



Autism Parent-Run Playgroup

The Family Support Services (FSS) Program aids households in Chemung, Steuben, and Schuyler Counties that have a family member who is developmentally disabled and living at home. The program promotes the physical and social well-being, education, and financial stability of individuals who have developmental disabilities by assisting them and their families in obtaining support and linkage to existing community resources and services.

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Family Support Services



Parent-Run Playgroup

*Promoting socialization
through choice-based
activities.*



Autism Playgroups

The FSS program has three Autism playgroups which run monthly activities. These parent-run groups offer opportunities for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders who are OPWDD eligible, the opportunity to participate in meaningful activities in the community which encourages socialization, community interaction, and growth. It is also an opportunity for parents to form support groups amongst each other and receive advocacy from the Program Coordinator.

Each Playgroup is divided by age in order to provide more suitable and age appropriate activities each month. These are carefully planned by the group Facilitator and the Program Coordinator. Age groups are: 3-8, 9-14, and 15-21. Participants can be part of the playgroup until their 22nd birthday.



Playgroup Goals

- To promote community inclusion for individuals with a diagnosis of Autism and a parent or caregiver.
- To offer choice based quality recreational outings, sensory – based activities, and community events.
- To provide opportunities for social communication in a supportive environment that offers community integration.

Guidelines

- All enrolled participants must have an OPWDD Eligibility Determination Letter.
- The participant should have at least one confirmed diagnosis of the following: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD-NOS), Asperger's Syndrome, Autism.
- Participants must live in Chemung, Steuben, or Schuyler County.



These services are provided even if the family member already receives Care Coordination from another local agency such as Early Intervention, Person Centered Services, or Prime Care Coordination.

The Family Support Services Program can be an adjunct to current services, including Self Direction, or a stand-alone resource. For information and/or Referral, please contact the Family Support Services Program Coordinator.

