



WJCS Autism Family Center
845 North Broadway
White Plains, New York 10603
914 761-0600 ext 225

*If you are not receiving this listing directly and would like to be placed on our email list please contact
Lisa Weinstein at lweinstein@wjcs.com

*This list is not an endorsement of any services or programs, but rather a resource for professionals and families
to learn of upcoming events that have been made known to us.*

RESOURCES & NEW PROGRAMS

*TITLES OF NEWLY ADDED EVENTS, PROGRAMS & RESOURCES ARE IN RED

***[Help Autism Awareness - Buy a Button www.autismbutton.com](http://www.autismbutton.com)

PROJECT LIFESAVER: FOR AN EXTRA LAYER OF SECURITY

A PARTNERSHIP of WJCS AUTISM FAMILY CENTER & WESTCHESTER COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH

Project Lifesaver allows families to purchase wristband transmitters to locate wandering and lost children and adults with Autism or other developmental disabilities.

To be participate in Project Lifesaver, individuals should:

- Have a diagnosis of Autism or other developmental disorder.
- Have a history of wandering
- Live in the community with a primary caregiver

Once a wristband is purchased, caregivers will check the battery on their child's bracelet daily and commit to battery change appointments every 28 to 30 days to ensure that the bracelet is safe and effective.

For more information contact Bonnie Graham, LMSW Program Coordinator, WJCS Autism Family Center 914-761-0600 ext. 228 or bgraham@wjcs.com

NEXT PROJECT LIFESAVER REGISTRATION IS -

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2009 10:00am -1:00pm & TUESDAY, APRIL 7 4:00pm - 8:00pm

*****PRE-REGISTRATION SCREENING REQUIRED!**

NEW @ WJCS/MILESTONES "Kurious Kids"

Social Skills Groups for Children Age 2½ - 5

Come to a safe, warm environment where play and social skills are developed through small groups. Activities include block play, art, music and more.

Focus will be on: pretend play, cooperative play, turn taking, awareness of non-verbal cues, communicating & impulse control

Programs are run by an experienced special education teacher or a psychologist, who is trained in RDI (Relationship Development Intervention).

WJCS Milestones offers one-day or two-day group programs.

New classes start in April 2009.

WJCS Milestones, 333 Pelham Road — New Rochelle, NY

Contact: Susan Miron Phone: 914-922-9333 Ext. 13 Email: smiron@wjcs.com

KIDS STUDIO FOR SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Dance Therapy

Through games, role playing, and group conversations aided by gentle guidance, we provide a safe place for children to practice these new skills. Our groups are kept small with no more than six students. Upon completing the initial assessment, we evaluate all entering students and the areas of concern. We then place children with similar needs together. One hour sessions are held at the studio once a week for 15 weeks. We then discuss each student's progress with the parents to determine the need for ongoing sessions.

One to one sessions are also available for those who may need additional attention. We are also available to provide support for birthday parties, play dates, and other social engagements that have been difficult in the past. Tuition is based on 15 week timetable, meeting once weekly for 1 hour. We use a base curriculum which was created by Jed Baker, and also incorporate ideas and lessons acquired at a Super Kids conference in Connecticut last summer. Rona and I will be using our own experiences and program ideas as well.

Public School assessments are available upon request.

Carol Coteus, Director B.S., E.C.E./Dance Therapy & Rona Goldstein, M.S. Special Education

Classes forming now for ages 4-10. **A new group will be starting Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 4:30pm.**

*****Located in southern Yorktown, 5 minutes from the Taconic State Parkway.**

For information: 914-325-1342 or kidstudio@optonline.net

www.Cometokidstudio.com

THE HEALING WITH HOMEOPATHY (HWH) SUPPORT GROUP

First Saturday of each month 7:30 p.m.

1501 Pheasant Woods Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY

For more information/questions contact Lisa Rudley 917-414-9190

DR. MARK BERTIN - BALANCED PARENTING CLASS FOR SPRING

WEDNESDAY 7:00pm - 9:00pm Starting April 22 for 6 sessions

Dr. Bertin is a board certified developmental pediatrician specializing in care of children with developmental and behavioral concerns including learning disabilities, ADHD and autistic spectrum disorders. The six-week course is based on the UMass Medical Center's 'mindfulness based stress reduction' program. While building on a foundation of stress reduction techniques, it also encourages awareness of how we react habitually to stressful situations, so that we can make more skillful choices with our families and respond differently to the day-to-day challenges of parenting. COST: \$250 For more information call Mark Bertin, M.D. 914-841-2302

classinfo@mindspring.com www.developmentaldoctor.com

NEW AT THE JCC MANHATTAN

SPECIAL NEEDS AFTER-SCHOOL, KULAM & TRANSITION CLASSES BEGIN SOON

Visit www.jccmanhattan.org/specialneeds for more information on all of our classes including the new **Boost!** After-school program. Or contact Melissa Lader, LMSW, Director of School Age Special Needs Programs The JCC in Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave. New York, NY 10023 646-505-5729

NEW @ WESTCHESTER ARC

Social Skills Group

Thursday afternoons 3:30-5:00 p.m. for children ages 5-7 with autism/pervasive developmental disorder.

The Children's School for Early Development

40 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, NY

Contact: Anne Marie Sabrsula, 914-347-3227, ext. 151, asabrsula@westchesterarc.org

WESTCO PRODUCTIONS ANNOUNCES OPENINGS IN IT'S THEATRE TROUPE THE MAGIC TO DO PLAYERS

An acting, dancing, and singing group specially geared towards children who are differently-abled or with special needs. We are looking for kids between the ages of 7 and 12 who have always dreamed of being on the stage! A staff of theatre educators and professionals will help make your

Child shine. Each session will culminate in a performance for family, friends, and the general public.

Sessions: 10:00am -12:00pm

9 Saturdays 3/12 - 5/30 (No session 4/11 or 5/23) + Evenings Tues. 6/2, Thurs. 6/4 & Fri. 6/5

FEE: \$150.00 Performance: Saturday, June 6, 2009 -- 1 PM

Mamaroneck Avenue School; 7 Nosband Avenue, White Plains, NY

For more information call (914) 761-7463 or visit www.westcoproductions.org

DEAR NEW YORK AUTISM ADVOCATE,

Although there has been no increase in the state supplement for 20 years, this year the New York Executive Budget is proposing to cut the state supplement to Social Security Insurance (SSI) payments for New Yorkers who are aged, blind or have a disability, such as autism. The proposed legislation would cut benefits by over 25% for individuals and couples living alone in the community and 45-70% for those living with other and are scheduled to occur in June 2009. Now more than ever we need to preserve the safety net for those with autism who are SSI beneficiaries.

How You Can Help:

1. Contact Governor David Paterson and your state representatives today! Tell them that individuals with autism depend on this income to provide for their most basic needs, including housing and food. These proposed cuts will result in more people with autism being forced into costly institutional settings because they can't get the support they need to remain in their own homes.

Governor David Paterson - (518) 474-8390 To Email The Governor: [Click here to email the Governor.](#)

Find contact information for your state representative [HERE!](#)

2. [Forward this e-mail](#) to everyone you know and ask them to take action too.

Thank you for taking time to advocate on behalf of those dealing with the challenges of an autism diagnosis. It is crucial that we continue to speak for those who many times are unable to speak for themselves.

To learn more about Autism Votes, an initiative of Autism Speaks focused on federal and state legislative advocacy, please visit www.autismvotes.org.

Thank you, Judith Ursitti, Regional Director of State Advocacy Relations, Autism Speaks

APPLY FOR THE 2009 SCHWALLIE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

The 2009 Schwallie Family Scholarship application period is now open. The submission deadline is April 24, 2009. To be eligible, students with an established autism or Asperger Syndrome diagnosis must be accepted for enrollment or pursuing undergraduate studies at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States during the fall 2009 semester. This can include four-year colleges or universities; two-year colleges; and trade, technical, or vocational training programs. For more information, please visit OAR's Web site at www.researchautism.org.

SOCIAL SKILLS/FRIENDSHIP SKILLS GROUP FOR 7-8 YR. OLD GIRLS

SKILLS INCLUDE: Understanding social cues, listening and conversation skills, initiating and maintaining a conversation, assertiveness and self-esteem, mood modulation, good sportsmanship & how to join a group.

THE GROUP STARTS ON FEBRUARY 14TH AND IS A TEN WEEK GROUP

ON SATURDAY'S FROM 10-11 A.M. IN HASTINGS-ON-HUSON.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DR. GOLDMAN AT 212-642-5877

U.S VERSION OF "THE TRANSPORTERS" VIDEO SERIES

[U.S. Version of "The Transporters" Video Series Designed for Autistic Children Arrives](#)

The British autism researchers who recently made [The Transporters](#), a series of animated videos to

help young children aged 2 to 8 learn to recognize emotions and facial expressions, is unveiling a version of their DVD for the U.S. market. The DVD, which has a series of 15, five-minute episodes and contains quizzes for viewers to review facial expressions from each episode, costs \$57.50 with a portion of the proceeds going to autism research groups and charities including Autism Speaks. The DVDs are available starting January 12, 2009 at [The Transporters.com](http://TheTransporters.com).

The Transporters is interesting because when it first came out, about a year ago, it was a project supported by the British government, working with the [Autism Research Centre](http://AutismResearchCentre.com) at the University of Cambridge's medical school. The UK government supported the development of this video series and made it available to thousands of families at no cost. The other reason this project is interesting is because the champion of The Transporters is well-known autism researcher Simon Baron-Cohen. In developing this project, researchers are leaning on the popularity of cars and trains among young autistic children (does your little one like Thomas the Tank Engine?) while embedding within the front of vehicles people's real faces and expressions. The episodes cover emotions like happy and sad, excited and angry, as well as more nuanced feelings like sorry, proud, surprised, unfriendly, tired, grumpy and worried. The researchers assume that there will be repetition involved in playing the short videos, to reinforce the impressions and messages.

In a press release accompanying the release of the U.S. version of the DVD, Bar-Cohen states: "Imagine you're the parent of a child with autism and your child doesn't look up at your face, doesn't respond when you call their name, doesn't interact in the normal way. It can be really heartbreaking. The Transporters addresses this challenge by helping children with autism look at faces and recognize feelings. We've found a way to reach children with autism by bringing the social world to them rather than expecting them to come to us."

There are examples of the British version of The Transporters available on YouTube. You can see an example of The Transporters [in this YouTube video clip](#), about five minutes long:

Also see this [four-minute video with researcher Simon Baron-Cohen](#), and a clip showing a child answering questions from the quiz on the video.

[Videos from British Autism Researchers Teach Children to Recognize Emotions](#)

<http://autismbulletin.blogspot.com/2007/01/video-from-british-autism-researchers.html>

PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH ASPERGERS'S SYNDROME

The WJCS Autism Family Center is re-launching two programs for adults over 18 diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. Registration is on going!

The Breakfast Club for adults 30 years of age and older

Meets monthly from 10:00 – 11:30 AM at WJCS, 141 North Central Avenue, Hartsdale.

The Supper Club for adults 18 years and older

Meets monthly from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at WJCS, 845 North Broadway, White Plains.

Both groups offer a low-key, informal yet structured setting that give participants the opportunity to improve communication skills, develop connections with others and reinforce strengths. The relaxed setting allows members to come together in a non-threatening environment for light conversation about daily struggles with work, family and friends as well as personal interests, reinforcing positive social interactions.

For more information and to set up an interview, contact Bonnie Graham, LMSW, Program Coordinator, at 914 761-0600 x 228 or bgraham@wjcs.com

The Breakfast and Dinner Clubs are made possible through The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation and the Elaine Gorbach Levine Charitable Foundation.

ANNOUNCING THE FUN CLUB

MORE FRIENDS! MORE PLAY DATES!

This Club for high-functioning children with special needs (ages 10 – 14 years) will offer your child a social outlet to meet and develop friendships with other children like them. They'll make friends from other schools, too.

One Monday night dinner and fun activity/month, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Jan. 26, Mar. 2, Apr. 20 and May 4

One Sunday afternoon field trip/month, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Feb. 8, Mar. 22, Apr. 26 and May 17

Facilitated by Lisa Tomanelli, Special Needs Education Professional, and other experienced staff

\$300 for Spring (8 events)

A Rosenthal JCC Program 600 Bear Ridge Road • Pleasantville, NY

(914) 741-0333 x29 • Nicole@RosenthalJCC.org

ADAPTATIONS, THE YOUNG ADULT LIFE SKILLS NETWORK

Adaptations, The Young Adult Life Skills Network offers college educated young adults-people in their 20's and 30's with learning disabilities or those needing support-the benefits of a supportive environment as they work towards achieving their life goals. Adaptations offers a wide variety of opportunities, from social activities to ways to improve interpersonal skills, to exploring career options and more. Adaptations is building a community that is designed to enhance the lives of its members.

Visit Adaptions online at www.adaptationsonline.org

Adaptations is funded through the generosity of donors to UJA-Federation of New York.

The Jewish Community Center In Manhattan ([map](#)), The Samuel Priest Rose Building ([floor layout](#))

334 Amsterdam Avenue at West 76th Street, NYC

SIBLING SUPPORT

[Support Group for Siblings of Disabled Now on Facebook](#)

The [Sibling Support Project](#), a Seattle-based non-profit group that works to help siblings of people with disabilities, has started an online group on Facebook, the huge social networking website. You need to join Facebook's free service to become a part of the group. Learn more about that by visiting the [SibNet on Facebook page](#).

This is clearly more of a benefit to the adult siblings of people with disabilities. It's a valuable reminder for families of children with autism spectrum disorders that the needs of siblings continue on as kids grow up. If you pay attention, there's a stream of media coverage that gets at the issue. National Public Radio broadcast a piece on January 1 about Marissa and her younger brother Andrew Skillings, who is 11 and has Asperger's, a form of autism. You can read, see photos and hear about their relationship by clicking on ["Coping with an Autistic Brother"](#) at npr.org. Here's a quote from Marissa:

"Sometimes, if I get really frustrated, I just wish I could change everything: Sell him to the zoo and buy new parents," Marissa says. "But then the times when I'm actually appreciating things and I'm not in the moment when I'm steaming mad, I do appreciate what I have."

"I don't think I'd change anything, 'cause this is my life and this is what I'm used to. Andrew wouldn't be like the Andrew I know and love if he was different, because autism is his whole personality."

You can find [more articles related to siblings on Autism Bulletin](#).

2008 – 2009 FREE Programs for Families of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

(Programs funded in part by the Hudson Valley Developmental Disabilities Services Office)

Family Days All parents and their preschool through elementary school children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and siblings are welcome to Parents Place Family Days. Your kids can meet other children and play with paint, sand, water, and toys etc... Sing and have snack (non-allergenic)! Refreshments will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite treats.

Parent-Only Evening Support Groups These groups provide opportunities for sharing information, resources, and feelings; decreasing isolation by meeting with others “in the same boat;” and developing strategies to cope with children’s behavioral challenges. Groups are facilitated by Lenore Powers, Family Counselor.

Family Days 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm **SUNDAYS** April 19, May 17, June 14, July 12.

Parent-Only Evening Groups 7:30 pm – 9:00pm **TUESDAYS**, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 14.

*Use the Waller Avenue Entrance to St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, 3 Carhart Avenue, White Plains, NY

In case of bad weather, please call before you come to make sure we are open.

Lenore 914-309-0933 (cell) lenorepowers@yahoo.com

Pam 914-315-1538 914-282-1118 (cell) parentsplace@verizon.net

Groups are “drop in” but RSVP is encouraged, as it helps us plan

GRAPPLING WITH THE ENIGMA OF GIRLS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

New Book Weaves Rich Fabric of Stories of Hope, Difficulty, Determination

New research has demonstrated that girls with mild autism are less likely to be identified and diagnosed than boys. According to a recent article in MedicalNewsToday.com, researchers found that high-functioning girls with autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs) showed significantly fewer stereotyped and repetitive behaviors than the boys and were more likely to have obsessional interests centered on people and relationships. Shana Nichols, along with Gina Marie Moravcik and Samara Pulver Tetenbaum, have addressed this under-served and under-represented population in their new book *Girls Growing Up on the Autism Spectrum* [Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 352 pages, paperback, 978-1-84310-855-9, \$19.95], which covers concerns faced by girls with ASDs and their parents, from periods and puberty to worries over friendships and ‘fitting in,’ giving candid and realistic advice on a wide range of important teenage topics. Shana Nichols, PhD, is Clinical Director of the Fay J. Lindner Center for Autism and Developmental Disorders affiliated with AHRC Nassau, and the North Shore - LIJ Health System on Long Island, New York. Gina Marie Moravcik, MA, CCC-SLP, is Coordinator of Education and Speech Language Services at the Fay J. Lindner Center for Autism and Developmental Disorders. She is a speech and language pathologist specializing in social communication and autism spectrum disorders. Samara Pulver Tetenbaum, MA, has been working in the field of autism and related developmental disabilities for the past five years and is currently employed as an applied behavior specialist at the Fay J. Lindner Center for Autism and Developmental Disorders. For further information or for a review copy, please contact: Teresa Finnegan, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 400 Market Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19106, USA. Tel: (215) 922-1161; Fax: (215) 922-1474; email: teresa.finnegan@jkp.com

NEW Transition Resources

Two new handouts to help parents of transition-age youth are now available on the PACER Center Web site. The handouts are produced by Project PRIDE, a parent information and training project funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Start Now to Chart Your Youth’s Career Path After Graduation (PHP-c162)

(<http://www.pacer.org/publications/transition.asp#handouts>) A high school diploma opens the doors to many exciting, new opportunities. This handout looks at a variety of options available to young adults after high school such as employment, postsecondary training or education and self-employment.

Help Your Young Adult Learn About Accessing Accommodations After High School (PHP-c165)

(<http://www.pacer.org/publications/transition.asp#handouts>) Although accommodation rights are provided to adults with disabilities through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, services are not provided automatically. This handout discusses methods to advocate for accommodations in postsecondary education and training, employment and for independent living.

These and other PACER Center handouts for parents specifically on the Americans with Disabilities Act and other transition issues can be found on the PACER Web site at

<http://www.pacer.org/publications/transition.asp#handouts>

IMPORTANT NEW TRANSITION DOCUMENTS:

The complex and challenging topic of transition planning is heating up! These new documents are important for

any parent or educator involved in this dialog...

Open: [NEW Family Transition Planning Guide](#)

Open: [NEW College Readiness Rubric](#)

Open: [NEW Transition Timeline for IDEA & 504 Students](#)

JCC IN MANHATTAN OFFERING FREE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

The JCC in Manhattan, in collaboration with The Cognitech Café, is continuing the use of its computer facilities to accommodate the varied needs of children with learning, physical, visual and communication challenges. The JCC is committed to providing unique solutions to empower individuals with accessible technologies that foster greater independence, learning, and socialization. We provide hands-on demonstrations, consultations and support for most assistive technology software and hardware. This FREE assistive technology assistance is available on select Sundays throughout May 2009 (by appointment only--via e-mail or phone). For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Mark Surabian 917-586-8000 or email @ Mark@CogniTechCafe.com msurabian@mac.com www.cognitechcafe.com Please be sure to indicate that you are interested in scheduling a consultation at the JCC in Manhattan. March: 1st - 2-5; 8th - 2-5; 15th - 2-5; 22nd - 2-5; 29th - 2-5

April, May & June dates to be announced

The Jewish Community Center In Manhattan, The Samuel Priest Rose Building ([floor layout](#))

334 Amsterdam Avenue at West 76th Street, NYC

Multimedia Center (computing center), lower level two

For more information -_ Mark@CogniTechCafe.com

GLUTEN FREE BAKERY OPENS IN BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY

510 North State Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY

Karen Miller, a pediatric physical therapist, after a year of research, experimenting and planning, has opened an entirely GF bakery. There is no chance of cross-contamination since she only makes GF items. She uses all gluten-free ingredients to make fresh baked goods and custom-decorated cakes. Her goal is to make products that are tasty enough for everyone to enjoy, not just those requiring a GF diet. Products include, but are not limited to, cakes, cookies, muffins, scones, biscuits and pies. Other breads will join the line-up soon. Many items are also dairy-free and/or soy-free and she is willing to work with other dietary restrictions.

Hours are: Tues 8-5, Wed 8-5, Thurs 8-7, Fri 8-5, Sat 8-5, Sun 9-1 and closed Mondays.

Any questions please call 914-762-2121 or email (<mailto:threeogsgfbakery@gmail.com>).

(<http://www.threeogsgfbakery.com/>) [Click here for driving directions using Google Maps.](#)

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE COUNTY'S SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The flyers below discuss the benefits of the Special Needs Registry. Westchester County residents, who may need assistance if they were to evacuate their homes in emergency situations, may apply to have their names added to the registry. Signing up is completely voluntary and all applications will be screened and evaluated.

Note that while this database is confidential, it will be shared with local, state and federal agencies that might be involved in an emergency response so they know where extra help may be needed.

Feel free to print and distribute these flyers to anyone you think might be appropriate for this registry.

[Special Needs Flyer](#) Call 211 to sign up over the phone or register yourself at www.westchestergov.com/specialneeds

KIDS' NIGHT ON BROADWAY TO SPOTLIGHT AUTISM AGAIN IN 2009

Autism Speaks annual event during which young people ages 6 to 18 can attend a Broadway show for free! This year, beginning in February, Kids' Night will take place on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of every month (April 7, 8, May 5, 6, June 2, 3, August 4, 5, September 6, 7, October 6, 7, November 3, 4, December 1, 2) The 2009 Kids' Nights will once again help shine a spotlight on the growing prevalence of autism and the work of Autism Speaks. The Broadway League will include information about autism and Autism Speaks on Kids' Night printed materials, on its websites, and at fanfest events at Madame Tussauds. Kids'

Night will also provide an opportunity for more children with autism to attend the theater. For more information, visit www.kidsnightonbroadway.com

FREE SCREENINGS FOR YOUNGER SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH ASD

The Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center of the Rose F. Kennedy Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine is a comprehensive diagnostic and rehabilitation program with over 40 years of experience in the diagnosis and treatment of developmental disorders in children and young adults. The RELATE program is a specialty diagnostic and treatment program for children with autism. The program offers free screenings for younger siblings of children with autism spectrum disorders. The screenings will be scheduled at key developmental stages from six through thirty-six months. Parents will be given feedback and referrals where appropriate. Additionally we will be offering a parent-child play program for children who fall into an at-risk category. If you are interested in having your child participate in this program or for more information please contact Bethany Burrows or Leora Bernstein at (718) 430-8600, extension 6249

MASS FOR SPECIAL FAMILIES

Church of the Magdalene (Roman Catholic Church)

Celebration of the Mass

Special Mass celebrated for special families on the first Sunday of each month @ 1:00 pm

Church of the Magdalene, 525 Bedford Road, Pocantico Hills, NY 10591

For more information call: WFA @ 914-741-5019

SHABBAT FOR SPECIAL FAMILIES

Simchat Shabbat: The Joy of Shabbat Led by Cantor Ellen Dreskin

A special Saturday musical service that occurs once a month, for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. *Please note that all children must be accompanied by at least one parent or caregiver. For more information regarding the program, please call (914) 238-3928.

Service will be held on: March 14th, April 12th, May 17th, June 21st, (From 9:00 to 9:45am)

Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, 220 South Bedford Road, Chappaqua, NY.

For more information regarding the program, please call (914) 238-3928.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY TOOL KIT

Autism Speaks launched an online School Community Tool Kit designed to help school administrators talk with their staff about how students with autism can best be supported and included in the school community. The Kit includes content about the features and challenges associated with autism, the strengths possessed by students with autism, and a host of tools and strategies teachers, administrators, and other staff can use to foster an accepting learning environment.

The School Community Tool Kit is available @ www.autismspeaks.org/school

NEW E-MENTORING PROGRAM ALLOWS STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES TRANSITIONING FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE TO CONNECT WITH EXPERIENCED COLLEAGUES IN THE FIELD

An e-mentoring program developed by the Nisonger Center in Ohio connects students with disabilities with mentors who share their transition experiences. Students complete an online course that helps them prepare for the transition to employment or college while communicating weekly with their mentor. Find out more at <http://nisonger.osu.edu/Transition/EMentoring.htm>

RESOURCE GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

To help families understand supports and services administered through NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. This guide will prove to be a valuable tool for people with disabilities, parents, and caregivers. Copies of the guide can be downloaded from the Health Care Information and Education section of the Parent to Parent NYS website at www.parenttoparentnys.org

ONLINE SUPPORT PARENT TRAINING

If you are interested in becoming a support parent on our network, you can now do the training online. Go to www.parenttoparentnys.org and click on support parent training link. This offers families the flexibility to do the training at their own convenience and pace. A support parent questionnaire can be submitted online or you can contact your local coordinator to receive one in the mail. This must be filled out entirely before you can do the training. Join our network and help make a difference in the lives of other families. Please call us with any questions. There is also an on-line training for a parent willing to be A Health Care Resource Parent. Check the website or contact Laura Carfi. If you previously volunteered to be a support parent but have not yet completed the training and submitted the accompanying support parent questionnaire, this would be an excellent way to finalize your recruitment and training.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

Just a reminder that material for families related to health issues has been developed and is available in two ways. You can go on the Parent-to-Parent NYS website www.parenttoparentnys.org and click on Family to Family or we can send you a copy in the mail. Contact your local coordinator if interested. Materials that are available include Medicaid Fact Sheets, Health Care Notebooks, Tips For Handling Medical Appointments, Financial Aid For Children With Special Health Care Needs, Record Keeping Tips, HCBS Waiver In NYS, Section 504

Accommodations, Coping and Stress Reduction Facts and Tips, Healthcare Information On The Internet, Medicaid Prescription Tips for Parents/Caregivers, Understanding Health Insurance and Doctor Selection Fact Sheet. Parent-to-Parent has an e-group for parents who have children who are medically fragile or have complex medical needs. Email Lisasdesk@verizon.net or visit the Parent-to-Parent NYS website listed above.

AUTISM SPECTRUM NEWS UPCOMING THEMES & DEADLINE DATES

You Are Cordially Invited to Submit:

Articles Addressing Our Theme

Display Advertising for Your Programs & Service

Contact the Publisher to Reserve Your Space -

Summer 2009 Issue:

"Education for Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders"

Deadline: March 15, 2009

Fall 2009 Issue:

"Addressing the Needs of Adults on The Spectrum"

Deadline: June 15, 2009

Winter 2009 Issue:

"Understanding the Assessment Process: What Parents Should Know"

Deadline: September 15, 2009

Spring 2010 Issue:

"New Frontiers in Autism Science: What Families Can Learn"

Deadline: December 15, 2010

Contact us today to Reserve Your Space in Autism Spectrum News

Phone: (570) 629-5960 E-mail: iraminot@mhnews.org

* Planning to advertise your conference or special event? Keep in mind that our publications DO NOT reach our readers until approximately (7) weeks after the Deadline Date



WJCS AUTISM FAMILY CENTER is a program of Westchester Jewish Community Services
supported with funding from UJA-Federation