

Autism center has way to help kids

BY PROGRESS NEWS STAFF

Bierman Autism Centers in Scottsdale and Tempe have launched the Pilot the Penguin stuffed animal for children receiving certain therapies.

The program is “designed to bring joy, comfort, and support to children receiving applied behavior analysis, speech, and occupational therapies,” it said, calling it part of its “ongoing commitment to creating a playful, nurturing environment for children with autism.”

“Stuffed animals like Pilot the Penguin can encourage social interaction, as children use them in both individual and cooperative play to practice communication and early language development, pretend play, and social-emotional skills,” Bierman said in a release.

It also said the stuffed toy can ease transitions between home and therapy “while fostering independence and self-regulating behaviors.” All Bierman clients will get the toy.

Bierman Autism Centers said the penguin represents its “focus on individualized care, progress, and building a supportive community.”

“Each child can look forward to taking Pilot along on their adventures – both at



Bierman Autism Centers’ Pilot the Penguin stuffed animal helps autistic children “practice communication and early language development, pretend play, and social-emotional skills.” (Courtesy of Bierman Autism Centers)

Bierman and at home.”

Tahra Cessna, executive vice president for services, enters, added, “Pilot the Penguin reflects our belief that every child can soar to new heights with the right support and a joyful approach to learning. We hope Pilot brings even more smiles to our children’s faces as they embark on their exciting adventures at Bierman.”

“Pilot symbolizes the joy and growth we strive to foster in every child, re-

mind families that with the right support, each new year brings endless opportunities for progress.”

The toy evolved from the company’s launch last year of a coloring book titled “Adventures of Pilot the Penguin.”

Families can still download a free digital copy from BAC’s website or receive a hard copy by scheduling a tour, attending a sensory-friendly event, or visiting a Bierman booth at local community events.

Bierman’s educational strategy “blends learning with play, fostering an environment where children are engaged and eager to learn.

“This approach aligns teaching with enjoyment, making learning a more attractive and effective experience,” it says.

Bierman Autism Centers also is hiring behavior technicians, behavior analysts, speech therapists, and occupational therapists.

Bierman Autism at 8444 N. 90th St., Scottsdale, and 1729 W. Greentree Drive, Tempe, “are easily accessible ... making it convenient for families to get the care and support they need,” said Heather Ramsden, director of services in Arizona.

For families interested in learning more about services at Bierman, the process begins with a conversation with an intake specialist, who can help them determine if Bierman’s play-based, individualized therapy is the right fit for their child.

“They’ll meet our clinical director, a board-certified behavior analyst, and see the fun and engaging environment where their child will learn and grow. If they decide to move forward, we conduct an intake assessment to create a personalized therapy plan tailored to their child’s needs.”

Bierman is actively growing its Arizona team and is hiring therapists as well as offering opportunities for college graduates interested in working with children with autism and gaining experience in Applied Behavior Analysis.

“We’re passionate about developing future clinicians and supporting career growth,” Ramsden said. “At Bierman, we provide hands-on training, mentorship, and educational support toward certification and further schooling.”

For more information about Bierman Autism Centers in Arizona, visit biermanautism.com or call the Tempe clinic at 480-418-9293 or the Scottsdale clinic at 480.690-3017. 🐧