

Playgroup Program Guidelines

The **Autism Play-Group's** main objective is to promote community inclusion for **individuals with a diagnosis of Autism and a parent or caregiver**. The play groups are able to offer choice based quality recreational outings, sensory – based activities and community events. These groups provide individuals with Autism (3 – 21 years old) and their parent opportunities for social communication in a supportive environment that offers community integration and alleviates social isolation.

Attendance for activities for the Autism Play group is reserved for participants with the autism diagnosis. **Activities** will be provided **one time per month** for all enrolled participants in the group. A Parent Facilitator will contact the enrolled parents by telephone and/or email. The facilitator will notify all participants of the featured upcoming event. Information will consist of the event, date, time, location, and a date to RSVP by. **Parents will be expected to contact their parent facilitator by the RSVP date** by either phone or email their intentions to attend or not to attend the event. If there is no response to the facilitator from the parent, it will be considered to mean the participant will not be attending the event. Preplanning is required for this program and payments for only those participants and parents who have responded on or before the RSVP date will be made.

It is up to each individual family to decide who will be attending the monthly event with the enrolled participant as their caregiver and to provide direct supervision to the participant at each monthly event attended. Participation is an important part for the group's success and we understand other family responsibilities but it is required that all participants attend at least one event within a three month period or the participant will be discharged due to inactivity.

If you RSVP to the facilitator and you do not attend the event, it will be considered a no show. This absence will be counted towards a no participation rate for the group. A discharge from the program can occur if a no call/no show happens three times within the year. It is understood that emergency situations and illness arise within families, so if you have sent an RSVP and are unable to attend an event, we ask you to notify the Parent Facilitator or the Family Support Services Program Coordinator.

If there is a program concern or issue, please direct those complaints to the Program Coordinator, Ariana Levi, or Program Supervisor, Amanda Wylie, at EOP Inc. (734-6174). The Parent Facilitator is also a volunteer parent with a child with Autism. They give generously of their time to facilitate and organize events for the children enrolled in the playgroups. The Parent Facilitators have rules and agency guidelines which they agree to follow. All questions or concerns pertaining to the program, incidents, or service delivery, needs to be addressed to the EOP Inc. staff name and contact number previously mentioned above.