

## Testimonials about SNAP's founder and operations manager, Josh Carpenter:

"Josh has a rare combination of skilled teaching, continuous creativity, and the critical levels of relationship and engagement that are foundations for any growth and learning to occur. He is able to integrate his knowledge base with school and home treatment teams flexibly, keeping in mind the continuously evolving intellectual and emotional levels of a child's development. Josh is uniquely attuned to the needs of any child, at any given moment, and in any context in their lives, as well as the teams and families that serve them. This recommendation is both professional and personal, based on my 40 years as a special educator and psychologist specializing in the field, and my 14 years as the parent of a special needs child."

*Ph.D. faculty member, ICDL  
Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental & Learning Disorders*

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"Josh is extremely well qualified, and my daughter bonded with him immediately."

*A Mother in Great Falls, VA*

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"I met Josh in 2007 when he was assisting a client with a diagnosis of PDD-NOS and have been aware of his work with numerous other children on the autism spectrum. Josh is a very kind and considerate person who has been able to engage a wide variety of children while participating in many different kinds of activities. He's bright and creative and a very highly sought after resource within the special needs community. I know that I would wholeheartedly recommend him to any family with a child with special needs and I highly endorse the launching of the Special Needs Access Project."

*Diane Lewis, MA, CCC/SLP  
Director, Children's Innovative Therapy Group*

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"Wow. That's about all I can say. We are blown away by how succinctly and eloquently you are able to capture what is going on with our daughter. It is what we have always known or at least suspected, and what others have tried to describe to us, but your assessment of what seems to be happening has, in short order, put a lot into context for us. We were chuckling at some of your anecdotes even as they reveal valuable information."

*A Mother in Washington, DC*



## Special Needs Access Project

**Access to education -**  
*the best facilitators,  
at the best schools*

**Access to community -**  
*positive social engagement in a  
supportive community of peers*

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## Special Needs Access Project



**Shadow/Facilitator/Aide  
Services for Students with  
Learning Differences**

# Recreation, Relationship and Education as a Pathway to Self: Self-Discovery, Self-Expression, Self-Reliance and Self-Realization

## A NEW KIND OF AGENCY

The Special Needs Access Project was established to provide families and schools with a safe, consistent and reliable source of classroom facilitators who are unified by a philosophy of engaged compassion, intuitive analysis and skillful adaptation to the immediate needs of the student. Our facilitators also understand the importance of supporting the teachers and other students. We are dedicated to creating the most effective environment in support of you and your child's goals for happiness, learning and social engagement.

SNAP is something new - a private agency that is agile, flexible, creative and adaptive in ways that non-profit agencies, school-based programs and other public-sector organizations are not. We adjust and tailor our approach, methodologies and activities to be exactly what your child needs on any given day and in any given moment. We also provide schools and parents convenience and peace of mind: safety, security, reliability, professionalism and ongoing training. We offer a quality of service and support that is not available through online classifieds or other ad hoc sources. **All of our caregivers are CPR and First Aid certified, insured for all working environments, and thoroughly screened** with reference and background checks and substance abuse testing.

Intelligence, compassion and insight are the signature qualities of what we do and who we are. These are our guides in determining the best practices that are applicable to your child specifically. Please contact us any time to talk about how we can serve you and your family. We will create a structural coupling of your ideas and our resources and form a plan that promotes your child's growth, engagement, trust and happiness.



Thank you so much for your interest in SNAP!

Please contact me any time -

Josh Carpenter, Founder

## Defining, and Redefining, "Special Needs"

Every child is unique... in many ways, on many levels. To say that one child has "special needs" suggests that another does not. Every child has needs that are unique to them, and they thrive in relationships that recognize, appreciate and respond to those needs. For this reason, we do not restrict our services to any particular "labeled" group. All children benefit from these services, whether they have a specific diagnosis or not. Any child at one time or another just needs someone to be there, someone friendly, helpful and capable.

## Before Special Needs, There are Basic Needs

For many children, especially those with communication, attention, emotional, or motor difficulties, it can be difficult to know what those unique needs are. It may not be possible for them to tell us, but if we are patient, non-threatening and carefully observant, they are showing us all the time. If we start with the basics, they will lead us to the specifics. Every child wants to be loved, to be understood and to be challenged - in that order! In the process of meeting these needs we discover the gifts, talents, difficulties and fears that are unique to them.

## It Starts with Fun and Grows with Fun

All children - on the autism spectrum, with attention difficulties, requiring physical accommodations, gifted and talented students, and "regular kids" - want and deserve to have fun. Our job as parents and professional caregivers is to provide a safe environment and activities that maximize the fun they can have. Fun - and the trust relationship it builds - is based on shared experience and mutual respect. The relationship naturally evolves over time, and grows into something stable from which the child is able to be challenged, to take risks, and to experience the joy of going beyond previous limitations.

## Bringing Out the Best in One,

## Brings Out the Best in Everyone

We specialize in actively engaging children in ways that promote their self-esteem, and strengthen their ability to trust and connect with others. This helps them to communicate authentically, and to be understood and appreciated for what they need and who they are as individuals. This process encourages development on many levels. They not only make gains in relationship skills and awareness of their environment, they also have the opportunity to improve muscle tone, balance, cardiovascular health, nutrition, and mental focus.

## SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

**Shadow/FACSSM** represents a cluster of student/classroom support initiatives that SNAP offers: **Shadow, Facilitator, Aide, Companion Services**. With many years of experience in a variety of educational settings, a dedicated SNAP caregiver provides one-to-one assistance to ensure access to, and success within, the school curriculum and social opportunities with peers and school staff. Shadow/FACSSM is a standardized approach and consistent philosophy that, like all SNAP services, is based on compassion, creativity, and experience. There are subtle differences between an aide and a facilitator, a shadow and a companion, and sometimes one caregiver is all of these things on any given day.

**Shadow/FACSSM** is a methodology that remains consistent across varying academic and social circumstances and roles, maximizing the benefit of having a trained and highly intuitive professional with your child at school. Shadow/FACSSM pricing is **\$20-\$40/hr** and is determined on a case by case basis according to the specific circumstances of the child, the school and facilitator. Please contact us for special attention to your family's needs and interests. Initial consultations are free.

## COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

**Recreational Services** are activities like nature walks, playground visits, bike riding, bowling, and community outings like shopping, restaurants, museums, etc. and are facilitated by the same highly qualified caregivers as our Shadow/FACSSM service and include detailed notes, progress tracking and attention to broad goals and objectives. **Intervention Services** which are activities that are very goal specific, require specialized training, and involve detailed metrics and highly targeted progress monitoring and tracking. These services would include academic tutoring, "table time" such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), Speech/Language Pathology (SLP), DIR/Floortime, etc. These services are charged at **\$45-\$120/hr**, based on the specific details of the client and the care provider. **Childcare Services** are activities like after-school pickup, driving to appointments, mother's helper, after-hours babysitting, homework assistance, etc. and are charged at **\$30/hr**.

