



THE VOICE
 Anne Arundel County Chapter
 of the
 Autism Society of America
 January 2006 Volume 10, Issue 6

President's Message

AACC-ASA meetings are held the last Tuesday evening of each month at Ruth Parker Eason School, 648 Old Mill Road, Millersville. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm.

The meetings begin with introductions and general announcements, along with time for open discussion. A refreshment break is followed by a discussion led by the guest presenter.

Ample time is allowed for questions and follow-up discussion, as well as further opportunity for group support and socialization.

New members and new ideas are always welcome.

I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday, and is ready to start the new year with renewed energy and spirit. Our January meeting will include a discussion about **using video modeling to teach social skills to children with autism spectrum disorders**. The discussion will be led by **Sue Klein** of Model Me Kids. I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and service providers, to join us on January 31st.

My thanks to everyone who participated in our chapter fundraising and autism awareness events in December at the **Borders Books and Music** in the Annapolis Mall. We had a terrific group of volunteers who worked to make this a successful event, and **Mindy Wise** did an outstanding job serving as coordinator. I'm very pleased to report that we raised \$300 from this event.

School system budget hearings

Public hearings on the interim superintendent's proposed budget for our school system will be held on **Tuesday January 10th** at **Old Mill High School** and **Thursday January 12th** at the **Board of Education Building** on Riva Road in Annapolis. Both meetings begin at **7:00 pm**. If you are unable to attend the hearings, you can submit written comments to the Board of Education (2644 Riva Road, Annapolis MD 21401). They will consider the comments provided by the public before adopting their final budget and forwarding it on to the County Executive.

The proposed fiscal year 2007 spending plan includes a \$798 million operating budget (an increase of \$74 million over the current year's budget) to fund many programs and positions, including the following *new* or *additional* positions:

- * Five IEP clerks
- * One Alt-MSA specialist
- * Nine reading specialists and one reading intervention resource teacher for elementary schools
- * Twelve reading teachers and four reading intervention resource teachers for middle and high schools
- * Four intervention support specialists for middle and high schools
- * Two behavior technicians, a social worker, and two elementary school guidance counselors
- * PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Support) coordinator and support staff to expand the program to 7 additional schools
- * One elementary specialist to support school staff working with children with challenging behaviors
- * Six shared health/instructional assistants to support students in the special centers
- * One literacy specialist to help implement reading interventions

For further information on the Interim Superintendent's recommended budget and on the budget process, please go to <http://www.aacps.org/html/press/budget/07budget.htm> or call (410) 222-5311.

Phone line:
(410) 923-8800

Web site:
www.aaccasa.org

Next Meeting:
Tuesday,
January 31st
7:00 pm



Presentation about neurodevelopment

On **Tuesday January 10th** from **7:00 - 9:30 pm**, **Individual Differences in Learning (IDL)** will host a free presentation on brain mapping and neurodevelopment for children who struggle with underachievement and learning difficulties. It will be held at The Inn at Peralynna Manor on Clarksville Pike (Route 108) in Columbia, and led by Dave and Patty Allen, Executive Directors of The Crossroads Center in Florida. Information about their organization is available at <http://www.crossroadsinstitute.org>.

For further information or to make a reservation for the presentation, please contact IDL at differentlearner@aol.com.

Presentation series about inclusion issues

Howard County Public Schools is hosting a series of presentations to help parents and professionals understand inclusion. The presentations in this series, which will all be held from **6:30 - 9:00 pm**, are as follows:

Tuesday January 10th

BB&T Bank on Liberty Road in Eldersburg

“Inclusion 101”

An introduction to inclusion, an overview of what inclusion looks like, and the basics of the elements of inclusion.

Tuesday January 17th

Glen Mar United Methodist Church in Ellicott City

“Modifying and/or differentiated instruction”

An element of inclusion is having students learning together – the same content, but different outcomes, goals, or expectations. Learn how to make this happen.

Monday January 30th

Faulkner Ridge Center on Marble Faun Court in Columbia

“Real employment: Making dreams come true”

Everyone can have a career based on their interests, rather than what is available or in a group with other people.

Tuesday February 21st

Glen Mar United Methodist Church in Ellicott City

“Promoting independence”

Are one-on-one aids a support for students or a hindrance to independence? Are friendships hindered by adults supporting students with disabilities? How can we promote more independence for students with disabilities?

Thursday March 2nd

Location to be determined

“Push in service”

Related services (occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, etc.) have traditionally been delivered outside of the classroom. How can they be delivered within the classroom setting?
(continued on next column)

Tuesday March 21st

Glen Mar United Methodist Church in Ellicott City

“Creating inclusive IEP goals”

How to develop goals that will promote independence and integration.

Monday March 27th

Howard High School on Old Annapolis Road in Ellicott City

“College”

Students with significant support needs are attending college – regardless of academic achievement. What needs to be done, and is being done, to make this happen?

Tuesday April 18th

Glen Mar United Methodist Church in Ellicott City

“Tools for inclusion”

How do you move students from more restrictive environments to more inclusive environments? Learn about MAPS and Solution Circles as tools for putting what you learned into practice.

For further information or to make a reservation for any of the presentations, please contact **Jennifer Blasko** at jennifer-blasko@comcast.net or (410) 799-4552.

AA-SECAC meeting

On **Thursday January 12th** from **7:00 - 9:00 pm** the **Anne Arundel County Special Education Citizens’ Advisory Committee (SECAC)** will hold their monthly meeting at the Board of Education building on Riva Road in Annapolis.

The goal of SECAC is to develop partnerships and facilitate discussion between parents and families, community leaders and organizations, educators and administrators to enhance services and opportunities available to students with disabilities and/or special needs, and to advocate for positive changes in special education within Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

For further information, please contact **Frank Wise** at (410) 647-0114 or specialdad@comcast.net.

Town meeting

On **Tuesday January 17th** at **7:00 pm**, the **Arc of Anne Arundel County** will host a town meeting. It will be held at Woods Memorial church on Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park. The meeting will include information about important issues that will be addressed during the upcoming legislative session in Annapolis, and an opportunity to hear local elected officials share their views on areas of concern.

For further information, please contact **Kate Rollason** at (410) 268-8085 or krollason@arcofannearundel.org.



Celebrating Friends

Celebrating Friends provides social opportunities for young adults (age 16 and older) with cognitive disabilities who are living at home. The upcoming schedule of events is as follows:

Friday January 13th from 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Spaghetti dinner

The cost is \$30, which includes transportation and all-you-can-eat spaghetti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread and dessert. Can accommodate up to 12 people.

Wednesday January 18th from 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Galaxy bowling at Annapolis Bowl

Bowling, lights, music, hotdogs and pizza.

The cost is \$25, which includes transportation and all expenses. Can accommodate up to 5 people.

Sunday January 29th from 2:00 – 6:00 pm

In-house movie night

Spend an evening relaxing with friends, snacks, and a movie.

The cost is \$25, which includes transportation. Can accommodate up to 10 people.

To register for an event, please contact **Ouida and Melanie Fluck** at (301) 912-3220 or CFRegs@gmail.com.

Asperger support group meeting

On **Wednesday January 18th** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel County Asperger Support Group** will hold their monthly meeting at St. Martin's in the Field Church on Benfield Boulevard in Severna Park.

For further information, please contact **Sue Hayward** at (410) **544-6661**. Information is also available at <http://www.aacaps.org>.

Workshop on sensory issues

On **Saturday January 21st** from **9:30 am – 12:00 noon**, the **Peninsula Autism Society** will host a workshop entitled **“Come to your senses!”**. It will be held at the Eastern State Hospital (Building #3) in Williamsburg, Virginia. The workshop is for parents and educators of children who experience sensory difficulties. It will cover the basics of the various sensory processing systems and how to recognize and address children's sensory needs in both the home and school environment.

The registration fee is \$5. For further information or to register, please contact **Susan Reese** at (757) 220-1137 or spreese@cox.net.

Presentation about anxiety disorders

On **Wednesday January 18th** from **7:30 – 9:00 pm**, the **Ivymount PTA** will sponsor a free presentation entitled **“Anxiety disorders in children and adolescents with developmental disabilities”**. It will be led by Dr. Nitin Gogtay and held at the Ivymount School on Seven Locks Road in Rockville.

For further information or to make a reservation for this presentation, please contact the **Ivymount School** at (301) 469-0223.

Presentation on college and university services

On **Wednesday January 18th** from **7:00 - 8:30 pm**, the **Kennedy Krieger Institute's Adolescent Transition Lecture Series** will sponsor a presentation entitled **“College and university services for students with disabilities”**. It will be held at the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Greenspring Campus in the Bowles Building Board Room and led by Jo Ann Hutchinson of the University of Maryland College Park, Lorraine Peniston of Harford Community College, and Carrie Waddell of McDaniel College.

For further information or to make a reservation for this presentation, please contact **Jenny Jones** at (443) 923-2790 or (800) 390-3372 or info@resourcenetworkatkki.org.

Presentation on IEPs

On **Saturday January 21st** from **9:00 am – 1:00 pm**, the **Arc of Prince Georges County** and the **Parents Place of Maryland** will host a free presentation entitled **“The parents' survival guide for IEPs”**. It will be led by Melissa Alexander, Parent Educator with the Parents Place of Maryland, and be held at The Arc of Prince Georges County on McCormick Drive in Largo.

The presentation will cover the following topics:

- * What is a “SMART” IEP?
- * What should be written in the IEP? What shouldn't?
- * What is the “Dead Man” rule?
- * What are “accommodations and modifications”?
- * How do you determine if your child is making progress as expected?
- * What goes in the IEP and what doesn't?

For further information or to make a reservation, please contact **Melonee Clark** at (301) 925-7050 x 307 or mclark@thearcofpg.org.



Happy New Year!!



Workshop on ABA teaching procedures

On **Saturday January 21st** from **9:00 am - 4:00 pm**, **The Aurora School** will host a presentation about ABA teaching procedures. It will be led by Jamie Duncan, MS, BCBA and David Roth and be held at the school on North Maple Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia.

The workshop is intended for ABA instructors and parents who already have an understanding of ABA with an emphasis in verbal behavior and its operants. It will present an overview of each of the teaching procedures typically used in an ABA program.

The registration fee is \$50 in advance and \$60 on the day of the event. For further information or to register, please contact **The Aurora School** at theauroraschool@aol.com or **(540) 751-1414**.

Workshops on health care plans

The **Parents' Place of Maryland** is sponsoring a series of free teleconference workshops. The teleconference format will allow workshop participation without leaving your home, and is intended for families who usually cannot attend a workshop due to lack of childcare, transportation or time. The workshops, which will all be held from **10:00 – 11:00 am**, are as follows:

Tuesday January 24th
“Choosing a health care plan”

Tuesday February 21st
“Medical Assistance in Maryland”

Tuesday March 22nd
“Getting needed services from your managed care plan”

For further information or to register, please contact **Becky Kuhn-Sykes** at **(800) 394-5694** or BECKYLEE61@aol.com. Once you have registered, you will be given instructions on how to access the teleconference.

Anne Arundel County LRE group meeting

On **Wednesday January 25th**, the **Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education (MCIE)** will host a kick-off meeting for a new group that they are forming in our county. The focus of the group will be on Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and inclusive education and the meeting will be held at their office on Candlewood Road in Hanover.

For further information about the meeting or the new group, please contact **Judy Terle** at **(410) 859-5400 x 106** or judy@mcie.org.

Workshop about benefit programs

On **Tuesday January 24th** from **6:30 – 8:30 pm**, the **Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)** will sponsor a free workshop entitled “**The changing face of benefits**”. It will be held at the Columbia Hilton on Twin Knolls Road in Columbia and led by Sharon Brent of the National Disability Institute.

The workshop is intended to give families of people with developmental disabilities and self-advocates an understanding of the benefit programs offered by the local, state and federal government. Topics will include:

- * Understanding Federal SSI & SSDI benefits
- * Medical benefits such as Medicaid and Medicare
- * SSA work incentives enhancing employment
- * SSI/SSI and Earned Income (how earning wages affects SSI/SSDI)

For further information, or to register, please contact **Donna Shreve** at **(410) 902-4560**.

Workshops about IEPs

On **Wednesday February 1st** and **Wednesday March 1st** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Parents Place of Maryland** will sponsor a free two-part workshop entitled “**Parent’s survival guide for IEPs**”. It will be presented by Rochelle Howell, Parent Educator, and held at the Parents' Place of Maryland office on Cromwell Park Drive in Glen Burnie.

The first part will review the process for identifying a child with special needs, discuss the parts of the IEP and offer ways to participate effectively in developing and impacting your child’s IEP. The second part will focus on strategies and procedures used to ensure that the IEP is written and implemented in a way to meet the needs of your child.

For further information or to register, please call **Rochelle Howell** at **(410) 768-9100 ext. 109**.

Workshop on Verbal Behavior

On **Thursday February 2nd** and **Friday February 3rd** from **9:30 am – 3:30 pm**, the **Howard County Autism Society** and the **Gateway School** will sponsor a workshop entitled “**Teaching functional language to children with autism**”. It will be held at the Gateway School on Metro Drive in Baltimore and be led by staff from the Mariposa School.

The workshop will cover the basic skills necessary to begin implementing a verbal behavior program. The registration fee is \$225. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.howard-autism.org> or call **(410) 760-5595**.



Therapeutic recreation programs

The **Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Division of Therapeutic Recreation**, offers a wide variety of programs for people with disabilities. Their upcoming schedule includes the following programs:

After school recreation for children ages 5 - 15:

Opportunity for children to participate in group games, crafts, and sports, in order to develop better social skills, broaden their recreational interest, and improve their physical fitness. The program costs \$100 for 8 weeks and is held at Central Special on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 – 6:00 pm beginning January 30th and at Ruth Eason on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 – 6:00 pm beginning January 31st.

After school playgroup for children ages 5—15:

After school crafts, group games, and sports. Opportunity to develop social skills, broaden recreational interests, and improve physical fitness. The subsidized program costs \$5 for 8 weeks and is held at Marley Glen on Wednesdays from 3:45 – 6:00 pm beginning February 1st.

Fitness fun for children ages 5 - 15:

Children achieve fitness and social skills through creative movement and play. The subsidized program is \$5 for 8 weeks and is held at Central Special and Ruth Eason on Fridays from 3:00 – 6:00 pm beginning February 3rd and at Marley Glen on Mondays from 3:45 – 6:00 pm beginning January 30th.

Elementary sports skills for children ages 5 - 12:

The program is free and is held at Marley Glen on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm for 8 weeks, beginning January 12th.

Teen club for youth with developmental delays ages 13 – 21:

Opportunity to get together with peers for dancing, games, parties, and socialization. The program costs \$50 for 8 weeks and is held at both Ruth Eason and Central Special on Fridays from 6:30 – 9:00 pm beginning February 3rd.

Young adult social club for ages 18 and up:

Opportunity to get together with peers for fun, socialization, and other planned activities. The program costs \$50 for 8 weeks and is held at Marley Glen on Fridays from 6:30 – 9:00 pm beginning February 3rd.

Saturday recreation program for children ages 6 - 16:

Children develop social skills, play adaptive sports, arts and crafts, and other special activities. The program costs \$110 for 8 weeks and is held at both Central Special and Ruth Eason on Saturdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, beginning February 4th.

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Therapeutic swim programs for youth and adults:

There are classes for beginners (ages 3-6 and 6-12) and advanced beginners (able to swim 25 yards), as well as for mentally and physically challenged adults. Classes cost \$50 for 8 weeks and are held at Ruth Eason on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:30 pm or 6:45 – 7:45 pm, beginning on January 31st.

Basic horsemanship for ages 8 and up (no riding):

Learn the basics of horse care. Correct horsemanship and horse handling, including grooming, leading, equipment care and usage. Basic veterinary and hoof care. The program costs \$100 for 6 weeks and is held at Windsor Stables at Andover on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:00 pm beginning March 8th.

For more information about these programs, please contact **Wendy Scarborough** at **(410) 222-7313 x 3554**. Information and registration forms are also available on their website at <http://www.aacounty.org/recparks>.

Sibshops

The winter/spring session of **Anne Arundel County Sibshops**, a program for kids age 8 – 13 who have a brother or sister with special needs, will begin on **Saturday February 4th**. The four-part session will be held from **10:00 am – 2:00 pm** at a location within the county. The other three days for this session are March 4th, April 1st, and May 6th.

The fee for this four-part session is \$30. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call Addison Beck at **(800) 999-9442 x 5169**.

Workshop on Verbal Behavior

On **Saturday February 4th** and **Sunday February 5th**, **Parents Of Autistic Children of Northern Virginia (POAC-NoVA)** will sponsor a workshop on Verbal Behavior. It will be held at the Hyatt Dulles in Herndon, Virginia and led by Dr. Mark Sundberg. The registration fee is \$200. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.poac-nova.org>.

Book Friends meeting

On **Thursday February 7th** from **6:30 – 8:00 pm**, the book club for individuals with disabilities will hold their meeting at the public library located on McKinsey Road in Severna Park. The book club is for persons with disabilities who are 18 years of age and older and are generally independent in their self-care.

For further information and to reserve a seat, please call **Chrystal Irving** at Service Coordination at **(410) 923-5751**.



Presentation series about inclusion issues

The **Arc of Maryland**, the **Arc Northern Chesapeake Region** and the **Arc of Anne Arundel County** are co-sponsoring a free presentation series about inclusion issues for children with developmental disabilities. The presentations, which will all be held from **6:30 – 8:30 pm**, are as follows:

Tuesday February 7th

Cecilton Volunteer Fire Company, East Main Street in Cecilton

Wednesday February 8th

Queen Anne's County Public Library - Kent Island Branch
Library Circle in Stevensville

“Pre-school education: The end of specialness as separateness” - Dr. Ed Feinberg

The presentation will focus on how inclusive opportunities from the earliest age possible impacts a child's future success.

Tuesday March 14th

Cecilton Volunteer Fire Company

Wednesday March 15th

Queen Anne's County Public Library - Kent Island Branch

“School-age inclusion” - Dr. Jill England

It is possible for all children, even those with the most significant of disabilities, to be included in the school community in a way that supports the learning of all children.

Tuesday April 4th

Cecilton Volunteer Fire Company and

Wednesday April 5th

Queen Anne's County Public Library - Kent Island Branch

“Legal aspects of inclusion” - Alyssa Fieo and Elizabeth Fischer of Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC)

The presentation will focus on the use of behavior supports, the right to placement in the "least restrictive environment", the new discipline procedures, and other issues including extended school year (ESY) and assistive technology.

For further information or to make a reservation for a presentation, please call **(888) 836-7177 x 349** or e-mail rcody@arcncr.org.

Presentation on community resources

On **Wednesday February 8th** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Parents Place of Maryland** and the **Kennedy Krieger Parent Association** will sponsor a free presentation entitled **“Finding community resources”**. It will be held at the Kennedy Krieger Institute School – Fairmount Campus in Baltimore and will address the needs of parents of children with special health care needs seeking local resources.

For further information or to register, please contact **Rochelle Howell** at **(410) 768-9100 x109** or Rhowelladvocate@aol.com.

Bowl-a-thon

On **Sunday February 12th** from **1:00 – 4:00 pm**, the **Arc of Anne Arundel County** will hold their 3rd annual bowl-a-thon. It will be held at Bowl America on Ritchie Highway in Glen Burnie, and the proceeds will benefit the Arc's Rainbow Fund. This Fund provides assistance to families of children with developmental disabilities to attend camps; to pay for therapy, medicine, and equipment; and to meet other financial needs.

For further information, or to obtain a registration/sponsorship form, please contact **Cynthia Trimmer** at **(443) 557-0189**.

Workshop on IDEA 2004

On **Monday February 20th** from **8:30 am – 4:00 pm**, the **Advocacy Institute** and **Harbor House Law Press** will sponsor a workshop entitled **“IDEA 2004: What you don't know can hurt you”**. It will be led by Peter Wright and held at George Mason University's Verizon Auditorium in Manassas, Virginia.

The workshop will focus on key changes in IDEA 2004, including the following:

- * New requirements for evaluations, reevaluations, parental consent
- * New requirements for IEPs, IEP teams, IEP meetings
- * New eligibility requirements for students with specific learning disabilities
- * Accommodations, accommodations guidelines, alternate assessments
- * New rules about discipline and manifestation reviews
- * New procedural requirements and timelines including the “Due Process Complaint Notice” and “Resolution (IEP) Session”

The registration fees are as follows:

Individual - \$95 (before 1/31) or \$115 (after 1/31)

Professional/attorney - \$110 (before 1/31) or \$130 (after 1/31)

Husband/wife couple - \$150 (before 1/31) or \$170 (after 1/31)

For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call **(804) 758-8400** or go to <http://www.wrightslaw.com/speak/06.02.va.htm>

New testing accommodations manual

The **Council of Chief State School Officers** has developed an **“Accommodations Manual”** on how to select, administer, and evaluate the use of accommodations for instruction and assessment of students with disabilities.

It is available at <http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/AccommodationsManual.pdf>.



Participants sought for research study

Joy Kolb, a doctoral student in the Applied Developmental Psychology program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, is recruiting parents of children between the ages of 3 and 6 with autism and other special needs, who will be asked to complete three questionnaires. Two are about general information and characteristics of parents of children with special needs, and the third assesses the frequency of behavioral problems exhibited by the children with special needs. In addition, participants can indicate if they would like to be part of a future study on behavior-management practices.

For further information, please contact Ms. Kolb at **(301) 910-6657** or joykolb@umbc.edu.

Donations sought

Did your child get a new video gaming system for Christmas? What will you do with the old one? Would you like to use it to help a child in need?

AutismCares, a coalition of national autism organizations who have come together to help families dealing with autism who are victims of the Gulf Region hurricanes, are collecting old video game systems and old games for children with autism who lost theirs in the hurricanes. Specifically, they are collecting Xbox, PS2, GameCube, Gameboys (all types), as well as accessories and game cartridges for all of these systems. In addition, they are collecting PC computer games (CD only) and V-smile, Leapster and LeapPad books, VideoNow systems and movies (DVD and VHS).

For further information on how to participate, please contact **Holly Bortfeld** at games4autismcares@adelphia.net or **(800) 960-1844**. For further information about AutismCares, please go to <http://www.autismcares.org>.

New on-line training modules

Community Connections, a project of the Department of Special Education at the University of Maryland in College Park, has developed an on-line training module to help organizations build a welcoming, inclusive environment for children with disabilities. The modules cover the following topics:

- * Creating an inclusive environment
- * Making accommodations
- * Working with families
- * Teaching kids about kids with disabilities

Participants can choose to complete a single module, a combination of modules, or the whole course. For further information, please contact **Amy Nicholas** at anichola@umd.edu.

Contributions sought for book

Erica Rex is a writer/researcher who is working on a book consisting of first-person stories from parents of children with learning and/or behavioral problems including ADHD, ADD, PDD, depression, panic attacks, autism or any other emotional/developmental/behavioral or learning-related problems. The author of the book, **Denise Brodey**, is a health writer and mother of a child with ADHD. The book, titled tentatively "**The Elephant in the Playroom**" will be published in spring of 2006 by Hudson Street Press, a division of the Penguin Group.

They are looking for stories about something parents went through or something parents have learned that they want other parents to know about, such as how they dealt with school, other kids, medication, experiences with doctors, what happened to their marriage trying to deal with their child, or relationships with other relatives/siblings. Names don't have to be used, other than first names, or identifiers of relationship (mother, aunt, teacher, etc.)

For further information, or if you want to provide a contribution for this book, please contact **Erica Rex** at *(information deleted at the request of Ms. Rex on 7-19-06)*.

Software program for children with autism

DT Trainer, developed by the father of an autistic son, is a software program that incorporates powerful behavioral principles to help children that require one-on-one instruction to become independent learners. It can be customized to accommodate various types of educational approaches as well as individual differences. It complements various educational programming and interventions. It includes a large program with over 125 content programs and hundreds of selectable reinforcers to motivate the learners, including the ability to add customized child-specific reinforcers. The content is in the developmental range of 2 to 8 years old.

A home license of the software is available for \$99, and a trial is available for \$10 (to cover shipping and handling costs). As a holiday special, until **January 31st** the price of the home license is reduced to \$89.10. For further information, please go to <http://www.dttrainer.com> or call **(803) 233-0541**.

New Freedom Initiative web site

The President's **New Freedom Initiative** has developed a disability web site that has links to more than a dozen governmental agencies and many non-profit organizations. People with disabilities, their advocates, and professionals can search by topic. The general topics are employment, health, transportation, housing, civil rights, benefits, technology, and community life. The web site address is <http://www.disabilityinfo.gov>.



Anne Arundel County Chapter
 Autism Society of America
 P.O. Box 1304
 Millersville, MD 21108

Postage
 here

**** Chapter News and Notes ****

We have available for purchase **autism awareness puzzle ribbon cloisonne lapel pins** and **car magnets**, as well as autism puzzle piece **bracelets/wristbands**. They are available for \$5 at our meetings and \$6 by mail; order forms are available at <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

We are participating in the Affiliate Programs of **Future Horizons** and of the **Autism Asperger Publishing Company (AAPC)**. Through these programs, when you follow the link at <http://www.aaccasa.org> to their web sites and purchase their products, our chapter will receive a portion of the purchase price. By making your Future Horizons and AAPC purchases through our web site you will help fund our chapter's projects and activities.

Our **lending library** is located at the **Partners for Success Resource Center**, Oakwood Elementary School, Portable "B", 330 Oak Manor Drive, Glen Burnie. To see a full listing of the items available from our lending library, as well as related items available from the Partners for Success library, please go to <http://www.aaccasa.org>. To request an item, please contact **Partners for Success** at (410) 222-3805 or partnersforsuccess@aacps.org. They will provide information about the various ways in which library materials can be obtained.

Subscribe to our **e-mail action alert** by sending a message through <http://www.aaccasa.org>. It is an easy way to learn the latest information about Federal, State, and local legislative initiatives, lobbying efforts, or other action items related to autism and disabilities.

**Anne Arundel County Chapter
 Autism Society of America
 P.O. Box 1304, Millersville, MD 21108
 (410) 923-8800 <http://www.aaccasa.org>**

Linda Carter-Ferrier, President (410) 551-0655
Melinda Wise, Vice President/Treasurer (410) 647-0114
Jean Dunaway, Secretary (410) 721-1385

Disclaimer/AACC-ASA Options Policy:

Please note that all information provided or published by the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America (AACC-ASA) is for informational purposes only. Reference to any treatment or therapy option or to any program, service, or treatment provider is not an endorsement by the AACC-ASA. You should investigate alternatives that may be more appropriate for a specific individual. AACC-ASA assumes no responsibility for the use made of any information published or provided by the AACC-ASA.