



# autism monthly nj

## Welcome to Autism Monthly NJ

We're dedicated to providing our readers with informative, exciting and interesting news regarding NJ, autism and events; so if you know of something you'd like posted or if you're hosting an event that you'd like included, please respond to this email and let us know!



Visit Us On the Web!

## Want To Get Healthy For The New Year?



Get FIT is an innovative, statewide movement creating health and fitness opportunities through overcoming barriers for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their caregivers.

Click [here](#) for additional news and information on fitness and nutrition.

## Contact Us

Autism Family Services  
of New Jersey  
1 AAA Drive, Suite 203  
Trenton, NJ 08691  
(877)237-4477

## Do You Need to Know More About Obtaining Guardianship?

### Join us for a live webinar!

Tune in to our live webinar on Wednesday, February 15th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to learn more about becoming a guardian. Presenters include: Tony Serra and Nina Weiss, Serra Weiss Attorneys and Dot Faherty, The Family Resource Network.

To register for the webinar, [click here](#) or the link below and follow instructions through [gotomeeting.com](http://gotomeeting.com)

Please contact Dot Faherty at (609) 392-4900 or via email at [dfaherty@familyresourcenetwork.org](mailto:dfaherty@familyresourcenetwork.org) with any questions.

\* An archived recording of the webinar will be available following the live session on our website [www.familyresourcenetwork.org](http://www.familyresourcenetwork.org)  
<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/500570502>

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## Sibshops/Teen Sibshops



Sibshops/Teen Sibshops are for kids between the ages of 8-12 and teens 13-16 years old who have a sibling with special needs. FSCNJ will host Sibshop meetings once a month on a Saturday from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00p.m. for Sibshops and Teen Sibshop from 11:00am-3:00pm. Each session costs \$25.00 per child.

### **2012 Sibshop/Teen Sibshops Meeting Schedule**

February 12, 2012

March 17, 2012

April 21, 2012

May 19, 2012

June 16, 2012

July 21, 2012

August 18, 2012

September 15, 2012

October 20, 2012

November 17, 2012

December 15, 2012

DECEMBER 15, 2012

Sibshops/Teen Sibshops will take place at  
The Family Resource Network - Shore Office  
Lions Head Office Park  
35 Beaverson Blvd. Bldg. 11  
Brick, NJ 08723

Please Call the Family Support Center of NJ to Register: 1-800-372-6510.  
Click [here](#) to download a Sibshop registration form and [here](#) for Teen  
Sibshops form and follow instructions to ensure proper registration.  
\*\*SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE\*\*

### **2012 North Jersey Meeting Dates**

January 28, 2012  
February 25, 2012  
March 31, 2012  
April 28, 2012  
May 19, 2012  
June 30, 2012  
July 28, 2012  
August 25, 2012  
September 29, 2012  
October 27, 2012  
November 17, 2012  
December 15, 2012

Sibshops will take place at  
The Family Resource Network of New Jersey  
322 US Highway 46 Suite 290  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Please call the Family Support Center of NJ to Register  
1-800-372-6510. Click [here](#) to download a registration form and follow  
instructions to ensure proper registration.

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## **SIBSBOWL**





The Family Support Center and POAC are supporting siblings of children with different disabilities in an environment that is encouraging, supportive and ongoing. SIBSBOWL offers opportunities for these siblings to meet each other and obtain mutual support while having bowling.

### **SIBSBOWL DATES**

FEBRUARY 3, 2012

MARCH 2, 2012

APRIL 13, 2012

MAY 4, 2012

JUNE 1, 2012

ALL DATES ARE FRIDAYS 4:00-6:00pm

Click [here](#) for an information flyer or call Ramona Carmeci (732) 528-8080 with any question

Location: SIBSBOWL will be held at  
Sea Girt Lanes Rt. 35, Wall, NJ, Fridays from 4-6pm

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## **Date Set for Shore "Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow"**

Please join Autism Family Services of New Jersey on May 6, 2012 for a 5k walk on the beautiful Seaside Heights boardwalk as we raise much needed funds and awareness for individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Now is the time to be setting up your team for registration beginning in February. Check back for further details.

For more information please call Heather or Molly at 609-392-4900

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## **POAC Presents: A Free Day of Family Fun at Fun Time America, Aberdeen, NJ**

A Free Day of Family Fun at Fun Time America, Aberdeen, NJ  
For Children and Young Adults with Autism and Their Families  
Monday, February 20, 2012 (President's Day)  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

POAC and Fun Time America indoor amusement park are pleased to announce a free day of family fun for children and young adults with autism and their immediate families (including siblings). Please come and join us for all the rides, games, and lunch for the children. With over 40,000 square feet, there are so many great attractions including, Laser Tag, Bumper Cars, Himalaya, Soft Play Castle, Motion Simulator, Rock Climbing Wall, Arcade Games, and much more! There will be pizza and soda for the children and the park is reserved just for POAC families. A café is available on site for all other food purchases. The event is free, but you must register and you must have a confirmation to attend. Confirmations will be sent out via email. Please use this form to register and be sure to sign the waiver at the bottom. For more information about Fun Time America, including directions, visit [www.funtimeamerica.com](http://www.funtimeamerica.com).

click [here](#) for flyer and registration form.

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## Leave Your Mark!!

Would you like to leave a lasting imprint on the future of Autism Family Services of New Jersey? Planned gifts, for example bequests in your Will, are the ultimate expression of your commitment and caring - an opportunity to invest in the shared vision of a world in which everyone with autism enjoys the freedom to participate fully in life. Remembering Autism Family Services in your Will can be the perfect option for an individual who would like to support AFSNJ's efforts but may not be able to do so during their lifetime.

For more information please visit  
[http://www.autismfamilyservicesnj.org/content/help/planned\\_giving.html](http://www.autismfamilyservicesnj.org/content/help/planned_giving.html)

or contact Heather Comstock at 609-392-4900.

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## Workshop:

### Jumpstart your iPad Experience

Arlene Siegwarth  
Special Educator, Assistive Technology Specialist

**DATES:**

March 2, 2012

April 27, 2012

May 11, 2012

Time: 9:00 - 10:00am

**Time:** 9:30-12:30pm  
**Place:** FRA, 35 Haddon Ave., Shrewsbury, NJ  
**Cost:** \$50

This 3 hour workshop will cover many areas of using the iPad. Participants will learn how to maneuver around the iPad, creating and organizing folders and downloading apps. With thousands of apps to choose from, learn the best places to look for the apps you need. We will explore and download apps to help students with reading and writing challenges of various age groups. We will also demonstrate apps to help students with Autism, cognitive challenges, and students needing switch access.

Target audience: Teachers, CST, therapist, parents  
Bring your own iPad if you have one.

To Register complete Registration Form and fax to 732-747-1896 or mail to Janine Bedford Sims at FRA, 35 Haddon Ave., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702  
Click [here](#) for registration form

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## Doctor Who claimed Vaccine-Autism Link Sues Critics

The controversial Andrew Wakefield, MBBS, whose now largely discredited research ignited the vaccine-autism furor, has filed a defamation suit in a Texas court against BMJ, its editor, and an investigative journalist over a series of articles published last January.

[continue reading](#)

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## Community Care Keeps Autistic Kids Out of Hospital

The increased use of respite and home/community aid services was associated with a decrease in the risk of psychiatric hospitalizations for children, adolescents, and young adults with autism spectrum disorders, according to a retrospective cohort study.

[continue reading](#)

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## NJ Autistic Adults Lack Programs

Delia O'Mahony moved back to New Jersey a decade ago seeking better educational opportunities for her autistic son, Jonathan.

Client Jonathan O'Mahony is stocking supplies as part of his duties at Quest Autism Programs in Wyckoff.

"We were living in the country in Ireland and they didn't know much about dealing with autism," said O'Mahony, who returned to the U.S. after her Irish husband died of leukemia.

But when Jonathan turned 21 four years ago, she was disappointed to learn that programs for autistic adults seemed just as scarce here.

In fact, New Jersey suffers from a severe shortage of programs geared specifically to the needs of adults with autism. That situation is likely to get considerably worse in the near future, as large numbers of autistic children graduate from special education and will likely need adult services. To make matters worse, a state policy designed to give families of developmentally disabled adults more control over care options actually denies non-profit agencies the seed money they need to create new programs.

[continue reading](#)

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## Training Calendar Offers Clearinghouse for Community Events

The most up-to-date Autism information about workshops, conferences and other training opportunities is available through 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](http://www.thetrainingcalendar.org). We also invite families and caregivers to view the trainings available in their area.

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## Find Us on Facebook and Follow FRN on Twitter

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

[Become a fan of Autism Family Services of New Jersey's facebook page and The Family Resource Network of New Jersey's facebook page](#)



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

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