

Autism assistance dogs Ireland was founded on the 26 of April 2010. Our National Headquarters is based in Quarters Mills in Mallow Co. Cork.

This is a primary service providing highly trained assistance dogs for children with autism and their families.

Our charity provides a valuable service that can have life changing effects for children with autism and their families. Assistance dogs are provided free of charge.

Autism assistance dogs Ireland (aadi) relies exclusively on voluntary contributions as it does not receive any Government funding. Monies will be raised by means of church gate collections, flag days, sponsored events, such as marathons, cycles, swims etc.

The board of directors and staff of aadi are committed to providing a very personalised service.

"There are no problems - just challenges"



Contact

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Mallow
Co Cork**

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Director of Fundraising

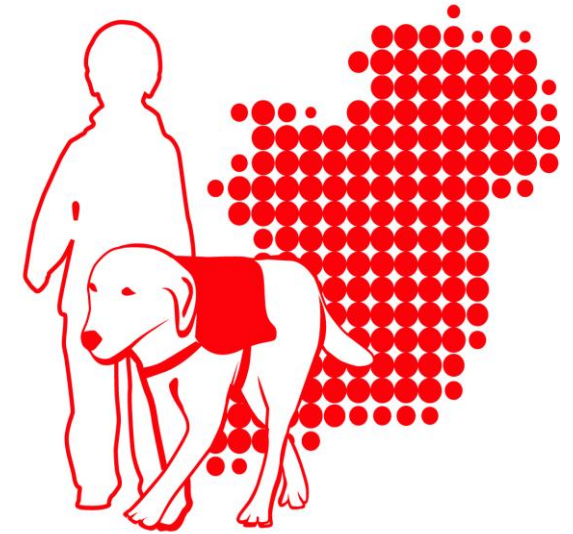
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aadi



autism assistance dogs ireland

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER
CHY 19293**

Autism assistance dogs for children

Autism assistance dogs are highly trained dogs that have reached the required standard of Assistance Dogs Europe. Their training includes up to 15 months on our Puppy Fostering Scheme, followed by 6 months intensive training with our Instructors.

The autism assistance dog wears a jacket which the child can be connected to via a belt around their waist. They are then completely safe and the dog is highly obedient and follows commands from the parents.

For older children who need an autism assistance dog for confidence and increasing independence, there is a handle on the dogs jacket that they can hold onto.

Autism assistance dogs have unlimited access to public places: e.g. shops, restaurants, cinema etc.

The benefits are that the child is much safer now, they develop more as they get out into more social situations and there is more public understanding about the child's disability due to the presence of the dog.

The dog can be a calming influence when the child is upset; it is a constant companion and gives the child more independence.

It also gives the child an increased attention span and a sense of responsibility as they help with feeding and grooming the dog.

It generally creates a positive change in behaviour.

Applying for an Assistance Dog

To apply for an autism assistance dog your child must have a diagnosis on the autism spectrum.

On contacting our head office you will be added to our waiting list and sent an application form which must be completed and returned to us within 21 days.

Prior to being accepted all children and families will be assessed. One or both parents will then attend a four day training course to learn all the about the dog and its welfare.

At this point they will take the dog home and the instructor will work in the home environment with the dog and child practicing the attachments. This will be followed by regular aftercare visits and the instructors will always be available to give any advice or assistance that may be necessary.

Volunteering

Volunteers are the backbone of our charity as without them we could not run the organisation. At aadi we are passionate about the inclusion of volunteers in our work and invest time into the appropriate training, supervision and support to our volunteers. All volunteers will be required to complete a Garda vetting form.

How can you help?

- **Puppy Foster Carers**
- **Temporary Boarders**
- **Fundraisers**
- **Drivers**
- **Administrators**

Puppy Foster Carers

Our Puppy Foster Carers are vital to the success of our Autism Assistance Dog Programme and without them we could not run our Charity.

They foster the puppies for the first 12-15 months of their lives and work with the instructors to teach them the basic skills to become an autism assistance dog. To become a foster carer you must fulfil some requirements such as:

- Keep the puppy in the house allowing it to be part of your family.
- Have a fully fenced, safe & secure garden
- Offer a loving, safe and fun environment

Dog Boarders

Boarders provide long and short term care to our dogs and puppies. Long term boarding could be two to three months or short term of up to 2 weeks.

We also need boarders who provide short term care during evenings and weekends to our dogs whilst they are in training.

Fundraising

When we are fundraising in your area could you spare a couple of hours to help out with our bucket collections, calendar sales or maybe you could even organise an event yourself!

If you would like to know more about autism assistance dogs Ireland and help us make the life of a family of a child with autism more fulfilled

Please call us on **022-43851** or email **info@aadi.ie** for a volunteer application pack.