

The Problem

Families with a child newly diagnosed with Autism often find themselves lost in the transition to a new lifestyle. "Too often the system parents navigate in seeking help with Autism works only with the child," said Acceptational Minds Founder/Director Becky Krisko. "We work with the entire family to support everyone involved."

The Solution

Acceptational Minds focuses on building executive functioning and life skills in the children they work with. They teach families how to connect and interact as a family unit to help increase effective communication, reduce problem behaviors, and encourage growth and independence. Their ultimate goal is to integrate their clients into the community.



Since their beginning in 2015, Acceptational Minds has expanded to serve all families of children who are struggling, including kids with complex PTSD, significant trauma, and other developmental disorders. They offer a variety of

services including an alternative school, programs teaching life skills, classes for families, and consultation for professionals.

Krisko's work started in her home with her sons, both of whom have Autism, long before she became an expert in the field. "I listened to professionals but they didn't have any answers," she said. So, she took classes, attended conferences, and learned anywhere she could.

Acceptational Minds' first center offered after-school programming where kids could learn executive functioning

and life skills. A Saturday option was added, and things grew from there. "Every time we found a kid who fell through the cracks we developed a new program," Krisko said.

The secret ingredient according to Krisko is lived experience. Every staff member has lived experience in Autism, and they are highly trained. De-escalation, keeping kids safe, and teaching skills in real time is a focus.

Results

Acceptational Minds has served countless families and numerous school districts and organizations. Currently, they serve over 65 families.

Those served consistently compliment Krisko on the depth of her understanding of Autism. Krisko shared a story of a young person who wasn't able to participate in her after school program because he was drained by the end of the school day. The youth had convinced his parents he should be out of school so they pulled him from school and kept him home, where Krisko said most kids want to be. He was home 24/7, living alone, and non-verbal. The family put him in Acceptational Minds' Saturday program, and, after much work, he is now employed.

Acceptational Minds works closely with school districts, collaborating on the transition when students they work with return to their home school. "Our goal is to keep the student at school," Krisko said.

"I love it every time I see a kid be successful or a parent's shoulders fall down in relief when they see their child doing well or know somebody hears them." — Becky Krisko

