



Crossroads A+ Program

Autism Spectrum Disorders Education and Treatment Program

Program Overview

The **A+ Program** was developed in response to an expressed community need for a highly specialized and comprehensive education and treatment program for children and young adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that one in 150 children have an Autism Spectrum Disorder and there is evidence that a significant portion of these children have at least one co-occurring mental health diagnosis. Children and youth with this combination of diagnoses require comprehensive and intensive educational and treatment programs, sometimes surpassing the resources that are available within the public school setting.

The **A+ Program** is a collaborative program provided by Crossroads and the Lake County Educational Service Center. The **A+ Program** is for children/youth with an ASD who are experiencing substantial impairment in the areas of behavioral, emotional, psychological and/or social functioning. These impairments frequently have a negative impact on a child's academic functioning, peer relationships, self-care, self-esteem, mood, and family life.

The **A+ Program** is designed to provide both specialized academic instruction as well as treatment for the student's emotional, behavioral, psychological, and social difficulties.

The primary goal of the **A+ Program** is to provide a comprehensive, intensive and structured education and treatment experience, within a limited period of time, that results in the student being able to successfully return to a less restrictive setting with enhanced coping and functional social skills.

Population Served

The **A+ Program** is designed to serve students, aged 10-14 who are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified) and are also experiencing co-occurring emotional or behavioral problems.

Specialized Education

Students arrive at 9 a.m. and depart at 3 p.m. The school day is divided equally, for the majority of students, between specialized educational programming and treatment. Students' school day schedules are developed to balance academic instruction and treatment in a way that corresponds to their unique needs and learning styles.

Academic instruction emphasizes each student's IEP goals and objectives and includes daily one-to-one and/or small group instruction in math, language arts, and science/social studies. If students are eligible for speech/language and/or occupational therapies, those services are provided within the **A+ Program**.

Treatment

Each student's individual treatment goals and objectives are addressed through the use of individual and/or group therapies. The **A+ Program** assists each student, depending on needs, with improving self-esteem and self-control, developing skills for better social and family relationships, and learning about and expressing feelings.

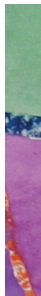
Students participate in art and recreation therapies on an at least twice-weekly basis. Crossroads staff take the lead in providing the treatment services to students in the **A+ Program**. Crossroads is certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Council on Accreditation (COA).

Program Fees

A child's local school district pays for the child's academic costs and a portion of the treatment costs. Crossroads can access other payers that the child has such as Medicaid or private insurance, although private insurance is usually a very limited source of funds. All sources of other funding are contingent on the child having a co-existing mental health diagnosis deemed eligible for mental health funding reimbursement.

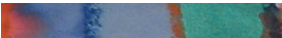
Staffing

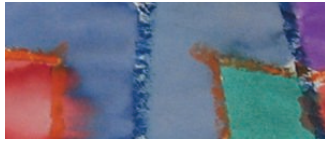
The Crossroads **A+ Program** maintains an excellent staff to child ratio with effective academic and therapeutic attention in a safe environment. The **A+ Program** classroom includes a licensed special education teacher, teaching assistant, and child/youth social skills specialist. As needed, students are provided



with one-to-one attention and crisis management. A supervisor is regularly on site during the entire program day.

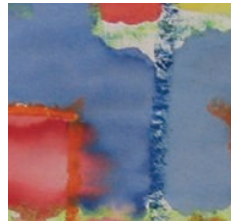
Program Highlights

- ◆ Daily one-to-one and/or small group instruction in all content areas
 - ◆ Daily provision of individual and/or group therapies including but not limited to social skills, art, recreation, coping skills, and anger management
 - ◆ Evidence-based strategies utilized including TEACCH and ABA
 - ◆ Speech/language and occupational therapies provided on site
 - ◆ Family-related services and activities
 - ◆ Positive approach to behavior management
 - ◆ Highly trained teaching and treatment staff
 - ◆ Excellent staff to student ratio (maximum of 6 students per 3 teaching staff, with additional staff available as needed)
 - ◆ Individualized plans to support transition to **A+ Program** and return back to home school district programs
 - ◆ Sensory room within **A+ Program** Classroom
 - ◆ 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. school day
 - ◆ Transportation provided by home school districts
- 



Admission Criteria

1. The student is between the ages of 10-14 (inclusive).
2. The student presents with emotional and/or behavioral problems in conjunction with an ASD diagnosis.
3. The student has an IQ of 70 or higher; children with IQ of 60 or above may be considered for admission if the Program Director believes that they can benefit from participation in the program.
4. The student demonstrates behavior(s) of significant severity that warrants placement in a comprehensive, intensive, and highly structured education and treatment program.
5. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) agree to act in accordance with the program expectations as described in the Parent Handbook.
6. The student has an IEP for ASD or another educational disability, and is approved for admission to the program by their school district. A child may be admitted under an "at risk" category without an IEP when there are clear indications that the child is in need of an intensive day program, meets the other admission criteria and has the approval of their school district.



For further information, contact:

William White, PCC, LICDC
Program Director
Crossroads A+ Program
8445 Munson Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Phone: (440) 255-1700
Fax: (440) 205-2417

Web: www.crossroads-lake.org

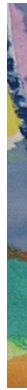


Crossroads

**Making a Brighter, Happier
and Healthier World for Children**



Early Head Start



Crossroads
 8445 Munson Road
 Mentor, OH 44060



Crossroads A+ Program *Autism Spectrum Disorders Education and Treatment Program*



Art by Bobbi, age 14



Crossroads

**Making a Brighter,
Happier and Healthier
World for Children**

