

# Saturday Friends

Rome

Socialization/Respite Program for Children and Families

## Contact

Shannon Clark,  
Children's Programs  
Coordinator at 315.272.1588  
or email  
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## Location

Pinti Field  
6th Street  
Rome, NY

## Time

1st & 3rd Saturdays  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Saturday Friends** is a socialization and supported play program designed to offer fun, safe and appropriate activities for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Developmental Disabilities, friendship and understanding for siblings and respite, support and education for parents. This program is offered on most first and third Saturdays of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Arc recreation staff and volunteers from local high schools and colleges are there to play with and support the children. Staff focuses on creating an atmosphere that encourages interaction and involvement. Activities and materials are planned around children's strengths and needs.

Siblings have the opportunity to meet and form friendships with other children that have a brother or sister with a disability. These children will gain a better understanding of the abilities of children with disabilities while they provide positive role models for play and communication.

Parents are welcome to stay and observe, participate in activities, get together with other parents to share experiences and ideas or use the time as respite from the on-going care of their children.

A child must be Medicaid-waiver eligible to participate in the **Saturday Friends** program. The program is designed for children ages 5 and up.

