



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Scott Snow  
Development Director  
801-358-8424 cell  
801-221-9930 ext 103  
SSnow@kotm.org

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **KIDS ON THE MOVE EXTENDS SERVICES TO OLDER CHILDREN WITH AUTISM**

*Children with Autism Can Now Receive Affordable Help with KOTM's New Bridges Program*

Kids On the Move has a new program available to children ages 3-to-5 years old who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder or similar developmental delay. This is the first time in their 24 year history that KOTM services will be available to children in this age group. This new program, called "Bridges Autism Services" is currently enrolling children.

Kids On The Move has an established track record serving children with Autism, according to Jessica Weipert, mother of Carson who is currently receiving services. Weipert says, "Kids On The Move has really helped my son Carson to progress in his development. My provider Aubrey has not only helped Carson, but has been able to help me understand his needs. I just adore Kids On The Move."

"There are a variety of good services available to preschoolers with Autism," said Eileen Chamberland, Executive Director of Kids On The Move. "However, because of the explosion in the number of children with Autism or similar disorders, all systems are stretched to meet the need. Kids On The Move is helping by offering a unique menu of services from which families can choose, based on their child's individual needs. Our goal is to give families affordable options so their child can make the best progress possible in the critical preschool period. "

Bridges focuses on five areas of service: (1) preschool and socially focused playgroups which include both the children and parents; (2) in-home services with an autism specialist in an individually designed program; (3) a materials lending library so parents can save money on the special toys and learning materials needed by children with Autism; and (4) a series of classes to give parents the information they need to help their

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child and (5) professional, in-depth assessment to determine the starting point for a child's progress and to guide future developmental goals. Families may choose any combination of options.

Laurie Bowen, Bridges Program Director, states "While we know some families will want comprehensive services from KOTM, our services are not exclusive. For instance, we are happy if a family wants only to borrow materials or only to participate in our social skills group. We want to provide reasonably priced services to help families."

For more information contact Laurie Bowen at 801-221-9930 ext. 168, or [lbowen@kotm.org](mailto:lbowen@kotm.org). Preschool and social skills groups are enrolling now for September startup. Additional information is available at [www.kidsonthemove.org](http://www.kidsonthemove.org).

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### **Kids On The Move**

Kids On The Move is a nonprofit organization serving families with young children ages birth to three, including children with disabilities, developmental delays and/or children in a low-income situation. Founded in 1986, the organization supports the development of young children and families in Utah County by providing Early Intervention services, Early Head Start services, Autism Services for children ages 3-5 through the Bridges Program, and through The Noorda Resource Library. Recently, Kids On The Move was named the "Nonprofit of the Year" and received the 2009 Watkins Award from the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce. More information is available at [www.kidsonthemove.org](http://www.kidsonthemove.org).

### **Available for interviews:**

Laurie Bowen, Director, Bridges Program, Kids On The Move  
Eileen Chamberland, Executive Director, Kids On The Move  
Jessica Weipert, Family served by Kids On The Move

Contact Scott G. Snow, Development Director, Kids On The Move at 801-358-8424 (cell) to arrange an interview.