



DOMINO PARENTS SPEAK...

"Before my son attended Domino, he was unable to communicate. It seemed as though Pauly was living in a world all of his own...we struggled every day to get him to open up to us. He has now been in the program for two years and the transformation...is nothing short of a miracle!"

"Pauly will enter a regular kindergarten class this fall!"

BEST PRACTICES IN EDUCATING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

"When Derek was diagnosed with autism, we were devastated. Some of the pain came from the realization that he may never go to college, get married, have a job, or live on his own. When he started at Domino a year ago, he had poor communication skills and multiple behavioral problems....Today, he speaks and communicates well. He knows his alphabet, can write his name and is working on a reading program! Derek used to get over-stimulated and was often unhappy. Today, he is full of happiness. He plays with others, laughs and smiles all of the time. He is a different child."

"Domino Project has taught my child how to learn!"



We hope you'll contact us at Northwest Autism Center if you...

- NEED AUTISM INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND SUPPORT
- REQUIRE AUTISM TRAINING OR CONSULTATION FOR YOUR STAFF
- WISH TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR AN AUTISM SCREENING
- WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT DOMINO PROJECT PROGRAM FOR YOUR CHILD



DOMINO PROJECT DIRECTOR

DR. SHIRA A. ACKERMAN joined Northwest Autism Center in 2007. She holds a PhD in Applied Behavior Analysis from Columbia University and is a veteran special education teacher

with expertise in early verbal development.

Dr. Ackerman brings effective research-based practices to Domino Project and to our region. Along with directing the program, she works closely with Domino families, and provides training and consultation to EWU students, teachers and school districts. She presents on autism research and best practices at conferences across the country and abroad.

DOMINO PROJECT





DOMINO PROJECT

TEACHING YOUNG CHILDREN TO LEARN

Northwest Autism Center began **Domino Project** in 2005 to develop an **evidence-based program** of individualized early intervention for preschool-age children with autism, and to provide a network of education and support for their families, too. In a colorful, kid-friendly classroom on the campus of Eastern Washington University (EWU), twelve Domino students receive highly motivating, innovative instruction rich in **language and communication, social skills, play, self-help skills, and academics**. Domino uses a foundation of applied behavior analysis in a program that is...

YEAR-ROUND AND INTENSIVE

The impact of autism does not end with the traditional school year. Enrollment begins as early as age two, maximizing the proven benefits of early intervention. Students diagnosed with autism receive 25 hours of care and instruction per week throughout the calendar year.

FAMILY-CENTERED

When families thrive, so do the children. Families receiving an autism diagnosis will face complex challenges, as they learn about autism, seek appropriate and often hard-to-find services and resources, and acquire the skills necessary to support their child at home and in the community. Our privilege is to partner with Domino families in each of these efforts by providing regular information, education and support meetings, facilitated classroom observations, monthly home visits and social gatherings.

PURPOSEFUL AND JOYFUL PLAY



25 WEST 5TH AVE SPOKANE, WA 99204

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

INCLUSIVE

Domino children work and play together—in the classroom, and on field trips and community outings. We enroll children with and without autism, to ensure the natural and healthy, integrated environment so necessary to successful learning.

ACADEMICS

INDIVIDUALIZED AND MEASURED FOR SUCCESS

The research is clear. Successful learning takes place in a positive, highly motivating environment, where instruction is designed in response to the **comprehensive assessment of each child's needs and strengths**. Our highly trained staff works one-to-one and in small groups, using a variety of **strategies proven to help children learn**. Data is taken daily to measure each child's progress, and informs every decision to advance, modify and improve instruction.

INDEPENDENCE

TRAINING EDUCATORS

Housed on the campus of EWU, Domino serves as an observation, training and consultation center for EWU students, area educators and related autism service providers. This multi-agency collaboration contributes to the development of a robust network of autism professionals in our region, demonstrating the power of partnership to provide effective and innovative solutions to complex challenges in our community.

LANGUAGE



WWW.NWAUTISM.ORG

509.328.1582