

THErapy

Many children with an autism spectrum disorder benefit from some combination of speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy or group play programs. When determining how much therapy is appropriate for your child, you may want to consider the severity of the disorder, family obligations, financial costs, and potential outcomes. Keep in mind that while your child should spend most of his/her day in a structured setting, there is a great deal your child can learn by doing activities with parents, siblings and peers. You can discuss the need for additional therapies with your child's teacher or physician. To find a therapist to work with your child, it is often helpful to network with other families to see which service providers they use.

To network with other parents of children with autism, you can attend a meeting of the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America (AACC-ASA).

AACC-ASA has meetings on the last Tuesday evening of each month (except December and during the summer) at the Ruth Parker Eason School in Millersville. Our meetings include introductions and general announcements, an open discussion period, and a presentation by a guest speaker concerning issues related to the autism community. Ample time is allowed for questions and follow-up discussion, as well as opportunity for group support and socialization.

LEARNING ABOUT AUTISM

There are many resource materials (books and videos) that can help you learn about autism and the various treatment options now available.

Two excellent sources for resource materials on autism spectrum disorders are:

Anne Arundel County Public Library
<http://www.aacpl.net/>

Partners For Success Resource Center
(410) 222-3805
<http://aacps.org/AACPS/BOE/INSTR/SPCED/partners.htm>

Some other excellent on-line resources are:

Pathfinders for Autism
<http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/>

Autism Speaks
<http://www.autismspeaks.org/>

Autism Society of America
<http://www.autism-society.org/>

In addition, many of the other websites listed in this brochure provide useful resource information.

THE JOURNEY

Helping your child with autism reach his/her potential will be a lifelong journey for most parents.

Your knowledge will grow every day, and you will see as time progresses that you are better able to:

- learn the best way to teach your child
- advocate for your child
- work with various government agencies and service providers
- balance the demands of raising your child and the mental & physical health of you, your partner and other family members

The Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America is here to assist families on their lifelong journey.

Please contact us if we can be of help to you.

AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHAPTER

AACC-ASA.
P.O. Box 1304
Millersville, MD 21108

Chapter Phone Line: (410) 923-8800

Website: <http://www.aaccasa.org/>

WHERE TO START

Resources for
Families of Children
Newly Diagnosed with
Autism Spectrum Disorder
in
Anne Arundel County
Maryland



HOW TO BEGIN

Learning that your child has autism, pervasive development disorder, or another diagnosis under the autism spectrum, is a life-changing event for every parent. You are faced with a multitude of decisions on everything from education and therapy, to medications, doctors, diets, and more, and there is no one to tell you what the “right” decisions are for your child and your family.

But remember - You are not alone! The members of the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America (AACC-ASA) understand the choices that families of children newly diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder face because most of us are parents of children with autism. Additionally, some of our members are professionals in education and medicine who work with individuals with autism. AACC-ASA is dedicated to helping families in Anne Arundel County whose lives have been touched by autism.

This pamphlet is intended to help parents take those important first steps in identifying programs and individual services available for their child with autism spectrum disorder. While we have tried to include as many resources as possible, this brochure is not intended to be all inclusive.

Reference to any specific treatment, therapy option, resource, program, service, or treatment provider is not an endorsement of same by the AACC-ASA; and we encourage parents to carefully research options, read books, talk to professionals and other parents, and most importantly, trust your own instincts. No two children on the autism spectrum are exactly alike; and treatment outcomes will vary from child to child.

It is important to recognize that you can **make a difference** in your child’s life and that your child can be **successful**.

DIAGNOSTIC INFORMATION

First Signs, Inc.
<http://www.firstsigns.org/>

Kennedy Krieger Institute
(443) 923-9200
<http://www.kennedykrieger.org/>

Children’s National Medical Center
Center for Autism and Spectrum Disorders
(301) 738-8940
<http://www.dccchildrens.com>

Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development
(202) 687-5000
<http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/>

Anne Arundel County Child Find Program
(for ages 3-5 year olds)
(410) 766-6662

EDUCATION

Anne Arundel County Infant and Toddlers Program
(410) 222-6911
http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv/infant_toddlers/

AA County Public Schools,
Division of Special Education
(410) 222-5474
<http://www.aacps.org/>

Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF)
(410) 938-4413
<http://www.mansef.org/>

LEARNING TO ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILD

The Parents Place of Maryland
<http://www.ppmmd.org/resources/index.asp>

Partners For Success Resource Center
(410) 222-3805

Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education (MCIE)
(410) 859-5400, (800) 899-8837
<http://www.mcie.org/>

Maryland Disability Law Center
(410) 727-6352, (800) 233-7201
<http://www.mdldbaltimore.org/>

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
(410)-767-3670, (800) 305-6441
<http://www.md-council.org/>

STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT OFFER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
(410) 902-4500, (877) 877-2494
<http://www.ddamaryland.org/CMRO>

Social Security Administration
(800) 772-1213
<http://ssa.gov/>

Maryland Medicaid Autism Waiver
<http://www.dhmd.state.md.us/mma/waiverprograms/>

RESPIRE CARE

Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region
(410) 268-8085, (410) 269-1883
<http://www.thearccc.org>

Bella Machre
(410) 255-3805
<http://www.bellomachre.org>

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Special Olympics of Anne Arundel County
(410) 923-0383
<http://www.soaamd.org/>

Anne Arundel County Dept of Recreation & Parks, Therapeutic Recreation Division
<http://www.aacounty.org/recparks>

OTHER RESOURCES

Autism Link
<http://www.autismlink.com/>

Family NET Works
<http://www.family-networks.org/>

Resource Network of Kennedy Krieger Institute
(800) 390-3372
<http://www.resourcenetworkatkki.org>

Schafer Autism Report
<http://www.sarnet.org/>

DAN! (Defeat Autism Now1)
<http://www.danconference.com/>

Anne Arundel County Aspergers Support Group
<http://www.aacaps.org/>