

# Beaches® Resorts

## AUTISM INITIATIVE FAQ

### 1. What does it mean that our kids camps at Beaches are autism-friendly?

- Being autism-friendly means that each resort kids camp has been recognized as a Certified Autism Center through the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards. As a Certified Autism Center, at least 80% of the staff that work within the Kids Camps have received autism training and have passed an Autism Competency Exam, of which they have received their certification in autism.

### 2. What does it mean for Beaches to be a Certified Autism Center?

- Beaches is fully committed to serving individuals with autism and their families
- Beaches is committed to on-going staff training in autism
- Beaches is a resort with a high-volume of staff from various areas who have successfully completed a rigorous autism awareness training program
- Beaches is working closely with the leading autism experts from around the globe to ensure our programs are designed to accommodate individuals on the spectrum
- Beaches is providing a Luxury Included® vacation equipped with special autism-friendly products and services (currently being evaluated and in review)

### 3. What does the certification mean for Beaches staff?

- Receiving certification in autism means that staff members are competent in autism and have received training through an internationally recognized 3<sup>rd</sup> party organization. Following training, each participant must complete an Autism Competency Exam and an approval process certifying that the staff member is competent in autism. Ongoing training is required every two years to stay up-to-date with the latest information regarding autism. This accreditation ensures all our Kids Camp and its team members have the requisite knowledge, skills, temperament, and expertise to cater to all children.

### 4. What areas has Beaches staff been trained in?

- This training has afforded certification in the following areas:
  - Sensory Awareness
  - Motor Skills
  - Autism Overview
  - Program Development
  - Social Skills
  - Emotional Awareness and Bullying
  - Communication
  - Environment

### 5. Who is your credentialing organization, IBCCES?

- The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES), was established in 2001 to meet the training credentialing needs of professionals who work with individuals with special needs and cognitive disorders. IBCCES has since expanded autism training and certification into over 40 different countries with training centers and members across the globe. The credentials are a testimony to an individual's commitment to ongoing professional development in the field of autism. (More information can be found about the program at [www.ibcces.org](http://www.ibcces.org).)

### 6. Can you accept children who are on different levels of the spectrum?

- Yes. Each of our staff members that are certified in autism understand that the spectrum is broad, and know that communication and sensory needs differ with everyone, whether they are high-functioning or low-functioning.

### 7. Can you accommodate special dietary needs?

- Yes, we realize that many individuals have special needs and are happy to meet them. Please let us know before your time of arrival through our pre-travel questionnaire so we may be best prepared to assist you.

### 8. Do you have autism resources on-site?

- We are working with outside companies to add autism-friendly products to make your stay as comfortable as possible.

### 9. Have steps been taken to ensure your resorts are sensory-friendly and safe for my child with ASD?

- We are working with the International Board of Credentialing & Continuing Education Standards to ensure each of our Beaches Resorts is friendly to everyone, including those with special needs. By being trained and certified in autism, we understand your concerns. Please let us know any explicit concerns beforehand so we best know how to personally interact with your child and to give you peace of mind while you enjoy your vacation.

### 10. Is one-on-one care available for my child?

- All Beaches Resorts offer the services of an Autism Certified One-on-One Beaches Buddy, dedicated specifically to your child. You can request a Beaches Buddy to be with your child for your entire stay or just for a few hours in a sensory-friendly location of your choice.

Learn more at [BEACHES.COM/AUTISM-FRIENDLY-RESORTS](http://BEACHES.COM/AUTISM-FRIENDLY-RESORTS)

Contact us at 844-360-9380 US/CAN or [SPECIALSERVICES@UVI.SANDALS.COM](mailto:SPECIALSERVICES@UVI.SANDALS.COM)