

# Orem autism school uses best practices for students



Nadia Crow (/story/nadia-crow/d/story/gTfaD3isUkKW16lcAr15tzQ)

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OREM, Utah (ABC 4 UTAH) - Utah's autism [rate](#) is the second highest in the nation. For the past 29 years, an organization called "Bridges" has been helping kids with disabilities or disorders. The group just changed its name to "Kids on the Move Autism Center. (<http://kotm.org/>)"

There are lots of sounds and lots of colors at Kids on the Move Autism Center in Orem. In 1986, two feisty moms started the [school](#).

"In Orem at that time, there were no services available for children with disabilities," said Kids on the Move Autism Center COO Rachele Rutherford.

Fast forward 29 years later, this school is only growing in services and size, but not as fast as the growing autism rate in Utah.

"To this date we haven't found any correlation as to why we have higher [rates](#) compared to other states," said Rutherford.

One of those kids was the director of the autism center's son.

"He had gone from ahead developmentally to regressing back to one years old when he was age three," said Kids on the Move Autism Center Director of the Autism Center Laura Cook.

Laura Cook's son underwent intensive applied behavioral analysis or ABA treatment. Addison is in the middle of her one-on-one therapy.

"Reinforcing a child; being able to be given a task and have them respond appropriately to that task," said Cook.

As for Cook's son...

"He recently graduated from [high school](#) with all straight A's all on his own and he's getting ready to go on a church mission and if you met him today you would never know," said Cook.

It's that kind of success story the staff wants for all its kids in three programs: early intervention, early head start, and the autism program.

"Supporting the emotional, the social, and the [educational](#) needs of the child and building lifelong skill sets for those parents," said Rutherford.

Kids on the Move Autism Center offers services right here at their center and even in-home therapy. You can still enroll in for summer classes, drama sports adaptive, and social skills. Starting in January insurance companies will have to cover autism thanks to a new law. Kids on the Move Autism Center also provides [scholarships](#) and other options.

This Saturday, Kids on the Move Autism Center will hold a full-day of training for parents. It's free and open to the public from 9am-4pm at 475 W 260 N, Orem UT 84057.

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