



The Autism Program

AT BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

Striving to help and strengthen every family in need

Family Support

The Autism Program provides assistance and resources to patients with autism (and their families) who are seen in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at BMC.

Autism Resource Support

- Patients served: patients and families looking for autism information, resources, and support, particularly at the time of a new diagnosis
- Types of services provided: helping families during clinic visits or by phone to navigate educational and therapeutic options and facilitate linkages to community based support agencies such as the Department of Developmental Services, Social Security, and their local Autism Support Center
- Topics covered: educational placements, managing challenging behaviors, developing augmentative communication strategies, utilizing visual schedules and routines, and considering the needs of all members of the family

Family Navigation

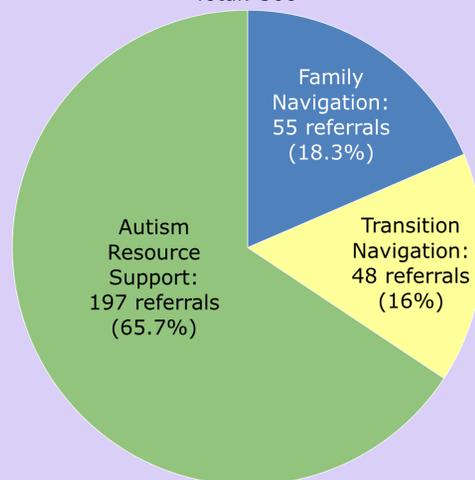
- Patients served: high-risk families who face barriers (such as non-English fluency and low socioeconomic status) and need extensive support to obtain treatment
- Types of services provided: meeting with families during clinic sessions, making home visits, and assisting families in interactions with school system and community agencies, including filling out applications and attending appointments.
- Topics covered: navigating systems such as health care, school, entitlements, and community resources

Transition Navigation

- Patients served: teenaged patients (and their families) who are transitioning to adulthood
- Types of services provided: consulting with individuals/families by phone or in clinic sessions regarding transition goals and action steps, supporting adolescents and families through transition-related appointments and meetings
- Topics covered: school services, independence and life skills, guardianship, adult service agencies, government benefits, and employment

2016 Referrals

Total: 300



Facts and Figures

The Autism Program...

- Has supported over **6,000 family referrals** since its inception in 2003
- Has fostered successful partnerships with over **25 community based agencies and programs**
- Has over **1,400 followers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest** with an average of 10 new parent and professional followers each week
- Has hosted an annual **Autism Awareness Day** event for families, community members, and hospital staff since 2013



SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook.com/bmcautismprogram

instagram.com/bmcautismprogram

twitter.com/bmcautism

pinterest.com/BMCautismprogra

Our Mission

The Autism Program at Boston Medical Center is a multi-disciplinary, comprehensive and culturally competent program that is uniquely equipped to meet the complex needs of patients and families.

The Program assists and empowers those affected by ASD through direct patient support, provider education and community based trainings in a culturally competent manner by offering high quality and comprehensive care to all, regardless of status or ability to pay.

Community Initiatives



PLAN provides individualized peer to peer support by over 25 parent leaders for parents who have children diagnosed with ASD.

Our current PLAN parents...

- speak Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Cape Verdean Creole, French and Arabic
- represent urban and suburban MA
- are parents to children ages 2 to 28
- are bloggers, creators of non-profits, previous heads of SPED PAC, writers and medical professionals



TEAM matches high school students with and without Autism Spectrum Disorder to work as co-mentors to a younger child.

Over 45 participants and facilitators meet monthly for supervised community service and recreational activities, including:

- trail cleanup at Boston Nature Center
- Boston Cares MLK Day of Service
- attending a Red Sox Game

Trainings and Resources

The Autism Program curates a robust resource library with over 300 materials such as informational guides, social stories, and community partner information which have been translated into multiple languages.

The Program also conducts annual trainings, workshops, and events for over 150 parents, professionals, and community members, on topics like Autism 101, transition to adulthood, and accessing benefits.

"I cannot express how grateful and what a difference it made for us to have such support, knowing that there was help at hand, practical assistance and frankly just a shoulder to lean on."

-Kate, parent of 3 year old

"The BMC Autism Program has many years of proven experience informing, educating and most importantly empowering families in the Boston area...The staff there is enthusiastic, forward thinking, and resourceful."

-Dianne Lescinskas, Autism Commission



CONTACT

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