

ATLAS FOUNDATION FOR AUTISM

Full-Day Educational Program Proposal

August 1st, 2014 – July 31st, 2015

SAMPLE ONLY**

**As an Atlas Principle every FEP is custom tailored to each student. The only consistent theme throughout all FEPs is infinite flexibility and creativity! The student's interests, strengths, talents, areas of need and true potential actively inform all elements.*

**This FEP was specially designed for [REDACTED] and is edited here so you can gain a better understanding of the inner workings of a child-centered Atlas FEP*

Overview

The program, as outlined below, is fundamentally based in helping [REDACTED] achieve a greater sense of self, confidence, independence and happiness. His parents [REDACTED] feel strongly that these components be incorporated into a comprehensive and holistic educational structure designed specifically for him. This program targets all areas of functioning that contribute to [REDACTED] happiness and success, including; effective and meaningful communication building, cognition, social skills development, executive functioning, physical and emotional health, and all academic subjects. The program is comprised of component parts outlined below which are to be selected and implemented in an ongoing and consistently adapted manner in order to create the maximum amount of program fluidity and effectiveness.

[REDACTED] will be attending sessions at the Atlas Foundation for Autism for a 12-month, full-day program. The various sessions detailed here address all areas of development, empower communication and 'voice' in all its forms and will seek to explore, discover and expand upon [REDACTED] natural talents, interests and passions. A student-centered multi-strategic approach enables him to learn and develop in a sensory, emotionally and socially supportive environment. Each component is designed for [REDACTED] specific learning profile and sensory needs. Every day he will engage in opportunities to deepen his interactions, hone his critical thinking, improve his problem-solving ability and boost his self-confidence and joy of learning.

Individualized Education Program (IEP)

[REDACTED] current IEP is to be implemented on July 1, 2014. The goals and directives from the IEP will be targeted through his full-day program at Atlas to begin on August 1, 2014. The student-centered Atlas Map curriculum will be adapted for [REDACTED] and embed all relevant and current IEP goals while also adhering to the New York State Standards.

Pending School Approval

Upon receipt of Commissioner's Consent by the New York State Department of Education, the Atlas School, a New York State non-profit, non-public will be open for enrollment. The approval date has yet to be determined, but is expected in early 2015. At the time official approval is granted, all concerned parties reserve the right to review the current proposal and related contract.

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Schedule

Atlas will finalize the duration, frequency and scope of [REDACTED]'s daily program upon parental approval of this proposal. Its component parts can be maneuvered or altered to accommodate the family's preferences.

Summary

- 12 month program – following BOE calendar
- Weekday Schedule: 9:00am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday excepting holidays and AFA-closures
- Annual tuition rate: TBD
 - Mandated Related Services included in tuition:
 - Occupational Therapy: 5 sessions of 45 minutes per week
 - Physical Education: 4 sessions of 35 minutes per week
 - Speech Therapy: 5x 45 minutes per week and (minimum) 1x 60 minutes per month
- Addresses NYS Standards
- Individualized Program
 - Assessments conducted regularly (interim and quarterly)
 - Program updated accordingly as informed by assessments
 - Adaptations to the program build upon student's skills, passions, growth
 - Custom-tailored to and supportive of the student's learning preferences
- Communication Building and Self-Expression are thematic to the program

1:1 instruction and lesson-based sessions

- The full day sessions include:
 - 1:1, small group and larger group settings.
 - Sessions include:
 - EVEnt sessions (communication)
 - Experiential and Discovery Learning Lessons in literacy, mathematics, science, etc (academics)
 - Passion-Exploration
 - Art, Music, Drama, Creative Writing (self-expression)
 - Adaptive Physical Education, Yoga, HANDLE and Brain Gym exercises (brain-body connection and physical health)
 - Social Studies (community)
 - Functional Quality of Life Curriculum (FunQual – independent living skills)

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Proposed Daily Schedule

9:00 – 9:30 Arrival, Gym Free play, Social Greetings
9:30 – 10:00 Morning Movement – Brain Gym, HANDLE, Yoga
10:00 – 10:45 Logics & Life Skills
10:45 – 11:00 Sensory Break
11:00 – 11:30 EVEnt Session
11:30 – 12:30 Lunch & Engaged Free Play – Games, Sports, Imaginative Play
12:30 – 1:15 Math & Science
1:15 – 1:30 Sensory Break
1:30 – 2:15 Literacy – Reading, Writing, Handwriting & Typing
2:15 – 3:00 Social Partners
3:00 – 3:30 Self Expression – Art, Music, Drama
3:30 – 4:00 Pack Up & Daily Reflection Notes

Total Educational Hours: 35 hours per week

Prospective Start Date: August 1st, 2014.

Expected to continue throughout the 2014-2015 school year (and beyond)

Core Program Areas

The customized and dynamic nature of [REDACTED] program will enable him to function as independently as possible in his home and educational environments as well as the larger community. The Atlas Map, a student-driven and fluidly adaptable core curricula, will systematically and simultaneously address multiple areas of functioning and development. In this way, [REDACTED] will be fully supported in his areas of need while also challenged to achieve without limitations.

Communication

Underpinning the entirety of the Atlas Foundation's vision and mission is the belief that communication in all its forms deserves to be respected, empowered and understood. [REDACTED] obstacles to fluidly interact with the world and other people will be addressed through a variety of communication building techniques. Specifically, [REDACTED] will be working regularly with a Speech Language Pathologist and partaking in daily EVEnt sessions to illuminate the power of social connection and communicative interactions. [REDACTED] communication abilities and opportunity for social understanding will directly contribute to his success in all other arenas.

Social Interactions: Friends and the Community

For [REDACTED], it will be important to educate him on specific social skills, but to also empower him to have fun and find fulfillment in friendships and relationships with other people. This will also help him pursue personal interests, to find ways to occupy his leisure time and to fill his own curiosity about the world in the most robust way possible. Social Partners is a dedicated time in each day where curricula such as Social Thinking can be adapted to instruct specific skills in 1:1 settings. The small and larger-group settings will then create natural opportunities for [REDACTED] to interact with peers, generalizing those skills. Our community integration components will be informed and developed by [REDACTED] full participation in expressing his main areas of interest and abilities he would like to explore and develop. Experiences within his actual community and neighborhood will be important in helping him achieve these goals as well, and each one will be designed with purpose and aimed at [REDACTED] independence.

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Emotional Understanding

An ability to identify, process and understand his own emotions and empathy for others are vital to [REDACTED] social success. This will be both addressed with 1:1 lessons as well as incorporated across all areas of his program.

Academic Areas

These goals will be consistently targeted and updated in order to support [REDACTED] attainment of IEP goals, working towards NYS Standards and mastering concepts necessary for success in school settings, future learning and life-long success. For instance, a mock-store could be set up to help teach math skills (money computation, place value, decimals, etc) involved in paying for goods or products followed with a community outing to the local store to cement mastery of real-life situations. He can generalize skills and concepts taught in dedicated 1:1 lessons into these times as well. A “hands-on” approach to academic learning will help keep [REDACTED] motivated and actively engaged in his lessons.

Program Coordination

Atlas offers consistent and dynamic program coordination in which every team member, the family and the student work as a cohesive unit in order to promote understanding, creativity and success. These sessions can be scheduled or requested as needed or on a regular, ongoing basis.

Adapted Curriculum Development:

This service is fully covered in the annual tuition. It includes the development of curriculum components or materials required to support [REDACTED] sensory, learning and passion profiles. If the creation of materials to be used in the home or by other team members/therapists is needed or requested, these will also be provided at no additional cost. An experiential and passion-driven program in particular will require the use of systematic tools and individualized materials. This service is fully customized, pulling from a wide variety of effective and progressive curricula. [REDACTED] particular program and all the encompassed materials are designed specifically for him.

Progress Reports and Assessments

Ongoing communication between Atlas, home, the family and other team members is vital to [REDACTED] success. Regular 3- or 6-month progress reports will be provided as well as regularly scheduled assessments to inform and update the program goals. Atlas prides itself on a collaborative approach with our teams. We maintain clear lines of communication and respect every team member’s opinion in order to create the best program possible. At any time, the family can request a sit-down meeting, observation or interim updates.

This proposal is pending final approval by [REDACTED]’s parents. Additional edits and alterations can easily be made or a final schedule can be confirmed soon. Please let us know your thoughts and how you would like to proceed.