



CORNERSTONE
SPECIAL CARE



EMPOWERING POSSIBILITIES.

Brightening Futures.

EXPLORE

Cornerstone Special Care

Cornerstone Special Care (formerly Exceptional Care & Training Center), a non-profit organization based in Sterling, Illinois, is dedicated to providing compassionate care for individuals with severe and profound intellectual disabilities. Our comprehensive services include residential nursing care and an adult Day Training Program.

Each day at Cornerstone is thoughtfully designed with a variety of activities and events tailored to enrich the lives of our residents and engage the community. We warmly invite you to visit our center today and witness firsthand the impactful work we do.



Sensory Spaces

At Cornerstone, we prioritize respect and enrichment for all individuals. Our Sensory Spaces are tailored environments designed to stimulate and engage clients of varying abilities.

Using lights, sound, and colors, these spaces foster emotional and cognitive development in a safe setting. Our program caters to non-communicative clients with limited mobility, aiming to replace maladaptive behavior with positive interactions and communication.

Sensory Spaces offer a multitude of benefits, from promoting relaxation to enhancing social interactions and cognitive development. Integrated into daily living and learning environments, they provide invaluable opportunities for growth and exploration.



Skilled Nursing

Our community offers support for individuals with complex medical and developmental needs, including those affected by genetic disorders, trauma, or debilitating illnesses. With a skilled nursing team comprised of RNs, LPNs, CNAs, DSPs, and Case Managers, we provide compassionate care in a safe, home-like environment.

Services and Treatments:

- Primary nursing
- Chronic disease management
- Dietary consultation
- External nutrition management (nasal, gastric, jejunal, and gastro jejunal)
- Seizure management
- Infectious disease management
- Wound care
- Ostomy care
- Diabetes management
- Physical and speech therapy
- Pain management
- Respiratory therapy (CPT vest, inhalation therapy, oxygen therapy, suctioning)
- Behavior modification
- Transportation to specialty appointments
- Palliative/end of life care





Our purpose is to assist individuals with severe and profound intellectual disabilities through the collective efforts of our staff, volunteers, and supporters.

Melissa Francque, Executive Director



Day Training Program

Our Day Training Program develops daily adaptive living skills for clients with intricate medical needs, providing seamless care on-campus. Using multi-sensory techniques, we promote skill acquisition, appropriate behavior, independence, and personal choice. This approach boosts self-esteem, reduces tension, encourages relaxation, improves concentration and self-awareness, fosters interaction and communication, stimulates sensory exploration, and strengthens caregiver-client bonds. Accredited by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Accreditation, Licensure & Certification, our program is open to the public with admission criteria matching our residential program. Residents automatically enroll in the Day Training Program upon admission.



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