

WHAT IS AUTISM?

- A complex developmental disability – the result of a neurological disorder that can seriously limit, if not eradicate, the possibilities for the affected child to interact in a healthy and constructive manner.
- Autism prevents children from interacting typically with others, affecting various aspects of their social and psychological development.
- Autism affects **1 in 68** children.
- Boys are almost **5 times** more likely to be identified with ASD than girls. About **1 in 42** boys and **1 in 189** girls were identified with ASD.
- Most children identified with ASD are not diagnosed until after age 4, even though children can be diagnosed as early as age 2.



ABOUT “LEARN TO LIVE”

Purpose of the Program

1. Organization

To demonstrate that adolescent and adults with ASDs **CAN** learn and move forward towards *independence* and *successful inclusion in the community*.

2. Individual

To develop the specific skills that will enable community living in the least restrictive environment possible, and to promote independence, community integration, and individuality.

Each individual's goals are designed to provide the opportunity to acquire and advance skills in the areas:

- self-advocacy
- communication
- mobility/transportation
- community-based living
- self-care
- General health/lifestyle
- Job skills/vocational training
- personal resource management
- Community/Social participation
- Executive Functioning/Planning & Time Management

ABA THERAPY

Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)

Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) is the empirically based learning science that is used to teach people who do not learn well with traditional methods. In the Learn to Live program, small group instruction and 1:1 job coaching are used to teach communication, vocational training, self-care, and community participation, among other skills.

We break down complicated learning sequences into smaller steps that are taught one at a time to the learner. Reinforcement and prompting are used as teaching techniques in order to help the child master and maintain newly acquired skills. The key to this type of intervention is the precise analysis of progress and accurate records made possible by continuous data recording and summary procedures.

Learn to Live program

• Full day programming, year-round, 9:00 am -3:30 pm, Monday-Friday.

• For more information, please contact Leticia Toro, Program Coordinator - (905)851-7955 or ltoro@shiningthrough.ca

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