

# Overview for Mentors (application on next page)

Autism Tree Project Foundation



## The Autism Tree Project Foundation (ATPF) Mission

Early intervention is our best hope for helping children with autism to thrive. Our mission includes community awareness, research, and education, with the goal of promoting early intervention among parents and teachers.

## Who We Are

Todd & Dayna Hoff, co-founders of ATPF, are a local San Diego family who after receiving an autism diagnosis for their child felt compelled to help other families struggling with the same issues that come with a new diagnosis. It is Todd & Dayna's cause to make sure other families don't feel alone in the experiences they may face to get a diagnosis, services, and an appropriate education for their children.

## About the Parent Mentor Program

The Mentor Program is a way to provide face-to-face support in a caring and warm environment for families new to the autism diagnosis. Mentors are both parents and professionals with strong knowledge of autism spectrum disorders in addition to a passion and commitment for empowering those who face the daily challenges of raising or educating a child with autism. Mentors are there to lend an ear, help families problem solve or find the help they need for their child, and offer emotional support.

## Mentor Responsibilities

- ✓ Attend a mentor training once yearly
- ✓ Attend quarterly mentor events
- ✓ Offer compassion, guidance, and support to the family you are mentoring

## Guidelines

- ✓ Families are frequently in need of assistance in areas such as the IEP process, Regional Center services, biomedical & dietary intervention, therapy services, and local resources
- ✓ Help create checklists of things they can do. Try to start out with a few items each week or two so they don't feel overwhelmed, adding items as necessary. Remember, autism is a marathon, NOT a sprint race!
- ✓ Remember, when families get a diagnosis, they are very fragile! Help them mourn but not to lose sight of their original goals and love for their child. Make sure you help them plan for the future as they did before.
- ✓ Most of all, families want somewhere to go when they have a question. You may not be able to answer all of their questions, but you are a friendly voice in the scary world of autism.

# Mentor Application

Autism Tree Project Foundation



## Contact Information

Last Name		First Name	
Company (leave blank if N/A)			
Street Address		Suite#/Apt #	
City		State	Zip Code
Home Phone		Cell Phone	
E-Mail Address			

## Tell Us about Yourself

Your Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Educator <input type="checkbox"/> Psychologist <input type="checkbox"/> Therapist <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Are you fluent in any other languages?			
Age Range Specialty	<input type="checkbox"/> Infant/Pre-K <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Middle/High <input type="checkbox"/> Transition/Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Various		
What is the primary way you wish to receive information about ATPF events?	<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Postal Mail	Today's Date	

## Special Skills or Qualifications

Please tell us more about yourself including any special skills and qualifications you have that would be of assistance to families participating in the mentor program.

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## Commitment to the ATPF Mission

By submitting this application, I affirm that I am able to make a commitment to the Autism Tree Project Foundation to attend at least 1 yearly mentor training and quarterly mentor meetings for a period of at least 1 year. I will notify ATPF at least 1 week in advance if I am not able to attend a mentor event or training.



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## Submitting Your Completed Application

If you have completed this form via computer, please save and email the form to ATPF at [lisa@autismtreeproject.org](mailto:lisa@autismtreeproject.org). If you have completed this form manually, please mail your form to ATPF at 2845 Nimitz Blvd, Suite C, San Diego, CA 92106. You will be contacted by ATPF and will be added to our mailing list to receive updates regarding mentor events and trainings. For additional questions, please contact us at (619) 222-4465.