



# School-Aged Programme



**ACORN CHARITABLE TRUST**  
Embracing Neurodiversity



# What is our School-Aged Programme

Our School-Aged Programme is based on the science of learning and behaviour and enhances motivation and engagement in learning. The focus of our School-Aged Programme is to teach functional skills that are important to the young person, that increase their quality of life. Our School-Aged programme is for neurodiverse children and youth aged 5+ who need support with their learning and/or behavioural challenges. Our therapists believe that every child should be celebrated as an individual and that differences should be embraced.

Our school-aged programme can support with skills such as:

- Language and communication
- Social relationships
- Daily living skills
- Community & safety skills
- Cognitive and academic skills

# How does it work?

A Case Supervisor provides an assessment and, in collaboration with the child and their family, develops a therapy programme based on the child's interests, strengths and areas needing support.

We provide a strength-based, therapeutic learning environment with a trained therapist. The acquisition of new skills in our School-Aged Programme is accomplished by identifying what motivates the child and breaking an overall goal down into small, achievable, teachable steps. This allows us to provide support and encouragement across each small step. This approach makes learning enjoyable increases the likelihood of your child learning a new skill and using that skill more fluently in the future.

Therapy sessions can take place at our centre, your home or at your child's educational setting.

# Assessment Process

## **STEP 1 - PRE-ASSESSMENT**

Prior to your initial assessment, we will send you a Client Details Form, Terms of Service and Consent Form to complete. This will help us obtain basic information about your child and their needs. We will also ask you to share any reports or documentation that may be relevant, such as a paediatrician's report.

## **STEP 2 - INITIAL ASSESSMENT**

You and your child will meet with one of our Case Supervisors to complete an assessment. We work with you to comprehensively understand your child's strengths, support needs and what is important to them. Depending on their needs, the assessment may occur across multiple settings (e.g., centre, home, school, community).

## **STEP 3 - REPORT & FEEDBACK**

Following the assessment, your Case Supervisor will put together a report that will summarise the findings from the assessment and outline our recommendations for therapy services, including the number of therapy hours per week and initial therapy goals. We will meet with you to discuss this report and organise your child's start date for therapy sessions.



# Therapy Sessions

Therapy sessions take place with our trained therapists who work 1:1 with your child. The goal of the initial therapy sessions is for the therapist to build a relationship with your child. We know that when learning is fun we see the best results.

## **IN-CENTRE SESSIONS**

Therapy sessions at our centre will take place during the following time slots:

- 8:45am - 10:45am
- 11:00am - 1:00pm
- 1:30pm - 3:30pm
- 3:45pm - 5:45pm

We ask you to pick your child up 15 minutes before the end of your therapy session as the therapy technician uses the last 15 minutes to put away the resources, write any notes and finalise data.

Our centre is designed especially for therapy sessions and as such, has plenty of different toys, games and activities to use throughout sessions.

## **HOME/SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSIONS**

Therapy sessions can take place at your home, in the community or at your child's school, depending on your child's needs. Session times may differ from those listed above in order to accommodate the child's needs and travel time.



# Parent Training

*"I cannot emphasize enough the importance of a good teacher"*

- Temple Grandin

At Acorn we want to maximise your child's learning and success. We know that in order to achieve this, parental involvement is key as you are your child's best teacher.

We recommend ongoing parent training with your child's Case Supervisor so that you can continue to support your child's learning and development.

# Clinical Oversight

Your child's therapy plan will be overseen by a Case Supervisor. The amount of clinical oversight will be based on the number of weekly therapy hours.

Depending on your child's weekly number of hours of therapy, you will either have fortnightly or monthly progress meetings. These team meetings will include your child's case supervisor, therapist(s), parents/caregivers and the child. The purpose of these meetings is to review progress, introduce new therapy goals, problem-solve and ensure everyone is working together to achieve the best outcomes for your child.

| Weekly therapy hours | Approximate monthly case supervision hours | Number of monthly progress meetings |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 4                    | 0.75                                       | 1                                   |
| 6                    | 4  | 1                                   |
| 8                    | 6  | 1                                   |
| 10                   | 6  | 1                                   |

*\*Additional hours can be calculated on an individual basis.*

# Monitoring Progress

We want to ensure that you have an ongoing understanding of your child's progress and development.

We will provide you with progress reports outlining your child's progress.

This report will be emailed to you and can be discussed in the subsequent progress meeting.







# Service Information

## Assessment

- Parent Interview
- Observation & Assessment
- Assessment Report
- Developing Therapy Plan
- Feedback meeting to discuss report & plan
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- Occupational Therapy and/or Speech & Language Therapy Assessment can be provided at an additional cost.

## Therapy

- Therapy session with trained therapist

*Recommended hours will be provided following the assessment. We have a minimum of 6 hours per week.*

## Supervision

- Case management
- Progress review
- Supervision of therapists
- therapy plan updates
- interdisciplinary consultation
- progress meetings with case supervisor, family, therapists



# Additional Services

Additional services can be added to our Early-Years Programme. For example, you may choose to see one of our Speech Language Therapists or Occupational Therapists. We can also provide additional parent training or have our team provide training to your child's educational setting. In addition to Speech Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy, we also offer the following 1:1 additional services:

- Toilet training
- Eating/feeding services
- Sleep support

Please speak to your child's Case Supervisor or our Clinical Manager if you are interested in additional services for your child.



Building a future in which all neurodiverse children and youth can fully participate, belong and thrive.

## CONTACT

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