

■ Educational Services



The Bancroft School Center for Autism Research and Educational Services (CARES)

Consistent with best practices, CARES emphasizes intensive, comprehensive intervention, based on the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA). CARES provides the kind of **early, consistent and extended treatment** that is necessary for young children to make significant improvements.

In a recent CARES group, for instance, **80 percent of the children transitioned back to their home school district**. Of those who returned to their district, 75 percent were placed in an inclusive classroom (with nondisabled peers).

CARES' mission is to maximize each child's abilities through systematic and comprehensive skill-building. CARES focuses on the development of cognitive, language and behavioral skills, with an emphasis on functional communication from the start.

To achieve these goals, CARES uses various behavioral instructional techniques including discrete-trial instruction, fluency-building, and principles of incident teaching, task analysis and programmed generalization.

The program conducts a scientific **evaluation of each child**, and then creates **customized treatment objectives and a corresponding curriculum**. CARES then implements the child's curriculum in a cohesive and analytic manner. Staff members take a detailed, **step-by-step approach** to teaching each skill and carefully monitor the child's program, making adjustments as needed.

CARES conducts **monthly team meetings** for each child, and a clinical consultant provides frequent, direct supervision of the child's program. CARES also provides **parent training**, as family participation is an important aspect of the program.

To help children transition from in-home treatment to school, CARES offers **training for school personnel and in-classroom assistance** or "shadowing."

CARES is a key resource in Bancroft's continuum of care for people with autism, which includes a range of other services for children and adults.

Program Description

Bancroft's Center for Autism Research and Educational Services (CARES) provides one-to-one services for children ages 3 to 9 who are on the autism spectrum or have a related disorder. Services are provided for 15 to 40 hours a week in the home, school, daycare center or on site.

Mission Statement

Bancroft's mission is to ensure that every person is given opportunities for lifelong learning and fulfillment.

We do this by altering perceptions, and by supporting those with intellectual and developmental challenges and acquired brain injuries in achieving their life goals as valued and respected members of our world.

Program Leadership

Amy Zambotti
Director, Center for Autism Research and Educational Services

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Principal, Early Education Program for Children on the Autism Spectrum

To learn more about **Bancroft's Center for Autism Research and Educational Services**, please contact our Admissions Department at:

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