

A Message From Town Supervisor JOHN VENDITTO

Dear Neighbor,

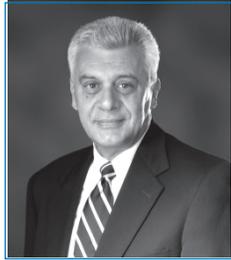
The Town of Oyster Bay Group Activities Program, **GAP**, is a social and therapeutic recreation program that was developed to meet the needs of residents who are mentally challenged, developmentally disabled, or learning disabled.

GAP operates under the auspices of the Department of Community & Youth Services; specifically, it is a function of the Division of Handicapped Services. **GAP** was founded in 1967 at the request of a group of parents who saw a need for such a program. Eventually, partial funding was extended to the program from the State. The Town contracts with New York State Office of People Working With Developmental Disabilities Division of Family Support Services.

You'll find a complete description of **GAP** throughout this brochure. Please read it carefully and, if you feel your child would benefit from **GAP** activities, I urge you to complete the application process.

Sincerely,


JOHN VENDITTO
Town Supervisor



How to register your child for GAP

Call the **GAP** office at 797-7947 for more information and applications.

All applicants must provide:

1. A completed intake application signed by parent or guardian
2. A medical form completed by child's physician
3. Proof of immunizations
4. Documentation of disability

NOTE: All new applicants must attend an intake conference with the **GAP** Director. This meeting has two purposes. First, the Director explains the program and answers any questions. Second, the Director obtains the information necessary to determine if **GAP** is an appropriate program for the child and, if so, how **GAP** can best meet that child's unique needs. All applicants must be approved for participation by the Director.

Town Supervisor
JOHN VENDITTO



Town Board
Joseph D. Muscarella
Anthony D. Macagnone
Chris J. Coschignano
Joseph G. Pinto
Rebecca M. Alesia
Michele M. Johnson
Town Clerk
James Altadonna Jr.
Receiver of Taxes
James J. Stefanich



printed on recycled paper with non-toxic ink

1-2014
JH

GAP: GROUP ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

**FOR
YOUR
INFORMATION**



**JOHN VENDITTO
Town Supervisor**

GAP

**Group
Activities
Program**

*For Individuals
with Disabilities*

DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY & YOUTH SERVICES
977 Hicksville Road, Massapequa, NY 11758
516-797-7947

Web Site Address:
www.oysterbaytown.com

Who is eligible for GAP?

All participants must be:

- Residents of the Town of Oyster Bay
- Diagnosed as mentally challenged, learning disabled, or with some form of developmental disability
- Toilet trained
- At least five years of age
- Free of behavioral or physical problems that would necessitate excessive supervision or that could cause danger to the individual or others. **GAP** does not provide 1-1 staffing.
- Approved by the **GAP** Director after submission of application and completion of intake meeting.

What is the goal of GAP?

The primary aim of **GAP** is to provide participants with quality social and recreational experiences in a well supervised setting. We believe this is best accomplished by offering a variety of recreational experiences in an atmosphere of acceptance and friendship. **GAP** provides a way for participants to make the most of the time they have for themselves. At the same time, it offers a respite for the **GAP** families.

The focus of **GAP** is always "group interaction." Participants are encouraged to interact as much as possible and to socialize as part of the larger group. With the support and encouragement of staff, many of our participants have developed friendships with other participants that extend beyond our programs. Through **GAP**, the quality of life for these and other participants has been greatly enhanced.

What does GAP offer my child?

GAP offers organized recreational programs. Activities are varied, but usually include arts and crafts, sports, table games, music, and dancing. Frequent trips are also scheduled. **GAP** participants have attended plays, sports events, restaurants, museums, farms and special children's shows.

What is the ratio of GAP staff to participants?

GAP provides approximately a 1:4 ratio of staff to participants. Our staff includes Activities Specialists and Recreation Aides. All Activities Specialists have been approved by Civil Service and have a bachelor's degree, as well as one year paid experience in recreation or education with persons with disabilities. Aides are generally high school or college students, at least 17 years of age, who have an interest in pursuing a career in human services.

Every effort is made to employ a staff of caring, responsible and capable individuals who sincerely enjoy their work. We encourage the unique style, personality and creativity of each member of our staff.

Fall/Winter/Spring programs include:

- Saturday Day (ages 5+)
- Saturday swim. (ages 5 +)

Participants must pass water skill evaluation.

- Saturday morning bowling (ages 5 +)
- Tuesday evening over 21 program
- Friday evening teen/young adult group (ages 16+)
- Saturday night respite (ages 5 to 15)
- Saturday night respite (ages 16 +)
- Over 21 Club (21 and over, independent, working adults; must be approved for participation)
- Teen/Young Adult Drama Group (ages 16+)
- Thursday afternoon bowling (ages 5 +)
- Friday night program for Children with Autism (ages 5-20)

Summer programs include:

- Evening programs (age 16+)
- Day programs ages 5 (Kindergarten eligible in September) through 21, Monday through Friday for approximately 6 weeks - 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Will my child be with others on his or her level?

In **GAP's** programs for ages 5 through 21, participants are divided into small groups. Groupings are based on age, type of disability, and interests. Whenever possible, each child is grouped with others who have similar capabilities.