



Partner In Excellence

A life changing experience

Partners Mission

OUR MISSION IS TO POSITIVELY
IMPACT THE LIFE OF EACH CHILD
THROUGH OUR UNPARALLELED
COMMITMENT AND DESIRE TO SEE
OUR CLIENTS REACH THEIR GREATEST
POTENTIAL.



Our Story

Partners In Excellence (Partners) began in 2001 by owner/CEO Deb Thomas. Over the next 22 years, Partners grew into five centers: Burnsville, Minnetonka, North St Paul, La Crosse WI, and Winona in 2017.



Our Core Values

We have held high standards since the beginning and will continue to hold them everyday in the future.

Partners in Excellence guarantees a “life changing experience” for all who walk through our doors. Whether you are a client or an employee, our lives are forever changed by the moments we spend together, the skills we acquire and the knowledge we take home with us each day. As long as we hold fast to these, our core values, we will continue to provide excellent services and see our clients succeed.





Who do we Serve

- Children typically start at Partners between the ages of 18 months- 7 years old.
- Range of stay at Partners is typically between 1-4 years
 - Partners individualizes programming/treatment for each learner- so length of stay depends on progress of each individual child.
- Children attending Partners must have a diagnostic or psychological assessment with a diagnosis of autism or other related developmental delay. *Partners does not provide diagnostic assessments at this time.*



What we do

ABA - Applied Behavior Analysis

- ABA involves analyzing and modifying human behavior. Analyzing human behavior involves identifying a functional relationship between one's behavior and the environment in order to understand why someone is behaving in a particular way. Modifying behavior refers to applying a set of behavioral principles and techniques to effectively change another person's behavior.
 - We use an evidence-based curriculum, Assessment for Basic Learning and Language-Revised (ABLRS-R) to guide day-to-day treatment at Partners.

VB - Verbal Behavior

- A sub-specialty of ABA developed by B.F. Skinner. Applied VB focuses on teaching skills across all categories of language.

How we do it

Motivation!

- Use what the child is motivated by to create teaching opportunity
- Rather than just ‘making them’ do it we make them *want* to do it

Errorless teaching

- Skills are probed at the beginning of day, and taught throughout the day
- Procedures ensure mastery across people, environments, stimuli, and time

Treatment Model

- 1:1 therapy
- Small group times (lunch, gym)
- Structured small groups (Create, Music & Movement, Stepping Stones)

Treatment Progression

- 1:1 therapy
- Group therapy
- Intermediate programming
- Functional skills programming
- Transitional planning and support



Treatment Team

Behavior Therapists

- Provide direct therapy
- Work 1:1 but rotate therapists throughout the day to promote generalization

Primary Behavior Therapist

- Main contact person for parents, does programming, etc.

Program Supervisor

- Supervises clients and staff in POD

MH Professional/Licensed Psychologist

- Oversees treatment plans and programming

Therapy Sessions

Pairing

- Conducting preference assessments and pairing oneself with reinforcement

ITT – Intensive Table Teaching

- Involves teaching skills in the child’s room, sitting at a table, to minimize distractions.

NET – Natural Environment Teaching

- Involves generalizing skills acquired in ITT, as well as teaching new skills and appropriate play by using the activities of interest to the client in the natural environment.

Mand Training

- Requesting, referred to as manding, incorporates practices that teach children how to ask for toys, fun actions, attention, and even information. Many times, teaching children to request the things or activities they want will provide an appropriate alternative to challenging behavior.



Sample POD Schedule

	SAMPLE POD SCHEDULE	
8:00	ITT/NET/MANDING	
8:30		
9:00		
9:30	Music & Movement	
10:00	Snack	Gym
10:30	ITT/NET/MANDING	
11:00		
11:30		
12:00	Lunch	
12:30	Gym	
1:00	ITT/NET/MANDING	
1:30		
2:00		
2:30	Snack	Gym
3:00	ITT/NET/MANDING	
3:30		
4:00		
4:30		

How do we handle challenging behaviors?

Based on the function (gain access, escape, attention, self stimulatory)

- Our staff is trained to analyze why a child is doing what he/she is doing to respond accordingly.
- Ex: If a child is screaming to get attention, we do not give attention for the screaming. On the contrary, if a child is screaming to avoid a task, we provide calming techniques and follow through to ensure the task is completed.
- We teach the child the appropriate way to communicate or cope with a situation rather than reinforcing the challenging behavior.
- We do not engage in physical restraint or consequences.



Rehab Department

- Partners offers Occupational Therapy (OT) and Speech Therapy (ST) at each of our 5 locations
 - This is offered to all children in the centers.
 - Based on availability of therapists, Partners also offers outpatient OT and ST to kids in the community or kids who have discharged.

Parent/Caregiver Expectations

Parent/caregiver involvement is extremely important to help with skill generalization across environments. Here are the ways we connect with our parents/caregivers:

- Ongoing Communication
 - 15 minutes at the end of the day
- Meetings/Observations
 - Parent meetings
 - In-center observations
- Individualized trainings
 - By parent request or recommended by treatment team
- In-center or community outings
 - As necessary to help with generalization or specific issues in the home environment



Admission Information

Partners focuses on Early Intervention.

- Families are encouraged to reach out as soon as possible concerns are identified.
 - Families or other providers can contact Lisa Bork via phone/text at 507-474-4875 or email at lbork@partnersmn.com.
- Families can complete the application in a multitude of ways- Lisa can work with family to identify easiest option.
 - Tours are always an option for families with questions or concerns and can be set up at initial contact.
- Both south sites currently have waitlists due to limited staffing capacity in the area.
 - Completion and submission of the application solidifies spot on waitlist.
- Once an opening is identified, an admission meeting is scheduled. Following admission meeting, child typically starts full time services in 4-6 weeks.



Funding Information

- ❖ Partners provides a medical treatment, so is insurance funded.
 - ❖ We accept most commercial insurance and state medical assistance from MN and WI.

- ❖ If the child has medical assistance, there is no fee to the parent to provide services.

- ❖ Families provide:
 - ❖ Food for 1 meal and 2 snacks a day
 - ❖ Transportation to and from Partners.
 - ❖ Medical transportation is an option for our families, and we can help them get established with the different providers.

The Proven Path to Excellence

THE JOURNEY STARTS HERE

5 Supported Transitions

- Treatment goals achieved
- Forward planning
- Commitment to communication with transition partners
- Shared responsibility for seamless transition

4 Superior Supplementary Services

- Occupational therapy
- Speech therapy
- Individual & family psychotherapy

3 Premier Autism Services

- Evidenced based treatment
- Clinical oversight and continual treatment adjustments
- Highly trained staff
- Progressive treatment settings

1 Easy Enrollment

- Verification of funding
- Pre-admission assessment
- Securing authorization for services

2 Treatment Plan

- Individualized treatment plans
- Goals sequenced for success
- Family treatment goals
- Plans monitored and updated

