

# JAFCO Children's Ability Center



...giving every child a place to belong



**Providing family support, child enrichment, respite and therapies to children with developmental disabilities.**

**...giving every child a place to belong**

## **Who Do We Serve?**

The JAFCO Children's Ability Center is committed to serving children from birth to age 22 who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability (including Autism, Intellectual Disability, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Prader Willi and others) or developmental delay.

We are located in the heart of South Florida in Broward County with easy access to both Palm Beach and Miami-Dade Counties via the Florida Turnpike, I-75 and the Sawgrass Expressway. We are happy to serve families who reside anywhere in the state of Florida and even throughout the country. Families may pay privately on a sliding scale fee based on verified income or may qualify for one of several public funding sources that are available to the Ability Center family, so everyone is welcome.

Providing family support and strengthening, child enrichment, out-of-home day and overnight respite and community engagement programs to families raising children with a developmental disability. We are here to support the entire family.



## **Supporting Your Entire Family**

The Children's Ability Center is a beautifully designed, safe, gated, warm and inviting place for your child as well as your entire family. The Center includes an art studio, fun and fitness gym, general store, life skills and social skills rooms, music and drama studios and an outdoor playground and splashpad. You can drop your child off for the afternoon or the day, or if you prefer, you may stay on campus, enjoy a cup of coffee in our parent cafe where parents can have time alone, connect with other parents, use the work-out equipment, watch tv or bring their laptop and do some work while their children are learning new skills and having fun with their new friends. Our respite home provides children with their own bedroom and bath, where children may stay overnight from 1 night up to 2 weeks per year.

Your child will begin an individualized program that focuses on their many strengths and abilities. Working together to develop their cognitive, verbal, fine and gross motor and social skills, we hope to also enhance their performance and independence at home, in school and in the community.



## Family Support and Strengthening

JAFCO is committed to supporting families from the moment of diagnosis throughout their journey. Our team works in partnership with families to create an individual plan.

Parents and family members are offered training and education classes to better understand their child's diagnosis, to advocate for them and to assist them to reach their potential. A full array of support groups for moms, dads, couples, grandparents and siblings are offered to ensure we are supporting everyone in the family. When requested, parents are supported and empowered when advocating for their children at school with one of our Educational Advocates sitting by their side.

## Child Enrichment Services

Children with developmental disabilities often don't have the opportunity to engage in social and recreational activities with their peers. We recognize how important these activities are in your child's life to help them learn social skills and life skills, build self-esteem, make new friends and just have fun.

Your child will be welcome to participate in appropriate enrichment programs such as:

- **Social Skills Activities**

Social skills activities focus on structured activities focused on specific skills, such as social language, appropriate play and interaction with peers. Birthday parties can be arranged allowing the child to invite other children they've met at the Ability Center. Social Hangout is for teens only and encourages guided discussion on important topics.

- **Life Skills Classes**

Our Life Skills Program addresses the skills needed for children to transition into independent adults and includes home management skills (cooking, cleaning, laundry, loading dishwasher), money management skills and employment readiness skills. For our older teens and young adults who successfully complete these programs, employment opportunities are available at our beautiful Illuminate Event Venue inside the Ability Center. Graduates from our life skills program are eligible to apply for paid employment at our Illuminate Event Venue in various capacities including guest relations, event set-up, catering, marketing, maintenance.

- **Just Having Fun**

Includes art, music, dance, sports, fitness, yoga, science, playground fun, water play, foam parties and more!

Visit us online at [jafco.org](http://jafco.org) to learn more and to see our tour schedule.  
Come visit us soon and meet your new "JAFCO Children's Ability Center Family".

## Respite and Community Engagement Services

Many parents and caregivers of children with developmental disabilities report feelings of isolation so the Ability Center offers fun programs for parents including Parent Evening Out, Moms Retreats and Family Fun day. We provide babysitting for all of these programs while you are meeting other parents who truly understand the challenges you face on a daily basis. Individualized childcare hours are always available for date nights as well.

All parents need time to relax and renew and the Ability Center offers amazing fun programming for your child while you get time alone. To begin, your child will have fun with us for a few hours up to a full day. Once they are comfortable (and you are too) why not consider allowing them to have a sleepover with their friends at the Ability Center. We offer every family up to two weeks of respite per year to allow parents to take some focused time for themselves, spend time with their spouse or partner, with friends or with their typical children. Respite is offered for any days off from school, all year long. If you have an emergency, we are also here to help.

## Camp Kehilla

Camp Kehilla provides campers with a fun, safe and exciting summer, while increasing their social and life skills, exposing them to new experiences and allowing them to make friends for a few days or for the entire two week session. Camp groups operate on a 1:1 camper to adult counselor ratio when needed. Activities include Life Skills and Safety, Social Skills, Music Therapy, Sports, Sensory Carnival, Petting Zoo, Water Play, Fun with Food, Talent Shows and so much more. Parents wanting their child to experience the fun of a sleep-away camp, without sending them too far away just yet, can enroll their child in a session of Kehilla overnight camp. The camp fun continues into the night in our beautiful 4,000 square foot air conditioned "camp cabin" for the overnight campers who will each enjoy their own private room and bathroom, with 24-hour awake adult staff to ensure their safety. Parents can take some much needed time to recharge and relax.

### How to get started:

Reaching out is the first step! It is also the hardest step. Let's begin with a Parent Welcome Tour. Simply call 954-315-7033 or email Director of Community Engagement at [devin@jafco.org](mailto:devin@jafco.org) to schedule. After you've completed your tour of our beautiful center, you may request a private individual meeting with our clinical team to discuss your child's needs and how we can work together.



...giving every child a place to belong

## JAFCO Children's Ability Center

Sam & Adele Borger Campus  
The David Posnack Jewish Children's Center  
Stephen & Helene Weicholz Children's Lodge  
Sandi & Robert Morris Respite Guest House  
Gerry Lindzon and Berman Family Guest Houses (opening early 2024)  
Illuminate Venue at the Shirley and Barton Weisman  
and Family Event Center

**5100 N. Nob Hill Road • Sunrise, FL 33351**  
**P: 954-315-7033 • info@jafco.org • jafco.org**



### Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are an important part of the JAFCO family, and we invite you to volunteer at the Children's Village or Children's Ability Center to play with one child or a small group of children, help with lunch and feeding, administrative work, help us with organizing or with a fundraising event. Your volunteer journey begins with an informative JAFCO tour, so please contact our Parent Support and Community Outreach Specialist Linda Sachs at 954-315-8664 or linda@jafco.org.

JAFCO's mission is to provide care, safety and support to children and their families within the Jewish community and beyond who are impacted by abuse, neglect, trauma, or developmental disabilities...giving every child a place to belong.



Professional Affiliations, Licensure and Partners



As a faith-based agency within the Jewish community JAFCO is proud to offer all of our services without discrimination against race, color, national origin and disability.