

Logo

Primary Navigation

School-Based Programs

Program Locations

The Help Group - Los Angeles, CA

Crystal Academy – Miami, FL

Sam Adams School – Boston, MA

Overview

ACEing Autism offers tennis clinics during school P.E. classes with partnering elementary, middle, and high schools in an effort to reach more children with autism and offer the time and space to play tennis more frequently throughout the year.

How It Works

P.E. and classroom teachers are trained on the ACEing Autism tennis curriculum, and a lead 30-minute tennis class, two times a week, to 10 students at a time. Whether your child has tennis experience or not, our curriculum will cater to your child’s individual abilities and needs!

History

In 2018, school-based programming began with partnerships at Sam Adams School in Boston, MA and The Help Group in Los Angeles, CA. Two classrooms of students at each school were introduced to a brand new P.E. class, where they got the chance to learn tennis twice per week throughout the school year.

Impact

Integrating ACEing Autism’s adaptive tennis curriculum into school P.E. classes creates a long-term, weekly opportunity to foster the enjoyment of fitness, gain interest in a new sport, and increase social skills, turn-taking, and concentration. Teachers have noted gains in these areas during both P.E. class and the classroom.



Socials

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Adult Programs

Program Locations

Auburn, AL

Dallas, TX

Overview

ACEing Autism offers weekend tennis clinics for individuals with autism above the age of 18. These clinics run for one hour, with sessions running for 6-8 weeks at a time.

How It Works

Weekend clinics are run by trained Program Directors and adult volunteers from different communities in the area. Our clinics are group tennis lessons using the full tennis court, with volunteers leading and modeling tennis drills to advance participants’ tennis skills. Whether you have tennis experience or not, our curriculum will cater to your individual abilities and needs.

History

ACEing Autism’s Youth Community Program began in 2008, but a gap still existed in recreational programs for adults with autism. In 2017, there were approximately 3.5 million people in the US with autism—2.5 million being adults. In 2018, we piloted two successful Adult Community Programs in Dallas, TX and Auburn, AL. We continue to expand and improve the quality of our program with the help of our Program Directors, volunteers, and BCBA Quality Control Managers.

Impact

ACEing Autism’s adaptive tennis curriculum creates an opportunity and safe, patient, and fun space for adults with autism to foster the enjoyment of fitness, gain interest or skill in tennis, and increase social skills and confidence. Our community programs offer a space for everyone to be themselves and have fun while learning tennis! Coaches & volunteers lead participants through drills, tennis skills, and games, advancing each step based on each individual.

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Primary Navigation

Community Programs

Program Locations

Auburn, AL

Pheonix, AZ

Burbank, CA

Inglewood, CA

Mountain Gate, CA

KEEN LA, CA

Palm Springs, CA

Elk Grove, CA

Yorba Linda, CA

Long Beach, CA

Santa Barbara, CA

Newport Beach, CA

Carlsbad, CA

Mountain View, CA

Overview

ACEing Autism offers weekend tennis clinics for children with autism between the ages of 5 and 18. These clinics run for one hour, with sessions running for 6-8 weeks at a time.

How It Works

Weekend clinics are run by trained Program Directors and volunteers from different communities in the area. Our clinics are group tennis lessons, with participants paired up with one to two volunteers based on their individual needs. Whether your child has tennis experience or not, our curriculum will cater to your child's individual abilities and needs!

History

ACEing Autism's Youth Community Program began in 2008, but a gap still existed in recreational programs for adults with autism. In 2017, there were approximately 3.5 million people in the US with autism—2.5 million being adults. In 2018, we piloted two successful Adult Community Programs in Dallas, TX and Auburn, AL. We continue to expand and improve the quality of our program with the help of our Program Directors, volunteers, and BCBA Quality Control Managers.

Impact

ACEing Autism's adaptive tennis curriculum creates an opportunity and safe, patient, and fun space for children with autism to foster the enjoyment of fitness, gain interest in a new sport, and increase social skills, fine & gross motor skills, turn-taking, and confidence. Our community programs offer a space for kids to be themselves and have fun while learning tennis! Coaches & volunteers lead participants through drills, tennis skills, and games, advancing each step based on each individual.

Socials

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Program Locations

Please use the list below to find the ACEing Autism program that is closest to your location. We are constantly adding new programs all over the country and will continue to update this list as we add new locations. Please click on the locations below to learn more about what is offered, the location, and the cost of each individual program.

Find a location near you

City, State

+10 Miles ▼



Community Programs



Adult Programs



School-Based Programs

Program Directory

Alabama

Auburn, AL

Arizona

Pheonix, AZ

California

Burbank, CA

The Help Group - Los Angeles, CA

Yorba Linda, CA

Carlsbad, CA

Inglewood, CA

Palm Springs, CA

Long Beach, CA

Mountain View, CA

Mountain Gate Country Club - Los Angeles, CA

Elk Grove, CA

Santa Barbara, CA

Newport Beach, CA

KEEN - Los Angeles, CA

Socials

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As a parent and a member of the board, I'd like to welcome you to

ACEing Autism.



Hear Our Story

In the summer of 2008, my daughter Zoe was one of the first kids to help pilot ACEing Autism. She was 4.5 years old, had very few words and even less ability to attend. Our first one-on-one session with founder, Richard Spurling, was pretty much a disaster. Zoe wouldn't focus. She bolted all over the place. We couldn't get her attention. She looked in every direction except the one we wanted. We were on clay courts and Zoe scooped up the clay and put it in her mouth. I can't even describe how crushed I felt. I had played competitive tennis in college and always assumed my kids would both play and love sports. I started thinking up the excuses I would give Richard, fully expecting that he was about to utter what had become those all-too-familiar words, "Maybe she's just not ready."

But he didn't. Instead, Richard said, "I think that was a good start. Will you come back again next week?"

And so we began on this path, slowly knocking obstacles out of Zoe's way one at a time over these past 8 years. Sure, it's been bumpy at times, but today Zoe hits running forehands and backhands with a smile on her face and has a killer forehand volley. My husband and I can take Zoe and her brother to the local tennis courts and play tennis pretty much like any other family.

I had just about started to take it all for granted when a new child joined Zoe's clinic a few months ago. He had trouble focusing. There were some behaviors. It was tough to get his attention. His parents had to keep going on the court to help. His mother looked at Zoe and said to me, "Your daughter is so focused and follows directions so well. She's so good at tennis and she is having so much fun. I don't think my son will ever be able to do this."

My mind wandered back to Zoe during that first session with Richard in 2008. Just then, Zoe hit a beautiful forehand, looked over at me, smiled and then turned to giggle with her volunteer as she scurried to get back in line for her next turn. Wow, I thought. Joint attention, shared enjoyment, social connection, motor planning, turn-taking, direction following, self-regulation, and just plain fun—all right here on display in one ACEing Autism clinic. I guess that day back in 2008 wasn't such a disaster after all. It was the start of something great.

I hope ACEing Autism will be the start of something great for your family too.

Sincerely,

Mira Tamir Spiegel – ACEing Autism Board Of Directors Member



Our tennis programs benefit your child in many ways, with the overall goal being to have **FUN!**

Our goal is to provide an hour break for parents during which you can watch your child develop into a tennis player! Our clinics aim to develop your child's motor skills, hand eye coordination, build confidence and improve their general socialization, all within a FUN, controlled environment.

Our Program Directors typically have either tennis or autism backgrounds, sometimes even both! We aim to have tennis professionals run the clinics supported by at least one volunteer per child. Some children do great with one volunteer, others fare better with more or different types of support. We try to do what is right for your child. We feel it is our priority to provide a high level of attention to your child while he/she is enjoying tennis with ACEing Autism. We look for every opportunity to incorporate best practices for working with children with ASD into our clinics.

During all classes we provide a tennis racquet that your child can borrow and a t-shirt which they can take home. We typically include an award ceremony during the last clinic of each program session to celebrate each child's unique and individual progress.

Have a look at our locations page to find a location near you.



Sign Up and Register

Find a location near you and register your child for a tennis clinic.

Find a Location

Find a location near you and register your child for a tennis clinic.

Contact Information



2001 S. Barrington Ave., Suite 320 Los Angeles CA 90025

Find a Location



310.401.0544

Check Our FAQs



info@aceingautism.org

Make A Donation to ACEing Autism

ACEing Autism is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. Your donations help us buy necessary tennis equipment, teaching supplies, pay for court time, support autism community events and invest in growing our program.

Dontate Via Paypal

DONATE

Dontate Via Check

ACEing Autism
2001 South Barrington Ave., Suite 320
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Make checks payable to: ACEing Autism

Logo

Primary Navigation

Start A Program

Thank you for your interest in starting an ACEing Autism program in your city! Below is an outline of the basic process and timeline of launching a new program.



If you are interested in taking the first step, please reach out for additional information by emailing the national office at info@aceingautism.org or calling our home office at (310) 401-0544 to speak with our Office Manager.



Socials

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Our Mission

Our mission is to connect children with autism through unique tennis programs, and to develop and advance proven methods to positively impact the children, families and communities we serve.



How It All Started

ACEing Autism was founded in the summer of 2008 by Richard Spurling & Dr. Shafali Jeste in Boston, MA. as a family run organization with the invaluable efforts of its volunteers & supporters. We launched our first program at The Longfellow Club, Wayland (MA) with 15 children. In the spring of 2009 we added a second location, The Weymouth Club in Weymouth (MA). Richard quickly realized that he could greatly enhance the lives of children and families with autism through tennis, and he made a commitment to dedicate his career to the development and expansion of ACEing Autism.

In early 2010, Shafali was recruited to the UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment, a center that has been a leader in the field of autism research for decades. Shafali and Richard relocated to Los Angeles in 2010, and since then Richard has focused on program development and expansion. ACEing Autism now has sites in Los Angeles, New York, Fort Lauderdale, Dallas, Pittsburgh, San Diego, New Orleans, Nashville, and Indianapolis. The expansion continues, as we are just beginning to meet the needs of the thousands of children with autism across the country.

Our success lies in our commitment to tailoring the program to the needs of each individual child with autism. In 2013, Richard was honored with the USPTR's Humanitarian of Year Award for his work building this program, and in August 2014 ACEing Autism was given the USTA's Community Service Award.

ACEing Autism has been featured on the Tennis Channel, and in April 2014 Head Penn became an official equipment supplier, providing all tennis equipment for our children to use during their sessions.

We currently service more than 500 children with autism across 30 locations nationwide. We are passionate about our mission to connect kids through tennis, and we look forward to meeting volunteers, families, and children on our courts across the country as we continue to grow.



Our Vision

With our organization now firmly established and with our program delivery model now proven to achieve meaningful benefits, for the foreseeable future we intend to grow the number of participants on an annual basis across the U.S. to 4,500 by the end of 2021. In so doing, we plan to be overseeing 80-90 program sites throughout the U.S. together with establishing the necessary operating and support infrastructure to successfully fund, maintain and improve our activities.

Beyond the number of children served, we intend to enhance our program offerings, so as to achieve ever-improving service delivery outcomes for the children and families being served, volunteer training and engagement, as well as all other stakeholders.

At the same time, we expect to improve our organization capacity so as to be positioned to serve a significantly larger population of participants thereafter. As we embark on this vision, we believe a variety of additional opportunities will emerge that will enable us to enhance our organization and the benefits delivered to our stakeholders in a variety of new and exciting ways.



Forms and Policies

[Registration Form](#)
[Liability Waiver Form](#)
[Photo & Video Release Form](#)


Inclement Weather

If a class must be cancelled due to inclement weather we will post a message on the top of our home page by 11:00am on the day of class.



Refund Policy

If ACEing Autism must cancel a clinic due to inclement weather we will provide you with a credit for the next session or a reimbursement for the canceled clinic.

Refunds will not be issued for participant cancellations.

Make A Donation to ACEing Autism

ACEing Autism is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. Your donations help us buy necessary tennis equipment, teaching supplies, pay for court time, support autism community events and invest in growing our program.

Dontate Via Paypal

[DONATE](#)

Dontate Via Check

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2001 South Barrington Ave., Suite 320
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Make checks payable to: ACEing Autism

Logo

Primary Navigation

Impact and Goals

Discover how we impact children across the country through tennis.



OUR IMPACT



1,374

Children with ASD have enrolled in our programs.



4,195

Hours of Volunteer Service



87,000+

Hours of community service earned by students through ACEing Autism's volunteer program.

ACEing Autism was founded in Boston, MA during the summer of 2008 by Richard Spurling, a tennis professional with a degree in International Business and MBA in entrepreneurship, and Dr. Shafali Jeste, an autism researcher and child neurologist. While living in Massachusetts, Richard and Shafali collaborated to create a program that was designed to use the sport of tennis as a means to provide unique social and developmental benefits to children with autism. The first program was launched at The Longfellow Club in Wayland, MA with 15 children with the invaluable efforts of volunteers and supporters.

ACEing Autism celebrated 10 years in 2018, and now serves over 1,400 children with autism and engages over 2,100 volunteers through 73 program locations in 29 states. The expansion continues as we are just beginning to meet the needs of the thousands of children with autism across the country. ACEing Autism is excited to officially launch the ACEing Autism School-based tennis program, which offers the traditional ACEing Autism tennis curriculum to children with autism in school during physical education classes. This new model will allow ACEing Autism to drastically increase the number of children served, while simultaneously increasing the number of weekly hours tennis is offered.



+1400

Children Served



+2,100

Volunteers



73

Program Locations



29

States

Contact Information



2001 S. Barrington Ave., Suite 320 Los Angeles CA 90025



310.401.0544



info@aceingautism.org

Find a Location

Check Our FAQs

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Socials

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Box Information

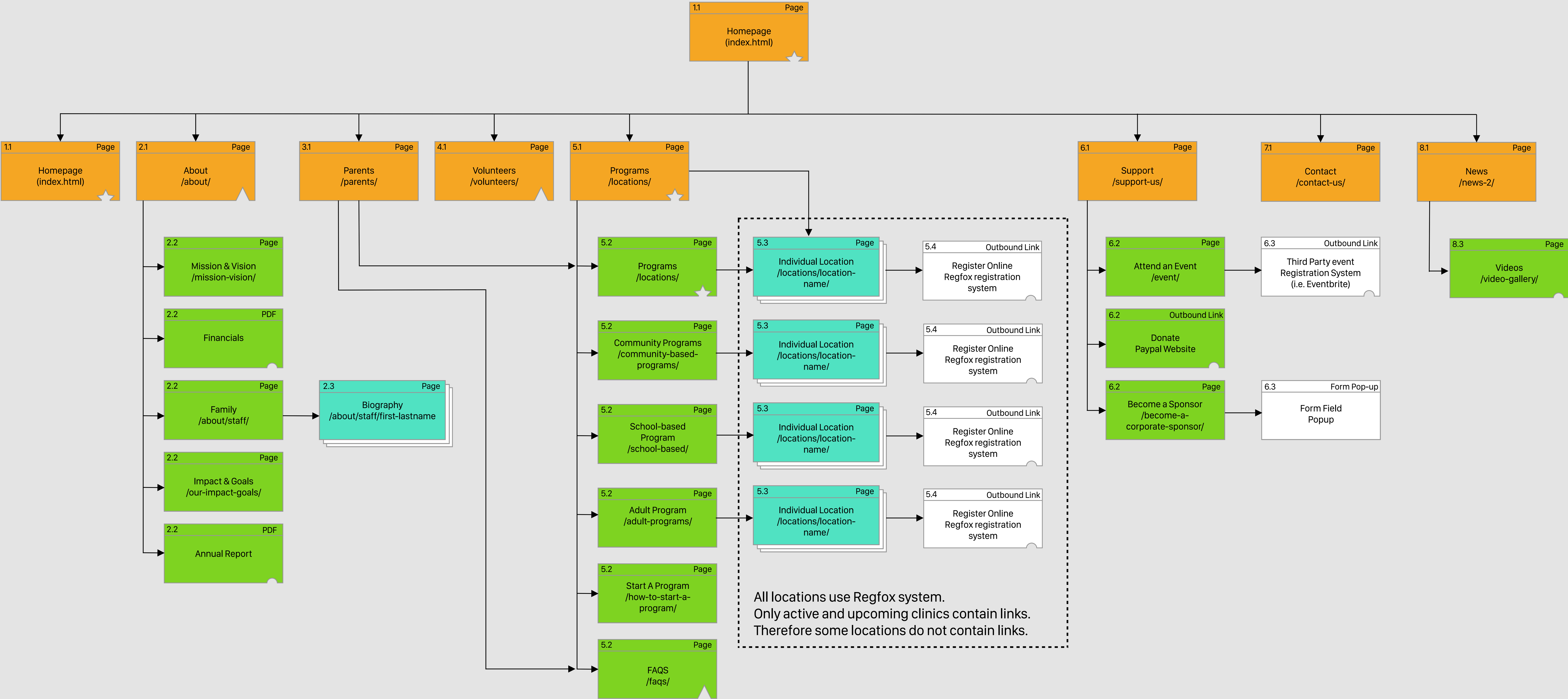
Order of Pages (numerical) Page Name Type of webpage

7.1 Contact /contact-us/ Page

Signifier (see Legend)

Sitemap Legend

Primary Navigation	Orange box	Same Page	Icon: document with star
Secondary Navigation	Green box	Page with Forms	Icon: document with checkmark
Multiple Pages	Teal box	Outbound Link	Icon: document with arrow



Footer

Outbound Link	Outbound Link	Outbound Link	Page	Page	Page	Page
Twitter	Facebook	Instagram	Support Us /support-us/	Spread Awareness /support-us/	Volunteer /volunteers/	News and Articles RSS Feed

Types of Forms

PDF	PDF	PDF
Anti-Bullying Policy	Anti-Harrasment Policy	Code of Conduct
PDF	PDF	Outbound Link
Liability Waiver Form	Photo Release Form	Registration Form (Googledoc)
PDF	Outbound Link	
Volunteer Manual	Volunteer Registration Form (Googledoc)	



HOME

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VOLUNTEERS

SUPPORT US

CONTACT US

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REGISTER YOUR CHILD



Find your nearest location and register your child for a tennis clinic

REGISTER

3



I am a

Parent



GO

WIREFRAME ANNOTATIONS

After some discussion with the ACEing Autism team, we decided to make a few minor updates on the homepage.

1

Please move the Program tab in the primary navigation to the #2 spot.

2

On the homepage slider, please include an extra slide with a short description and link. This will be the *second* slide in the gallery.
(after “Welcome to ACEing Autism” slide)

Title: REGISTER YOUR CHILD

Short Description: “Find your nearest location and register your child for a tennis clinic.”

3

The button will link to the program locations page and will also include a resting state and hover state (see below). Style will be the same as the other slides.

REGISTER

Resting State

REGISTER

Hover State