



THE VOICE
Anne Arundel County Chapter
of the
Autism Society of America

May 2005

Volume 9, Issue 10

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 March meeting, which featured a discussion about the Maryland State Department of Education's autism task force report on service delivery recommendations for young children with autism, as well as a discussion about many other issues related to the provision of services for students with autism spectrum disorders.

If you were unable to attend or wish to contact any of AACPS Division of Special Education personnel who led the discussion, their contact information is as follows:

Diane Black, Director, at (410) 222-5410 or dblack@aacps.org

Ed Feinberg, Coordinator of Infants and Toddlers and Preschool Programs, at (410) 222-6911 or efeinberg@aacps.org

Roxanne Sporrer, Secondary Schools Autism/Low Incidence Specialist, at (410) 222-5481 or msporrer@aacps.org

Bill Bowers, Elementary Schools Autism/Low Incidence Specialist, at (410) 222-5474 or wbowers@aacps.org

Lynne Markowitz, Infants and Toddlers Program Autism Specialist, at (410) 222-6911 or lmarkowitz@aacps.org.

Our May meeting will feature a discussion about using rhythm-based activities as a therapy modality for individuals on the autism spectrum and their family members, led by **Dorinda Adams**. Her presentation will include a demonstration of rhythm-based activities. She will also share information about drum circle activities and events being held in our local area, and about ways that drum circles can be developed for use by individuals on the autism spectrum.

Ms. Adams is a licensed graduate social worker who specializes in child welfare and adult services programs. Her work includes group trainings and facilitation at many different levels and she has recently begun incorporating the use of rhythm in these events. I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and service providers who work with individuals with autism spectrum disorders, to join us on May 31st.

Now that the days are getting warmer and the school year is drawing to a close, we are beginning to make plans for our chapter's outdoor social events. Please be sure to mark your calendar for our **summer beach party**, which will be held on **Saturday June 25th from 1:00 – 4:30 pm** at a community beach in Severna Park. Our June newsletter will include a flyer with all of the details.

Also, as the school year draws to a close I want to remind everyone that it is time to begin returning the books and videos that you have borrowed from our **chapter's lending library** back to the Partners for Success Resource Center. You can bring any borrowed items to our May meeting, or can contact **Debbie Wetzel** or **Katy Schieman** at **Partners for Success** at **(410) 222-3805**.

Thanks to those of you who have responded to our membership drive. We will be issuing our new **Member Directory** later this month.

In closing, I am pleased to share that we have received a donation from **Nancy Jackson** and **Jaquelynnie Shade** for \$200. Their community in Severna Park organized a kids' charity yard sale (where the children sold their toys, games, and other items); they chose to donate a portion of the proceeds to our organization. I offer our chapter's thanks to the children and their parents for their generous contribution.

**Chapter Phone
Line:
(410) 923-8800**

**Next Meeting:

May 31st

7:00 pm**



Disclaimer:

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.

Celebrating Friends

Celebrating Friends provides social opportunities for young adults (age 16 and older) with cognitive disabilities who are living at home. The program offers fun, organized activities while promoting socialization and independence. The upcoming schedule of events is as follows:

Saturday May 7th from 2:30—6:30 pm

Mother's Day Card Making Party

Hosted by "Just a Thought" greeting cards. The cost is \$25, which includes transportation, card making supplies and a cook-out. The event can accommodate 8 people.

May 14th from 2:00—6:00 pm

Picnic at Quiet Waters Park

The cost is \$25, which includes transportation and a picnic including sandwiches, snacks, desserts and drinks. The event can accommodate 8 people.

May 18th from 5:30—9:30 pm

Movie at Jumpers Theatre in Pasadena

The cost is \$25, which includes transportation and movie tickets. Please bring spending money for snacks and drinks. The event can accommodate 6 people.

For further information or to make reservations for any of the events, please contact **Kerrie Mansfield** at (410) 923-2882 or kerrie.mansfield@comcast.net. Information is also available at <http://www.celebratingfriends.org>.

Presentation on health insurance issues

On **Thursday May 5th** from **10:00 am - 12:00 noon** the **Maryland Family Access Initiative** (a partnership between **Parents' Place of Maryland** and **Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development**) will host a free presentation entitled "**Getting needed services from your managed care health insurance plan**". The event will be held at the Princess Anne Public Library, 11767 Beechwood Street, in Princess Anne.

Learn the ins and outs of getting services in a managed care health plan. This workshop takes you through the steps of referrals, authorizations and other barriers to services and providers that children with disabilities and special health care needs utilize. To register, please contact **Becky Kuhn-Sykes** at (410) 632-1553.

Presentation on communication skills

On **Thursday May 5th** at **7:30 pm**, **FIAT (Families for Intensive Autism Treatment)** will host a presentation entitled "**The Language Matrix**". The presentation will be led by Terri Kim, an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) consultant with the New Jersey Lovaas Institute for Early Intervention, and will be held at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring.

The Language Matrix is a teaching methodology that provides a framework for assimilating words already learned and incorporating them into grammatically correct and meaningful sentences. The goal of this program is to discourage rote, memorized responses and teach generative responses. This method is applicable for both verbal and non-verbal children.

For further information, please contact **FIAT** at (301) 419-8037 or fiatmd@comcast.net.

Presentation on behaviors

On **Monday May 9th** from **7:00 - 8:00 pm** the **Howard County Public Schools, Office of Student Services** will host a free presentation entitled "**Finding help for your child: When troubling behaviors get out of control**". The presentation will be led by Susan Helsel, Howard County Director of NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) and will be held at the Homewood School, 10914 Route 108, Ellicott City (behind the Board of Education).

For further information, please contact **Sanford Fishbein** at (410) 313-7081 or sanford_fishbein@hcpss.org.

Presentation on IEP/504 Plan meetings

On **Tuesday May 10th** from **10:00 am - 12:00 noon**, the **Parents' Place of Maryland** will sponsor a free presentation entitled "**Surviving school meetings**". The presentation will be held at the Hampshire Neighborhood Center, 6006 Hampshire Circle, in Waldorf.

This interactive workshop will offer role play situations and proven strategies for successful and productive meetings. Participants are encouraged to bring their child's IEP or 504 Plan to review and discuss.

Registration is required; please RSVP to **Linda Clem** at (301) 645-0887.



County Council hearings on school system budget

Public hearings on County Executive Janet Owens' proposed budget, which includes funding for our school system, will be held on **Monday May 9th** at Glen Burnie High School and **Wednesday May 11th** at the Arundel Center. Both meetings begin at **7:00 pm**, and individuals wishing to testify can sign up beginning at 6:00 pm.

As background, on February 16th the Board of Education approved the Superintendent's recommended budget. The Board increased the Operating Budget recommendations to \$735,919,371 and the Capital Budget recommendations to \$79,657,000. The approved budget was submitted to County Executive Janet Owens for review and approval.

The Board of Education-approved operating budget includes funding of the following:

- * Two additional positions for the Infants and Toddlers program to expand services to more than 55 students
- * Three additional positions for Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) - two teachers and one technician
- * Two additional home-based service providers - one teacher and one technician
- * Three additional speech pathologists
- * Three positions to provide services to students in their home school rather than a non-public placement - two secondary teachers and one teacher assistant
- * Three behavior support positions - one teacher, one teaching assistant, and one technician
- * Increased funding to keep up with rising expenditures to support students with autism, including funding for services provided by the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education

The purpose of the hearings is to provide an opportunity for members of the public to comment on the County Executive's proposed budget, as part of the one-month review by the County Council, who has the final authority to make changes. The Council may approve the budget as it stands, reduce it, or restore funds cut by the County Executive. On June 1st, the County Council's approved final budget will be provided to the Board of Education.

For further information on the budget process, please go to <http://www.aacps.org/html/press/budget/06budget.htm> or call (410) 222-5311.

Presentations on transition issues

The **Hannah More School** will host the following free presentations at their campus in Reisterstown.

Tuesday May 10th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm

"Interagency post-graduation planning for your child"

Find out what programs and services may be available to your child through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and Division of Rehabilitative Services (DORS). The presentation will also include information about rolling access funds, respite care, vocational evaluations, supported employment, residential placement, and the Governor's Transition Initiative.

Tuesday May 24th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm

"Adult service provider agency fair for students with Autism Spectrum or other developmental disorders"

Meet adult service provider agency personnel who may provide services to your child after graduation. Find out what services each agency offers. Providers from Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard and Anne Arundel Counties have been invited to attend.

Registration is required. To register, please contact **Sue Murray** at (410) 526-5000 ext 626 or smurray@hannahmore.org.

Presentation on transitioning to the next grade

On **Wednesday May 11th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm**, the **Parents' Place of Maryland** and the **Learning Disabilities Association of St. Mary's County** will sponsor a free presentation entitled **"Transitioning to the next grade: The essentials for a successful school year"**. It will be held at Charlotte Hall Library, 37600 New Market Road, in Charlotte Hall.

In this interactive workshop, participants will learn effective ways to help transition their special needs child into their new school setting in August, including how to prepare meaningful information packets for their child's new team of teachers and specialists. Whether your child is progressing to the next grade or is changing schools, all parents will benefit from participating in this workshop. Registration is required; please RSVP to **Missy Alexander** at (301) 884-4662 or alexander@gmpexpress.net.

New early identification program

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC)** National Center Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities has launched a program entitled **"Learn the Signs - Act Early"**. It includes materials for parents and health care professionals.

For further information about the program, please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly/>.





Presentation on inclusive practices

On **Saturday May 14th** from **10:00 am – 4:00 pm**, the **Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parent Support Group** and **Howard County Chapter of ASA** will co-sponsor a presentation entitled **“Access to academics for all students”** led by Paula Kluth, Ph.D. The presentation will be held at Loyola College on Greenspring Drive in Timonium.

Dr. Kluth is an independent educational consultant. Her professional and research interests center on differentiating instruction and support students with Down syndrome, autism, and significant disabilities in inclusive classrooms. Her presentation will focus on practical ways of supporting students with disabilities within a general education classroom.

The fee for the presentation is \$15, which includes lunch. For further information, or to obtain registration materials, please go to <http://www.howard-autism.org>.

Workshops on ABA/VB

On **Friday May 20th** from **8:30 am - 2:30 pm**, **Parents Of Autistic Children of Northern Virginia (POAC-NoVA)** is hosting a workshop entitled **“Teaching Verbal Behavior in the classroom: an overview”**. It will be led by Thomas Caffrey, M.Ed., BCBA and held at George Mason University, Student Union Building II Rooms 5-7 in Fairfax, Virginia. This workshop will illustrate how the principles of ABA that emphasize the teaching of verbal behavior are being applied effectively in classroom settings to teach children with autism language and other important skills.

The registration fee is \$75. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **POAC-NoVA** at (703) 391-2251 or workshops@poac-nova.org.

World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo

On **Friday May 20th** and **Saturday May 21st**, **Caring Communities** will host the **World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo** at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. This free consumer exposition is dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities, their families and caregivers, as well as health care and education professionals. There will be a large array of products and services, as well as informative workshops, demonstrations, and representatives from local and state wide agencies/organizations to assist the disability community in gaining more information about supports, services and resources.

For further information or to obtain free passes to the expo, please go to <http://www.caringcommunities.org> or call (866) 227-4644.

Book club meeting

On **Thursday May 26th** from **7:00 – 8:30 pm**, the new book club for individuals with disabilities will hold their meeting at the public library located at 45 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.

Participants are asked to bring a book, magazine article, or drawing of their choice to discuss. Students in need of community service hours or college students studying in the field are encouraged to attend and participate in the book club.

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

Presentation on behavior management

On **Wednesday June 1st** at **7:30 pm**, **FIAT (Families for Intensive Autism Treatment)** will host a presentation about **TAGteach (Teaching with Acoustical Guidance)**. It will be led by Martha Gabler, an autism parent and FIAT Board Member who has a primary certification in TAGteach, and will be held at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring.

TAGteach is a behavioral science technique based on positive reinforcement paired with an event marker signal. Also known as clicker-training, it is a simple, inexpensive behavior management method that is easy to learn, easy to do, and easy to teach to someone else. Participants will learn and practice the basics of TAGteach and will get information about additional resources.

For further information, please contact **FIAT** at (301) 419-8037 or fiatmd@comcast.net.

Conference on autism for military families

From **Wednesday June 1st** to **Friday June 3rd**, a conference entitled **“The Exceptionals: The joint military conference on autism and other disabilities”** will be held at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia. It is hosted by Exceptional Parent Magazine, STOMP (Specialized Training of Military Parents), and the Commonwealth Autism Service of Virginia.

The conference is open to active-duty or retired military families with individuals with autism/other disabilities and service providers to that community. It will include specific trainings on diagnosis, educational interventions, transition, and IEPs.

The registration fee is \$20 per day or \$55 for all three days. For further information, please go to http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/personal/autism_registration.cfm



Arc of Maryland Convention

The **Arc of Maryland's annual convention** will be held on **Friday June 3rd from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm** at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt. The convention will include presentations on media and publicity ideas.

For further information or to obtain registration materials, please call **(888) 272-3449**.

Workshop on Verbal Behavior

From **Monday June 6th to Wednesday June 8th, Parents Of Autistic Children of Northern Virginia (POAC-NoVA)** is hosting a workshop entitled "**Teaching Verbal Behavior: Hands-on training for tutors and therapists**". It will be led by Holly Kibbe, BCABA and Cherish Twigg, BCABA, and held at George Mason University, Johnson Center, Meeting Room C in Fairfax, Virginia.

This three-day workshop is designed to provide tutors, therapists, and parents that serve as their child's primary therapist with guided practice in implementing the methods described in Dr. Carbone's workshop on Verbal Behavior. The participants will practice the methods of effective instruction and will receive feedback on their teaching methods.

The registration fee is \$605. For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact **POAC-NoVA** at **(703) 391-2251** or workshops@poac-nova.org.

Survey on respite care

The **Maryland Caregivers Support Council** is conducting a survey to learn more about families' experiences accessing and using respite care for their children with serious emotional disturbance. Whether or not you are receiving respite care, they encourage you to complete the survey. In addition to the survey questions, you may also submit brief written comments about how respite services could be improved.

While many families could benefit from respite care, this survey specifically targets families with a child who is seriously emotionally disturbed with a mental health diagnosis. Children may also have a primary mental health diagnosis with a co-occurring disorder such as a developmental disability.

You may complete the survey online at <http://www.healthcaresurveys.org/familyrespite> or you may download the survey and return it to: **Annette Snyder**, UMBC, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Social Science Building 309, Baltimore, MD 21250. Please direct questions about the survey to **Annette Snyder** at **(410) 455-6386** or **Joan Smith** at the Mental Hygiene Administration at **(410) 221-2529**. Surveys must be returned by **May 16th**.

New parent leadership program for healthcare issues

The **Parents' Place of Maryland** is introducing a new program called **MD LEADers in Healthcare (LEAD—Leadership Education and Advocacy Development)**. It is designed for parents of children with special healthcare needs and its purpose is to teach families about the current healthcare system and how to bring about change to better the lives of children with special healthcare needs.

Topics will include parent/professional relationships, understanding health insurance jargon, getting needed services from healthcare plans, appealing health insurance denials, the Medical Home concept, mental health services, State and Federal healthcare systems and programs, and community resources. The program will involve a series of monthly Saturday sessions and conference calls. For further information or to request an application, please contact **Kim McKay** at **(410) 768-9100**.

New service provider

Richard Marvel is a new service provider in our area who is available to provide private music therapy to assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders in the areas of speech and language skills and social relatedness. As a music therapist, he has worked in improving the academic and social skills of children with a learning or communication disorder. He has also worked as a reading tutor in improving phonemic awareness, reading, and spelling in children.

Mr. Marvel is graduating this month from Drexel University with a Master of Arts in Creative Arts in Therapy and holds certification from the Board for Music Therapists, MTBC. He is currently employed with Integrated Care Management in Upper Marlboro as a music therapist, implementing and leading group activities for children with an autism spectrum disorder as part of an after-school program. He is also employed with KinderCare Learning Centers in Pasadena, Severna Park, and Hanover as a phonics teacher. He has training in the Lindamood-Bell Phonemic Sequencing (LiPS) Program and the Phonographix Reading Method.

For further information, please contact Mr. Marvel at **(410) 760-8946** or rmarvel@riva.net.

New web site focuses on youth issues

The **National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET)** has launched a new web site called **Youthhood** (<http://www.youthhood.org>). It provides students and their teachers, mentors, and parents with an online, research-based transition curriculum focused on preparing for life after high school.



New group for adults with Aspergers Syndrome

Several adults with Aspergers have started the **Aspergers Syndrome Adults of Greater Washington**, a group for adults with Aspergers Syndrome, High Functioning Autism and PDD-NOS. Many of the founding members were raised when Aspergers was unknown and their neurological impediments were taken for sloth, stupidity or willfulness. The meetings are for adults with AS/HFA/PDD-NOS from D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia.

They are a combination support, social and advocacy organization. The group aims to provide mutual encouragement, reduce member isolation, build self-assurance and self-esteem, help establish friendships, and relax and have some fun. They are developing mentoring by and for their members, and also plan to set up mini-groups on various interests. They are also contemplating social events, such as a picnic or Potomac River boat cruise. They have created an on-line group (<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/dcaspie/>). For further information, please contact **J. Willardston Smith** at willardston@yahoo.com.

Participants sought for research study

Drs. Stewart Mostofsky and **Melissa Goldberg** of the **Kennedy Krieger Institute** and **Johns Hopkins School of Medicine** are recruiting children with high-functioning autism between 8 and 12 years of age to participate in a study of attention, learning, memory, and motor skills. The study involves paper and pencil tasks, computer activities and an MRI of the brain. None of the tests are harmful or painful and are done free of charge. The duration of the study is two to three sessions conducted on separate days. Participants will receive a \$50 check and a picture of their brain. Parents will receive a report summarizing the IQ testing administered to their child. For further information, please contact **Megan Roeder** at (443) 923-9254.

Participants sought for study of eating habits

Colleen Lukens, a graduate student in child clinical psychology at **Ohio State University**, is conducting a research study on the typical eating behavior and nutritional intake of young children with autism between ages 3 and 10. Participants are sought to complete a web-based survey comprised of questions about your child's eating habits. Participants will receive a profile of your child's nutritional intake (e.g., caloric consumption, fat content, vitamins, minerals) as well as a gift certificate upon completion of the study. The web-site is a secured site to ensure that your responses remain confidential, and no identifying information will be linked to your responses. To learn more about the study, please go to <https://www.chs.mijbprojects.net/lukens.htm>

News from Washington: Combating Autism Act

The "**Combating Autism Act of 2005**" was introduced on April 19th by Senators Santorum and Dodd, who were joined by representatives from NAAR, Autism Speaks, the Cure Autism Now Foundation and the Autism Society of America. Autism is considered the fastest growing developmental disorder in the United States, occurring in as many as 1 in every 166 births. Despite this high prevalence, autism research remains one of the lowest funded areas of medical research in both the public and private sector. The proposed legislation calls for the following:

- * Authorizes the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to create an "Autism Czar" to coordinate NIH based-research, and develop and oversee budget implementation. The proposed legislation codifies existing programs at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Collaborative Programs of Excellence in Autism, increasing the Centers of Excellence on Autism from eight to ten. It also calls for the National Institute on Environmental Health Sciences to create three Centers of Excellence on Environmental Health and Autism.
- * Calls for the Health & Human Services Secretary to provide a program of information and education on autism and its risk factors to health professionals and the general public. It authorizes \$10 million a year for the next 5 years for early identification and prompt referral for services and education for parents and requires an annual report to Congress.
- * Authorizes the Health Resources and Services Administration to commit \$75 million a year for the next five years for grants for states to develop autism screening, diagnosis, and intervention programs and to create statewide screening systems to ensure that all children are screened for autism by the age of two.
- * Reauthorizes the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's epidemiological surveillance program with respect to autism at \$12 million a year for the next 5 years, and authorizes \$25 million a year for the next five years for technical assistance and data management to states related to autism screening, diagnosis and intervention programs.

New on-line employment training

"**Partners In Employment**" is a free, self-study, Internet-based learning program, created to give users the practical skills needed to find real, competitive employment in their own community. For further information, please go to <http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/employment>.



New booklet on Medicaid

The **Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC)** has developed a booklet entitled **“Accessing services for children with developmental disabilities in Maryland through Medical Assistance/Medicaid and MCHP”**. It is available at <http://www.mdlcbalto.org/publications.htm>.

MDLC also provides services for families that are in need of assistance to obtain services from Medical Assistance/Medicaid. For assistance, please call their intake office at **(410) 727-6352 ext "0"** or **(800) 233-7201 ext "0"** weekdays between 10:00 am and noon.

New publication on EPSDT

Human Services Research Institute has developed a booklet entitled, **"EPSDT: Supporting children with disabilities"**. It is a resource to help families, advocates and others better understand EPSDT services which are provided through Medicaid.

This booklet describes EPSDT, its components, eligibility, access, services, immigration issues, and the grievance and appeals procedures. The booklet is available at <http://www.familysupport-hsri.org>. For further information, please contact **Kerri Melda** at **(503) 924-3783 ext. 16**.

New resource guide about Medicaid for individuals with disabilities

The **Kaiser Family Foundation** has released a new guide that explain the role of Medicaid for children, adults, and seniors with disabilities. The guide offers a basic introduction to Medicaid programs and provides answers to basic questions. The guide is available at http://www.kff.org/medicare/med_020705_pkg.cfm

New on-line training module to increase access to college for students with intellectual disabilities

The **On-Campus Outreach Project** at the **University of Maryland** has developed an online training module that can be used to provide guidance on developing an Individual Support Model (ISM) to increase access to inclusive college experiences and to improve chances for the success of students with intellectual disabilities. An ISM approach provides students with individualized services and supports (e.g., educational coach, tutor, technology, natural supports) in college courses, certificate programs, internships, and/or degree programs.

For further information, please go to http://www.education.umd.edu/oco/training/oco_training_modules/IndividualSupports/start.html.

Autism

By **Amber LeBow**, 8 years old, about her 6-year-old brother
(Printed with permission of the author)

Kids with Autism can't help it. Did you know that is true? Kids with Autism are not like you. Kids with Autism don't understand the rules, that's why they have challenges in school.

When Kids make fun of him it makes me sad. And when they're mean to him it makes me mad.

But Kids with Autism are special too. They can draw pictures that really amaze you! He can memorize lots of cool things. He can memorize all the things that he sees!

He can make the whole world laugh, just by telling about his favorite things. He can be annoying, but he's a fun friend. When we play a game he has fun 'til the end.

Every time I read to him, he slowly walks away. But surprisingly he remembers everything I say!

So give him a chance, by trying to understand. I really love him. He'll always be my brother and he'll always be my best friend.

New toilet training item

Tinkle Toonz is developing a new special training pant for autistic children. This technique was developed as the result of a therapist using the Tinkle Toonz musical sensor as an alert signal when pants are wet. For further information about the product, go to http://www.tinkletoonz.com/special_needs.html.

New website service for parents

Odds & Friends, the Asperger's and High Functioning Autism Society of the University of Chicago, has developed a new service for parents of children on the autism spectrum. It's called **“Ask An Aspie”**, and it's a way for neurotypical parents to ask questions about what it's like to actually be on the spectrum and get answers from a team of University students, all of whom are autistic. For further information, please go to <http://www.askanaspie.com>

Web lecture on chelation and autism

By **Caroline Moore**, chapter member

I want to share information about an informative web lecture on chelation and autism. My son's doctor is beginning chelation with my teenage son and suggested that I listen to the lecture. It is by one of the primary researchers using chelation successfully in the treatment of autism. It is informative and encouraging: http://www.nomercury.org/media/buttar_lecture/buttar_production_files/Default.htm.



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 **Future Horizons Affiliate Program**. Through this program, when you follow the link at <http://www.aaccasa.org> to the Future Horizons web site and purchase any Future Horizons-published books and videos or purchase a conference registration, our chapter will receive **40% of the purchase price**. We will also receive 20% of the purchase price on any non-Future Horizons books and videos. By making your Future Horizons 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 pf saa@yahoo.com. 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

AACC-ASA Options Policy:

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.