



About Families for Early Autism Treatment—FEAT

Founded in 1993, FEAT is a nonprofit volunteer-driven organization of parents and professionals who work in the trenches alongside local families to ensure best outcome treatment and to provide **Education, Advocacy and Support** for the Northern California autism community.

When FEAT began, the prevalence of autism was one in 10,000. Today Autism Spectrum Disorder ASD affects one in 50 children. The criterion for the autism diagnosis has changed with the introduction of the DSM-5 threatening to eliminate services for as many as 40 percent of individuals with autism. Finding affordable quality Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy is an ongoing challenge. Children with autism often have complex physical and autoimmunity issues. Parents seeking best-outcome treatment and support encounter daily obstacles from school districts, insurance companies, even well-meaning family members.

For over two decades, volunteer **FEAT** parents and extended family members of children with autism have gone beyond the boundaries of their challenging home life, demanding jobs, and practically non-existent free time to do the work of **FEAT**. Everyone serving on FEAT's Board of Directors is a volunteer parent with children who have autism. Instead of paying for office space, FEAT's Board Members, Volunteer Parent Coaches, Volunteers and Program Assistants work from home to provide the following services and resources at no cost to local families.

EDUCATION

- FEAT informs and educates via Website, Parent Resource Book, Newsletters and FEAT-News
- Each month, FEAT's Family Resource Meeting is a forum for varied topics featuring expert guest speakers that keep parents current on best-outcome, scientifically proven treatments; advocacy and legislative issues; insurance reform; and to give parents opportunities to develop a network of support
- FEAT conducts Parent Workshops periodically to provide in depth education
- FEAT's Lending Libraries provide a variety of free resources, including treatment supplies and reading materials

ADVOCACY

- FEAT's goal is to ensure that all individuals with autism have the opportunity to live with their family, to maximize their potential, to avoid institutional placement, and to live as independently as possible
- FEAT's Volunteer Parent Coach Program teaches parents how to become their child's best advocate
- FEAT actively represents the autism community on many key, statewide autism committees that shape legislative and agency policy affecting services and support for your child

SUPPORT

- FEAT plans and underwrites Family Events like the Annual Pool Party, Exclusive Film Screenings, Bishop's Pumpkin Farm and hosts the annual [FEAT WALK & Spring Carnival](#) to provide families (who are often isolated) with opportunities to forge empowering connections and to make new friends

FEAT Services and Resources include

- [FEAT Website](#)
- [FEAT Facebook Page](#)
- FEAT Parent Resource Book and Teacher Handbook
- FEAT monthly Family Resource Meetings
- FEAT Volunteer Parent Coaching Services
- FEAT E-News, Meeting Notices and Advocacy Updates
- FEAT Monthly Newsletters/Postcards
- FEAT Lending Libraries
- FEAT Family Events

FEAT relies on private donations and does not receive federal or state funding. Your support is essential to services that are not provided anywhere else. Each donation, no matter the amount, provides direct help for children with autism and their families.

Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
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