

  
**BRIGHT START**  
**FACES**  
PROGRAM

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Bright Start FACES Program provided by the  
Tulare County Office of Education  
and the Central Valley Regional Center

**Tulare County**  
**Office of Education**

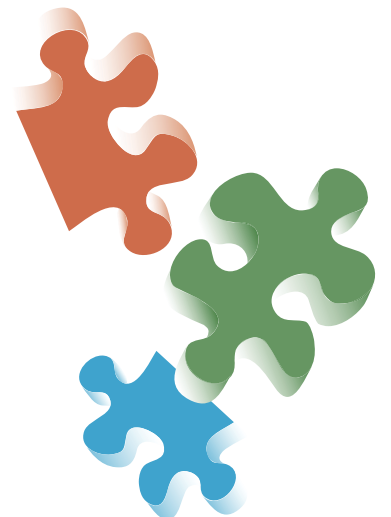
*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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**BRIGHT START**  
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PROGRAM

**Facing  
Autism's  
Challenges by  
Expanding  
Skills**

Intensive Behavioral Intervention  
and Support for Children with  
Autism and Suspected Autism  
Spectrum Disorders



## Mission

**“The worst thing you can do for a 2-year old with ASD is nothing.”**

– Temple Grandin (2009) Key Note Speaker:  
Tulare County Child Care Planning Council  
Quality Summit 2009.



The Facing Autism's Challenges by Expanding Skills (FACES) Program is designed for families with concerns for their children who have early signs of Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The program provides developmentally sound, research-based behavioral interventions to children ages 0-3 in the family home, in collaboration with the family. Our goal is to provide the opportunity for each child to participate more successfully and meaningfully in family and community life.

Interventions utilize the principles of applied behavior analysis, and are designed to fit the needs of the individual child. Initial instruction focuses on functional communication, self-help skills, play skills, social skills, and specific family needs and concerns.

Parent training and ongoing coaching is provided, allowing parents and children to develop critical skills throughout the program. In addition, objective data is gathered regularly allowing the family to experience success in measurable terms.



## Eligibility



The Bright Start FACES Program was developed utilizing the most current and up to date information available in the professional literature.

Services can include but are not limited to:

- Assessment by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, School Psychologist, Behavior Intervention Specialist, and Special Education Teacher
- Home-based behavioral instruction
- Parent Training and education
- Group instruction and peer play group activities
- Consultation with a Speech/Language Specialist and Occupational Therapist as needed
- Assistance with transition to preschool



Children are referred to the Bright Start early intervention program by the Central Valley Regional Center under Part C Early Intervention criteria. After observations and screenings, more intensive FACES services may be recommended for the child. Assessments are completed to determine appropriate interventions. Specific developmental areas are assessed including receptive and expressive language, play and leisure skills, social interaction, and early adaptive skills.

## Methodologies



Following assessment, appropriate services are recommended and specified on an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). This plan is developed by the family and service providers as a team. Parents are expected to participate fully and actively in the program to ensure that targeted skills are used during the course of everyday family routines.

The intervention methods and strategies provided are based on evidence-based practice guidelines for autism spectrum disorders for children ages 0-3, as described in the National Autism Center's National Standards Report ([www.nationalautismcenter.com](http://www.nationalautismcenter.com)). These include but are not limited to the following:

- Applied behavioral analysis (ABA)
- Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention
- Joint Attention Interventions
- Naturalistic Teaching
- Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)

