



... for the Educator

## Clinical Services

The Arc Ontario differs from many other agencies because of the clinical services we offer. The personal, individual attention that our caring, clinical staff provides to people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities promotes self-growth and a positive self-image. Our expert clinical staff are highly trained in the field of developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorders. Each valuable minute spent helps individuals and their families take another step of confidence in their journey.

## Autism Supports

Autism support at The Arc Ontario is a comprehensive resource for children and adults with an autism spectrum disorder. From initial assessment and diagnosis to treatment recommendations and planning, our experienced staff will be there to guide your student and their family through their options. We offer autism assessment utilizing the ADOS-2 (autism diagnostic observation scale) in addition to the services highlighted throughout this edition to support children and adults on the autism spectrum ages 4 and older, as well as sensory-friendly events, sensory calming spaces, and more.

## Behavior Support

An assessment is conducted of challenges an individual is facing after which a plan is put together using a variety of techniques and strategies to identify specific problematic behaviors. Our clinical team looks beyond each behavior to identify interventions to directly address “why” these behaviors occur. Additionally, our clinic contracts with Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES to assist in providing observation, training and assessment to schools in the area. One-on-one time is spent working to address these behaviors across a range of environments and situations.



Ashley Hanvey, MA performs ADOS-2 testing to accurately assess and assist in the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.

## Social Skills Groups

The Arc Ontario offers children, teens, and young adults with an intellectual and other developmental disability a variety of group sessions designed to enhance social and communication skills, while building self-esteem, confidence and independence for children, teens and young adults with and intellectual or other developmental disability:

- Children’s Social Skills for ages 4-8 years
- Children’s Social Skills for ages 8-13
- Next Step Prep Social Skills for ages 14-21
- Adult Social Skills for ages 20-30

## Crisis Intervention

Our clinicians provide support to families who live in the community and have a child or adult family member who has intense emotional and behavioral needs. We can assist with developing behavior support plans, family education, and counseling. A psychologist is available to work alongside an assigned clinician to assist with assessments, behavioral support, and family and individual counseling. The goal is to reduce the risk of family disruption, hospitalization, in-patient psychiatric care, or out-of-district school placement.

## Crisis Hotline

A crisis hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to address immediate, difficult situations involving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our trained staff can direct your students' families to the best resources available and develop an appropriate plan. The Crisis Hotline number is 585-729-4396.

## Play Therapy

Play therapy is a creative approach to counseling children who need help identifying their feelings. The approach helps children express themselves using a variety of toys and games. Benefits include increased self-awareness, enhanced social skills (especially regarding communication about issues and conflicts), and a more positive self-image.

The program is run by clinical staff with extensive training in this approach to therapy who share information and insights with caregivers.

**For more information on any of these services, please contact JoEllen Schaefer, Family Support and Intake Coordinator, at (585) 919-2118 or [jschaefer@TheArcOntario.org](mailto:jschaefer@TheArcOntario.org).**



The next issues of The Arc Apple will greet you in September/October, and then November/ December, for a total of 5 issues annually. We'll be giving you more information about our programs and the ways in which we can help you help your students. Be on the lookout for the September/October issue when school returns to session.

View previously published editions at <https://www.thearcontario.org/arcapple>.



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