



PROGRESS FOR ALL CHILDREN

Realizing Children's Strengths (RCS) Learning Center is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide the **highest quality** of **individualized behavioral** and **educational services** for children with **Autism Spectrum Disorders** and other **developmental disabilities**. Founded in 2006, we serve students ages 3-22. We believe that every child has **unique skills** and we are **dedicated to helping each child** develop these skills and **reach their full potential**.

Providing the Pathway to Success

RCS Learning Center is committed to creating a school wide environment that exceeds the standards for teaching students with autism effectively. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the major treatment methodology, with an emphasis on the Verbal Behavior Model for teaching communication and language skills. Our team of expert clinicians works diligently to create individualized curriculum and teaching procedures that fit each child's specific learning style.

RCS provides three pathways or concentration areas that help ensure successful transition from RCS to the next phase of their life, whether they decide to pursue further schooling or a career. While at RCS, students may participate in all three pathways, and they can eventually deepen subject matter and life skills through curriculum within the concentrations as they advance.



100% of RCS students

are actively working on enhancing their communication skills

Our Pathways

Language Based Learning Ages 3 – 13

Focuses on increasing independent language and communication with the understanding that this will lead to increases in various other skills and decreases in undesired behaviors. There is a focus on intensive language teaching while continuing to prioritize other essential developmental skills.

Academics & Social Learning Ages 6 – 22

Focuses on academic instruction and social skill development. Increasing skills in the areas of complex language, classroom readiness, and preparing for transition to the next stage are areas of priority.

Transitions & Vocational Learning Ages 14 – 22

Prepares students for transition to adulthood and maximizes independence in job site and community-based settings. Families are an integral part of this program as we individualize programming to each student's and family's goals.

Where Our Students Learn:

RCS is also designed to provide for diverse learning styles and accommodate a variety of services on campus and off-site. Students learn across a variety of environments including intensive teaching classrooms, naturalistic learning environments (art, home economics and physical fitness spaces), our occupational therapy space, as well as community and vocational environments.



The RCS Timeline:

- 1997** ● Realizing Children's Strengths founded to address the overwhelming gap in services available to children with developmental disabilities
- 2006** ● RCS Learning Center opened our doors to welcome students from school districts across Massachusetts
- 2008** ● RCS Executive Team formed to provide strategic leadership and ensure impact, innovation, and growth
- 2013** ● Board of Directors expands to represent community leaders in business, education, advocacy, and philanthropy
- 2014** ● "Let's Get to Work" program launched in partnership with local businesses to provide RCS students with essential job and life skills
- 2018** ● Selected from group of nearly 600 nonprofits to be awarded a major competitive grant from the Cummings Foundation, a local philanthropic leader
- 2020** ● Recognized by local news station WCVB as leader in Covid-19 safety protocols and guidelines as the local community recovered from pandemic
- 2023** ● Clinical Fellowship Institute launched to support RCS educators and provide clinical professional development opportunities based in the latest research in autism education

"Let's Get to Work" Community Partners

As part of our hands-on "Let's Get to Work" vocational program, our students get the chance to experience actual workplace environments firsthand. As part of the many exciting affiliations RCS Learning Center holds with local businesses we hold a long-term partnership with Uno's Pizzeria and Grill. Through our collaboration with Uno's, several

students have dedicated work time during the school day, three days a week, at the restaurant. These opportunities provide critical work experience before our students reach age 22 and graduate from our program, so that they're more prepared to move forward on a track toward independence.



90% of RCS students

participate in our workforce development program focusing on a student's path to employment through partnering with community businesses where students gain vocational skills and training



Student Highlight:

Chris is an RCS Learning Center alumnus whose journey has truly inspired us. His story is one that many families might find familiar. Chris' family was told by the school district that his behaviors were inevitable and unchangeable. They then witnessed him thrive at RCS where his behaviors improved and he integrated into the school community.

Chris joined RCS at the age of seven and started intensive ABA therapy. His journey with us was centered on helping him achieve a higher level of independence. He was one

of the pioneer students in our vocational program where he worked on honing job skills and improving social interactions during community outings throughout the week.

We were so proud to see him successfully complete our program and graduate at age 22, then embark on a journey of greater independence.



Staff Highlight:

Liz Kelsey, Program Director



Liz began her journey with RCS Learning Center when our school first opened in 2006. Liz worked as a Behavior Therapist shortly after obtaining her Master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

Within a short period, she was promoted to the role of a Clinician. This role allowed her to delve deeper into her field of expertise and advance her clinical training. As a BCBA at RCS, Liz also took on the crucial role of mentoring her colleagues who pursued the same career track. The mentorship ensures our

clinical staff receive the support and training needed to succeed on their paths and provide the best quality support for our students.

Liz's dedication and exceptional leadership skills led her to advance into the role of Assistant Director, where she became more involved in staff management, admissions, and ensured compliance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regulations. Her accomplishments and responsibilities continue to expand as our school grows our programming and initiatives.

Currently, Liz holds the position of Program Director at RCS Learning Center. Liz's dedication, expertise, and commitment to excellence have played a vital role in continuously improving the quality of our programming and success of our students.

Messages from Parents:

"If something wasn't working with [our son's] program RCS staff would communicate with us and come up with another plan to try. RCS will keep trying different things instead of trying to reinforce what isn't working."

"RCS really helped shape [our child] for his future skills beyond RCS."

*All parent quotes and student highlights are unsolicited from former clients and informed consent was given.

Realizing Children's Strengths

Realizing Children's Strengths is comprised of three sister companies united under a common purpose. Our mission is to serve children and families across Massachusetts to ensure each and every child receives education and support that will help them reach their full potential. RCS Learning Center, RCS Behavioral & Educational Consulting, and Mini-Miracles Early Education & Childcare Center have served countless families and work together every day to help achieve Progress for All Children.



RCS Learning Center



RCS Behavioral &
Educational Consulting



Mini-Miracles
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