

Positive behavior intervention programs:

S.P.E.A.K. staff follows the positive behavior intervention programs provided through the I.E.P. Individual support can be provided when necessary, in collaboration with the student’s school district.

...Bow! !



Ready, get set...



Kennywood



Transportation:

S.P.E.A.K. is neither funded nor authorized to provide transportation. If the student qualifies for an extended school year program, the school district is responsible for transportation to the program. Please contact your school district to make the necessary arrangements.



“Autism Speaks” is not S.P.E.A.K.

Autism-Pittsburgh founded S.P.E.A.K. forty-eight years ago to reduce summertime learning regression, and today provides up to 90 area autistic children each year with community-based education and recreation.

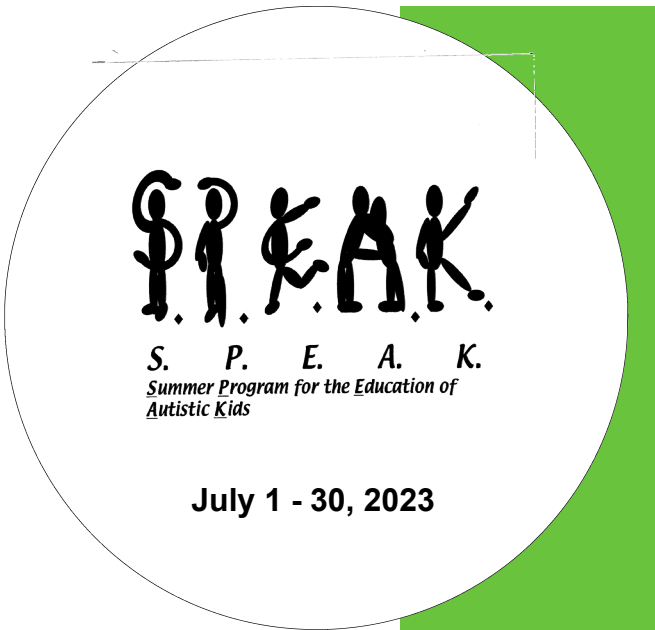
Our S.P.E.A.K. program is not associated with the relatively new national organization that calls itself “Autism Speaks”.

The 2024 S.P.E.A.K. program will be held at:

**St. Therese of Lisieux School
3 St. Therese Court
Munhall, PA 15120**

Jeanine Gevaudan, Program Director

Michele Waibel, Program Coordinator



A Program of:



**S.P.E.A.K.
P.O. Box 296
Wexford, PA 15090**

**412-856-7223
SPEAK@autismpittsburgh.org**

S.P.E.A.K

S.P.E.A.K. is an Extended School Year (ESY), and summer recreation program for students ages 5 to 21. Our students have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Autism-Pittsburgh founded and has operated the program since 1974.

The purpose of **S.P.E.A.K.** is to provide education and social interaction instruction and training in accordance with their IEPs, thus preventing or reducing summertime regression and ensuring students' smooth transition into the upcoming school year.

S.P.E.A.K. employs an on-site director and a highly qualified professional support team. Each classroom consists of a certified lead teacher, assistant teacher, and classroom aide.

The goals of the program are to:

- Develop and maintain community awareness and interaction through structured community-based instruction (CBI) and experiences.
- Develop and maintain recreation and leisure skills.
- Develop and strengthen behavioral and social skills and interactions.
- Provide art and music enrichment activities.
- Provide language experiences that correlate with classroom instruction.
- Provide classroom instruction based on individual IEP education and transition objectives.
- Monitor progress on individual ESY goals and community-based activities through data collection, and comprehensive reporting to the families and the students' school districts.

- The **S.P.E.A.K.** site is centrally located for all the districts we serve and is only 10 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh. St. Therese of Lisieux School's location enhances the student's ability to participate in a multitude of community-based experiences within walking distance of the school. The shopping district and restaurants at the Waterfront are easily accessible and provide various opportunities for students to learn through community-based instruction and experiences.
- The school includes ample classrooms, designated areas for art, music and computer education, gymnasium, and cafeteria

Activities:

The activities in which the children participate are age and ability appropriate. These activities include:

- Basic classroom education
- Recreation and games
- Community-based outings
- Speech therapy
- Swimming
- Music therapy, dance, yoga
- Adapted physical education
- Arts and crafts
- Field trips



Volunteers

S.P.E.A.K. utilizes school-age volunteers from local schools to promote peer interaction and to assist in community-based experiences. These volunteers serve as role models for the students and allow also for the development of friendships.

Enrollment

Parents must complete an application packet. All forms must be completed in their entirety, signed and returned by the due date. Incomplete forms will delay the enrollment process. For an application packet, please download from our website at www.autismpittsburgh.org or contact our Program Coordinator at SPEAK@autismpittsburgh.org or 412-856-7223.

Extended School Year Services:

S.P.E.A.K. provides extended school year services for children as determined by the student's Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) team. Progress towards each individual's goals is monitored through data collection. Data and reports are forwarded to students' school districts and parents at the conclusion of the program. The criteria for qualification for extended school year services and eligibility should be discussed at the I.E.P. conference.

Even though the I.E.P. team determines that the extended school year program will be **S.P.E.A.K.**, parents must still complete the enrollment process. The **S.P.E.A.K.** program will request from the school district a copy of the child's IEP, which will describe the current ESY goals and objectives.



Family Day