



THE VOICE
 Anne Arundel County Chapter
 of the
 Autism Society of America
 March 2006 Volume 10, Issue 8

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.

Thanks to everyone who attended our February meeting, which included a discussion about **effectively dealing with extended family members**. It was led by **Lou Aymard** of the **Family Outreach Network**, the Parenting Center at Anne Arundel Community College. For further information about this or related topics, please contact Dr. Aymard and the Family Outreach Network at **(410) 777-2159** or go to <http://www.aacc.edu/familynet>.

Our March meeting will feature a discussion about issues related to **youth and adults with autism spectrum disorders**. The discussion will be led by **Stephen Shore** and **Frankie D'Erasmus**. Stephen Shore is an adult with Aspergers Syndrome who presents and consults on adult issues pertinent to education, relationships, employment, advocacy, and disclosure. Frankie D'Erasmus is a young adult with Aspergers who currently attends Anne Arundel Community College. I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and service providers, to join us on March 28th.

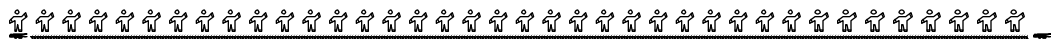
Also in attendance at our February meeting was chapter member **Syleste Schmedes**, who shared information about her son's new enterprise entitled "**Garyworld**" (<http://www.cafepress.com/garyworld>). It is an online store which promotes his original artwork, including such characters as The Monster Chicken and his girlfriend Monstrous Hen. Gary and his family are generously donating a portion of the profit from the sale of these items to our chapter. I offer our thanks to the Schmedes family for their generosity and encourage everyone to take a look at Gary's artwork, which is available on a wide variety of products.

In closing, I want to remind everyone about our upcoming **Basket Bingo** event, which will be held on **Saturday May 6th at 12:30 pm** at the **Glen Burnie Moose Lodge** on Crain Highway. We appreciate your help in spreading the word by distributing flyers (http://www.aaccasa.org/news/feb_2006/Basket_Flyer.pdf) and by helping us obtain donations of cash, gift certificates, and/or merchandise (http://www.aaccasa.org/news/feb_2006/Basket_Donation_Letter.pdf).

Phone line:
(410) 923-8800

Web site:
www.aaccasa.org

Next Meeting:
Tuesday,
March 28th
7:00 pm



Presentation on being an informed effective parent

On **Wednesday March 8th** from **7:00 – 8:30 pm**, the **Partners for Success Resource Center** will sponsor a free presentation entitled "**How to be an IEP (Informed Effective Parent) team member**". It will be held at their office, located at Oakwood Elementary School on Oak Manor Drive in Glen Burnie.

The presentation will help parents learn how to be a more informed and effective member of their child's IEP team by increasing their knowledge of school systems' procedures, learning skills in organizing and presenting observations about their child, and becoming more effective in their role as an educational advocate.

For further information or to register, please contact **Debbie** or **Katy** at Partners for Success at **(410) 222-3805** or partnersforsuccess@aaccps.org.



Presentation on home supports

On **Wednesday March 8th** from **7:30 – 9:00 pm**, the **Ivymount PTA** will host a free presentation entitled **“Visual and behavioral supports in the home”**. It will be led by Robin Allen, PhD, and held at the Ivymount School on Seven Locks Road in Rockville. The presentation will include information on environmental modifications, schedules and routines, chores and responsibilities, self-help skills, setting expectations, rules, reinforcers, and consequences. For further information or to reserve a seat, please call the Ivymount School at **(301) 469-0223**.

Presentation on future planning

On **Wednesday March 8th** from **6:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Arc of Baltimore** will host a free presentation entitled **“Planning for my child’s future”**. It will be led by Mindy Morrell, Community Policy Director of the Arc of Frederick County and be held at the Arc of Baltimore’s Community Center on York Road. The presentation will include information about services and community resources available, important service milestones, trusts and guardianships. For further information, please call **(410) 296-2272 ext. 5338** or send an e-mail to **onatividad@arcofbaltimore.org**.

AA-SECAC meeting

On **Thursday March 9th** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel 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 AA-SECAC at **(410) 224-3122** or **AASE-CAC@fastmail.fm**.

Auction

On **Sunday March 12th** from **6:00—8:30 pm**, the **Washington Capitals** players and wives will host an auction to benefit **Athletes Against Autism**. It will be held after the Caps game in the Acela Club on the second floor of the Verizon Center. Tickets are \$100 each and include dinner, the chance to mingle with the players, get autographs, win door prizes and participate in the silent auction. For further information or to obtain tickets, please contact the **Washington Capitals** at **(202) 266-2395** or **amazonauction@washcaps.com**. For further information about **Athletes Against Autism**, please go to **http://www.athletesagainstaautism.org**.

Workshop on IDEA 2004

On **Wednesday March 15th** from **8:00 am - 4:30 pm**, Psychological Resource Associates, The Learning Network and Anne Arundel Community College will host a workshop entitled **“IDEA 2004: What you don’t know can hurt you”**. It will be held at Anne Arundel Community College and be led by Pete Wright and Wayne Steedman.

The workshop will focus on changes in IDEA 2004, including new requirements for evaluations, reevaluations, and parental consent; new requirements for IEPs, IEP teams, and IEP meetings; new eligibility requirements for students with specific learning disabilities; new rules about discipline and manifestation reviews; and new procedural requirements and timelines.

For further information or to register, please call **(410) 647-8840** or go to **http://www.wrightslaw.com/speak/06.03.md.htm**

Asperger support group meeting

On **Wednesday March 15th** from **7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the **Anne Arundel County Asperger Support Group** will host 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** or go to **http://www.aacaps.org**.

Presentation on DAN protocol

On **Tuesday March 21st** at **6:45 pm**, the **Support Group for Parents of Kids with Special Needs** will host a presentation about using the DAN protocol. It will be held at the ISG International Conference Room on Cedar Street in Cambridge and be led by a nurse practitioner from "Your Doc's In", a local physician's office. The nurse practitioner uses the DAN protocol, a dietary and biochemical approach to autism, and is able to do blood draws for specific testing in their office. She will provide information about their services and answer questions. For further information, please call **Jill** at **(410) 943-1179**.

Presentation on Aspergers Syndrome

PesiHealthCare is sponsoring a presentation on the assessment and diagnosis, as well as treatment and intervention of Asperger Syndrome. It will be held on **Thursday March 23rd** from **7:30 am – 4:00 pm** at the Holiday Inn College Park, and on **Friday March 24th** from **7:30 am – 4:00 pm** at the Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center in Ellicott City. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call **(800) 843-7763** or go to **http://www.pesihealthcare.com**.



DORS public meetings

The **Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)** is conducting an annual update of policies and initiatives in the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and is seeking comments on the proposed changes, which include the following:

- * New initiatives and policies designed for high school students with disabilities, including the High School/High Tech Program
- * How DORS works with psychiatric rehabilitation programs to help individuals with chronic mental illness go to work
- * The Governor's special funding proposal that will help people with traumatic brain injuries become employed

Further information about these proposed changes to the State Plan are available at <http://www.dors.state.md.us>. Comments on these proposed changes can be provided by e-mail at dors@dors.state.md.us or by phone at (410) 554-9435.

DORS will also hold public meetings to receive comments on the proposed changes and to discuss other topics of concern. After each meeting, DORS staff will be available for individualized assistance. The schedule for the meetings is as follows:

Monday March 20th from 2:00 —3:30 pm
One-Stop Job Market, 917 Mt. Hermon Road, Suite 4, Salisbury

Thursday March 23rd from 1:30—3:00 pm
VSP, 5607 Metro Drive, Baltimore

Monday March 27th from 6:00 —7:30 pm
Harford Commission on Disabilities, McFaul Activities Center
525 West MacPhail Road, Bel Air

Tuesday March 28th from 3:00—4:30 pm
Garrett College, Continuing Education Building
687 Mosser Road, McHenry

Thursday March 30th from 5:00—7:30 pm
Bowie Library, 15210 Annapolis Road, Bowie

For further information, please go to <http://www.dors.state.md.us> or call (888) 554-0334.

Presentation about "The Dance of Partnership"

On **Sunday March 26th** from **1:00- 4:00 pm**, **Janice Fialka**, the keynote speaker at the Family Focus Conference, will give a presentation at the Jewish Community Center in Pikesville. For further information or to register, please call (410) 735-5012.

Autism conference

On **Thursday March 16th** and **Friday March 17th** the **1st Annual Penn Autism Network Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders** will be held at the University of Pennsylvania. The theme is "**Promoting successful outcomes across the life cycle**". The keynote speakers are Temple Grandin, Peter Gerhardt, and Michael John Carley. For further information, please call (215) 573-1179 or go to <http://www.med.upenn.edu/add>.

Presentation by Dr. Mel Levine

On **Friday March 24th** from **8:00 am – 3:30 pm**, the **Harbour School** will sponsor a presentation by **Dr. Mel Levine** entitled "**Preparing for life one child at a time**" at Martin's West in Baltimore. Dr. Levine will show how parents, teachers, and related service providers can develop effective strategies to promote each child's unique strengths. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call (443) 394-3760.

Family Focus Conference

On **Saturday March 25th** from **9:00 am – 4:00 pm**, the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services and Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program will host a free conference at the Columbia Hilton. The theme of the conference is "**The dance of partnership**" and it will include information, workshops, resources, and networking opportunities for families of children with special needs from birth through age five, and for professionals who work with these children. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call (800) 535-0182 or contact bmontane@msde.state.md.us.

Joe Cannon 5K Run & Fun Walk

On **Saturday March 25th** from **8:00 am to noon**, **Recreation Deeds for Special Needs** will host a 5k run and fun walk at the Joe Cannon Stadium in Harmans Park in Hanover. The event benefits the Recreation Deeds for Special Needs Scholarship Fund and the Friends of Joe Cannon. There will be fun events for the whole family, including a "**Quarter Carnival**". The goal is to raise enough money to send 20 youth with disabilities to summer camps, as well as to assist with scholarships to other recreation opportunities offered through the Department of Recreation and Parks. In addition, a **Basketball Challenge** will be held to support a special Rec Deeds fund in memory of **Kevin Durn**, a staff person at the Ruth Eason Special School who was killed in a car accident in August 2005. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call **Wendy Scarborough** at (410) 222-7311 ext. 3554 or go to <http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks/joecannonrun.cfm>



Autism conference

On **Saturday March 25th** from **8:00 am – 5:00 pm**, **Autism Outreach, Inc.** will host their **1st Annual Parent Conference**. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Dulles on Sully Road in Dulles, Virginia, and will feature as keynote speaker Dr. Jane Barbin, Ph.D, BCBA, who will discuss challenging behaviors and the use of functional assessments and function-based treatment.

The conference will also include sessions on many topics, including diet, sensory/OT, RDI, potty training, shadowing, speech and language, team supervision, parent expectations, manding, parent connections, and reinforcement/denying access. The conference is free for families currently associated with Autism Outreach or Behavioral Directions and \$50 for families not associated with either organization. For further information, please contact **Autism Outreach** at info@autismoutreach.org or **(703) 689-00019**.

Debut of new book on autism

On **Tuesday March 28th** from **6:00 – 9:00 pm**, **Sarah Ann Stup**, an author from Frederick who has autism, will debut her new book for children entitled **“Do-si-do with Autism”** at Villa Julie College Gallery, St. Paul Companies Pavilion in Stevenson. The gallery will also feature a photo essay by John Hess about Ms. Stup’s life and art.

The book promotes understanding and acceptance of people with disabilities and challenges by telling the story of Taylor the Turtle, who has sensory sensitivities. He particularly dislikes square dancing at school and withdraws from the activity to read books. His classmates join him and they learn to find the similarities between themselves, rather than the differences. For further information, please go to <http://www.trafford.com>

Parents night out

On **Tuesday March 28th** from **7:00 - 9:00 pm**, the **Family Empowerment Network** will host a Parent’s Night Out at Abilities Network on LaSalle Road in Towson. Participants will be able to meet other parents and enjoy some goodies. For further information, please contact **Kelly Dunning** at kdunning@att.net or **(443) 562-4772**.

New MDOD website

The **Maryland Department of Disabilities’ (MDOD)** website is now available at <http://www.mdod.maryland.gov>. It includes information on their mission, programs and goals, as well as the State Disabilities Plan and statewide resources.

Sibshops

The 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 April 1st**. The three-part session will be held from **10:00 am – 2:00 pm** at Annapolis Evangelical Presbyterian Church on Ridgely Avenue in Annapolis. The other days for this session are May 13th and June 3rd.

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

Book Friends meeting

On **Thursday April 6th** 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 about inclusion

On **Tuesday April 4th** from **6:30 – 9:00 pm**, **Howard County Public Schools** will host a free presentation entitled **“Preschool inclusion: It’s for everyone - An alternative to special education pre-school programs”**. It will be held at the Glen Mar United Methodist Church in Ellicott City. In the presentation, two families will share their stories of their children’s community preschool experience. Their children attended the preschool they would if they didn’t have a disability (with supports), rather than special education pre-schools. For further information or to reserve a seat, please contact **Jennifer Blasko** at jennifer-blasko@comcast.net or **(410) 799-4552**.

Presentation about inclusion

On **Wednesday April 5th** from **6:30 - 9:00 pm**, the **Howard County Autism Society** will cosponsor a free presentation entitled **“High school inclusion: Supporting students with significant disabilities to be real members of high school communities”**. It will be held at the Faulkner Ridge Center, Chesapeake Room, on Marble Faun Court in Columbia and led by Carol Tashie, a highly regarded expert on inclusive education.

The presentation will share information on what students with disabilities are learning in regular high school classes, how life skills can be taught in typical places, and why community-based instruction should not pull students away from their classmates. For further information or to register, please contact **Sally Long** at **(410) 313-7161** or Sally_Long@hcps.org.



Mercury Generation March

On **Thursday April 6th at 9:00 am**, a march will be held at Upper Senate Park in Washington, DC. It is being organized and supported by a variety of organizations, including A-CHAMP, Autism Research Institute, Coalition for Mercury Free Drugs, Generation Rescue, Moms Against Mercury, National Autism Association, NoMercury, and National Vaccine Information Center.

For further information, please go to <http://capwiz.com/a-champ/issues/alert/?alertid=7938006&type=CU>.

Autism conference

From **Friday April 7th to Monday April 10th**, the **Defeat Autism Now! conference** will be held at the Hilton Washington Hotel on Connecticut Avenue in Washington D.C. The conference will include numerous sessions on topics including diet, biomedical interventions, non-pharmaceutical treatments, nutritional supplements, vaccine-induced autism, vaccine safety, scientific research, chelation, immune-viral issues, and training for physicians and nurses. For further information, please go to

Conference about helping young children

On **Saturday April 8th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**, **Family Outreach Network**, the Parenting Center at Anne Arundel Community College, will host a conference entitled “**Sleep, attachment, play and stress in young children**”. It will be held at the Community College in the Cade Center for Fine Arts, Room 224. The conference will include presentations on the following subjects:

- * Helping children to go to sleep and stay asleep
- * Creating healthy parent-child attachment
- * Encouraging creative and imaginative play
- * Identifying signs of stress in young children

The registration fee is \$85. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call **(410) 777-2325**.

Position Announcement

The **Parents' Place of Maryland** is seeking applicants for a 20-hour per week **Parent Educator** position. This position will work from the main office in Glen Burnie, and will be responsible for helping parents understand the special education delivery system. Applicants must have experience with the IEP process. Parents who have a child with a disability are strongly encouraged to apply. Interested applicants should contact **Julie Foley** at **(410) 465-1193** or Familyadvocacy@comcast.net.

Recent additions to lending library

Our chapter's lending library continues to grow as we add new books, videos, and related materials. Recent additions include the following:

Intricate minds: Understanding classmates with Asperger Syndrome

Coulter Video

Using visual and behavioral cues in the home:

Teaching functional skills to children with autism and other significant developmental disorders

Robin Allen, Ph.D. (DVD)

What does it mean to have autism

Louise Spilsbury

Looking after Louis

Ely and Polly Dunbar

Autism: The hidden epidemic

Autism Speaks (DVD)

Freaks, Geeks, and Asperger Syndrome

Luke Jackson

Incorporating social goals in the classroom

Rebecca A. Moyes

Helping your child with Autism Spectrum Disorder:

A step-by-step workbook for families

Stephanie Lockshin, Ph.D., Jennifer Gillis, Raymond Romanczk, Ph.D.

When my autism gets too big: A relaxation book for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Kari Dunn Buron

Power cards: Using special interests to motivate children and youth with Asperger Syndrome and Autism

Elisa Gagnon

Our lending library is located at the Partners for Success Resource Center, which is housed at Oakwood Elementary School in Glen Burnie. To request an item, please contact **Partners for Success** at **(410) 222-3805** or partnersforsuccess@aacps.org.

New program for speech and language skills

Wordwindow is a new way for children with special needs to learn speech and language basics. The program is available on DVD and VHS tape, and it encourages young children to have fun with their voice. For further information, please go to <http://www.wordwindow.com>



Participants sought for study of early signs and causes of autism

Mothers who have a child with autism and are currently in their first trimester of pregnancy are invited to participate in a research study that will follow them through their pregnancy to learn more about early signs of autism and its potential causes. The study is being conducted by **Dr. Craig Newschaffer** with the **Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Epidemiology** at Johns Hopkins University and **Dr. Rebecca Landa** with the **Center for Autism and Related Disorders** at the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

The study will involve the following activities: (1) collection of blood, hair, saliva samples (once per trimester) and placenta samples (photograph and biopsy), as well as blood from the umbilical cord and from the newborn heel stick, (2) fetal neurobehavioral assessment, includes monitoring of fetal heart rate and motor activity, as well as mother's heart rate, respiration, and skin conductance; (3) telephone interviews, questionnaires, and a pregnancy diary; and (4) medical record reviews. The goal of these activities is to help identify possible autism risk and exposures/biomarkers.

Participants will receive total compensation of up to \$200 for completing the study. For further information, please contact **CADDE** at (877) 868-8014 or cadde@jhsp.edu.

Participants sought for survey on self-employment

Michelle Lazar, a graduate student at **San Diego State University, Department of Special Education** is conducting a study on self-employment of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder. She is seeking participants (ages 18 and older) to complete a survey about their experience with self-employment. Further information is available at http://www.aspires-relationships.com/Seeking_adults_with_autism_survey.htm or by contacting Ms. Lazar at (619) 665-3381 or mlazar2@san.rr.com.

Contributions sought for best practices publication

The **Maryland Department of Disabilities** is developing a Maryland Best Practice publication featuring Maryland employers engaging in best practices for the training, hiring, and retaining of individuals with disabilities. This publication will recognize successful Maryland workers with disabilities, and identify effective innovative and integrative strategies for other businesses to replicate. For further information, or to contribute the names of employers to be included in the publication, please contact **Dr. Marianne Mooney** at **TransCen, Inc.** at mmooney@transcen.org or (240) 671-6744.

Participants sought for study of adult siblings

The **National Sibling Consortium** and the **Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development** are conducting a research study involving adult siblings of individuals with disabilities. They are seeking individuals (ages 18 and older with a sister or brother with a disability) to complete a questionnaire which covers several general areas.

A summary of the results of the questionnaire will be provided to those who request it. In addition, the findings will be presented at The Arc National Convention in October and in The Arc's newsletter and other publications and scientific journals. The questionnaire is available at <https://kc.vanderbilt.edu/FamilyResearch> or by calling (888) 322-5339.

Participants sought for new program to support caregivers

Danya International is seeking individuals to help evaluate a new support-group curriculum for caregivers of individuals with autism. The first module is specifically for caregivers of adolescents and young adults with autism (ages 12 to 25), and they need three different groups to evaluate the module, as follows:

1. Three professionals or paraprofessionals who reside in the local Washington DC area and have at least 3 years experience working with caregivers of individuals with autism in individual and/or group settings. These individuals will be given the module and asked to conduct a 90-minute session with 9 caregivers of adolescents or young adults with autism. They will be asked to give feedback on their experience and opinion of the module, and will be paid \$200.
2. Twenty-seven caregivers of individuals with autism ages 12 to 25 who reside in the local Washington DC area. They will be asked to attend a 90-minute support group session during which the new module will be tested. They will be asked to provide feedback on their experience, and will be paid \$50.
3. Twelve professionals or paraprofessionals who have at least 3 years experience working with caregivers of individuals with autism in individual or group settings. The module will be mailed to these participants, along with feedback forms. They will be asked to review the module and provide feedback, and will be paid \$50.

For further information, or if you are interested in participating, please contact **Nicole Owings** at nowings@danya.com or (240) 645-1758 and provide your contact information and specifically which group you wish to participate in (1 - 3).



New journal to help organize and track information

Erin Hopf, the owner of **The Little Acorn** is the parent of a child with special needs. She has developed a way to organize and track important information for a variety of disabilities, including a “**Juggling Autism**” journal. The journal is small, in a loose-leaf format, and can be filled with important records. The layout provides a way to keep track of essential information. It can be ordered as a starter kit, with a binder and all the pages necessary to get started and section dividers, and then later pages/sections can be ordered as needed. For further information, please go to <http://www.thelittleacorn.net>.

New publication for children

“**Curvy Herbie and Straight Nate: A lesson in curved line thinking**” is a new publication by a parent and aunt of a child with autism. The book tells the story of Straight Nate, the non-flexible fellow who has the rigidity of thought that many persons on the autism spectrum experience. Curvy Herbie, on the other hand, is the free-wheeling, adventuresome type. Curvy Herbie is able to show Straight Nate that it is fun to be a curved line thinker. For further information, please go to <http://www.explodingpenproductions.com>.

New transition resource

The “**Personal data wizard**” is a website developed by the **Transition Specialist** of the **Humboldt County Office of Education** in California. It provides numerous tools to help students with a range of transition activities, including creating resumes, cover letters, and or household budgets, as well as helping them identify employment preferences and interests. It features an online interest assessment for students to identify their career interests and a bank of more than 500 photos of work activities to allow students to identify their employment preferences by clicking on the photos of the jobs they prefer. It also provides tips and tutorials for activities such as banking and purchasing a vehicle. For a fee of \$1 per year any student across the country can access the site. For further information, please go to <http://www.hrop.org/wizard>.

Information about “Living with Autism”

The website of the **Autism Society of America** includes a section about “living with autism” which contains information about many subjects, including stress on families, resources to help, safety in the home, sibling issues, religion and autism, life after high school, and planning for the future. It is available at <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?PageName=LivingwithAutism>.

Love notes for special parents

Terri Mauro, who hosts the **Guide to Parenting Special Needs** at **About.com**, has created “**Love Notes for Special Parents**” to provide encouragement, support, and empowerment for parents of children with special needs. For further information, please go to <http://specialchildren.about.com/od/needinspiration/ig/Notes-of-Encouragement/index.htm>

Evaluation checklist for autism treatments

The **Autism Research Institute** has developed the **Autism Treatment Evaluation Checklist**, an internet-based program to assist parents, physicians and researchers in evaluating the benefits of various treatments for autism. It covers a wide range of ages and evaluates the benefit of treatment options using 77 items grouped in four different areas: Speech/language/communication, sociability, sensory/cognitive awareness, and health/physical behavior. Using a simple rating scale, it asks you to rate the child's behaviors. After you have completed the tool, the data is transmitted for scoring. The scoring is done immediately and the results are displayed for each area, as well as a total score. For further information, please go to <http://www.autismeval.com/ari-atec/?>.

New publication on assistive technology

The Winter 2006 edition of the **Beach Center on Disability's e-newsletter** focuses on the subject of assistive technology. It includes stories of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities whose quality of life has been enhanced by computers, software, power equipment, and other technology. It also includes is an in-depth report on the Beach Center's research on assistive technology, as well as tips on how to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities use computers and other information technology. It is available at <http://www.beachcenter.org/news/default.asp?Type=Newsletter&act=&id=73>.

New comprehensive resource on autism

The **Maternal and Child Health Library** has released a new “knowledge path” about autism spectrum disorder identification and intervention. This electronic resource guide includes information on (and links to) web sites, electronic and print publications, and databases containing resources about biomedical research into the causes of autism; resources that address the communication, education, and vocational challenges associated with autism; and resources about autism's impact on family life. Separate sections identify resources about autism and environmental health research, as well as concerns about vaccines. It is available at http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_autism.html.



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.