

MARILLAC: Discovery Program.

Discovery is a new summer and after-school program for Kansas City children with Asperger's Syndrome and other high-functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders. The program offers a nurturing environment where students (ages nine to fifteen) learn valid social skills and simple ways to relate to one another in real-life situations. Marillac operates the Discovery Program in collaboration with the University of Kansas Department of Special Education.

The major goals of the program are to assist and support the child's adjustment and success in the classroom, in peer relationships, and in his/her family. The child's social-skill level is assessed at the point of intake, and then again at various times throughout the program in order to measure progress and success.

Features of the Program:

- Individualized treatment programs supervised by qualified, caring mental-health professionals, and educators
- Small-group activities that allow for focused, one-on-one interaction with other children and counselors
- A structured setting and supervised activities in which children learn essential social and interpersonal communication skills
- Encouragement of the child's special interests, talents, and strengths
- Respect for diversity and the unique characteristics of children with Asperger's Syndrome
- Family education

Skills to be Developed:

- Interaction with others
- Self sufficiency
- Self advocacy
- Communication and recognizing social cues (gestures, expressions, tone of voice, types of humor, and body language)
- Behavior management (learning to manage behaviors such as obsessions, outbursts, and interrupting)
- Dealing with emotions related to the disorder
- Turning fixations or obsessions into passions that can be put to use in the home, school room, and community

Details for After-School Program:

- Date: Fall/Spring Semesters
- Time: 4 to 6 p.m., Monday – Thursday
- Location: Marillac, 8000 W. 127th St., Overland Park, KS 66213
- Age of Kids Served: 9 to 15 years old

About Marillac: Since its beginnings as a boys' orphanage in 1897, Marillac has provided care for the children of Kansas City and its surrounding communities. Today, the not-for-profit agency offers psychiatric treatment and emotional support for boys and girls up to age seventeen. Marillac's facility (located at W. 127th St., Overland Park, KS) includes Johnson County's only children's psychiatric hospital, a residential treatment center, and a therapeutic day school for children with special emotional and behavioral issues. For more information, visit www.marillac.org.

For more information, please contact Ron Dreier, Community-Based Services Director, at 816-508-3347 or Ron.Dreier@marillac.org.