

MARCH 2010

A Division of The Association For Community Living

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

*Creating Opportunities, Building Relationships, Improving Lives
for children and adults with developmental disabilities since 1952*

www.communityresourcesforautism.org

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Our Doors Are Always Open!

Community Resources has faced numerous cuts in funding, changing the types of services we are able to offer the families we serve. In an effort to make our resources for accessible to our families, we welcome families to come and visit us anytime. We have an extensive lending library, videos and DVDs with a viewing area, computers with access to the internet and our resource database, Boardmaker for making visuals, and much more. We encourage parents, professionals, and community members to come visit us, learn more about autism, share their experiences, and utilize our resources.

In response to continued requests, we're now offering parent workshops during the day while your children are in school. We hope to reach more families this way and provide information to families that otherwise are unable to attend our evening trainings. Check out our upcoming Asperger's 101 training in April!

We are always looking for new ways to reach the families we serve. If you have any suggestions of how we can better serve you and your family, contact us at (413) 529-2428 or info@communityresourcesforautism.org.

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...And Much, Much More!



Dear Families and Friends of Community Resources for People with Autism,

The current state budget crisis has been a hard ship for families with children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in western Massachusetts and across the state.

For Fiscal Year 2010 (July 2009-June 2010) the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) mandated cuts of more than 57%, \$214,000, in Community Resources For People with Autism's Regional Autism Specialty Program. This resulted in the elimination of in-home problem solving and virtually all DDS respite allocations to children with significant needs and their families served under our DDS contract. We believe that these Autism Specialty Services are the most cost-beneficial interventions provided to families in meeting their needs. In the past, families with urgent needs had received in-home support for common autism issues such as safety, sleep, transitions, communications and behavior. Many families also had received respite allocations – a support that every year is identified by families as being among the most helpful.

In addition to these cuts in core family support programs, cuts were also made in DDS funded information, referral and training services as well as a special program to prevent out-of-home placement.

It is only through our fundraising events, annual campaign, and the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation that we have been able to provide \$34,700 in allocations to families this year. (186 families requested funding totaling \$68,000; we gave allocations ranging from \$145 to \$300 to 170 families.) In addition, through the annual campaign and grants from local bank foundations (Hampden Bank, Chicopee Bank) we are able to provide in-home Autism Specialist support to a small number of new families. Thank you all for supporting these fundraising efforts.

Looking at next year, there are several significant developments:

First, the Governor's budget for next fiscal year (FY 2011) proposes to cut an additional \$1.5 million in family support funding. Your help is needed to prevent further cuts in programs that serve families. **Call your representative and ask them to restore DDS family support funding to the FY 2009 level.**

Second, in making the cuts in family support, DDS did not support Community Resources' 21 year old regional model of providing cost-effective in-home autism interventions. We believe it is in the best interest of families to preserve this model. The family/professional Board of Community Resources is pursuing ways that current DDS funding could be channeled to restore these valuable in-home supports.

Third, in March, DDS family support services across the state will be put out to competitive bid. Community Resources will apply to continue as one of the state's regional Autism Centers providing basic information, referral, workshops, and parent connections. In addition, family support services will be provided in a new way. Once a family is identified as a priority and its needs are determined, a service plan will be created, and families will have a choice of qualified agencies to provide specific services (such as respite, behavioral interventions, homemaker services, and other supports). Providers will be reimbursed at state-determined rates for each service. Community Resources will become a qualified provider and is committed to providing families with a choice of a broad range of DDS defined services with our extensive autism expertise.

The budget crisis and the significant changes in how DDS will be funding family support services create uncertainty for families and providers. Community Resources is unwavering in its mission to provide families in western Massachusetts with the knowledge and supports to help individuals with ASD meet their potential and be valued, fully participating members of their families, schools and communities. Given these changes, the Board and staff of Community Resources want to be doubly sure we are working to provide the supports that are most helpful to families. We are starting a planning process that will involve families in thinking about how Community Resources can best respond to families' needs. Over the next few months we will keep you informed about new developments and opportunities to be actively engaged in the planning process.

Sincerely,

David Specht



COMMUNITY RESOURCES' MARCH HAPPENINGS

The Hidden Curriculum

Date & time: Tuesday, March 2; 6:30 - 8:30 pm; RSVP by Friday, February 26.

Speakers: Jason Litto and Jeanne Troxell Munson

Location: Community Resources for People with Autism;
116 Pleasant Street, Ste. 366; Easthampton, MA

AND

Date & time: Tuesday, March 9; 6:30 - 8:30 pm; RSVP by Friday, March 5.

Speakers: Jason Litto and Jeanne Troxell Munson

Location: Nessacus Middle School, Dalton, MA

This topic introduces you to the importance of the “hidden curriculum”—the unwritten social rules and expectations of behavior that we all know but were never taught—and how a lack of these skills impacts individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Individuals who have ASD do not come equipped with the same ability to understand the hidden curriculum. As a result, they break many social and behavioral rules without intent or even knowledge that they are doing so. This, coupled with their difficulty in generalizing information from one situation to another, leads them to making the same mistakes over and over again at a tremendous social cost. This workshop includes strategies and techniques to help children and adults understand social cues and unstated expectations, guidelines for what to do (or what not to do) in specific social situations, and practical tips.

**For more information or to register for Easthampton workshop,
please contact Community Resources at (413) 529-2428.*

**For more information or to register for Dalton workshop,
please contact Megan Sherman at (413) 443-4780 x 15, shermanm@theassn.org*

Asperger's 101

Date & time: Saturday, March 20; 10:00 am to 12:00 pm; RSVP by Tuesday, March 16.

Speaker: Jason Litto

Location: SCAN 360; 11 Wilbraham Rd., Springfield, MA

This workshop is intended to introduce families and caretakers to Asperger's Syndrome. Characteristics and strategies to help individuals are discussed, as well as some of the social difficulties that people with Asperger's experience. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to meet other parents of children and young adults with Asperger's. We encourage friends, family members, and support persons to attend this valuable workshop.

For more information or to register, please contact Community Resources at (413) 529-2428.

2010 SAVE THE DATE!!!

For 20th Annual Conference

Date & time: Tuesday, April 6; 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Speakers: Brenda Smith Myles
Valerie Paradiz

Location: The Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House; Holyoke, MA

For more information, visit: www.communityresourcesforautism.org or call (413) 529-2428

Hole in One for Autism

Date & time: Friday, April 9; 1:00 pm—Shotgun Start (registration: 11:30 am)

Location: Tekoa Country Club; 459 Russell Rd., Westfield, MA

For more info visit: www.communityresourcesforautism.org or call Rick Greenaway at (413) 537-8802

Autism Awareness Day

Date & time: Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Location: The Statehouse; Boston, MA

Asperger's 101

Date & time: Thursday, April 29; 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm; RSVP by Monday, April 26.

Speaker: Jason Litto

Location: Community Resources; 116 Pleasant Street, Ste 366; Easthampton, MA

Insight Into Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date & time: Thursday, May 6; 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm; RSVP by Monday, May 3.

Speaker: Jason Litto

Location: Holyoke Community College--Kittredge Center 203 (303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, MA)

Berkshire Dinner Dance Fundraiser

Date & time: Saturday, May 8; Cocktails at 6:00 p.m., Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Crowne Plaza; Pittsfield, MA

For more information, please contact Megan Sherman at (413) 443-4780 x 15, shermanm@theassn.org

Asperger's 101

Date & time: Thursday, May 20; 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm; RSVP by Monday, May 17.

Speaker: Jason Litto

Location: BCARC Social Development Center-65 Depot St. Dalton, MA

Sexuality Training I—Parents and Young Teens (ages 10-13)

Date: Tuesday, May 11; 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; RSVP by Friday, May 7

Speaker: Dr. Helen Gray-Garretson

Location: HEC Admin Building, 788 South Street, Pittsfield, MA

Sexuality Training II—Parent Only of Teens (ages 14-18)

Date: Tuesday, May 18; 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; RSVP by Friday, May 14

Speaker: Dr. Helen Gray-Garretson

Location: HEC Admin. Building, 788 South Street, Pittsfield, MA

Sexuality Training III—Teens Only (ages 14-18)

Date: Tuesday, May 25; 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; RSVP by Friday, May 21

Speaker: Dr. Helen Gray-Garretson

Location: HEC Admin. Building, 788 South Street, Pittsfield, MA

20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

The Log Cabin Banquet and Meetinghouse 500 Easthampton Road ~ Holyoke, MA

Conference Schedule

8:00 am — 9:00 am	Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:00 am — 9:30 am	Welcome Address
9:30 am — 11:45 am	Autism and Asperger Syndrome by <i>Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D.</i> Strategies for children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder that can be used across school, home, and community. Emphasis will be placed on a model of practical interventions that have great utility for educators, parents, and therapists who support students with autism.
10:45 am — 11:00 am	Break
11:45 am — 1:00 pm	Lunch/Awards Ceremony
1:00 pm — 2:00 pm	Autism and Asperger Syndrome (cont.) by <i>Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D.</i>
2:00 pm — 2:15 pm	Break
2:15 pm — 3:30 pm	Integrated Self Advocacy by <i>Valerie Paradiz, Ph.D.</i> A method of helping professionals and family members give children and adults with ASD safe forums for self-discovery, structured learning activities, and a cumulative understanding of the many faces of self-advocacy.

SPEAKER BIOS

Brenda Smith Myles

Brenda Smith Myles Ph.D., a consultant with the Ziggurat Group and Chief of Programs and Development for the Autism Society of America, is the recipient of the 2004 Autism Society of America's Outstanding Professional Award and the 2006 Princeton Fellowship Award. She has written numerous articles and books on Asperger Syndrome and autism including *Asperger Syndrome and Difficult Moments: Practical Solutions for Tantrums, Rage, and Meltdowns* (with Southwick) and *Asperger Syndrome and Adolescence: Practical Solutions for School Success* (with Adreon). The latter is the winner of the Autism Society of America's Outstanding Literary Work. Brenda has made over 500 presentations all over the world, written more than 150 articles and books on autism and Asperger Syndrome, and served as the co-chair of the National ASD Teacher Standards Committee. She is on the National Institute of Mental Health's Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee's Strategic Planning Consortium and the Autism Society of America's Panel of Professional Advisors. Myles is also on the executive boards of several organizations, including the Organization for Autism Research and Maap Services, Inc. In addition, she was recently acknowledged as the second most productive applied researcher in ASD in the world from 1997 to 2004.

Valerie Paradiz

Valerie Paradiz, PhD, develops educational programs for children and adults with Autism Spectrum and related conditions. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, Redbook Magazine, and The Guardian. She is the developer of Integrated Self Advocacy ISA™, a curriculum and training series for educators and therapists who wish to support individuals with ASDs in achieving greater ability in self-advocacy. Valerie's memoir, *Elijah's Cup: A Family's Journey into the Community and Culture of High-Functioning Autism and Asperger's Syndrome* (Jessica Kingsley, 2005) is the compelling story of the author's experiences raising her autistic son, their involvement together in the advocacy community, and her own ultimate diagnosis with Asperger syndrome. Valerie speaks nationally and internationally on parenting strategies, initiating and enhancing programs for individuals with ASDs, strengthening advocacy skills, and fostering emerging talents and focused interests. Valerie is a member of the national board of directors of the national Autism Society, where she serves as co-chair of the Panel of Individuals on the Spectrum of Autism (PSA) and is a member of the Government Relations Committee. She is also a member of the Institute for Cognitive Diversity at Bank Street College. In an advisory capacity, she serves the US Autism & Asperger Association (USAAA), Pace University's Center for Teaching and Research in Autism (TARA) and the editorial board of The Autism File magazine.

REGISTRATION FORM

Community Resources for People with Autism's 20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tuesday, April 6, 2010
9:00 am - 3:30 pm
(registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)

The Log Cabin Banquet & Meetinghouse
500 Easthampton Road; Holyoke, MA 01040

Registration Fees (lunch included):

Professionals: \$129 per individual (groups of 4 or more, \$119 each)

Families: \$59 per individual (groups of 2 or more, \$49 each)

Seating is limited - Register early! Please submit one form per registration. Form may be copied.
Scholarships are available for family members that are directly served by Community Resources.

Please print clearly and complete every section of registration form.

Name:

Address:

City, ST, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Parent/Family Member

Teacher/School Personnel

Professional

If you require translation services, please describe and submit no later than March 20.

Please check box if you would like a vegetarian lunch

Please check box if you do not wish to be photographed

~~ REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2010 ~~

(Refund Policy: Cancellations must be received by April, 1 2010)

Please make checks payable to:

Community Resources For People With Autism
116 Pleasant Street; Suite 366; Easthampton, MA 01027
Phone: 413-529-2428; Fax: 413-529-2567

Questions? Please contact Karen Greaney at ext. 118 or greaneyk@theasn.org

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Call For Nominations!!!!



Community Resources' 20th Annual Conference will be here before you know it--Tuesday, April 6--and we hope to see many of you there. As in previous years, **we are asking families to nominate people for the following awards which will be presented at the conference:**

- ***Excellence in Education Award:** for an individual or team that has demonstrated excellence in teaching a child with autism in an inclusive setting.
- ***Respite Provider Extraordinaire Award:** for a respite provider who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and skill in providing respite for your family.
- ***Community Service Award:** for a business, recreation facility, or other community service that has demonstrated positive regard for a child with autism and his or her family.
- ***You Are There For Me Award:** for an individual that has gone above and beyond in providing support, time, and help for your family.

Please send your letter of nomination to:
Karen Greaney at Community Resources,
116 Pleasant St., Ste. 366,
Easthampton, MA 01027;
or email: greaneyk@theassn.org by March 1, 2010.

We will contact you when award recipients have been chosen.

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The Time to Act is NOW!

Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts
Invites you to attend

**Autism Spectrum Awareness Day
Tuesday April 13, 2010**

Great Hall
The State House
Boston, Massachusetts

9:00am to 10am	Registration and Refreshments
10:00am to 11:30am	AFAM Program
11:30am	We encourage you to visit your legislators

For more information and to sign-up, please call

Community Resources for People with Autism at (413) 529-2428

Sponsored by: Advocates for Autism Massachusetts (AFAM), Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, Asperger's Association of New England, Autism Alliance of MetroWest, Inc., Autism Resource Center of Central Massachusetts, Autism Society of America, Massachusetts Chapter, Autism Support Center, Till/Boston Families for Autism, Inc., Community Autism Resources, Inc, Community Resources for People with Autism, Family Autism Center, The ARC of Massachusetts, Autism Speaks and Massachusetts Advocates for Children.

Save The Date!

6th Annual Berkshire Fundraiser for Autism



Saturday, May 8, 2010 6:00 p.m. - Midnight
Crowne Plaza
Pittsfield, MA

Light Fare, Silent Auction, Raffles,
Door Prizes, Dancing and more....

*For more information or to purchase tickets please contact
Megan Sherman at
413-443-4780 x. 15 or shermanm@theassn.org*

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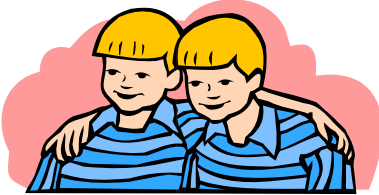
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SIBSHOPS CELEBRATE SIBLINGS BY OFFERING



FUN ACTIVITIES AND PEER SUPPORT

COME JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN 8-14 WHO HAVE A BROTHER OR SISTER WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Sibshops offer the opportunity to connect with other kids who share similar experiences in a relaxed, recreational setting where they are able to discuss common joys and challenges and make new friends.

A Sibshop will be offered at two sites during April vacation week:

Wednesday, April 21st at Abilities Unlimited at the Carson Center

754 Russell Road, Westfield, MA (Kamp for Kids)

Session 1 9 am - 12 noon will be for siblings ages 8 -10

Session 2 1- 4 pm will be for siblings ages 11-14

Friday, April 23rd

Location TBD

Session 1 9 am - 12 noon will be for siblings ages 8 -10

Session 2 1- 4 pm will be for siblings ages 11-14

Parents may choose the most convenient site- space is limited, so register early.

For more information or to register for either of the sessions, please contact:

Donna Kushi at 413-586-8196 x 205 or kushid@theassn.org

Or

Beth Crosby at (413) 529-2428 x 115 or crosbye@theassn.org

sponsored by

The Association For Community Living

Creating Opportunities, Building Relationships, Improving Lives for children and adults with developmental disabilities since 1952
in partnership with

Franklin/Hampshire Area Department of Developmental Services, Abilities Unlimited, Behavioral Health Network, Community Resources for People with Autism, Down Syndrome Resource Group of Western Massachusetts, Springfield Jewish Community Center Special Needs Department, Scan 360, Thom Springfield Infant Toddler Services, Unified Sports Program, United Arc, Whole Children, Inc.

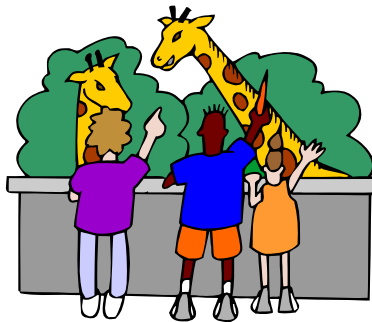
Funded through a grant from Westfield Bank

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Berkshires Sibshop

Community Resources for People with Autism, in collaboration with United Cerebral Palsy of the Berkshires, will be hosting a Sibshop—"Zoo Day"—for school aged children who have siblings with special needs.

Zoo Day!



Date: Saturday, March 27, 2010
Location: Berkshire South Regional Community Center
15 Crissey Rd.
Great Barrington, MA
Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

For more information or to register:
please contact Megan Sherman at 413-443-4780 x.15 or
shermanm@theassn.org by Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Sibshops are designed to bring together the siblings of children with disabilities. In sibshops children can meet other sibs, share experiences, have fun and make new friends! Join us for an afternoon of games, discussions, food, and fun. The theme for this Sibshop is "Zoo Day" all of our activities will have different animal themes. So be ready to tell us about your favorite animals.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

YOU'RE INVITED to this family fun night, geared toward teaching and enhancing social skills in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY and **PARTICIPATE WITH YOUR CHILD(ren)** as we all learn more about making and keeping friends.

FAMILY MEMBERS of all ages will be involved in organized activities and socialization opportunities in a nurturing environment

The goal of Family Fun Night is to build a sense of community. It is an opportunity for families with children with disabilities to meet, share ideas and give support to one another. The children will be learning social skills and build self esteem in a physically and emotionally safe environment.

Dates: (Fridays) – Feb 26th, March 5th, 12th, 26th, April 2nd, 9th

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Schedule:
 5:00 – 5:30 – Structured Adventure Learning Activities (Gym)
 5:30 – 6:00 – Unstructured Activities (Gym)
 6:00 – 6:30 – Dinner / Structured Arts and Crafts Project (Art Room)
 6:30 – 7:00 – Unstructured Activities (Game Room)

Cost: \$15 (per child) - money collected goes to offset food cost only.

Registration: Registration Begins on Monday, January 25th

Registration Ends on Wednesday, February 24th

**Registration is limited to the first 25 children registered (first come / first serve)
 Participants MUST register in person at the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club's membership desk**

If you have any questions please contact Andy Brower at 413-583-2072 or
abrower@ludlowbgc.org

This program was made possible by funding from the Family Plus program in association with Boys and Girls Clubs of America,
 as well as the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

Credits will only be given if registration is cancelled at least 5 business days prior to the start of the program/event. No credits will be given for classes missed when registered for a session. If the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club cancels a program due to low registration or inclement weather, a refund will be given to those registered

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Transition Training Series

The Federation For Children With Special Needs is putting on a training series addressing transition topics such as:

Transitional Assessments; Self Advocacy – Self Determination; Guardianship – SSI; Post Secondary Education; Employment Option & Supports; Adult Agencies – Career Exploration; Community Independence

April 9 & 10
Springfield, MA

**Registration is FREE for families of Springfield Public School students

For more information, [click here](#)

or contact Terri McLaughlin

Transition Projects

Federation for Children with Special Needs

tmclaugh@fcsn.org

Ice Skating in Easthampton

All Out Adventures in Easthampton, MA is hosting open skating sessions for children with disabilities and their friends and families. Skate walkers will be available for those who are just learning to ice skate or who need extra assistance.

When? The next two Sundays, February 28th and March 6th, from
3:00pm to 5:00pm

Where? Lossone Rink at Williston Northampton School,
22 Greenwood Court, Easthampton, MA

For more information or to sign up, call (413) 527-8980
The cost is \$5 to cover rink admission. Open to Easthampton residents

Parent Support Groups

New Group Starting

Local mother, Phyllis Keenan, is starting a parent support group that will be held on a week day while your children are still in school! Meetings will be the second and fourth Fridays of each month, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. They will take place in Amherst at the home of parent, Deb Belle. Childcare is available for your little ones. Join their next meetings on March 12th and March 26th!

For more information, meeting location, or to express interest in this group, contact Phyllis at:
(413) 687-4191 or
keenanpf@earthlink.net

The Special Needs Support System

This group is facilitated by Stephanie and Charles McCormick, parents of a special needs child. Support and activities for families who have a child with special needs of any kind. The group meets the first and last Tuesday of every month from 6:00 -7:30 pm at the Tabernacle Baptist Church (603 New Ludlow Road, Chicopee).

They offer parents: topic support meetings, guest speakers, family nights, relaxation ideas, and more.

They offer children: activity time based on learning styles such arts and crafts, puppets, play dough, music therapy, sensory awareness, movies, and more — all with the goal of promoting social and life skills.

For more information and to register, please contact Stephanie:
specialchildren@yahoo.com or (413)693-5188.

Parent Support Group in Amherst

This parent support group started with the generous help of several parent volunteers. Starting this fall, groups will meet once per month at the home of Chris and Laurel Peltier. The meeting format will alter from having formal topics to family outings. Childcare will be provided, so be sure to let us know if you will be bringing your child.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact:
Chris and Laurel Peltier at (413) 230-3287,
cnlpeltier@aol.com

Saturday, March 20th from 10-noon
Saturday, April 17th from 10-noon
Saturday, May 15th from 10-noon
Saturday, June 19th from 10-noon

Spanish Parent Support Group

Join Community Resources staff member, Betsy Rivera, at our new Spanish speaking Parent Support Group. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 18th, from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the SCAN 360 Center in Springfield, MA.

For more information, please contact Betsy Rivera at (413) 529-2428 ext 112 or riverab@theassn.org

Research and Studies

Participate in New Study on Perceptions of Progress in Children with Autism

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Research aims to identify how families view hope, change and progress for their loved one with autism

If you are a parent of a son or daughter with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum, of any age, the Autism Society and the State University of New York at Stony Brook invite you to participate in an online survey to find out what you, as a parent of a child with autism, would most like to see for your child's future.

This study is a collaborative effort between the Autism Society and SUNY Stony Brook. We are conducting this survey to address the need for hopeful solutions for people with autism across their entire lifespan, the need for parents to "dare to dream" for the optimal outcomes for their child with autism – just as any parent would for their "neurotypical" child. The survey should take no longer than 20 minutes. Your participation in this research is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in participating in this study please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/childsfuture>

We hope you will find this experience to be meaningful and interesting. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact: Caitlin Walsh, B.A. at cwalsh31@gmail.com. If you have any questions about the research please feel free to contact Ms. Judy Matuk, Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects, SUNY Stony Brook, 631-632-9036.

Lies and Irony Study

Luke Pinette of Hampshire College is conducting a study of how children's understanding of lies and irony relates to their understanding of other people's beliefs. The study will consist of two sessions of about 15 minutes each playing games with puppets, telling stories, and asking you children questions about these stories. **Participants will be paid for their time.** The study will run from December 2009 through March of 2010. Please email Luke at lkp06@hampshire.edu, or call him at 413-387-8232.

.... More →

Research and Studies (continued)

Adaptive Behavior of Children and Youth with ASD

Parents, please share your expertise with us.....

You are an expert on the kinds of challenges children and youth with ASD face as they learn the skills needed for daily life activities in the home, school, and community.

This research project is looking at whether a newly developed survey measure is appropriate to capture the achievements and challenges of children and youth with ASD as they develop the skills of daily life. We are looking for parents to review the instructions, items and rating scales we have developed and to give us feedback about these items.

Your feedback will help ensure that our new measure provides information that is helpful in understanding the needs of children and youth with ASD and designing programs to assist their development of skills in important areas of daily life.

If you join this study, you will.....

- Engage in an on-line focus group forum, via a password protected and restricted access discussion group.
- During a 14 day active discussion period, visit the discussion board at least two times and respond to at least two discussion threads.
- Log- in at a time and location that is most convenient for you during the 14 day active discussion period!
- The discussion board will be monitored on a daily basis by research staff, and technical assistance will be available.
- At the completion of the 14 active discussion period, you will receive a \$20 gift certificate.

This study, "Computer Adaptive Testing of Adaptive Behavior of Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders", is being conducted by Dr. Wendy Coster, Principal Investigator, Boston University.

For more information, visit our website at www.bu.edu/kidsincontext , or contact:

Jessica Kramer (Assistant Professor)
Telephone: (617) 353-2702
E-mail: kramerj@bu.edu

Ellen Kao (Graduate Research Assistant)
Telephone: (617) 353-7492
E-mail: yckao@bu.edu

Online Support Forum

As a part of our efforts to expand the types of services we provide and ways parents can access and share information, Community Resources for People with Autism has developed an online forum for parents, professionals, and community members to exchange information and knowledge.

On this forum, openly discuss specific autism-related topics, ask other parents for advice or suggestions, share your success stories, alert families and professionals of community events, and so much more.

Visit this new online forum at www.CRPAforum.proboards.com

Please understand that this forum is in its beginning stages, so we need your help to get it started!

Parent-To-Parent Connections

As you know, Community Resources for People with Autism has recently experienced several significant changes, including drastic budget cuts and internal restructuring. As a result, we are no longer able to offer the level of support to families that we once offered. Now, more than ever, parents need to use one another's experiences and insight as a new kind of support. Parent-to-parent connections are vital in these times when other assistance is limited.

We are compiling a list of local parents of children with autism spectrum disorders that have been involved with Community Resources in the past and have demonstrated a strong knowledge of autism as well as local resources. We are always looking for new parents to be a part of this list.

By volunteering to be on this list, your contact information will not be public knowledge but will be offered to parents that are specifically seeking a connection with a local parent. If you are interested in being a Parent-To-Parent Volunteer and added to our Parent-To-Parent Connections list, or if have any questions or comments about this program, please contact Beth Crosby at Community Resources: (413) 529-2428 ext. 115 or crosbye@theassn.org.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Update Your Info!

In an effort to make sure we are operating as efficiently as possible, give us a call and update your contact information. The majority of our communications are now happening through email. If we don't have your email address, you won't receive the most current information and might miss out on important events!

Call (413) 529-2428, or email info@communityresourcesforautism.org

Unified Sports Program

Check out the different sports and activities offered by Unified Sports Program by visiting www.unifiedsportsprogram.com

Local Activities

A great website listing local activities for kids - www.Macaronikid.com

Teen Group Starting

Larry Pruner is a local father of a young woman with autism and is looking to start a social group for other teens and young adults with autism. In the past, he has traveled with his daughter to Connecticut to get together with other teens on the spectrum, but Larry is looking to start a group closer to home. If anyone is interested in joining Larry and his daughter in starting a group in the greater Springfield area to do fun activities such as watching movies, eating pizza, playing board games, bowling, and other fun events, contact Larry Pruner at (413) 253-2145 or valleybooks@comcast.net.

4-H Group Starting

For more information or to express interest, please contact Phyllis Keenan at: (413) 687-4191 or keenanpf@earthlink.net

Do You Have Something To Share?

Community Resources would love to hear your story.

- ◆ If you have a story you'd like to see featured in our newsletter, we'd love to hear it!
- ◆ If you would like to advertise a workshop, research study, community activity, or other information,

please contact Beth Crosby at
(413) 529-2428 ext. 115 or crosbye@theassn.org