

*Local Universities and
Community Colleges
Resource List*

Universities

<u>University</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
University of Washington	
Autism Center	206-221-6806
Psychology Department	206-543-2640
College of Education	206-543-7834
Special Education Department	206-543-1827
Experimental Education Unit	206-543-4011
Career Services Center	206-543-9107
The Daily (UW Newspaper)	206-543-2335
Bothell Campus	425-352-5000
University of Puget Sound	253-879-3161
Seattle University	206-296-6080
Seattle Pacific University	206-281-2047
Pacific Lutheran University	253-535-7459
City University	425-637-1010
Bastyr University	425-823-1300
Antioch University	206-268-4025

Community Colleges

<u>College</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Bellevue CC	425-564-2030
Cascadia CC	425-352-3182
Edmonds CC	425-640-1443
Everett CC	425-388-9278
Green River CC	253-833-9111 ext. 2555
Highline CC	206-878-3710 ext. 3536
Seattle CC	206-587-4135
Shoreline CC	206-546-5882



Autism Center
University of Washington
Center on Human Development
and Disability
Box 357920
Seattle, WA 9819
206-221-6806



University of Washington
Center on Human Development and Disability

Autism Center

FINDING A HOME
THERAPY ASSISTANT

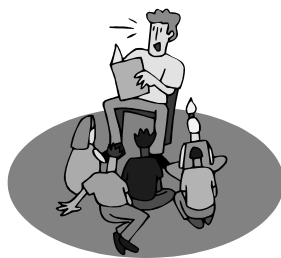


*Committed to improving the lives of
children with autism spectrum
disorders (ASD) and their families.*



Qualifications

Applicants who inquire about a Therapy Assistant position may not have any direct experience working with children with an autism spectrum disorder. This is OK. You want someone who will be a good match for your child. Here are some recommendations that we consider important qualities in a potential Therapy Assistant.



- **Enthusiastic.** Successful Therapy Assistants (TAs) are interested in interacting with children and will enjoy spending time with your child.
- **Responsible and dependable.** It is important that the TA you hire be someone that is dedicated and will not have excessive absences.
- **Playfulness.** Everyone has different comfort levels when interacting with young children. This is OK, but you want to see how a potential TA interacts with your child. Do they try to engage your child in playful activity that he or she likes? Do they smile or laugh when they interact with your child?
- **A willingness to accept feedback.** A critical element to a successful home therapy program is a well organized program that is implemented consistently. In order for this to happen your TA will receive regular training and should be willing to accept continual feedback.
- **Additional qualifications that are pluses but are not required.** A TA who has prior experience working with young children is helpful. Have they had experience working in a preschool, babysitting, or volunteering in a community agency with children? Prior experience working with people with disabilities or who have an autism spectrum disorder is a real bonus; this might be a sibling, family member, or person that they have known who has special needs.

Pay and Benefits

Most TAs in this area are receiving between \$10.00 and \$15.00 an hour. The rate of pay for a TA is based upon his or her qualifications and experience. Since most families do not have the ability to give additional employee benefits to their TAs we recommend keeping in mind other ways you can show appreciation to your talented TAs, for instance, be flexible. If your TA is a student, he or she might need a day off or therapy times changed during finals week. Showing your appreciation in small ways for a job well done will add to the success of your home tutoring program.

Making a Flyer

When designing your flyer, it is a good idea to create something that will catch people's attention and get them interested in working with your child. The following are suggestions for what you might include in a flyer:

- **Statement of responsibilities.** It is important to describe the duties and responsibilities.
- **Picture of your child.** Including a picture of your child might attract more potential TAs.
- **Pay range.** Many families include the rate of pay.
- **An opportunity to learn specialized techniques.** Be sure to highlight that TAs will gain experience working with children with autism spectrum disorders and receive training from qualified trainers.
- **Contact information.**



Advertising

The following list provides some ideas where you might advertise for a TA. It is preferable to find a TA who lives or goes to school near you, if possible; it makes scheduling easier.

- **Local community center, church, synagogue, or mosque.** A community organization where you have ties is a great place to post a job announcement.
- **Local newspapers.**
- **Friends and family members.** Many families have found home TAs through word of mouth. By telling family and friends you are looking for a TA you can often be successful in finding someone to work with your child.
- **Your child's preschool or public school program.** Often teaching assistants or others associated with your school might be interested in learning how to work successfully with your child in a home tutoring program.
- **Community resource groups,** such as, FEAT (Families for Effective Autism Treatment at 206-499-3328 or on the Web at www.featwa.org) have a TA list that members of their organization can access.
- **College or university campuses.** Most community colleges and universities have bulletin boards or campus locations where you can post job listings. Different departments on campus also have bulletin boards where they may be willing to post an advertisement. Always inquire beforehand about the process of getting permission to post a job opening. *See reverse side for contact information.*

