



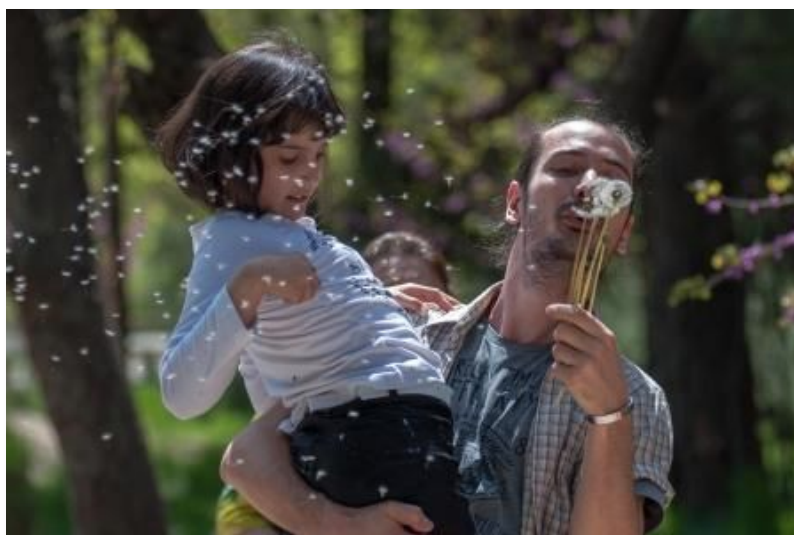
IRODA:

Parents of Children with Autism Initiative

IRODA (Parents of Children with Autism Initiative) was founded in 2008 by a group of parents of children with autism in Tajikistan. In August 2011, IRODA was registered in Tajikistan as a public charitable organization for children with autism and their families. Since its foundation, IRODA has pioneered initiatives to support children with autism.

IRODA exists to advocate for the rights and interests of people with autism, and endeavors to ensure that they have access to quality services appropriate for their unique needs.

IRODA aims to see persons with autism treated with dignity and respect, as valued members of society.



IRODA's key activities



- Increasing understanding amongst medical and educational professionals and the general public of the needs of children with autism and their families.
- Working with the government and other non-governmental organizations to provide appropriate services for children with autism
- Providing training on autism in a range of formats and setting

IRODA's key achievements



- The establishment of the first specialized service in Tajikistan for children and young people with autism;
- Training of and collaboration with the medical profession, which has resulted in the appropriate diagnosis of children with autism;
- Development of a short training course on autism;
- The formation of the Central Asian Autism Network (CAAN), which encourages collaboration between organizations in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia;
- Organization and hosting of CAAN conferences in 2012 and 2014;

- Public events and media coverage during Autism Awareness Month;
- Partnerships with mainstream schools resulting in children with autism successfully accessing the education system for the first time;
- The development of a Parent's Coalition that has combined the advocacy efforts of a number of separate parent-led organizations for children with disabilities;
- Contribution to training of teachers at the post-graduate level;



IRODA's key values

- IRODA was founded by parents and continues to be a parent-driven organization that partners with professionals in the autism spectrum disorder field to see that the needs of all people with autism are realized and met.
- IRODA places a strong emphasis on training and family-centered service provision to ensure sustainable progress.
- IRODA draws on a range of best practices for working with children with autism, using an eclectic approach rather than advocating for one particular model of intervention.
- IRODA advocates for legislation and community attitudes that support the full inclusion of people with autism in their local communities. IRODA aims for all of its activities to be community-based and seeks to cooperate with individuals and organizations in local communities.

***For more information about the work of
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