

Participation Guidelines

Since 2004, our mission remains steadfast: to support individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families by expanding and enhancing opportunities to improve quality of life. Our vision is to collaborate and innovate within our community to support every individual with autism spectrum disorder and the people who care for them across a lifetime. We aspire to be the premier model of support for the autism community.

We are excited to welcome you to AutismUp and understand that starting a new program can come with questions, so we have put together a quick information guide of things to know!

ZONE A	ZONE B	ZONE C
AGE: 3+	AGE: 8+	AGE: 16+
MEDICAL: Any major medical concerns	MEDICAL: No major medical concerns	MEDICAL: No major medical concerns
BEHAVIORAL: Any reported aggression Any reported elopement Any reported property damage Any reported inappropriate conduct Any reported self-injurious behavior Any reported toileting concerns	BEHAVIORAL: No reported aggression No reported elopement No reported property damage No reported inappropriate conduct No reported self-injurious behavior No reported toileting concerns	BEHAVIORAL: No reported aggression No reported elopement No reported property damage No reported inappropriate conduct No reported self-injurious behavior No reported toileting concerns
SUPERVISION: Parent / guardian / caregiver must be in audio / visual range of participant at all times.	SUPERVISION: Participant must be in audio/visual range at all times.	SUPERVISION: Participant may move freely within the building unsupervised.
REQUIREMENTS: On-site parental / guardian / caregiver representation mandatory Parental / guardian / caregiver restroom supervision and / or hygiene assistance	REQUIREMENTS: On-site parental / guardian / caregiver representation optional Parent / guardian / caregiver must be within a reasonable proximity to program facility (10-15 minutes).	REQUIREMENTS: Participant can independently sign-in and out of programs. On-site parental / guardian / caregiver representation optional

✓ Safety Zone Guidelines

Safety is very important at AutismUp. We use a safety zone system to provide guidelines for staff, families, and participants while an individual is participating in AutismUp programs. Our approach is to place participants in the appropriate zone based on objective assessment and work with participants to increase independence as they age and develop skills.

✓ Behavior Management Approach

AutismUp has a “hands-off” approach, except in the case of an emergency. We strive to meet the support needs of each participant through a comprehensive intake process, thoughtful recommendations and placement, and tailored support. The safety of participants and staff is a priority at all times. AutismUp makes recommendations and changes to program activities or placements to ensure the success and safety of all participants and staff. Staff works in partnership with families on behavior management. Because AutismUp is a “hands-off” organization, if a participant is struggling in a way that compromises safety or class function, we may rely on parents and community habilitation workers to assist in supervising a break from the class or to facilitate departing from a class to try again next time – often with a collaboratively designed plan in place meant to enhance the quality of participants’ experience and growth.

✓ Medical Information

Key AutismUp staff members are trained to provide a safe and highly responsive environment. However, AutismUp staff cannot administer medication. Participants must be able to independently administer their own medication or be accompanied by someone who can.

✓ Cancelled Classes

Any change in our regular schedule due to inclement weather will be communicated on our website, by phone, and/or email. Please keep an eye on the AutismUp website on days when something like the weather could cause a delay or closure. If classes are canceled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, a makeup class will be arranged. In the event that one cannot be made, a pro-rated refund will be credited.

✓ Participant Portal

The portal aims to be a one-stop-shop for checking registration status, filling out forms, signing up for new classes, and receiving AutismUp announcements. All forms must be completed prior to attending class(es). Information collected is used only by authorized AutismUp personnel to create a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all participants. The Participant Portal is also where you can check what classes you are currently enrolled in and register for new classes each term.

✓ Payment Options

AutismUp accepts both Self-Direction and Private Pay options. Families are responsible for payment in full of any balance not covered by Self-Directed Funds or for class(es) that have been disqualified by your F.I. The Richard and Nancy Dorschel Family Foundation Scholarship Program makes scholarships available toward one class per semester for eligible families. Scholarship forms are available by request. Invoices will be sent out mid-term to families paying privately. Invoices to be covered by Self Direction funding will be sent directly to the FI agency that the family designates. Please always ensure that the available budget can cover the balance due.

✓ Questions? Please reach out, and we are happy to answer them!

- General Program: Hannah Kmiecinski, Program Manager, Hkmiecinski@autismup.org, (585) 248-9011 ext. 107
- Full Life Academy: Jeanne Ricigliano, Transition Program Director, jricigliano@autismup.org, (585) 248-9011 ext. 123
- Billing Questions: Business Office, Donna Colline, finance@autismup.org, (585) 248-9011 ext. 101
- Participant Portal or Registration: Jessica Dils, programregistration@autismup.org, (585) 248-9011 ext. 127