



WHAT GAP OFFERS

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.

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 respite for families as well as giving the participants an opportunity to enjoy themselves in a social and recreational setting.

The focus of GAP is always "group interaction." Participants are encouraged to interact as much as possible and to socialize with other participants. 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.

FALL, WINTER, SPRING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Tuesday Evening Over 21 Program
- Wednesday Evening Teen/Young Adult Drama Program (ages 16+)
- Thursday Afternoon Bowling (ages 5+)
- Friday Evening Teen/Young Adult Program (ages 16+)
- Friday Evening Program for Children and Young Adults with Autism (ages 5-20)
- Saturday Day Program (ages 5+)
- Saturday Morning Bowling (ages 5+)
- Saturday Night Respite Program (ages 5+)
- 21 and Over Program (independent, working adults; must be approved for participation)

SUMMER PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Tuesday and Thursday Evening Programs (ages 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.

Department of Community & Youth Services
977 Hicksville Road, Massapequa, NY 11758
(516) 797-7947
www.OysterBayTown.com

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JOSEPH SALADINO
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Town Supervisor
JOSEPH SALADINO

Group Activities Program (GAP)

**For Individuals with
 Developmental Disabilities**



**The Department of
 Community and Youth Services**
(516) 797-7900

www.OysterBayTown.com



A Message From
Town Supervisor
JOSEPH SALADINO

Dear Neighbor,

As your Town Supervisor I am pleased to provide you with this informational brochure explaining one of the many wonderful programs that the Town of Oyster Bay provides to its residents. The GAP (Group Activities Program) program is a social and therapeutic recreation program developed to meet the needs of residents who are developmentally disabled.

The programs offered are made available to help provide a way for participants to have a quality social and recreational experience in a supervised setting. Participants are encouraged to take part in all activities in an atmosphere of acceptance and friendship and at the same time this program offers a respite for the GAP families and caregivers.

A complete description of the Town's GAP program is explained throughout this brochure. Please read it carefully and share it with whomever you know that would be interested in any of these programs and all they have to offer.


JOSEPH SALADINO
Town Supervisor

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR GAP?

All participants must be:

- Residents of the Town of Oyster Bay
- Diagnosed as developmentally disabled
- 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 registration form and completion of intake meeting.

THE RATIO OF GAP STAFF TO PARTICIPANTS

GAP provides approximately a 4:1 ratio of participants to staff for the Recreation Program. The Program for Children and Young Adults with Autism is approximately a 2:1 ratio of participants to staff. 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 of experience in educational and/or recreational activities for individuals with developmental disabilities. Aides are generally high school or college students, at least 16 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 welcome the unique style, personality and creativity of each member of our staff.

WILL MY CHILD BE WITH OTHERS ON HIS OR HER LEVEL?

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

HOW TO REGISTER FOR GAP

Call the GAP office at (516) 797-7947 for more information.

All applicants must provide:

A completed
registration form

A current medical record
including immunizations
completed by a physician

Current documentation
of disability

NOTE: All new applicants must attend an intake conference with the GAP Director/Social Worker/Psychologist where the program will be explained and all necessary information will be collected. At this time, it will be determined if GAP is an appropriate program. All applicants must be approved for participation by the Director.