

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2019

## SUPERHERO ADVENTURE DAY BRINGS INCLUSIVE FUN FOR ALL FAMILIES

Capes and costumes are both welcome and encouraged!

**Plano, TX** - Everyone deserves to feel like a superhero. This weekend, <u>Life Skills Autism</u> <u>Academy</u> will open its doors to the public to celebrate its grand opening with a special all-inclusive sensory-friendly adventure day featuring popular superheroes. Life Skills Autism Academy is a highly-specialized, center-based treatment program designed to provide the best developmental experience possible for young children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Life Skills Autism Academy's entire program is rooted in evidence that early intensive intervention leads to the greatest potential reached by children on the autism spectrum. As leading experts in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), the academy's highly-trained clinicians develop individualized, one-on-one programs that help children break down important developmental milestones into manageable steps. This type of therapy helps children with autism improve communication ability, daily living skills, and social behaviors necessary to thrive in school, at home, and in their communities. The Plano Life Skills Autism Academy is the first of other locations planned around the country.

"Early Intervention is typically defined as treatment before the age of five. We know that the early preschool years are critical in developing behaviors and habits for all children," said Treva Fairman, Vice President of Life Skills Autism Academy. "This young stage is particularly critical for kids on the spectrum. By developing individualized strategies early on, time isn't spent unlearning undesirable behaviors later on. The child spends less time feeling frustrated and more time moving forward."

"Life Skills Autism Academy blends the best of both worlds between a school based model and an ABA clinical model," said Kim Gorham, Clinical Director for Life Skills Autism Academy. "We ask our parents to commit to a consistent therapy schedule because we know it will provide optimal outcomes for their child's growth and development."

Life Skills Autism Academy is hosting a sensory-friendly Superhero Adventure Day so families can see the facility and kids can let loose and have a really great time. The event is open to the entire community, whether or not children have autism.

During the event, kids can test their superpowers at a Superhero Training Course, make their own superhero masks, solve puzzles, play games, and meet a few of their favorite superheroes



in person. Superhero Adventure Day is designed to recognize and honor all the heroes who walk – or fly – among us. The event is open to the entire community, whether or not children have autism. Attendees are encouraged to dress up as their favorite superheroes.

"Who doesn't daydream about having X-ray vision, flying through the air, or flexing super-human strength?" asked Fairman. "We're dedicating an entire day to exploring what it means to be a real life superhero. We've got lots of fun events and activities planned. It will be sensory-friendly and judgement-free. The kids can be themselves while having fun and working on socialization skills."

Activities include:

- Photos with Superheroes
- Bounce House
- Superhero Training Course
- Sensory Stations
- Face Painting
- Superhero Crafts

The event is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Families are encouraged to secure their spots ahead of time. Reservations can be made right up to the time of the event using the following link:

## http://lifeskillsactivityday.eventbrite.com

Media is invited to the event. Centria executive staff and clinical experts will be in attendance. Please reach out if you need prior interview access or b-roll from other Superhero events. Centria staff can be made available for studio segments and live shots.

<u>Date</u>: Sunday, August 25, 2019 <u>Time</u>: 1:00 PM to 4:00pm <u>Location</u>: Life Skills Autism Academy, 6500 Pinecrest Drive, Suite 700, Plano, TX 75024

## **Quick Facts**

- About 1 in 59 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) according to estimates from the CDC.
- ASD is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups.
- ASD is about 4 times more common among boys than among girls.



About Life Skills Autism Academy:

Life Skills Autism Academy is an operating division of Centria Healthcare, a leading national provider of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy for children with autism and their families. Life Skills Autism Academy Optimal Outcomes approach combines child-centered, evidence-based ABA with best practices to help children with ASD have the best developmental experience possible and acquire the skills to live independently and succeed in the world on their own terms.

For more information, please visit http://lifeskillsautismacademy.com

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