

everyone is *different*



AVONDALE HOUSE AND AUTISM

Autism is a neurological disorder for which there is no singularly known cause and for which there is no cure. It is the fastest growing developmental disorder in the country. The number of children diagnosed with autism has doubled, on average, every two years between 1976 and 2001. In Texas, over the last decade, the numbers have increased 256%. Across the United States, as many as 1 in 100 children are being diagnosed with autism.

What are children with autism like? Each child with autism is unique, with their own individual range of symptoms and behaviors. However, as a result of extensive study over many years, it is possible to make some basic general statements about what children with autism are like as a group. Often children diagnosed with autism:

- Treat people as if they do not exist
- Do not communicate well or at all
- Are not interested in making friends
- Prefer solitary play activities
- Speak in a monotonous tone or not at all
- Do not seek comfort when ill, hurt, or tired
- May stiffen when held and not greet their parents
- Scream for no apparent reason
- May bang their heads
- Spend hours spinning wheels or engaging in repetitive activities



Avondale House is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that provides a school, a day habilitation program and residential services for children and young adults with autism and other pervasive developmental disorders. Founded in 1976 by parents of children with autism, the program was originally located on Avondale Street. Today, the organization is located on a two-acre secure and gated campus at 3737 O'Meara Drive. The day school program and adult day habilitation services are housed in a 33,000 square foot facility that is specifically designed to facilitate the educational, sensory, and developmental needs of individuals with autism. The three residential homes are in the southwest area of Houston.

Avondale House is funded through tuition and fees charged to school districts and other entities for services to students and residents; however, the fees charged do not cover the cost of providing services. As a nonprofit organization, we also depend on support from foundations, corporations, churches, civic groups, individuals, and United Way to sustain and enhance programs and services.



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