S.E.E.K. Arizona

Real help for children and adults with developmental disabilities

In 2003, Jessica Irwin BCABA, founded S.E.E.K. Arizona to provide therapies and direct-care services to children on the autism spectrum.

S.E.E.K. is unique, say Executive Director Irwin and Director of Operations Brian Pfingstl (the lone male in the organization), both in the array of services it provides and as a flexible and progressive workplace.

Because many of their clients have multiple needs, having services located under one roof makes things easier. “If you have a child or young adult with developmental disabilities, there’s a very good chance we have a program that will help you.” Pfingstl says.

The Life Skills Learning Academies embody S.E.E.K.’s progressive approach to special needs education. The programs take place in a realistic residential setting. Young people learn to cook, for instance, in a real kitchen, and classes are taught with participants on couches in a living room.

Pfingstl is quick to point out the many offerings that S.E.E.K. provides, including Camp Runamuk, a fall camp in Prescott. “We also have a Girl Scouts troop, animal-assisted therapy, chess club, outdoors club and sleepovers.”

S.E.E.K. services include daytime and evening classes, in-home therapies, and after-hour and weekend programs.

Even during the economic downturn of the past few years, S.E.E.K. has expanded its number of employees and classroom programs. When the Division of Developmental Disabilities instituted a 10 percent pay cut, S.E.E.K. still grew from 89 to 150 employees. And their revenue increased more than 65 percent.

Irwin and Pfingstl attribute much of their success to making S.E.E.K. a positive workplace. If employees have a creative new idea that’s workable, Irwin and Pfingstl are happy to implement it.

“We’re always looking for children and adults who need our services,” Irwin says. “We are also always looking for employees who have at their core a desire to help others.”

Photos by Emily Piraino

S.E.E.K. Arizona
Category: Education/Social Services
Year Established: 2003
Executive director: Jessica Irwin, BCABA
Employee benefits: Health plans, flex time, vacations and holidays
Females in management: More than 90 percent
Number of employees: 150

25 TOP WORKPLACES for WOMEN

S.E.E.K. ARIZONA
Specializing in the Education of Exceptional Kids

FOR MORE INFORMATION
S.E.E.K. Arizona
1830 S. Alma School Road Suite 130
Mesa, AZ 85210
480-902-0771
seekarizona.org