Strategies and Research

The STAR Program uses several of the **National Autism Center** established evidence-based practices, including:

- ★ Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- ★ Schedules
- ★ Self-management (promoting independence
- ★ Joint attention training
- ★ Modeling (imitation)
- ★ Naturalistic teaching strategies (child-directed)
- ★ Story-based social narratives

Learn more about research on the STAR program at starautismsupport.com/curriculum/research

ABA Strategies

Some of the ABA strategies we use in the STAR Program include:

- ★ Pivotal Response Training
- ★ Discrete Trial Training
- ★ Functional Routines
- ★ Positive Behavior Supports

Mission statement

STAR Autism Support (SAS) provides curriculum materials, workshops, and training to school and agency staff who work with students with autism. Our mission is to help others successfully implement research-based applied behavior analysis (ABA) techniques. We want every child with autism to receive effective instruction!

(503) 716-8203

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CAREGIVER OVERVIEW

A quick guide to using the STAR Program

Strategies for Teaching,
Based on Autism Research

Understanding Autism

As a spectrum disorder, every child diagnosed with autism **has a range of abilities**. Key characteristics of children diagnosed with autism include difficulty with social communication as well as restricted and/or repetitive behaviors. However, while one child with autism may be non-verbal, another may have a large vocabulary, but struggle with the pragmatics of social communication. This makes a one-size-fits-all education challenging.

Children diagnosed with autism also have **incredible strengths**. From being excellent visual learners with a keen eye for detail to absorbing and retaining facts and being experts in their favorite subjects, they bring a unique set of skills to any situation.

That's why our STAR Program is **designed to adapt and fit** to your child's individual learning needs. We recognize and use each child's strengths individually to teach important skills, support socialization, and help them thrive in and out of the classroom.

How can you support your child with the STAR Program?

You are a valuable partner in the education of your children. In combination with the STAR Program, we encourage you to communicate with your school team on:

★ Effective teaching strategies to use at home

★ Ways to promote your child's social-communication skills

★ Approaches to teaching during daily family routines

What is the STAR Program?

The STAR program uses evidence-based practices to provide comprehensive, individualized assessments and instruction to your child! It includes:

★ A comprehensive assessment

★ Instruction across all developmental areas

★ Daily data collection to drive instruction

★ Evidence-based instructional strategies

★ A strong focus on socialization, behavior, and self-management

★ Easy progress monitoring tools

With the STAR Program, your child will learn:

★ Communication skills, including expressive and receptive language

★ Play and social skills

★ Academic skills

★ Daily routines they can practice at school, home, and out in the community

Using a combination of 1:1 instruction, group activities, inclusion supports, and a strong focus on gaining independence, the STAR Program will support your child throughout their day.

Remote Learning

We also offer a synchronous remote learning curriculum, the **STAR Online Learning System (SOLS)**, to give children access to educational services virtually. SOLS includes:

★ A scaffolded, IEP-driven curriculum, with 12 adaptable strands

★ Real-time coaching, scripted lesson plans, and online visuals to support teacher- and caregiver-based instruction

★ Assessments and progress monitoring tools

★ Weekly homework packets and extensive independent work activities

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