



365 Millennium Drive, Suite A, Crystal Lake, IL 60012
Phone: 815.477.4720

Educational Advocate/Autism Support Specialist

About The Organization:

The mission of Options & Advocacy for McHenry County (O&A) is *empowering individuals and their families through advocacy and education while creating a more inclusive community!* In pursuit of this mission, O&A has three programs: Child & Family Connections (CFC), Helping Us Grow (HUG), and the Autism Resource Center (ARC). O&A is a values-driven organization filled with people who are passionate about helping others!

The Autism Resource Center (ARC) serves autistic people and their families through a wide variety of service offerings which seek to enrich their lives and make McHenry County a more inclusive place to live. Comprised of a dynamic team, ARC provides family education, educational advocacy, resources and referrals, community collaboration, as well as a variety of group opportunities. ARC values the unique contributions, perspectives, and backgrounds that each team member brings to the agency and its clients.

About The Position:

The educational advocate/autism support specialist empowers autistic people and their families by modeling productive collaboration with school teams, communicating details of special education law and parental rights in the special education process, consulting with school staff to encourage best practice in the education of autistic students, and participating objectively in IEP meetings to advocate in the student's best interest. Additionally, the educational advocate/autism support specialist participates in a variety of Autism Resource Center activities, including group facilitation, community training, collaboration with community partners, and other initiatives aimed at making McHenry County more inclusive and enriching the lives of our clients.

What You Can Bring:

O&A is committed to hiring a diverse workforce that brings a variety of formal training and life experiences to their work. Some examples of skills, experience, and education that may serve you well in this role include:

- Experience interfacing with the special education system
- Higher education in human services, special education, or another related field
- Knowledge and experience related to autism
- Ability to effectively facilitate communications among diverse populations
- Flexibility to evaluate and prioritize based on immediacy and intensity of need
- Ability to foster collaborative internal and external relationships

Why Join Our Team?

The ARC team is enthusiastic and passionate about the support we provide for our clients, their families and community. It is an environment that values the perspectives and experiences of all team members. The ARC recognizes and appreciates each team member's individual strengths and passions and considers these in program development. On any given day you'll find the ARC team hard at work and finding things to laugh about along the way.

Benefits Include:

- Pay range: \$16.00-\$20.00/hr
- Medical, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance
- PTO (Sick, Vacation, Personal, Paid Holidays)
- Flex Scheduling
- 37.5 hour work week

Ready to Apply?

Email a resume to marie.humphrey@opad.org with "Educational Advocate Position" in the subject line!

"Empowering individuals and their families through advocacy and education while creating a more inclusive community".