

Ernie Els #GameON Autism™ Golf

FAQ's for Parents

- Does my child need to have an autism diagnosis to participate?
- What should my child wear for the clinic?
- Does my child need to bring golf clubs?
- Is this a drop off program?
- Can I come out on golf course with my child?
- Does my child need to be toilet trained in order to attend?
- My child has limited speech (or none at all). Can my child still participate?
- What if my child needs to take a break?
- Are typical siblings allowed to participate?
- What is the cost to participate and what is the money used for?
- What is the policy regarding inclement weather?
- What happens if my child misses a golf session?
- How do you ensure safety?

FAQ's for Parents: Ernie Els #GameON Autism™ Golf Program

- Does my child need to have an autism diagnosis to participate?
 - Yes, your child must have autism spectrum disorder to participate in the #GameON Autism Golf Program.

- Is there an age requirement for the program?
 - Participants must be between the ages of 6-23 years old. Participants will be divided into small groups during each golf session. These groupings will largely be determined based on age and ability.

- Is there a dress code for the program?
 - #GameON Autism Golf Program participants should wear proper golf attire to each golf session. Collared shirts are preferred. There is a no denim/jean policy.

- Does my child need to bring golf clubs?
 - All golf equipment will be provided. However, your child is welcome to bring his/her own golf equipment if he/she wishes to do so.

- Is this a drop off program?
 - We strongly prefer parents or an aide to stay on site at the golf facility for the entirety of each golf session (1 hour and 15 minutes). If a parent or aide must leave for any duration, we require that that person inform the lead golf instructor and provide their contact information in case of emergency. If your child requires 1-1 assistance, an adult is required to stay with him/her at all times.

- Can I come onto the golf course with my child?
 - Yes, parents are welcome to stay alongside their child during golf sessions. However, we ask that parents abide by all safety rules, which are reviewed at the beginning of every #GameON Autism Golf session.

- If my child is nonverbal, can he/she still participate?
 - Yes! If your child is non verbal or has limited speech and uses his/her own communication device, please bring it and familiarize the golf instructor with how to use it. Also, there will be visual supports and a commenting board at every Ernie Els #GameON Autism™ Golf session which every participant will have easy access to.

- What if my child needs to take breaks?
 - There is a designated break station where students can rest and hydrate. Participants are allowed to take breaks at any time. However, if a participant must leave their group to take a break or use the bathroom, they must inform their instructor and be accompanied by a parent or aide.

- Are typical siblings allowed to participate?
 - Typical siblings may **not** actively participate in golf sessions but are welcome to stay at the golf facility to support their participating sibling(s).

- What is the cost to participate, and what is this money used for?
 - There is a \$15 registration fee, which is the only cost participants incur. This fee will be used to offset overhead costs.

- Is there a policy for inclement weather?
 - . Parents are strongly suggested to call the golf facility if there is inclement weather approaching or in the area. There will be one rain date make up session incorporated into the program.

- What happens if my child misses a golf session?
 - The #GameON Autism Golf Program consists of 9 specialized golf sessions offered to select pilot sites. If your child misses a session, they will not be able to make up that golf session as these sessions do not “roll over.”

- How is the safety of my child ensured?
 - The golf organization that the Ernie Els #GameON Autism Golf™ Program partners with is insured under its own organization’s policy. The safety of your child is our number one priority. Our golf instructors receive specialized training from a member of the Els for Autism staff on how to best instruct your child with ASD. Golf instructors must abide by strict rules and participants must abide by rules to ensure their own safety and the safety of our instructors, parents, aids, golf course staff, and other golfers at the facility. Lesson plans and set ups have been specially designed so that safety is the first priority of our program. It is essential that parents or aides remain nearby at the golf facility to assist in ensuring their child’s safety, especially for children with a history of elopement.