



Summer Program for the Education of Autistic Kids  
*Program of the Autism Society of Pittsburgh*  
P.O. Box 296  
Wexford, PA 15090

**TO:** Parents of Children with Autism

This letter is to provide you with important information regarding the S.P.E.A.K. Extended School Year Program.

S.P.E.A.K. is an Extended School Year (ESY) program for children from age 5 through 21 who have a **primary diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum**, are in good health, mobile, potty trained, and able to participate in community activities.

S.P.E.A.K. provides Community Based Instruction (CBI) and addresses each child's Extended School Year goals and objectives. The goals of the S.P.E.A.K. program are to:

- Develop and maintain community awareness through structured community-based experiences
- Develop and maintain appropriate social and behavioral skills and interactions
- Develop and maintain recreation and leisure skills
- Provide CBI language experiences that correlate with classroom CBI instruction
- Provide classroom instruction based on individual ESY and transition goals
- Monitor progress on individual ESY goals and CBI activities through data collection with comprehensive reporting to families and school districts

S.P.E.A.K. provides music therapy and speech services. Activities include physical education, swimming, CBI classroom trips, field trips, and art activities.

The location for the 2021 S.P.E.A.K. program will be Saint Therese of Lisieux School. The School is centrally located for all the districts we serve and is only 10 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh. Saint Therese of Lisieux School is located on Main Street in Munhall which will enhance the students' ability to participate in a multitude of community-based experiences within walking distance of the school. The shopping district and restaurants at the Waterfront are easily accessible and will provide various opportunities for our students to learn through community-based instruction.

In summary, a child may attend S.P.E.A.K. if:

- They are 5 – 21 years old, in good health, mobile, potty trained, and able to participate in program activities.
- They have a **primary diagnosis of Autism**.
- An **application is completed** returned to the Autism Society of Pittsburgh by the posted deadline.
- The medical form included in the application packet **MUST be signed by your child's doctor**.

Additional information:

- S.P.E.A.K. is an ESY program.
- S.P.E.A.K. does not provide transportation. Transportation is provided by the school district for all students who are considered ESY eligible.
- Parents must complete the application packet, including the medical form, which is to be signed by a doctor, for their child to attend.
- Questions concerning S.P.E.A.K. can be directed to the Autism Society of Pittsburgh at 412-856-7223.

**The dates for the 2021 S.P.E.A.K. program are July 5 through July 30. Students attend Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 30 is a half day; students are dismissed at 11:30.**

If you have additional questions, please contact the Autism Society of Pittsburgh at 412-856-7223.

Sincerely,

Jeanine M. Gevaudan  
S.P.E.A.K. Program Director