

THE DIR DIFFERENCE

The **DIR™ (Developmental, Individual, Relationship-Based)** approach was developed by Drs. Stanley Greenspan, M.D. and Serena Weider, Ph.D. and is based on research in the fields of child development, autism neuroscience, psychology, education, and sensory processing. **How will Soaring Eagle Academy's (SEA) educational program benefit children with Autism and related disorders?**

Program Philosophy	
Collaborative	Views family involvement as a central component.
Comprehensive	Integrates all critical areas of development (cognition, speech and language, visual spatial and sensory processing) to support each child.
Individual	Supports each child's developmental level, individual differences and sensory profile.
Experiential	Offers multi-sensory activities that facilitate interactive and dynamic learning.
Joyful	Creates a "joy for learning" by harnessing each child's unique interests.
Respectful	Respects children with Autism for who they are and strives to understand the underlying reasons behind their behaviors in order to give them strategies for coping.

OUR HISTORY

DIR™ is a powerful methodology that offers hope for families with children with Autism and related disorders. This educational option is not currently offered in public or private schools serving students 3 to 15 year olds in Illinois. Our Academy, founded by therapists committed to the DIR™ model and children with special needs, will be the first DIR™ school in the Midwest.

Our name symbolizes the nature of the eagle. Eagles build their nests on a strong foundation, sense an approaching storm and prepare their wings to use the storm to reach a higher level of safety. Children with Autism encounter challenges everyday and with the support of our Academy, they can soar to higher levels of learning.

We invite you to become involved in making this school a success, through financial contributions, personal support, or inquiring about Soaring Eagle Academy for your child.

Please send contributions to:

Soaring Eagle Academy

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Soaring Eagle Academy is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt public charity

Soaring Eagle Academy

A school where students with Autism and related disorders learn to soar to higher levels of learning



Soaring Eagle Academy

THINK • LEARN • ACHIEVE • SOAR

Soaring Eagle Academy is a safe, nurturing environment where teachers, therapeutic professionals, and families come together to promote development of the whole child. Together we engage, respect, guide, and empower students to learn.

Every Child Can Soar

What do you hope for your child?

- ◆ **Ability to love and to have friendships?**
- ◆ **Ability to understand and express emotions?**
- ◆ **Ability to communicate thoughts and ideas meaningfully?**
- ◆ **Ability to think creatively and abstractly?**
- ◆ **Ability to generalize learning?**

It is common knowledge that the above areas can be more challenging for children with Autism. Unfortunately, current teaching practices assume these are unattainable. At Soaring Eagle Academy, we see these not as limits but as developmental milestones. Our curriculum, teaching philosophy, and therapeutic methodology are all designed specifically to help your child achieve in the areas listed above.

At Soaring Eagle Academy, we believe that every child can soar!

Our Educational Vision

- ❖ Soaring Eagle Academy will be a model DIR™ School for students 3 to 15 years of age diagnosed with Autism or related disorders. We will follow a traditional calendar year with an extended summer program.
- ❖ Learning experiences will support sensory/motor, auditory, visual-spatial and social development.
- ❖ Parents will be respected as active partners in their child's education through observation, training, support and classroom visits.
- ❖ Classes will be taught by an experienced Special Education teacher and supported by trained teacher assistants with a low teacher-student ratio.
- ❖ Students will have an individual curriculum that integrates their own natural interests, developmental level, and therapeutic goals. Each curriculum will comply with Illinois Learning Standards for Reading, Math, Social Studies and Science.
- ❖ Therapy services will be integrated into the child's school day, with individual and small group sessions. Licensed therapists and consultants will provide services in speech, occupational therapy, psychology, social work, and DIR™/Floortime.

Soaring Eagle Academy Beliefs

- ❖ Parents are valued as integral partners in their child's learning.
- ❖ Each child is unique, with individual strengths and differences.
- ❖ All children can benefit from an awareness of their sensory and emotional needs, while on the road to self-control.
- ❖ Every child has the capacity to become warmly related.
- ❖ Every child can develop foundational abilities needed to support higher level thinking and learning.
- ❖ Every interaction provides an opportunity for dynamic learning.
- ❖ Children with autism can develop creative ideas that drive meaningful learning.
- ❖ Children with autism can acquire academic knowledge and generalize learning to daily life.
- ❖ Children with autism can move beyond simple social skills to develop a social way of thinking.