

THE Imagine! PULSE

Keeping Our Community Connected & Inspired

PROGRAMS & SERVICES: School Age Services **Supporting Kids Year-Round: Learning, Friendship, and Fun with School Age Services**

Imagine!'s School Age Services (SAS) program supports children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and autism from ages 7 to 21 through inclusive, enriching experiences designed to build life skills, independence, and meaningful connections. With offerings like after-school programs, school closure day activities, and a summer camp, SAS meets families where they are and provides consistent, trusted care and opportunities for participants to thrive.



Each component of the program is built around a simple but powerful idea: kids grow best in environments that are safe, supportive, and filled with possibility. Whether they're going on a nature walk, creating art, practicing social skills, or just enjoying free play, every activity is designed to be accessible, engaging, and developmentally appropriate.



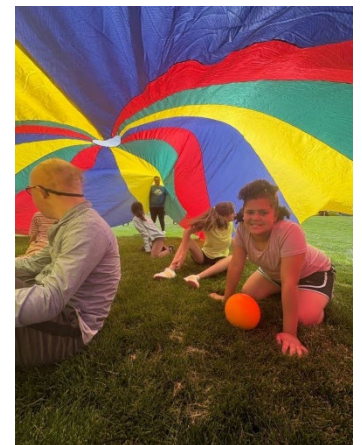
For families, SAS provides more than after-school or summer care. It offers peace of mind. Parents and caregivers know their children are in a place where they're welcomed, understood, and supported by trained staff who care deeply about their success. The consistent, year-round structure of SAS also helps families manage complex schedules, reduce stress, and stay connected to a community that truly gets it.

This past summer, nearly 100 kids participated in Imagine!'s Summer Camp. For many, it was a first taste of independence and a joyful introduction to the Imagine! community. Several campers are now transitioning into the After School Program this fall, continuing friendships, routines, and their personal growth journey.

To make that transition smooth, SAS takes a short pause between Summer Camp and the start-up of the After School Program. This week-long break allows time for staff recovery after long summer days, deep-cleaning and organizing summer supplies, and planning the logistical puzzle of school pick-up routes.

With 50 students attending from numerous schools, many dismissing at the same time, coordinating efficient, safe transportation is a major task that the SAS team takes seriously.

For participants, the After School Program offers an outlet to unwind, explore interests, and stay socially connected in a space that balances structure and fun. And for the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who work with them, it's a shift



from long summer days to more flexible afternoon schedules, perfect for those returning to school themselves or seeking a better work-life balance.

No matter the season, School Age Services helps Imagine! fulfill its mission of creating a world of opportunity for people of all abilities, one afternoon, one adventure, and one relationship at a time.



Meet School Age Services Program Manager Quincy Malecki

I love watching the growth of the kids throughout the years, both in terms of their development and our programming. Seeing new kids at the start of summer or ASP have a tough time, as many of them have not participated in any type of program like this before, and then by the end of the program, they thrive and build rapport with so many staff members is just great. This program is such a good opportunity for both families and individuals to grow, as there are very few programs that provide community-based programming, especially for the younger population.

Outside of work, I enjoy being outside in various ways: skiing, concerts, gardening, playing with the dogs, etc. I also really enjoy traveling. During the summer, outside of work, I love sleeping.

Learn more or refer a family to Imagine!'s School Age Services:
imaginecolorado.org/services/school-age-services