

Autism Monthly NJ

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Winter is coming upon us and the holiday season is almost in full swing! Read below to keep up to date on all the activities and news happening in the autism community and with Autism Family Services of NJ!



Autism Family Services of New Jersey

Quick Links

- [Autism Family Services of New Jersey](#)
- [The Family Support Center of New Jersey](#)
- [The Family Resource Network](#)

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Dinner and a Therapist Registration Now Open

How about 3 Friday Nights that could change your life?

AFSNJ & The Matthew Jago School PACE Parent, PPO Organization present:

"Dinner and a Therapist"

In January 2010, Autism Family Services of New Jersey in collaboration with The Matthew Jago School's PACE Parent organization will conduct a 3-part series, to be held on Friday evenings for families affected by Autism.

Topics:

Session 1- The Sibling Issue: Creating Positive Experiences for Siblings.

Annette Becklund, LCSW, a clinical social worker in private practice, will conduct a workshop on positive support and interactions with siblings of children on the spectrum.

Sessions 2 & 3 - Family Stress in Raising a Child with Autism.

Russell Kormann, PhD of the Rutgers Center for Applied Psychology will have a two-part presentation dealing with family stress and ways to deal with it.

Location: The Matthew Jago Elementary School at 99 Glen Cove Ave., Sewaren, NJ 07077.

- Capacity: Registration is limited to 45 individuals per session.
Dates: January 8, 22, & 29, 2010 from 6-8 p.m./kids drop off @ 5:45 p.m.
(You must be able to attend all 3 sessions)
- Dinner: 3 Different Cuisines for the parents and pizza for the kids.
- On Site: Recreation and respite services provided by the team of professionals of Matthew Jago School - Available for up to 2 children w/ an ASD per family.
- **If more assistance with childcare is needed please contact Amanda Villamar (mandajudge@yahoo.com) or Debra Egan (Debra.egan@fscnj.org) directly.

Admission, child care and dinner will be free of charge.

To register, please contact Amanda after November 9, 2009 at FSCNJ (732) 528-8080 ext.210 and leave a message. You will be contacted soon after to confirm.

Funding provided by The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey.

[Click here to see the flier.](#)

Epilepsy Awareness and Bounce Out the Stigma Night

NETS VS. BOBCATS

DATE: Friday, December 4th

TIME: 8:00pm

LOCATION: IZOD Center

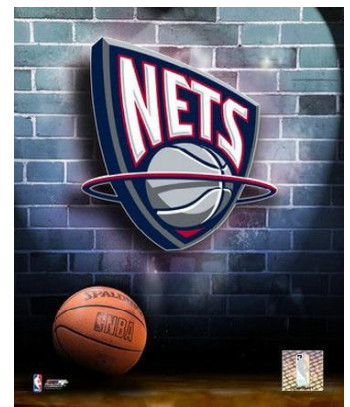
Come support Epilepsy Awareness at Bounce Out the Stigma Night as Devin Harris, Brook Lopez and the rest of your Nets battle Gerald Wallace and the Charlotte Bobcats. On top of the discount, each ticket includes a Nets duffle bag. The first 50 kids to purchase tickets are eligible to participate in a special Mighty Mike Simmel Basketball Clinic at the Nets practice facility on 11/29/09 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Each ticket purchased will also get you one raffle ticket for a chance to be on the court and Hi-five NBA players before the Nets vs. Bobcats game.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS CONTACT:

Pat Connelly @ (973) 244-0850

pconnelly@familyresourcenetwork.org

[Click here to view informational flier!](#)



National Group Recommends Changes in IDEA

In anticipation of the scheduled reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 2010, the National Association of Secondary School Principals issued information and several recommendations to the Federal Department of Education. The NASSP pointed out that the number of students receiving special education services over a 10 year period rose from 5.1 to 6.1 million. They reported an overrepresentation of children to which English is not their first language, suggesting that education professionals need to develop better tools for observing and reporting on students with special needs. The rise in Autism Spectrum Disorders was also noted, with NASSP stating, "However, little research and development exists in regard to how best to serve students with autism".

New Jersey Autism Registry Signed, Rules Adopted

In 2007, the law that established the New Jersey Autism Registry was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Corzine. On September 21, 2009, the administrative rules (N.J.A.C. 8:20) that delineate the implementation of this law were adopted. The goals of the Autism Registry are threefold: 1) to connect families in need of health care services to coordinated care through county-based case management units; 2) to improve the current knowledge and understanding of autism by conducting thorough and complete epidemiologic research of autism; and 3) to use the analysis of this information to plan for more targeted services for children with autism in New Jersey.

In the rules, autism is defined as a "developmental disability which is marked by significant impairments in social interaction and communication and the presence of unusual behaviors and interests." It includes diagnoses commonly known as the Autism Spectrum Disorders (i.e., Asperger Syndrome, Autistic Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified) and Rett Syndrome and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder. All health care professionals licensed pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes are required to register a child from birth through twenty-one years of age who is a resident of New Jersey and diagnosed with Autism (as defined above). Licensed professionals can register children by either using the Birth Defects and Autism Reporting System (BDARS), which is currently available at all birthing hospitals in New Jersey, or by downloading the SCH-0 (Special Child Health Services form) and the SCH-1 (Autism Supplemental Information form) pages from the following website <http://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/sch/schr.shtml>, completing the forms and mailing them to the Department of Health and Senior Services, who has the responsibility of maintaining the Autism Registry.

The information collected on the SCH-0 and the SCH-1 forms includes parent/guardian names and contact information, child's name, diagnosis information, diagnostician information, and information on the person actually submitting the registration form. Because some of the information reported is personal, the Department recognizes the importance of protecting the person's privacy and confidentiality, so it has created a highly secured database to maintain the registration information. Additionally, the Department does not include any identifying personal information in any reports.

Once a child is registered, a letter and informational pamphlets are sent to the parent or legal guardian named on the registration, notifying them that the child has been registered. Families are provided information on case management services and the Special Child Health Services program. Information regarding the registration is also sent to the county-based Special Child Health Services Case Management Unit in which the child resides. The case manager or service coordinator, then, contacts the family to inform them on available family-centered services in their community. They assist with referrals as well as obtaining community resources and this is done free of charge to the families.

Autism, Epilepsy and Seizures Brochure Ready for Distribution

The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation, Autism Family Services of NJ and the Epilepsy Foundation of NJ recently completed a brochure to assist families and professionals in identifying and responding to the potential for seizure disorders in children and adults with autism and epilepsy. The brochure has received wide distribution in its first weeks of release and has been featured in a workshop at the recent Autism NJ Annual Conference and on the Web sites of Autism Speaks and POAC. Downloadable copies are available on our website (www.autismfamilyservicesnj.org) or by contacting us at 800-376-2345. The Foundation's Director, Linda Walder Fiddle, serves on the Advisory Board of AFSNJ.



Autism-Related Workshops and Trainings in New Jersey

1. Lives of Distinction: Keys to Co-Creating Community Membership and Contribution in the Lives of People with Disabilities with Dr. Beth Mount.

- Thursday, November 17, 9:30-12:00
- Doubletree Hotel, Mt. Laurel.
- Presented free of charge by the Boggs Center. (www.rwjms.edu/boggscenter)

2. Navigating the New System- What Families Need to Know about Major Changes in the System the Serves Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

- Wednesday, December 2, 7:00PM,
- Arc of Somerset in Hillsborough
- Call Jamon Watson @ 908-725-8544
- Presented free of charge by DDD and The Arc of NJ.

3. Contemporary Issues in Autism and Asperger's- a workshop for parents and professionals.

- Thursday, Dec. 3, 9-4
- Riskin Children's Center, Clifton
- Call Susan Miller @ 973-777-7688
- Registration \$50-65.

4. Natural Setting Therapeutic Management (DDD) - Workshop is directed to professionals in the field.

- Mondays, November 30 and December 7, 10:00-2:00, Flanders
- Register for this free workshop series and more information - Diane Watson, 973-4119 by

November 20.

New Advocacy Handbook is Now Available

A new advocacy handbook is available online. Make sure that you and the person you are caring for are receiving the care, support and rights they deserve. Read more by following [this link](#).

US House Passes Health Insurance Reform Bill Containing Provision for Autism Insurance Reform

Washington, DC (November 8, 2009) -- Autism Speaks, the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, today applauds the members of the U.S. House of Representatives for passing a health care reform bill that contains a provision for autism insurance reform in a vote held late last night.

The provision, introduced this past July by Congressman Mike Doyle (D-PA) and passed by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, will prohibit discrimination in benefits against people with autism by including behavioral health treatments as part of the essential benefits package. The bill must now be passed by the U.S. Senate.

Congratualtions Linda Walder Fiddle

Redbook Magazine has named Linda Walder Fiddle, a member of the Autism Family Services of NJ Advisory Board, as one of "The 5 Most Inspiring Women You've Never Heard Of". Linda is Executive Director of the Ridgewood-based Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation.

[Click here to read the article.](#)

Congratulations, Linda!

Thank you for reading Autism Monthly NJ! If you have any information you would like included in our e-zine, or know of anyone that would like to be added to our listserv, please email me at dgoldberg@familyresourcenetwork.org or click the "Join Our Mailing List" button on the top right side of the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dana Goldberg
Autism Family Services of NJ
and The Family Resource Network

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