



SERVICE. TRAINING. RESEARCH.

Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center (DDDC)

An integral part of the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP)
at Rutgers University-New Brunswick since 1972

ABOUT US



The Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center (DDDC) is an integral part of the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP) at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. We recognize our responsibility to work collaboratively with the families of the children and adults we serve, and with the agencies that fund their treatment. The DDDC has been serving the needs of people with autism spectrum disorders, their families, and their schools since 1972. As an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program, we use these principles to organize our delivery of services. Our goal is to improve quality of life and decrease those behaviors that interfere with learning or social opportunities. We use a structured teaching approach that can be implemented in many settings to teach skills from many domains (communication, self-care, academic, play/leisure, social skills, etc.). Other key elements are motivation, reinforcement, and task analysis to break complex skills into small steps.

As a university-based program, our commitment includes the education of undergraduate and graduate students and the dissemination of knowledge through research, training, and consultative services. We also provide information about the treatment and education of people with autism spectrum disorders to the professional community and the general public. Our mission of service to people with autism spectrum disorders, their families and their schools is carried out through the following services and programs:

The Douglass School

A diagram showing three red rounded rectangular boxes arranged in a triangle, connected by faint lines. The top box is labeled 'The Douglass School'. The bottom-left box is labeled 'Douglass Adult Program'. The bottom-right box is labeled 'Outreach Services'. The background is decorated with several dandelion seed heads and their seeds floating around.

Douglass Adult
Program

Outreach Services

Douglass School Program



The Douglass School Program serves children ages 3 to 21 diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. It uses ABA principles with emphasis on the development and generalization of:

- instructional readiness
- functional communication
- social skills
- functional academics
- prevocational skills and
- independent adaptive living skills

Functional behavioral assessment is the cornerstone for all behavior interventions.

A full range of ABA strategies are used and may include, but are not limited to, discrete trial instruction, natural environment training, incidental teaching, shaping, and chaining. The verbal behavior classification system is a framework for language instruction.

The Douglass School's curriculum is individually planned, and a primary goal is to prepare students to return to their home schools and to provide them with the skills necessary to function in community settings. Those students who continue to require a specialized setting and remain with us through adolescence are provided with programming for adaptive living, pre-vocational training, and job sampling, as well as post-secondary transition services.

The Douglass School has preschool, elementary, intermediate, and secondary level classes. Common to all classes is a consistent structure:



Small staff to student ratio:
1:1 or 2:1



Small class sizes



Highly trained, board certified
instructors and professionals



Parent training and family
support services

Douglass Adult Program



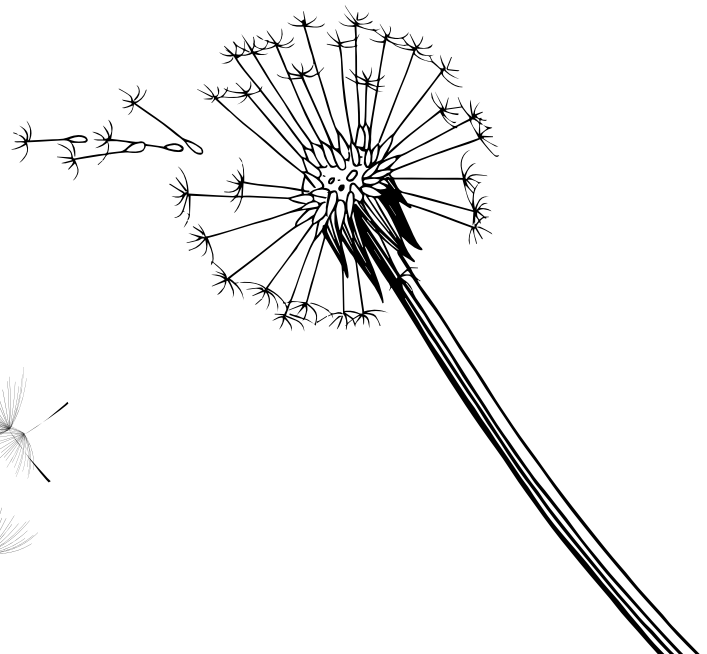
The Douglass Adult Program (DAP), established in 1997 as a separate unit of the DDDC, provides comprehensive employment and related day services to adults age 21 and beyond with autism spectrum disorders.

A primary programmatic focus is on training the skills necessary for life in the community. Utilizing an ABA model for skill development, the program endeavors to promote learning and work environments that recognize and support individual competencies, encourage skill development, minimize the need for display of problematic behavior, and respect, to whatever extent possible, appropriate consumer choice and control.

The program is located at 151 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ

DAP is a Medicaid-approved provider for the Supports Program and the Community Care Program. Services offered include:

- Full-day, year-round special needs day program
- Behavioral supports
- Community-based supports
- Community inclusion
- Day habilitation
- Pre-vocational training
- Supported employment



Douglass Outreach Services



Douglass Outreach Services is dedicated to providing the highest quality consultation and training to meet the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, their families, and the professional community. Experienced staff and consultants all of whom hold a BCBA use the evidenced-based principles of ABA in service delivery.

School-Based Consultation

Assists educational communities in establishing evidence-based programs that allow learners to maximize their full potential. Consultation includes the following:

- Assessment of educational programs for individual students or entire classes
- Clinical oversight and staff training
- Support for learners in inclusive educational environments
- Social skills training
- Support for reducing challenging behaviors
- Written consultation notes that summarize observations and offer suggestions for future consideration

Home-Based Services

Provides training for parents and for learners allowing all to benefit from intensive behavioral intervention in their homes and the community. Home-based services include the following:

- Clinical oversight and supervision by a program coordinator and direct service providers responsible for intensive teaching
- IEP development
- Parent training in ABA
- Monthly clinics with the entire team
- Written educational reports provided four times per year

Evaluations

A state-approved Child Study Team with the ability to conduct the following assessments:

- Psychoeducational assessments
- Functional behavioral assessments
- Speech evaluations
- Program evaluations

Research, Scholarship, and Training



As part of Rutgers-GSAPP, the DDDC provides training to undergraduate and graduate students of psychology and education in addition to other disciplines. Clinical faculty members and licensed psychologists play a crucial role in the DDDC's capacity to conduct scholarly research, provide teaching and training for students attending Rutgers University, and provide direct services in support of our mission. Our clinical faculty members and many of our staff members are involved in the following activities:

Research and Scholarship

- Applied research evaluating ABA educational interventions
- Collaboration with other Rutgers University faculty and with investigators from agencies outside of Rutgers
- Leadership and participation in state, national and international organizations
- Publications in books and journals
- Presentations at state, national and international conferences

Teaching and Training

- Organizing and participating in meetings and training seminars for DDDC staff and the community
- Teaching ABA courses in the Master's in ABA program, certificate program in ABA, as well as in the Master's of Applied Psychology program.
- Practicum experiences for master's and doctoral graduate students in education and psychology
- Field work & research course for undergraduate students
- Training opportunities for students of multiple disciplines

Service

- Behavioral and educational consultation within the DDDC
- Clinical oversight for staff supervising skill acquisition of learners within the DDDC
- Educational and Functional Behavior Assessment for learners within the DDDC's Center-based program and through Outreach Services

OUR TEAM



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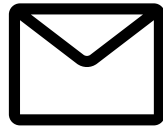
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