

Youth Services at Easter Seals Hawaii are designed to increase social-communication skills as well as functional living skills that build self-esteem, confidence and independence among school-age youth with developmental disabilities and other special needs, in a safe and nurturing environment.

A variety of programs with high staff-to-participant ratios are offered throughout the year based on participant needs, location and funding options. Peer volunteers participate in the youth program on a regular basis and add to the positive experiences that are provided in the program.

Assistive Technology Program Youth are provided with structured computer lab time to develop and practice basic computer skills. Participants learn how to access the internet safely and use the internet to gain resource information to learn what is happening in their community and to gain information on specific interests.

During lab time, youth create their own visual supports, make daily schedules, construct/write and send correspondence to family and friends, and learn to play developmentally appropriate games.

Specialized assistance is provided to modify the computer keyboard /screen display, to adapt the mouse, and to customize the work area through the use of touch screens, keyboard overlays, switches and Augmentative communication devices.

Intersession Programs provide full day programs during school breaks. A variety of activities such as creative arts, music and dance, cooking and recreational activities are embedded into the full day programs. Intersession programs often have focused themes such as music or dance that allow youth an opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities related to the theme. The full day experience help youth find ways to express themselves and find meaningful leisure activities that support positive growth.



Photo by Romeo Collado

Special Interest Groups are created to address specific needs of the youth. The Girls and Boys Group meet once a month and allows youth to plan and participate in activities of interest. Special interest groups provide a great opportunity for youth to interact with peers and develop friendships in a supportive setting.

Family Day Programs are provided for youth and their families. Siblings are encouraged to participate in the activities. Programs such as Dance Programs, Performing Arts Program, Youth Day at the Beach and community outings are offered.



Eligibility

Youth Services activities are for school-age youth with physical and/or developmental disabilities between the ages of 10 and 20.

Cost

All programs are run on a fee-for-service basis. Fees vary according to program. Fee assistance may be available through "Timmy's Fund." More information is available through the Youth Services Program office.

Staff

Staff are trained to meet State of Hawaii licensing requirements, and are committed to providing quality care for youth with disabilities.

Youth Programs

Social Skills

- Meeting and Greeting
- Posture & Proximity
- Coping Skills
- Peer Interaction
- Voice
- Intonation
- Requesting/Commenting

Life Skills

- Nutrition
- Developing Healthy Eating Habits
- Simple Snack Preparation & Cooking
- Health & Safety
- Mealtime Manners
- Serving & Clean-up Skills

Adapted Computers

- Basic Computer skills
- e-Buddies
- e-mail skills
- Internet safety
- Internet skills
- Educational programs

Alternative Technology

- iPad
- iPod
- Augmentative communication
- Visual supports

Movement/Arts/Therapeutic Recreation

- Dance
- Movement
- Musical Theatre
- Ukulele
- Painting
- Collage
- Holiday Themes

Mission

Easter Seals provides exceptional services to ensure that all people with disabilities or special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities.

Youth Services
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*Creating solutions.
Changing lives.*

**Easter Seals Hawaii
Youth Services Programs**



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