

Newsletter

Spring 2024



Letter from the President



Spring is upon us again, and exciting things are happening at All Aboard for Kids!

At AAFK, creating a strong community support system is at the heart of our mission. Our focus on fostering connections extends from

our dedicated staff and diverse special guests to our community partners. Building this network of support is key to meeting our participants where they are and helping families bridge that long summer gap.

For Summer 2024, we are thrilled to welcome back many familiar faces among our staff, as well as some new additions! Many of our favorite special guests will be returning to STEAM Academy this summer, and I'm so inspired by our growing list of Future Focus community partners! All of these valuable connections will further enhance the support and resources we provide to our community.

April is Autism Acceptance Month. Please join us in spreading the word about our programs! We strive to connect with both the families who can benefit from our services and the committed professionals who can help us grow. Building these connections is essential - It truly does take a village!

Summer is a challenging time for so many families living with autism, and that's where All Aboard for Kids really shines! Together with our dedicated staff, committed volunteers, and supportive community partners, we're shaping a future filled with hope, opportunity, and possibility for the youth we serve. Thank YOU for being a vital part of our journey!

With gratitude,

Lisa McCarty
Co-Founder and President

Summer 2024 Registration is Open!

We're excited to announce that there are still spots available for registration in our summer program! Don't miss out! Register today to reserve your spot and enjoy a summer filled with learning, growth, and unforgettable memories. Scan the QR code to register.





April is Autism Awareness Month

April marks Autism Awareness Month, a time dedicated to fostering understanding and acceptance for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Throughout this month, we invite you to join us in raising awareness and celebrating the unique contributions of individuals on the autism spectrum.

1 in every 36 children in the US has autism.

Autism Awareness Month provides an opportunity to dispel myths, challenge stereotypes, and highlight the diverse experiences of individuals with autism. It also serves as a platform to promote early intervention, access to services, and support for individuals with autism across their lifespan.



The diagnosis rate for Autism is rising by 10-17% each year.

All Aboard for Kids is dedicated to bridging the gap in summer programming for youth with autism by offering inclusive and tailored activities designed to meet their unique needs. Recognizing the importance of providing meaningful and supportive experiences, our program focuses on fostering social skills and communication in a safe and inclusive environment. Through specialized programming, trained staff, and individualized support, we strive to empower children on the autism spectrum to explore, learn, and grow while building confidence and connections.

Community Connections

We're thrilled to announce that All Aboard for Kids has recently joined our local Ames Chamber of Commerce! This is an exciting step for AAFK, providing us with valuable opportunities to connect, collaborate, and grow within our community. We look forward to building meaningful relationships and contributing to the collective success of our local businesses and organizations.

We've also made connecting with local organizations to raise community awareness a priority. Recently, we've met with respected local organizations such as Rotary Club of Ames, Ames Town & Country Kiwanis, and a local P.E.O. Chapter. In addition, we've had the good fortune to speak with ISU students about our AAFK programs and opportunities to get involved.

These collaborative conversations have helped us share our vision, highlight our programs, and foster meaningful connections within the community.

We're always eager to engage with the community and raise awareness about All Aboard for Kids!



Special Guests and Community Partners

Each summer we welcome special guests like Roni Harless, Dr. Nicole Randick, Story County Conservation, the Ames Public Library Bookmobile, and Adventures in Social Development to our summer program. Roni Harless's adaptive physical education ensures every camper can participate fully, while Dr. Nicole Randick's art therapy sessions provide a creative outlet for emotional expression. Story County Conservation connects campers with nature through hands-on activities, Adventures in Social Development utilizes drama to teach valuable social skills, and the Bookmobile gives campers a chance to check out their favorite books and movies. These guests enrich our program, fostering growth, learning, and unforgettable experiences for our participants.



First Responders Day



This summer we are excited to once again be partnering with Ames First Responders and Kona Ice for our second annual First Responders Day! Ames Police Department, Fire Department, Mary Greeley EMTs, and Kona Ice will all join us in the parking lot for a morning of fun and education!



Partnering with Ames First Responders gives our participants a unique opportunity to interact with these everyday heroes. This event fosters collaboration and facilitates discussions on how emergency services can better support individuals on the spectrum during emergencies.

Thank you to these amazing agencies for their dedication and support!

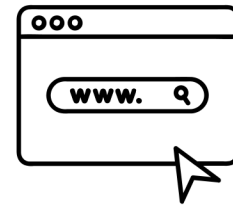


Ways to give

Text AAFK to 44-321 OR scan the QR code with your cell phone's Camera app for quick and easy access to our GiveLively donation page.



Visit our website at allaboardforkids.com/donate to make your donation. One-time and monthly options are available - every cent is appreciated!



Send a check! Make the check payable to All Aboard for Kids and send it to 525 Kellogg Ave. #2284, Ames, IA, 50010.



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