

Autism Monthly NJ

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Happy New Year from Autism Family Services of NJ! A new year brings changes, new beginnings and new challenges. Read below to catch up on the events and news happening in the autism community and with AFSNJ!



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](#)

[Join our Mailing List!](#)

Wrightslaw Special Education Training Registration Now Open!

Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Conference

Led by Peter Wright, Esq.
 April 15, 2010
 Maggiano's Little Italy,
 390 Hackensack Avenue, Hackensack, NJ
 (201) 221-2030

Registration and Breakfast 8am-9am
 Event ends at 4:30pm

This program is designed to meet the needs of parents, advocates, attorneys, educators, health care providers, and others who represent the interests of children with disabilities and their families.

This conference is not disability specific.

Conference Fees:

\$150 per person

Registration closes on April 12, 2010

Registrants will receive breakfast and lunch at Maggiano's and two books, *Wrightslaw: Special Education Law* and *Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy*.

To Register Online, [please click here.](#)

For more information, contact Dana Goldberg at (732) 262-8020 or by email at dgoldberg@familyresourcenetwork.org.



**Autism Family
Services of
New Jersey**

**Walk for a
Brighter
Tomorrow**



BENEFITING THE FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

**Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow
Shore Area Walk**

When: Sunday, May 16, 2010

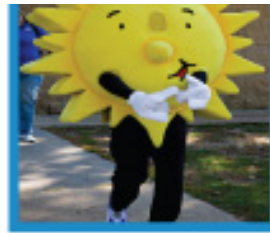
Where: Seaside Park, NJ

Registration 11am - Walk 12pm

Please join Autism Family Services of New Jersey for a 5k walk on the beautiful Seaside Boardwalk as we raise much needed funds & awareness for individuals & their families living with developmental disabilities & chronic illnesses.

For more information please visit www.walkforabrightertomorrow.org





Autism Family Services Presents a Series of Autism Awareness Workshops

April 9, 2010 @ 12:30 PM-2:00PM

"Make Friends with Autism" I

By: Adrienne Robertiello, Autism Educator

This session is geared toward business representatives, civic organizations, recreation providers, political leaders, our Chambers of Commerce, and the press. The creators of "Make Friends with Autism" will present tools and resources that help businesses and service providers interact with people living with autism. You will learn about the benefits of inclusion for individuals, businesses and towns. Communities become stronger and more vital when all members of our community are welcome.

April 9, 2010 @ 6:30PM-8:00PM

"Make Friends with Autism" II

By: Adrienne Robertiello, Autism Educator

This session is being presented to provide families living with autism with methods to prepare for and increase the comfort level of common community activities. Come see an inspirational movie which offers a glimpse of some challenges and successful experiences of families during community excursions. Find out about tools to help educate everyone from camp counselors, extended family, a waitress, and your mailman. Awareness is not just for April.

April 16, 2010 @ 6:30PM-8:00PM

"The Sibling Connection-Creating positive experiences for Siblings"

By: Annette Becklund, MSW, LCSW,

Annette Becklund, LCSW and author of "Warren is Wonderful" speaks from the heart about positive support and interactions with siblings of children on the spectrum. Learn the strategies to providing a healthy happy household where the needs of both children are met. Hear real life examples from the "Sibling Panel."

May 5, 2010 @ 11:00AM-12:30PM

"The N.J. Insurance Reform Act: An Autism Update"

By: Valerie A. Powers Smith, Esq.

The State of New Jersey passed a bill (P.L. 2009, C. 115) requiring health benefits coverage for certain therapies for the treatment of autism and other developmental disabilities. Come hear the specifics around it and how it can affect you. Learn how to seek possible funding through your insurance. There are requirements and some things are not a "definite."

Know the facts.

All workshops will take place at The Family Support Center of New Jersey

2516 Route 35 North, Manasquan, NJ 08736

Registration is Required. Please RSVP to Cheryl at 800-372-6510

with what sessions you would like to attend.

LEGO Based Social Development Therapy Introductory Workshop

The Center for Neurological and Neurodevelopmental Health (CNNH) Presents:

LEGO Based Social Development Therapy Introductory Workshop

An innovative, effective and evidence-based approach to building social and communication skills in children with Autism, Asperger's, Anxiety, ADHD, Affective and Adjustment Disorders.

April 23, 2010 - 9am-4pm

RWJ Hamilton Center for Health and Wellness
100 Quakerbridge Road, Mercerville, NJ 08619

Registration Cost: \$225, lunch included

For more information call Maggie Hofmann at 856-346-0005 x 117; mhofmann@thechh.org

www.thecnnh.org/lego.html

"Autism & Children's Ministry" Webinar

Watch it online now!

We've offered this practical webinar, hosted by Nella, live in the past. Now you can listen to a recorded version on our website whenever it fits your schedule.

Watch it here: www.friendship.org/AutismWebinar

Forward to a friend.

Questions? Though Q&A isn't possible in the recorded webinar, we'd be glad to answer your questions by phone or email: 888.866.8966 / friendship@friendship.org

The N.J. Insurance Reform Act: An Update

By: Valerie A. Powers Smith, Esq.

As written about by this author in the Fall of 2009, the State of New Jersey passed a bill (P.L. 2009, C. 115) requiring health benefits coverage for certain therapies for the treatment of autism and other developmental disabilities. The law becomes effective on February 9, 2010.

Under the Bill, coverage for the following services would be mandated:

1. Screening & diagnosis for autism and other developmental disabilities;
2. Medically necessary OT, ST, and PT as prescribed through a treatment plan; coverage of these therapies is not to be denied on the basis of that the treatment is not restorative; and
3. For children under 21 years of age where the primary diagnosis is autism, medically necessary behavioral interventions based on ABA and related structured behavioral programs, as prescribed through a treatment plan.

On January 14, 2010, the New Jersey Department of Banking & Insurance ("DOBI") issued Bulletin 10-02 to provide guidance to all covered health insurance plans[1] on the implementation of P.L. 2009, C. 115; since it will be unable to promulgate and accept the regulations to govern the new law before the February 9, 2010 effective date.

The following are key points regarding the mandated coverage:

1. Therapy Coverage: Health plans must provide the above-listed services in the same manner as other medical conditions under the health insurance contract and with no limitations applied to behavioral interventions for a covered person under 21 years of age. With regard to therapies, DOBI advises that while the therapy limit for these services shall not be unlimited, they shall also not be counted towards the contract allowance for other illnesses or injuries.

2. Qualified ABA Practitioners: ABA practitioners delivering behavioral interventions based on ABA & related structured behavioral programs should be credentialed by the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board as either a Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral ("BCBA-D") or Board Certified Behavior Analyst ("BCBA"); or shall perform services under the direct supervision one that is.

3. Annual Health Benefit: Group health plans not subject to the requirements of the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 ("MHPAEA") or exempt there under, may apply the annual health benefit cap of \$36,000; whereas, DOBI cautions other health plans that application of the annual health benefit cap of \$36,000 may conflict with their compliance with MHPAEA.

4. Early Intervention Family Cost Share: Carriers must provide benefits for coverage of the Family Cost Share expense incurred by covered persons for the provision of certain health services obtained in accordance with a treatment plan developed as a result of, or in conjunction with, an Individualized Family Support Plan for a child deemed eligible for early intervention services through the State of New Jersey with the following caveat: only for the above-listed mandated services provided for children diagnosed with autism or another developmental disability.

To view the referenced article by this Author, visit www.hinkle1.com.

For more information on Bulletin 10-02, visit http://autismnj.org/Doc/Insurance_Bulletin.pdf.

ASD: Focus on the Family (ACT 48 Credits Offered)

Date: April 30, 2010
Time: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Place: La Salle University

Cost:

\$35 - Parents and Students
\$55 - All Others
Free - Children

[Click here to register.](#)

Presented by: Green Tree Partnerships and La Salle University

About : ASD - Focus on the Family

The conference will look at ASD from the perspective of the family. Presentations will speak directly to the concerns of families that include those on the Autistic Spectrum.

One of the goals of this annual conference is to provide a family-friendly forum for people living on the Autism Spectrum and their families, where they can share their experiences and obtain needed information.

A Focus on the Children - Exciting Children's Programs

For the first time, children are invited to attend the conference free of charge and engage in a fun children's program designed by La Salle University students.

- A Fun and Gentle Parent/Child Yoga Class - Presented by Stages Yoga
- A Musical Performance - Presented by Green Tree School Students
- Free Childcare Services & Programs - Provided by La Salle University

Please review the conference brochure for more information about registering children [by following this link.](#)

For more information, please call Lavinia Awosanya of Event Mood, Corp. at (609) 518-1259 or send an email to info@eventmood.com.

Find Us on Facebook and Follow FRN on Twitter!



[Become a fan of Autism Family Services of NJ on facebook!](#)



[And follow The Family Resource Network on Twitter!](#)

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.



The Training Calendar Offers a Clearinghouse of Community Events

In an effort to spread awareness about workshops, conferences and other training opportunities the Family Support Center of New Jersey has launched The Training Calendar. We invite professionals to post information on activities, lectures, trainings, or other events for caregivers and the people they are caring for on www.thetrainingcalendar.org. We also invite families and caregivers to view the trainings available in their area.

Previously The Training Calendar had been administered by the Progressive Center for Independent Living. We applaud their foresight in developing this clearinghouse program.

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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