



NREIC

# Collaborations

Update April 2009

Published for the Early Intervention  
Community of Bergen, Hudson and  
Passaic Counties.

[www.nreic.org](http://www.nreic.org)

(973)-256-8484

Contributors for this issue:

Joy Hammerman

Desirée Bonner

## New: New Jersey Rules

Children and families served by, or potentially eligible to receive, early intervention services through the New Jersey Early Intervention System, including homeless children and children who are wards of the State, should be aware of the new NJEIS Rules.

The purpose of *N.J.A.C. 8:17* is to establish the rules for the implementation of the State's early intervention system under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 34 CFR Part 303. <http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/eis/rules.shtml>

For Families: Our next *Transition from Early Intervention to Preschool Workshop* is scheduled for May 1, 2009 from 10am to 12 noon. At Helpful Hands, NREIC, 65 Willowbrook Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Wayne, NJ.

RSVP to [Desiree@nreic.org](mailto:Desiree@nreic.org) or call 973-256-8484 x204 with your name, the number of people attending and your telephone number. Unfortunately, childcare is NOT available for this workshop.

NJ Association for Special Children and Families (ASCF) TUESDAY, APRIL 14, from 7-9pm. *Procedural Safeguards Workshop* Information defining parents' rights and ways to resolve conflicts with school districts, emphasizing working through the ranks to resolve conflict as close to the source as possible. *Parent stipends available (call for more info). Professional credits available.* Hillcrest Community Center, 1810 Macopin Rd, West Milford, NJ. Call 973-728-8744 for more information and directions.

Bergen County Office For Children Presents their *6th Annual Family Child Care Conference* on Saturday May 2, 2009 from 8:30am to 3:45pm at One Bergen County Plaza, Room 460, Hackensack, NJ. Call 201-336-7150 for further details.

NJ Association for Special Children and Families (ASCF) presents  
*HELPS (Helping Early Learning and Play Skills)*

A program for toddlers (18mos - 3-year olds) who are involved in Early Intervention or toddlers with minor delays. Offered on Tuesday or Friday mornings.

Call for more information 973-728-8744

Tues: 9:30 - 10:30 or 11:00 - 12:00 ~ Fri: 9:30 - 10:30 or 10:45-11:45

Hillcrest Community Center, 1810 Macopin Rd, West Milford



# April is Autism Awareness Month



April is **Autism Awareness Month** and West Bergen is excited to be playing a role in enhancing public knowledge of the various Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDDs), often referred to as the **Autistic Spectrum**. As part of West Bergen's 45th Anniversary Celebration, the Asperger's Related Services is offering a free ***Shining Light on the Spectrum*** workshop which will identify the 5 major Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDDs) and highlight the symptoms of **Asperger's Disorder and Autistic Disorder**. Come join them on **Wednesday, April 30th., 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** in their Ridgewood Site (120 Chestnut Street, Ridgewood, NJ). Learn more about the symptoms and associated features found in Asperger's and Autism and get a glimpse into what it is like to have a social disability. If you are already familiar with the spectrum or have first hand experience, then bring or send a friend, colleague, family member, coach, educator, employer, neighbor or someone who may touch the life of someone on the spectrum and benefit from this **FREE** presentation. Given the rates of PDDs in this geographical area, that means just about anyone! While the workshop is free, we ask that you pre-register so that we will have enough chairs, handouts, etc. Please call Crystal Candiano at 201-934-1160 x. 7231 to register. Let us know if you are an educator and would like to receive continuing education credits for this workshop.

All kids benefit from recreation and community activities. Playing Challenger League soccer or participating in your local Special Olympics can help your child feel successful and develop self-confidence. Therapeutic horseback riding can provide a calming break from intense therapy sessions. Art lessons can help develop your child's imagination and self expression. There are a number of programs that vary from athletic to creative; one-on-one instruction to full inclusion; and recreational to competitive. Search here for the programs available in your area and explore what interests your child:

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/fsdb/category.php?sid=35&cid=33>

Autism Speaks, the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, applauds the introduction of the Autism Treatment Acceleration Act (ATAA). ATAA is comprehensive federal legislation that addresses several critical challenges facing the autism community, including increased funding for a section of the bill that requires all insurance companies to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder (ASDs), including coverage of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy – a medically-necessary, evidence-based autism treatment. In most states, insurers are currently allowed to specifically exclude coverage for these critical services, which can cost upward of \$50,000 a year – well beyond the means of most families. To help address the unique needs of adults with ASDs, the bill would create a demonstration project with one-year planning grants and multi-year implementation grants for the provision of service for adults with autism. In addition, it creates the National Autism Translational "Research to Services" Network aimed at accelerating the dissemination and utilization of critical, new information, moving it from "bench to bedside" as quickly as possible.

For a complete summary of this bill go to [www.AutismVotes.org/ATAA](http://www.AutismVotes.org/ATAA).



The following is a partial list of state and national resources that provide information on autism spectrum disorders. The inclusion of a website in this list does not explicitly or implicitly imply endorsement of the organization, its philosophy or of the information contained in the site.



### State & National Links

Adult Services in New Jersey <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/index.html>

Autism Research Institute [www.autism.com/ari/](http://www.autism.com/ari/)

Autism Society of America [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)

Cure Autism Now [www.can.org](http://www.can.org)

National Institutes of Health (NIH) [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)

New Jersey Protection and Advocacy [www.njpanda.org](http://www.njpanda.org)

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) [www.spannj.org](http://www.spannj.org)

Additional Web links:

1. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dd/ddautism.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dd/ddautism.htm)

2. Early Intervention Services - <http://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/eiphome.htm>

3. Special Education – <http://www.nj.gov/njded/specialed/>

4. New Jersey's Governors Council on Autism [www2.umdnj.edu/chinjweb/govcofolder.htm](http://www2.umdnj.edu/chinjweb/govcofolder.htm)

5. COSAC – [www.njcosac.org](http://www.njcosac.org)

6. The New Jersey Autism Study - <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dd/aic/states/nj.htm>

7. Center for Childhood Neurotoxicology and Exposure Assessment -

<http://www.eohsi.rutgers.edu/childhood/index.shtml>

### **WHAT IS NEW JERSEY DOING ABOUT AUTISM?**

**New Jersey has been a leader in the field of autism for four decades**

· Continuing in that tradition, in 2003 Governor McGreevey signed into law A-2601 creating a permanent source of funding for research into the causes, diagnosis and prevention, control and treatment of autism in New Jersey. The funds will go to the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism. The Council was created in 1999. One of the country's oldest advocacy agencies for people with autism, Autism New Jersey (Formerly The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community Inc. COSAC) is located in Ewing, NJ. Established in 1965, Autism New Jersey offers parent and professional training programs, a toll-free Information and Referral Line, parent support groups, advocacy assistance, public awareness initiatives, legislative programs and more. There is established at the University of Medicine and Dentistry- New Jersey Medical School, the Autism Center. The objectives of the Autism Center are to research the biological pathways of ASD, research safe and effective treatments and to provide outreach and support to individuals with autism and their families and healthcare professionals.

The New Jersey Medical School has partnered with the CDC, the New Jersey Department of Education and the Governor's Council on Autism to conduct The New Jersey Autism Study. The goals of this study are to determine and monitor the number of children in NJ with an ASD. Researchers at the Center for Childhood Neurotoxicology and Exposure Assessment of UMDNJ and Rutgers University are studying the interaction between environmental chemical and the expression of autism in 24-36 month old children.



This collection of quotes, stories, poems, and essays from children with Asperger Syndrome, ages 2-17, offers us a glimpse into their daily lives, relationships, challenges, and victories, from their own perspective. Twenty years ago, only a few academics even knew the term Asperger Syndrome. Today, this high functioning autism spectrum disorder is one of the most rapidly growing diagnoses among school children. Unfortunately, while the American public's awareness of this disorder is also growing, their understanding of it is lagging behind. Journalists tend to focus on

the most heart-wrenching cases. Popular television shows exaggerate (or even make up) symptoms for comedic effect. And the average person on the street, if asked about Asperger Syndrome, is still most likely to reply "Oh yeah, isn't that like Rain Man?" The truth is, most kids with Asperger Syndrome are intelligent and very verbal, but have challenges in social skills and certain facets of communication. Many have special interests that they study intensely and like to lecture on. But these children also vary tremendously. They are amazing, loving, complicated individuals far more than cookie-cutter little professors. In *More Than Little Professors*, parent and Asperger's specialist Lisa Barrett Mann, M.S.Ed., leads us through the children's works, explaining common characteristics of this autism spectrum disorder, and sharing her unique insight on life with these sometimes baffling, but always fascinating children and youth.

Available from Amazon at [http://www.amazon.com/More-Than-Little-Professors-Children/dp/1934575259/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1238512003&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/More-Than-Little-Professors-Children/dp/1934575259/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1238512003&sr=1-1)



## World Autism Awareness Day

### April 2, 2009

[www.worldautismawarenessday.org](http://www.worldautismawarenessday.org)

#### Jazz Brunch for Autism

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month & Jazz Appreciation Month, enjoy a JAZZ BRUNCH - A fundraiser for Autism NJ. Music provided by students NJPAC's Wachovia Jazz for Teens.

Apr 26, 2009 Montclair 11:30 am -2:00 pm

\$15 Trumpets Jazz Club & Restaurant, 6 Depot Square, Montclair, NJ  
(973) 744-2600

Two highly recommended books concerning children with disabilities:

*You Will Dream New Dreams: Inspiring Personal Stories by Parents of Children with Disabilities* (Kensington, 2001) is a collection of over 60 short essays by “veteran” parents of children with disabilities who were asked to write the stories they wish they had heard when they received their child’s diagnosis. For complete reviews, contents, excerpts, or to purchase, please go to: <http://www.disabilitiesbooks.com/ywdnd/index.html>

Your price: \$12.00 plus \$4 postage and handling; Retail price: \$14.00

*Reflections from a Different Journey: What Adults with Disabilities Wish All Parents Knew* (McGraw-Hill, 2004) is a collection of 40 inspiring short essays by successful adults with different disabilities. Essay authors were asked to write about something they wished their own parents had read or been told while they were growing up. For complete reviews, contents, excerpts, or to purchase, please go to:

<http://www.disabilitiesbooks.com/reflections/index.html>

Your price: \$17.00 + \$4 postage and handling; Retail price: \$21.95