616) 885-5500

Email: familyhope@gymca.org

Website: <https://www.gymca.org/>

YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, in partnership with Hope Network and local parent support groups, is expanding the services available for young adults on the autistic spectrum and their families. The new YMCA Family Hope program hosts monthly events, which give parents and young adults diagnosed with autism the opportunity to participate in social and physical activity, garner emotional support, and have time for respite. Each session is designed to incorporate both social and physical activities for both young adults and their parents. The first hour is structured to include physical activity, which is selected by the participants. The second hour is set aside for socialization, games and respite. Monthly meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Spartan Stores YMCA. The YMCA Family Hope events are free to both Y members and non-members.

THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Autism Spectrum Therapies (AST)

250 Monroe NW Suite 400

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: (866) 727-8274

Email: trisha.lorimer@autismtherapies.com

Website: www.autismtherapies.com

AST provides in-home and community ABA services to individuals with autism and other developmental disorders from birth through adulthood. Led by BCBA's, the talented team of clinicians provide individualized, evidence-based interventions based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) designed to meet the needs of the family. AST accepts most private insurance and has an intake team that will work with each family to help navigate the insurance approval process in order to obtain funding quickly.

Behavior Analysts of West Michigan

2142 Three Mile Road
Walker, MI 49544
Phone: (616) 915-2066
Email: margie@bawmi.com
Website: www.bawmi.com/

Professional group dedicated to promoting the science of Applied Behavior Analysis and enhancing the professional development of Behavior Analysts (BCBA's and those in training) in the greater Grand Rapids, Michigan region. Behavior Analysts of West Michigan provide ABA therapy for children with autism, ages 2-14. We are center-based program.

Behavior Health Partners

5242 Plainfield Avenue NE, Suite A
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: (616) 363-2200
Website: www.behaviorhealthpartners.com/

Behavior Health Partners specializes in the assessment and treatment of behavior and learning challenges of childhood and adolescence. Serving youth with a wide range of developmental and behavior difficulties, their practice uses a collaborative model to provide services including academic accommodations, behavior plans, individual behavior therapy, parent education and training, school consultation, and strategy development for children to learn new and more appropriate skills. Specific services include: psychological and educational assessments, individual therapy, parent coaching, academic intervention, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), and specialty group interventions.

Behavioral Resources and Institute for Neuropsychological Services (BRAINS)

3292 North Evergreen Dr. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: (616) 365-8920
Website: www.brainspotential.com

Our highly qualified and experienced psychologists and therapists provide expertise in a variety of areas, including specialization with children through adults. Our services are extensive, including neuropsychological and diagnostic assessments, counseling, behavioral interventions, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech/language therapy, neurofeedback, Special Education consultation, workshops, and specialized tutoring.

Braintrust Behavioral Health, LLC

1617 E. Milham Avenue, Portage, MI 49009
551 36th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49548
Phone: (269) 389-9102 and (616) 706-7847
Website: Braintrustbehavioralhealth.com

Braintrust Behavioral Health is an independent provider of Applied Behavior Analysis therapy. Our aim is to support the development and independence of individuals on the autism spectrum by focusing on meaningful behavior change. We work together with you and your family to develop an individualized plan tailored to your child's skill level and your family's needs.

Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)

2460 Burton Street SE Suite 101

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: (616) 278-1201

Website: www.centerforautism.com/service.aspx

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) is one of the world's largest organizations using applied behavior analysis (ABA) in the treatment of autism, Asperger's syndrome, PDD-NOS, and other related disorders. CARD has been in existence for over twenty years and in Michigan for the last two years. We do not have a waiting list or age restrictions and we take most insurance (including Medicaid clients through Network 180).

Center for Childhood Development (The)

7086 8th Avenue

Jenison, MI 49428

Phone: (616) 667-9551

Website: www.thecenterforcd.com

The Center for Childhood Development is a multi-disciplinary assessment and treatment center located in West Michigan. Our multi-disciplinary team of occupational therapists, speech therapists, and psychologists has extensive experience in working with children, birth through adolescence, and their families. By looking at the child's individual developmental profile, we work to assist the family in determining their child's optimal treatment plan. Through collaborative efforts with the child's family, school, and community professionals, our goal is to maximize a child's adaptation/functioning within these environments.

Comprehensive Therapy Center, Inc.

2505 Ardmore SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Phone: (616) 559-1054

Website: www.therapycenter.org

Comprehensive Therapy Center offers the West Michigan community speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, sensory integration and motor therapies. Therapy and Fun, our award-winning summer outreach program, and our school-based special education services help more than 300 children with special needs each year. Therapists and teachers also offer individual sessions, academic tutoring specializing in learning disabilities and brain injury, and educational classes for caregivers. Accredited by CARF, CTC's mission is to provide therapeutic and advisory programs to individuals through skill building, academic enhancement, and social and emotional support. We help people walk, talk, learn and play – so they can read, write and work.

Easter Seals of Michigan, Inc.

West Michigan Therapy Center

4065 Saladin Dr. SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: (616) 942-2081

Website: www.essmichigan.org

Offers an eight-week individual occupational therapy program for children 0-12 years of age and group sensory programs for children. Programs aim to increase children's self-confidence, communication, speech and language, focus, and gross and fine motor skills through a sensory integration-based approach. Also offers Sensory Summer Camps.

EnCourage Institute for Teaching and Learning

3260 Eagle Park Dr. NE Suite 117
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: (616) 530-2224

and

1388 Baldwin St. Suite B
Jenison, MI 49428
Phone: (616) 530-2224

Website: www.encourageinstitute.com

Our Mission is to provide expert instruction to all students, helping them grow into successful life-long learners. We provide a model of academic intervention that is most closely aligned with Educational Therapy and is specific to each student's unique learning strengths and needs. We design instructional interventions based on diagnostic assessments, and use strategic interventions that are the best research-based practices available. We are not bound by a franchised program, but are free to use whatever instruction will really match the learner. Additionally, we are a resource center for parents, teachers, and administrators. We provide short-term and long-term consultation, teacher development opportunities, and private assessment and tutoring services.

Equest Center for Therapeutic Riding

3777 Rector Ave. NE
Rockford, MI 49341

Phone: (616) 866-3066

Website: www.equestcenter.org

We improve quality of life through equine-based therapy to physically, mentally & socially/emotionally challenged individuals. Our unique program integrates academic, social and physical skills, using the horse as a catalyst. Equest is a Member Center of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International ~ "PATH International" and is one of only 3 therapeutic riding programs in Michigan that owns its own farm. Our facility is the ONLY year-round facility in the area which is a critical piece for many individuals with disabilities. This helps to prevent regression and foster greater physical, mental, emotional and social improvement and benefits experienced due to a consistent riding therapy schedule throughout the year.

Family Tree Therapies

2251 East Paris Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: (616) 447-7799

and

570 East Division NE
Rockford, MI 49341

Phone: (616) 447-7799

Website: www.familytreetherapies.com

We are a private therapy office providing speech and occupational therapy, parent coaching and Positive Discipline workshops. We are available for speaking engagements on a range of topics including: Positive Discipline, Reflex Integration, Feeding Therapy, Tummy Time, Learning through Play and more! We service birth through age 18 for developmental challenges. Adults with a diagnosis of Autism, Down Syndrome, or voice pathologies are welcome for evaluation and treatment options. Sibshops (run by Andrea Vugteveen) are also offered.

Franciscan Life Process Center

11650 Downes Street

Lowell, MI 49331

Phone: (616) 897-7842

Website: www.lifeprocesscenter.org

The Franciscan Life Process Center, a religiously-oriented non-profit organization, is located on a 230 acre site thirteen miles east of Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is a non-residential facility which houses day, evening, and weekend programs. The individual programs and types of services provided are: Counseling, Music Therapy, Music Education, Preschool, Art, Individual/Group Retreats, and a Volunteer Program. A unique aspect of the Center is its location on a working Michigan farm. The orchard, nature trails, woods, and animals are sometimes integrated into different aspects of programming.

Hope Discovery ABA Services, LLC

163 Sorrento Drive

Holland, MI 49423

Phone: (616) 970-4172

Website: <http://www.hopediscoveryabaservices.com>

Hope Discovery ABA Services is dedicated to supporting the social, intellectual, behavioral, and verbal growth for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Asperger's Syndrome, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD-NOS). Our approach integrates comprehensive assessments, tailored treatment plans, and parent training with the evidence-based methods of Applied Behavior Analysis in full or part-time home-based settings.

Hope Network Center for Autism

Hope Network Behavioral Health Services

3351 36th Street SE

Kentwood, MI 49512

Phone: (616) 942-2522

Website: www.hopenetwork.org/autism

Located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Hope Network Center for Autism is where we diagnose and treat autism spectrum disorders (ASD), providing comprehensive outpatient treatment with an emphasis on evidence-based, early intervention, and ABA therapies with children as young as age two. The Center for Autism is West Michigan's leading provider of early autism diagnosis and early intensive behavioral intervention / ABA therapy for autism.

Horizons Developmental Remediation Center

Nicole Beurkens, Director

3120 68th Street SE

Caledonia, MI 49316

Phone: (616) 698-0306

Website: www.horizonsdrc.com

The Horizons Developmental Resource Center provides family-focused treatment for developmental disabilities including autism, communication problems, speech and language problems, feeding problems, sensory-motor problems, and behavior problems. Our team specializes in comprehensive evaluation of emotional, behavior, learning, communication, relational, and sensory processing challenges. We utilize a wide variety of formal and informal assessment tools to gain a complete picture of each patient's functioning.

Legacy Stables/Karin's Horse Connection

Karin Schmidt
8001 Patterson Ave. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316
Phone: (616) 570-1106
Email: legacystables.karin@gmail.com
Website: www.karinshorses.com

The mission of Karin's Horse Connection at Legacy Stables is to share our passion for horses and enable anyone who seeks to experience the joy of the human-horse connection. We offer horse lovers a full range of equestrian activities in a safe, relaxing and family friendly environment. While we cater to new and inexperienced riders, we serve all ages, skill levels and disciplines. Our highly qualified staff works with 20 well-trained, gentle horses to provide a wide variety of riding programs, equestrian vaulting and therapeutic riding.

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital

235 Wealthy St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 840-8005
Website: www.maryfreebed.com

Pediatric Therapy Services. Provides services for children presenting multiple therapy needs in a one-to-one setting. May focus on motor, cognitive, or perceptual skills based on need.

Neurocore

2040 East Beltline NE
Grand Rapids MI 49525
Phone: (616) 229-0815
Website: <https://www.neurocorecenters.com/>

3148 44th St SW
Grandville MI 49418
Phone: (616) 229-4502
Website: <https://www.neurocorecenters.com/>

Neurocore Brain Performance Centers specialize in data-driven, brain-based diagnostics and treatments that help children and adults improve concentration, sleep better, and manage stress. Using data from quantitative electroencephalography (qEEG), along with other physiological measures, Neurocore gains a deep understanding of why a person's health and well-being may be compromised. Neurocore has provided diagnostic qEEG to over 10,000 children and adults. Once the diagnosis is completed, Neurocore uses proven neurofeedback therapy to train the brain to operate more efficiently.

Paws with a Cause

4646 Division Avenue South
Wayland, MI 49348
Phone: (616) 877-7297
Website: www.pawswithacause.org

Service Dogs for children with autism act as constant companions to help them improve social interactions and relationships, expand verbal and nonverbal communication, teach life skills, increase interest in activities, and decrease stress within the family. A PAWS Dog doesn't pass judgment but breaks into the world of autism and becomes a crucial part of the family's life.

Sensory Learning Center of West Michigan

11301 Commerce Road, Suite A
Allendale, Michigan 49401
Phone: (616) 895-9550
Website: www.wmsensorylearningcenter.com

The Sensory LearningSM Program is a supra-modal approach to developmental learning that unites three modalities (auditory, visual and vestibular) into one 30-day drug-free intervention to improve perception, understanding, and the ability to learn. This program is for children and adults alike. Preceding the intervention, a listening profile and visual-motor measurements are taken. These "perception" maps help provide baselines that are used to customize the Program for the individual. These evaluations are done throughout the Program to track improvement in sensory regulation.

Specialized Language Development (SLD) Center

2650 Horizon DR SE -- Suite 230
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: (616) 361-1182
Website: www.sldcenter.org

SLD Read is a nonprofit community resource serving West Michigan. Our vision is a community working together for literacy that empowers all individuals to achieve their full potential. To reach this vision, we help individuals with dyslexia, learning differences, and other reading challenges to develop lifelong language skills through our multisensory program. We assist educators to identify learning challenges and provide training and techniques to enhance their reading curriculum. We increase community awareness and understanding of literacy issues.

Vision and Sensory Center

4467 Byron Center Avenue SW
Wyoming, MI 49519
Phone: (616) 534-4953
Website: www.vscenter.com

The Vision and Sensory Center strives to help each person coordinate the visual system with the body so that it may operate at its most efficient potential. Our approach is developmental; engaging our bodies and movement in the visual process, integrating vision with our other senses, and learning to think visually. Our patients work one on one with a therapist who guides the learning process. We want our patient's brains to learn to "see it", "integrate it" and "own it" for themselves.

PSYCHIATRIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Dr. Matthew Clark, Clinical Psychologist

The Clark Institute: Psychotherapy for Children and Adults
7150 Kalamazoo Avenue SE Suite C
Caledonia, MI 49316
Phone: (616) 219-0159
Website: <http://www.theclarkinstitute.com>

The Clark Institute Offers Expert Help for Adults and Children with Social Challenges, Emotional Development, Family Problems, and Identity Issues. Therapies and Workshops at the Clark Institute are based on Empirically Supported Parent-Child Relationship, Behavior Management, Pervasive Developmental, and Sensory Integration Techniques and Theories.

Developmental Enhancement

7086 8th Ave

Jenison, MI 49428

Phone: (616) 244-2246

and

1428 44th Street SW Suite B

Wyoming, MI 49509

Phone: (616) 604--8492

Website: <http://debh.org/>

We provide state-of-the-art developmental and mental health services for children and adolescents with all types of problems. Our psychologists and social workers are specially trained and highly experienced professionals who are specialists in childhood development, neurodevelopmental disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders, mental health concerns, behavioral challenges, learning and performance, and early intervention. We are closely affiliated (and located in the same building) with The Center for Childhood Development which allows us to integrate occupational therapy, speech language therapy, and physical therapy for children.

Helen DeVos Children's Hospital**Pediatric Psychology**

35 Michigan St NE, Suite 5201

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: (616) 267-2830

Website: www.helendevoschildrens.org/psychology

Brittany Barber-Garcia, PhD

Licensed Psychologist

Steven L. Pastyrnak, PhD**Division Chief**

Licensed Psychologist. Special Interests: Infant and toddler development, ADHD, anxiety disorders, autism spectrum disorders, cognitive behavioral therapy, pediatric research

Dr. Mark Hinshaw, MD, Psychiatrist

Psychology Associates of Grand Rapids, PC

1000 Parchment Dr. SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: (616) 957-9112 Ext. 39

Dr. Michael D. Ruch, PhD, Psychologist

3300 Burton St. SE, Suite B

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: (616) 957-2576

Website: www.drMichaelRuch.com

Dr. Robert J. Shaffer, M.A., Ph.D.

Human Resource Associates
3940 Peninsular Dr. SE Suite 230
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546
Phone: (616) 458-0692
Website: www.hresource.com

Child psychology, school issues, children with serious medical problems, adolescent behavior issues, learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, assessment and therapy, and family counseling. Hospital privileges at Butterworth, Blodgett, and Forest View. 20 years of experience.

Dr. William Walters, DO, Psychiatrist

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
3225 N. Evergreen Drive
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: (866) 852-4001
Website: www.pinerest.org

NEUROLOGISTS

Dr. Jason T. Umfleet, M.D.

Pediatric Neurologist
Helen DeVos Children's Hospital
35 Michigan Street NE Suite 3003
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 267-2500
Website: www.spectrumhealth.org

DEVELOPMENTAL - BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICIANS

Dr. Anthony J. Richtsmeier

Behavioral Pediatrician
Helen DeVos Children's Hospital
35 Michigan Street NE -- Floor 4, Suite 5201
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 267-2830
Website: www.helendevoschildrens.org

Children with behavioral and developmental challenges require specialized care and treatment. Our behavioral pediatrics program helps parents and caregivers evaluate and treat a variety of behavioral/developmental problems, which include a variety of early childhood disturbances of behavior and development. Our practice is has limited availability and is currently limited to consultative referrals for evaluation and management of toddlers, preschool, and early school age children (Age 5 and under) who have developmental/behavioral challenges.

PEDIATRICIANS

Dr. Lisa Brown

Cascade Pediatrics
5150 Cascade Road SE, Suite B
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: (616) 940-3168
Website: <http://www.cascadepediatrics.com/>

Dr. William Bush

Forest Hills Pediatrics
877 Forest Hill Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: (616) 949-4465
Website: www.foresthillspediatrics.com

Dr. Dana Leary

Pediatrics Associates of Kentwood, P.C.
4444 Kalamazoo Avenue SE Suite 103
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
Phone: (616) 281-5800
Website: www.spectrumhealth.com

Dr. Tiffany Letts

Metro Health Southwest
5900 Byron Center Ave
Wyoming, MI 49519
Phone: (616) 252-7200
Website: <https://metrohealth.net>

Dr. Erika Pott

MiKids Pediatrics
7150 Kalamazoo, SE Suite A
Caledonia, MI, 49316
Phone: (616) 818-7454
Website: <https://www.mikidspediatrics.com/>

DENTAL SERVICES

Thomas J. Burdo, DDS

1100 4 Mile Road NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544-7397
Phone: (616) 784-6377
Website: www.burdodds.com

Working together with St. Mary's Hospital, Dr. Burdo and his staff provide exceptional care and extra attention for patients with special needs, both children and adults alike. Dr. Burdo is one of a few dentists in West Michigan with hospital privileges to serve special needs patients who, for a variety of reasons, cannot tolerate dental care in an office setting.

Amy K. DeYoung, DDS

3297 Eagle Run Drive NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: (616) 447-7900
Website: www.akidsdds.com

Jonathan Eagle, DDS

2872 East Beltline NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: (616) 361-9330
Website: www.eagledds.com

Richard J. Elias DDS

535 Greenwood Ave. SE
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Phone: (616) 458-2048
Website: www.RichardEliasdds.com

Dr. Elias and his staff display great qualities and attributes to special needs patients. Our laid back personalities, patience, and willingness to accept the disability and work with it, rather than against it, allow us to make remarkable progress in special needs dentistry. We actively treat many patients with autism, making profound progress with each and every one of them – individually, and as a family. We find special needs dentistry to be remarkably rewarding. Dr. Elias has been the president of Autism Support of Kent County since 2007.

Kingma Pediatric Denistry

1179 East Paris SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: (616) 942-9840
Website: www.pediatrictoothdoc.com

Specialist in dentistry for infants, children, teens, and young patients with special needs.

Partners in Dental Care

Shawn M. Dial, DDS
Steve Grabiell, DDS
John Vander Kolk, DDS
Matthew K. Gietzen, DDS
2565 Forest Hill Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: (616) 949-0230
Website: www.partnersindentalcare.com

Smilie's Pediatric Dentistry

Dr. Douglas Ladue, DDS
2017 Eastcastle SE Suite A
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
Phone: (616) 455-4646
Website: <https://smiliespediatricdentistry.com/>

Dentistry for Infants, Children, Teens, Medically Compromised and Special Needs Children

Valleau, VanDeven & Massie - Dentistry for Children

2000 43rd Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
Phone: (616) 455-1301
Website: www.vvandmkidsdentistry.com

At Valleau, VanDeven, and Massie Dentistry for Children, we recognize that providing comprehensive preventive and therapeutic oral health care to individuals with special health care needs is an integral part of the specialty of pediatric dentistry. We respect the unique qualities of each individual and the need to ensure optimal health for all, regardless of a special health care need.

LEGAL SERVICES

Daniel Blauw - Attorney

2020 Raybrook SE, #204A
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: (616) 336-5098
Email: danblauw@gmail.com and sarah_kirkpatrick@comcast.net
Website: <http://www.blauwkirkpatricklaw.com/>

Attorneys Dan Blauw and Sarah Kirkpatrick assist clients with a wide range of disability-related matters, such as petitioning for legal guardianship, setting up supportive housing, and drafting special needs trusts. They frequently work with the parents of special needs children to create comprehensive estate plans that incorporate special needs trusts.

Law Office of Thomas A. Geelhoed

Social Security Disability Lawyer
600 McKay Tower
146 Monroe Center NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 454-0300

Howard Law Group

25 Ionia Ave. SW Suite 230
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-6415
Phone: (616) 235-6000
Website: www.howardlawgr.com

Lauretta K. Murphy, Attorney

Miller Johnson
Calder Plaza Building - 250 Monroe Avenue NW Suite 800
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2250
Phone: (616) 831-1733
Email: murphyl@millerjohnson.com
Website: <https://millerjohnson.com/attorney/murphyl/>

Ms. Murphy believes that every person deserves the highest level of respect and consideration. Her practice also includes planning to maximize resources for people with disabilities and special needs. Ms. Murphy prepares trusts to protect people with disabilities so they can maintain government benefits while family funds are used to enhance quality of life. She works with disabled people who receive funds from insurance proceeds and money judgments to draft and fund special needs trusts specifically authorized by state and federal law to shelter assets.

C. Jill Smith-Goodell, PLLC

2525 East Paris SE -- Suite 100
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: (616) 204-3316
Website: www.smith-goodell.com

Services include: Special Needs Trusts, Durable Power of Attorneys, and Guardianships,

W. Michael Van Haren - Attorney

Warner Norcross & Judd LLP

900 Fifth Third Center / 111 Lyon Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
Phone: (616) 752-2125
Website: www.wnj.com

Westerbeke Law Firm, PLLC

4595 Broadmoor Ave SE -- Suite 237
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
Phone: (616) 965-2060
Website: www.michiganlegacyplan.com

We help clients with Special Needs Trusts, Guardianships, Conservatorships, and related matters.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

David Knooihuizen, MBA, CLTC

Mass Mutual Financial Group
3152 Peregrine Drive NE #110
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: (616) 447-6229
Website: <https://advisors.massmutual.com/david-knooihuizen>

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Family Hope Foundation

7086 8th Avenue
Jenison, MI 49428
Phone: (616) 729-8833
Website: www.thefamilyhopefoundation.org

Family Hope Foundation invests in children with special needs through family support, engaging community experts, advocacy through collaboration, and financial assistance to provide access to therapies.

HOUSING INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Benjamin's Hope

15468 Riley Street
Park Township, MI 49424
Phone: (616) 399-6293
Website: www.benjaminshope.net

Benjamin's Hope is a first of its kind community model designed to address the multifaceted needs of individuals and families affected by autism and developmental disability. A vibrant, interactive community where people with extraordinary needs realize a future of meaning, security and hope. Our mission is to be an embracing natural setting where people with disability and the community gather for Christ-centered fellowship, treatment, housing and meaningful work.

Homes for Autism

P.O. Box 904
Birmingham, MI 48012
Phone: (586) 477-0493
Email: info@homesforautism.org
Website: www.homesforautism.org

Homes for Autism provides and maintains houses for adults with autism and developmental disabilities. Homes for Autism exists to help people with autism achieve their best and to live and grow towards a better quality of life. We specialize in creative solutions to meet the needs of the people we serve and their families.

LIFE COACHING SERVICE

Social Incites, LLC

Laurel and Steve Falvo
1100 Cobblestone Road
Holland, MI 49423
Phone: (616) 422-5886
Website: <http://socialincites.com/>

Social Coaching (individual and group), Parent/Family Coaching, Job Coaching, Presentations, Autism Information and Support. Providing personalized, proactive insights which incite (encourage) personal and interpersonal growth. More than social awareness... we provide information and services that promote effective social interactions.

TOYS AND THERAPY PRODUCTS

Aunt Sandy's Sewing

Sandy Giuliano - Owner, Maker, Designer
P. O. Box 721
Washington, Michigan
Phone: (586) 337-5112
Website: www.auntsandyssewing.etsy.com

I have over 60 hand-created products to help with your special needs, from infants to adults. Weighted, sensory and wheel chair products are available. I also do special orders if you want something more specific.

Discovery Toys

Denise Spratt

Phone: (616) 667-8565

Email: denisespratt.dt@gmail.com

Discovery Toys is committed to bringing fun, safe and developmentally appropriate toys and products to children and adults of all abilities. Children with developmental disabilities, such as autism, develop at a unique rate and pattern of development. Our products have useful applications for children and adults with developmental disabilities

OTvest, LLC

Phone: (269) 329-3287

Email: otvest@otvest.com

Website: www.otvest.com

Weighted vests are used as a means of applying deep pressure, which can be helpful in decreasing purposeless behaviors, hyperactivity, and inattention (often seen in autistic and ADHD children and those with sensory processing difficulties). The deep pressure applied by the OTvest™ has a calming effect upon children that is comfortable to them, and provides an alternative or adjunct to medication.

Peaceful Product

P.O. Box 602

Grandville, MI

Phone: (616) 805-8716

Email: info@peacefulproduct.com

Website: www.peacefulproduct.com

I specialize in custom-made weighted blankets, throws, and lap pads. I also have medical grade material for use in hospitals and dental offices.

Therapy Shoppe Inc.

P. O. Box 8875

Grand Rapids, MI 49518

Phone: (800) 261-5590 / (616) 696-7441

Email: info@therapysshoppe.com

Website: www.therapysshoppe.com

On our site you will find a wonderful assortment of therapy merchandise: specialty toys and games, hard-to-find favorites, innovative new products you haven't even heard of yet, and lots of other great goodies and gadgets. We're looking forward to serving you and to providing one of the most exciting and inclusive selections of therapy products anywhere. We are an Occupational Therapist-owned and operated company, celebrating our 15th year serving therapists, families, teachers, and others.

GLUTEN FREE-CASEIN FREE FOODS

Harvest Health Foods

Website: www.harvesthealthfoods.com

Store Locations:

6807 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids MI, 49546
(616) 975-7555

1944 Eastern Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI
(616) 245-6268

4150 32nd Ave., Hudsonville MI, 49426
(616) 896-6630

Harvest Health Foods is here to provide you with the finest quality fresh, natural, organic and whole foods, nutritional products, body care products and health information in a fun comfortable clean, safe environment. Make us your doorway to total health.

Penn Street Bakery

A Division of Savory Foods, Inc.

900 Hynes SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Phone: (800) 84-CAKES or (616) 241-2583

Website: <http://www.pennstreetbakery.com/glutenfree.asp>

Savory Foods has been producing delicious wholesome gourmet confections and baked goods to the food service and retail industry for over 20 years. When our owner was diagnosed with gluten intolerance, we set out to create a "delicious" line of gluten free products that could truly be called gourmet! Nearly one in every four people has intolerance to gluten or celiac disease. At Savory Foods we adhere to the strictest quality and testing standards exceeding those set by the industry. We believe our products provide you with a satisfying taste experience and declare that life truly can be Gluten Free-licious™.
