

Mission Statement

Giant Steps is committed to providing individuals with autism spectrum disorders, and their families, superior educational and therapeutic services focused on improving the quality of daily life from early childhood through adulthood.

Giant Steps
2500 Cabot Drive
Lisle, IL. 60532

To learn more about how
you can join us:

Contact:

lnichols@mygiantsteps.org
or Call 630-864-3825

Visit us on the web:
www.mygiantsteps.org

Like us

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
and LinkedIn

WHAT IS GIANT STEPS?

Since our inception in 1996, Giant Steps has been focused on providing education, therapeutic and recreational programs for Elementary, Junior High, High School students and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), their families and the community. Giant Steps is currently designated as a therapeutic day school in the State of Illinois licensed and certified to exclusively serve students with a primary diagnosis of autism.

Our goal is to improve a child's ability to interact, communicate, and develop academic and daily living skills through a one-on-one integrated approach encompassing Education, Therapy, Recreation, Life Skills, Adult Programs and Training.

The Autism Training Center (ATC) provides guidance and support to families touched by autism. The ATC offers consulting, training and seminars for individuals and families touched by autism, as well as schools, community organizations, early intervention centers, respite providers, and First Responders.

How can you become a Giant Steps Certified Autism-Friendly Community Partner?

Contact Lindsey Nichols

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Autism-Friendly Directory



This resource provides an introductory-level training on autism spectrum disorder for local businesses and organizations, in order to equip the staff with basic knowledge of how autism can impact people differently, as well as some helpful tips and strategies to support individuals with autism.

BENEFITS OF THE AUTISM- FRIENDLY DIRECTORY

The Autism-Friendly Directory is a community resource for families living with autism. The directory provides a list of businesses and organizations that provide services and resources whom have earned the Giant Steps Certification as an Autism-Friendly establishment. It is free to join and easy to use.

To view the directory:

Visit <https://afd.mygiantsteps.org> enter your zip code, town or address then choose a category, and click Search!

To sign up and get started,

Visit <http://train.mygiantsteps.org/login> and click on "Create New Account."

There is a great need for this type of directory. A parent shared with us the challenges to getting out with their child living with autism:

"We feel like prisoners in our own home. We can't go anywhere because we don't feel welcome, and no one seems to understand how to support my son with autism."

This is a unique and **free marketing** opportunity for your business or organization. Parents and caregivers will be confident that the businesses and organizations included in the directory are welcoming to their children and have an understanding of autism when they are "Giant Steps Autism Friendly Certified."

To support your marketing to families living with autism, your business or organization will receive a decal to place in the front of your business and a digital certificate to place on your website. Also, your business or organization will be highlighted on the Autism Friendly Directory website.

How does it work?

- We provide Web-based, video training at no cost to the business/organization or employees
- 60% of the business/organization must complete the training, management is required
- Once completed, the business/organization will be added to our directory and become a Giant Steps-Certified Autism-friendly Community Partner
- Certification is valid for three years



What will organizations learn?

- Basic level information including common characteristics of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, helpful ways to interact and how to create a friendly environment
- Strategies to increase empathy and understanding of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder <https://afd.mygiantsteps.org>
- Exposure to different ways to improve communication and interaction with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Awareness of potential triggers and challenges that individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders may face
- How to react to difficult situations

"This is a wonderful resource and opportunity available to families and businesses to partner in support of individuals with autism."

Dr. Sylvia Smith
Executive Director
Giant Steps

This certification can be used to do the following and more:

- To promote their business or organization to the autism community as a place that welcomes and cares for everyone
- To spread the word that their business or organization is dedicated to providing the best experience, products and/or services possible
- To spread the word that they recognize the importance for their employees to be educated and familiar with individuals with autism and their behavior

