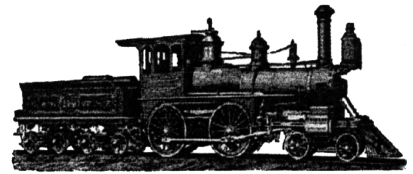


The ALL ABOARD NEWS



A Quarterly Publication from the Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders

Volume XIII— Issue 4

Fall 2009

Inside this issue:

Chairman's Message/Call for Board Members/Donors	2
Grandin Award/GALA Save the Date	3
Seizures and Autism	4
Western Pennsylvania Autism Fitness Initiative	7
Can a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) Help My Child	9
Designing or Remodeling a Home for Children with Autism	11
Guardianship vs. POA. What's the Difference	12
Organization Members	15



FOR PARENTS, EDUCATORS,
SOCIAL WORKERS AND THERAPISTS



Join the Advisory Board on
Autism and Related Disorders
for its Fall Conference

Western Pennsylvania Autism Fitness Initiative

presented by

Eric Chessen, M.S., YCS, Founder of Autism Fitness

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009 - 8:30 AM - 4 PM
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Night at the Races Friday, November 13, 2009 West View Fire Hall



Proceeds benefit:

Advisory Board on Autism & Related Disorders (ABOARD)

VISIT www.ABOARD.org or contact Jennifer Fulton at 412-781-4116
for more information, tickets or to be a sponsor!

Chairman's Message

Dear Friends of ABOARD,

Though it is just the beginning of October, the stores are filling with fall and Christmas displays! I have a difficult time just keeping up with my family's daily activities, without thinking ahead to the busy holiday times that will soon be here. Fortunately for ABOARD, our stalwart staff of Marie, Jennifer and Rebecca can handle their busy family lives and ABOARD happenings without missing a beat. Their dedication to ABOARD and skillful juggling of activities would make any big box retailer jealous! And I can't forget the dedication of our board of directors. This group works hard to ensure that ABOARD is here to help families who are affected by autism.

On Friday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m. ABOARD is hosting **RACE NIGHT 2009!** This will take place at the West View Fireman's Banquet Hall. Cost is \$15 per person in advance, and \$20 at the door. The price includes dinner, beer, pop, snacks and plenty of racing fun! Feel free to bring your own spirits. To get more information, purchase tickets or horses, go to www.aboard.org or email jenniferful-ton@aboard.org!

Our Fall Conference this year is the **"Western Pennsylvania Autism Fitness Initiative"** featuring Eric Chessen, M.S., YCS. Eric is the founder of Autism Fitness. This pro-

gram will take place on Friday, November 20, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at the Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry Township. Go to www.aboard.org to register or call the office.

You can also help ABOARD if you can give of your time and expertise to serve on our board of directors. ABOARD's mission is to maximize the potential and possibilities for all children, adolescents and adults living and working with autism and related disorders. As a parent run organization with three employees, volunteers throughout the state, and an active, working board of directors, we work towards and achieve successful collaborations with professionals and other organizations. The commitment is regular attendance at our monthly board meetings and serving on committees to further the ABOARD mission. In addition to parents with children on the spectrum, we also need corporate/business professionals who also have a desire to help us with our mission. If you are interested in being on our board, please contact me at elliottfrank1@comcast.net to discuss your interest in confidence.

Have a wonderful fall, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Elliot Frank, Chairman, Board of Directors

A Special Thanks to our Recent Donors!

\$250—\$500

Richard Garland

Roseanne Piechowicz
John and Diana Serpa
Louis and Ann Jean Waldman

To Richard Garland and Diane Berkebile from Garland Agency for hosting a Guest Bartending Night to benefit ABOARD.

tions on behalf of ABOARD through during the 2008-2009 school year!

\$100—\$249

First Call Plumbing

In Memory Of

Violet Finney
Patricia A. Christy
Del and Judith Suppo

Hillel JUC Student Board at the University of Pittsburgh for donations raised through the Cam Jam!

PNC Foundation matching gift program for matching the contributions of Dorothy Brailer!

\$50—\$99

Christopher and Pamela Davis

Special Thank you:

The gift card recipient and The Pittsburgh Foundation for the general operating support through the Pittsburgh Gives Charitable Gift Card Program

Kasandra Staffen for Guest Bartending at Allenport Marina to benefit ABOARD!

Stephanie Latkovic from Shaler High School who for here Senior Project sold autism awareness ribbons and had 50/50 raffles to benefit ABOARD!

In Memory Of

Raymond Piechowicz
Janine Certo
Patricia A. Christy
Kathy and Paul Kacmarik
Carol Kondrosky
Joanne and Jack Hecht
Walter and Great Hineck

Pennsylvania School Counselors Association and President Judi Schmitz for the collection of dona-

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Submit Your Nominations for Grandin Award

Once again it is time to recognize the achievements of those who help us fulfill our mission and give so much to the Pennsylvania autism community. To do this we need your help.

ABOARD's "Grandin Award" is presented to the individual who has most clearly contributed to maximizing the potential and possibilities of children, adolescents and adults with autism in Pennsylvania. This can be a parent, family member, or professional whom, in your opinion, has demonstrated this contribution. The only exceptions are employees of ABOARD and its Board of Directors. At our annual gala to be held at J. Verno Studio on January 23, 2010, we would like to recognize the top nominees and announce the "Grandin Award" winner.

If you wish to see the contributions of some deserving individual recognized by receiving the "Grandin Award", please submit the following by November 20, 2009. (Please, if possible, no more than one 8x11 page):

- * Both yours and your nominee's name address and phone number.
- * Where they demonstrated these contributions (e.g., home, organization, etc.)
- * Explain why and how they are deserving of this recognition. What are the circumstances behind their contribution? What did they SPECIFICALLY and MEASURABLY do? How has their contribution maximized the potential and possibilities of individuals with autism?
- * If you can, provide names and phone numbers of people who can supplement your assertion.

Upon receiving your nomination(s), the Board of Directors, using pre-defined criteria, will determine who the "top" GRANDIN nominees will be. From this list a winner will be chosen.

Your input is needed and appreciated!

Submissions should be sent directly to:

Nancy Abinini
ABOARD
35 Wilson St.
Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Or

abinini@comcast.net

All submissions will be held in strict confidence.



Seizures and Autism

Research has shown that 20% to 35% of individuals with autism also experience seizures. When a person has two or more unprovoked seizures, they are considered to have epilepsy. Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions and is also often called a seizure disorder.

Research has shown that 20% to 35% of individuals with autism also experience seizures. When a person has two or more unprovoked seizures, they are considered to have epilepsy. Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions and is also often called a seizure disorder.

A seizure happens when a brief, strong surge of electrical activity affects part or all of the brain. Seizures can last from a few seconds to a few minutes. They can have many symptoms, such as convulsions and loss of consciousness. Some symptoms are not always recognized as seizures by the person experiencing them or by health care professionals and may include blank stares, lip smacking, or jerking movements of arms and legs. It can be challenging to distinguish

behaviors associated with autism from seizure activity. Some things to look for include the range of behaviors during a suspected seizure. Seizures typically follow a pattern, so if the person's movements and mannerisms are varied during the episodes, they are most likely not caused by a seizure. Another distinguishing characteristic of epilepsy is that consciousness is impaired during most types of seizures, so the person having a seizure will most likely not be able to respond to environmental stimuli during the incident.

About one in four individuals with autism begin to have seizures during puberty. It isn't clearly understood why seizures may begin at this time in a child's life, but one possible cause may be changes in the young person's hormone levels.

About one in four individuals with autism begin to have seizures during puberty. It isn't clearly understood why seizures may begin at this time in a child's life, but one possible cause may be changes in the young person's hormone levels. Seizures can be controlled by medication. Other treatment options include a vagal nerve stimulator, brain surgery, and a special diet called the ketogenic diet. If you suspect that your child may be experiencing seizures, please talk about your concerns with your child's

physician. You can also contact the Epilepsy Foundation Western/Central Pennsylvania (EFWCP) to learn more about this condition.

The EFWCP offers a variety of services to families affected by seizures. The EFWCP's Children and Family Services program helps the whole family, not just the child with epilepsy. The program provides workshops for family members to learn more about epilepsy, individual and family consultation, education advocacy, telephone support and referrals to other community services. Staff members are available to work one-on-one with families, advocating for education rights, and working with teachers and school personnel or daycare providers. The Foundation provides free seizure recognition and first aid training to a wide range of audiences, including parents, teachers, health professionals, social service workers, and employers. Staff can also connect parents with other families who are coping with seizures so that they can build a support network of people who truly understand the impact seizures can have on a family.

To learn more about seizures or the services available to families coping with epilepsy visit the EFWCP's website at www.efwcp.org or call 1-800-361-5885.

Wesley Spectrum's
A Night for
Autism

Monday, November 2, 2009
 6:45 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
 The LeMont ~ 1114 Grandview Ave.
 Ticket cost: \$50.00

The event will feature a presentation on "Autism in the 21st Century" by Nancy Minshew, MD, an internationally recognized expert in autism, and director for the Autism Center of Excellence at the University of Pittsburgh. Includes appetizers, desserts and drinks.

All proceeds benefit the Wesley Spectrum Family and Child Development Center program that specializes in the treatment of children with autism.

Call 412-347-3219 for details, or visit
www.wesleyspectrum.org
 for online registration and payment.

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Sarah McAuliffe-Bellin, Program Coordinator

412-235-5447

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connectme
a clinical research trial for autism

**FOR PARENTS, EDUCATORS,
SOCIAL WORKERS AND THERAPISTS**

ABOARD presents

Western Pennsylvania Autism Fitness Initiative

Eric Chessen, MD, YCS and Founder of Autism Fitness

Friday, November 20, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Regional Learning Alliance, Cranberry PA

ABOARD's Fall conference, "Western Pennsylvania's Autism Fitness Initiative", will be presented by Eric Chessen, M.S., YCS. Eric is the founder of Autism Fitness and works exclusively with young individuals (ages 5-21) with autism, developing and implementing fitness programs for both individuals and groups. In addition to working with his athletes, Eric provides lectures, hands-on workshops, and his Autism Fitness Initiative seminars around the country for parents, educators, and fitness professionals. Eric is a contributing columnist to numerous autism and fitness publications including Spectrum Magazine and the Autism @ Home Series.

The Western Pennsylvania Autism Fitness Initiative (AFI) will be a full-day event that focuses on providing both conceptual and practical information on developing and implementing fitness programs for young individuals (ages 5-21) with autism and related disorders. The AFI seminar will involve both lecture and hands-on instruction to address:

- * **Overview of fitness and applied physiology**
- * **How exercise benefits young individuals with ASD**
- * **Why fitness is crucial for optimal development in other areas (cognition, self-regulation, socialization)**
- * **Common physical deficits in children and young adults with autism**
- * **Autism Fitness theory and application of exercise**
- * **The 5 essential movement patterns and how to teach them**
- * **Using ABA methods for integrating fitness programs**
- * **Developing and implementing your own fitness program with any individual or group in multiple environments**

**To register, visit www.aboard.org or
call 412-781-4116**

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The teachers make it like a game."*

*-Trevor, age 12
2009 Student*

**Call 412-281-2234 for more information.
Register online! pittsburghCLO.org**

Can a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) Help My Child?

Using a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) to determine the treatment approach and ultimately develop a treatment plan is currently the standard of care for treating children and adolescents with behavioral health needs compounded by developmental disorders such as autistic disorder and other pervasive developmental disorders which present challenging behaviors.

A Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) is an evaluation used to determine the function, purpose or reason(s) for a behavior or behaviors. The purpose of the FBA is to look at behavior in a systematic way.

The FBA will help uncover the function of the challenging behaviors and support the development of new skills and strategies your child can use to get their needs and wants met in a more

appropriate, accepted, efficient and effective manner.

What is learned through the FBA about your child's behavior leads the development of the treatment plan used by you, teachers, behavioral health staff, and others to support your child in a way that is respectful and dignified.

As a parent you have the right to ask your son or daughter's support staff about conducting a Functional Behavior Assessment by a credentialed Behavioral Specialist Consultant (BSC). A credentialed BSC is someone who has successfully completed the FBA training offered by the Department of Public Welfare (DPW), Bureau of Autism Services or other certified FBA Trainer or is a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA). VBH-PA regularly surveys its BHRS providers to insure that there is an adequate

number of FBA credentialed BSCs.

For more information, there is an FBA Frequently Asked Questions / Parent Perspective and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Bulletin, OMHSAS-09-01, titled "Guidance for Conducting Functional Behavior Assessments in the Development of Treatment Plans for Services Delivered to Children with Behavioral Health Needs Compounded by Developmental Disorders" available on the VBH-PA Web site at www.vbh-pa.com.

Submitted by:
Sue Klaus, M.Ed.
Prevention, Education & Outreach Manager
Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania



Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania is committed to promoting recovery by managing and coordinating supports and services for HealthChoices Members in fourteen Western Pennsylvania Counties.

Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc.

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FAMILY FOCUSED THERAPY



Family Behavioral Resources offers **BHRS/Wraparound Services** for children and adolescents with behavioral health needs. FBR is also proud to offer a **specialized program** and **Autism Team**, led by a **Board Certified Behavior Analyst** to treat children with **Autism Spectrum Disorders** in across Pennsylvania. FBR also offers:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| * Psychological Evaluations | * Medication Management | * Family-Based Services |
| * Outpatient Therapy | * Family Support Groups | * Sibling Support Groups |
| * Social Skill/Play Groups | * Focus Groups | * Trainings for School Districts |
| * Parent/Professional Workshops | * Resource Packages for Families | * Summer Camps |

FBR is now an approved provider of services under the PA Adult Autism Waiver.
In need of services? Contact us at adultasd@familybehavioralresources.com!

FBR offers Family Support Groups, Social Skill/Play Groups, and Sibling Support Groups in areas where needs have been identified.

*All support groups at FBR are proudly hosted in collaboration with and support from **ABOARD**.*

For general questions about services for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders, please contact:

Rick J. Murray, LSW, BCBA, Chief Operating Officer
 Catherine A. Hughes, Family Support Coordinator

1-866-4-FBR-ASD; autismservices@familybehavioralresources.com

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of families?

You may be interested in joining our team!

Call today to inquire about our opportunities.

Designing or Remodeling a Home for Children with Autism

A living environment for children with autism should pay careful attention to their sensory needs, flexibility, comfort, and dignity. Homes should be designed or modified with [Universal Design](#) principles in mind. The Center for Universal Design at NC State University defines universal design as “the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.”

The intent of universal design is to simplify life for everyone by making products, communications, and the built environment more usable by as many people as possible at little or no extra cost. Universal design benefits people of all ages and abilities.

At Home Evolutions, we incorporate Universal Design concepts into every home that we modify because it makes a home safer and more comfortable for anyone, regardless of age, size, or ability. A universally-designed home can help to prevent accidents, increase comfort and safety, and enhance your loved ones' independence. In addition to making your home more adaptable to their needs, these modifications are seamlessly integrated into the design of the home.

At the 40th National Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders by the Autism Society of America in July, it was reported that “regardless of the age or background of the residents, dwelling units that are designed around the needs of spectrum populations can promote socialization, empower independence, and uncover hidden human potential.”

The presenters on a Universal Design panel from this conference—architects Rachel Raterman and Javier Esteban, and autism expert Shannon Shelley—discussed how people living with autism have particular sensory needs that must be addressed by the spaces that they inhabit. According to their presentation, “This sensitivity to their needs will enhance their quality of life mentally, physically, and socially. Because of the climb-

ing rate of those with autism, more built facilities are needed to provide a sensitive environment for the wide variety of sensory, social, environmental, behavioral, and communicative needs of those with ASD.”

Finding the right home or properly planning home modifications can help you to maneuver around more safely. While retrofitting a home, or even purchasing a new one with Universal Design principles, can be costly, a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist can sensibly help incorporate these features into your home without breaking the budget or compromising the current beauty of your home.

Below are just some of the essential Universal Design features for your home that can benefit children with autism:

Zero Step Entry. At least one zero step entry makes it easier and safer for children with autism to go in and out of the house. At least one no-step entry to the house either through the front, back, or garage door is recommended.

Wider Doorways. Entryway doors should be at least 32 inches wide and interior doors at least 30 inches wide to allow for ample room for anyone to pass through.

Limit Obstructions. Rooms should be designed so as not to impede passage. Also, avoid high-pile carpeting, area rugs, or flooring that has a slippery surface because they can be trip and fall hazards.

Lever-Style Door Handles. These handles will make it easier for anyone to open and shut your front or back door because it doesn't require any grasping or twisting to operate.

Covered Entryway. Not only will a covering help protect the porch from precipitation, but yourself as well from rain and snow, preventing potential slips and falls.

Safe Stairs. If you have steps leading up to one of your entryways, and you do not want a zero step entry, at least make sure your

handrails are sturdy and in good shape to make it easier for your children to climb up and down.

Level Sidewalk/Driveways. Do you have uneven sidewalks or driveway which can be hazardous to walk on? Leveling them can also prevent future accidents.

Convenient Placements. Keep as many things needed for your daily life within as easy reach as possible. Areas of the home that are more prone for this to be an issue include the kitchen, laundry room, and bedrooms (especially closets). Make sure there are sufficient cabinets at the proper height and enough counter space to reduce bending and reaching. Consider installing under cabinet, roll-out shelves or pull-down shelves. Make sure that closets are sufficiently sized for closet organizing systems.

Fencing. Some parents of children with autism often will place a fence around their yard to prevent their child from wandering off. The problem is that many communities limit the size of the fence that can be installed, typically four feet, which isn't a deterrent to some children as they can easily climb over them. However, many of these communities also allow parents to file a variance that would allow them to install a taller fence for medical purposes.

There are many other features associated with Universal Design. Whatever it is that you need, a [Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist](#) can help design it for you.

Harry Burns, a Certified Aging-in-Place specialist, is founder of Home Evolutions LLC (<http://www.homeevolutions.com/>) which provides customized, high-quality building and remodeling services for people with disabilities and older adults wishing to maintain their independence. His company specializes in assessment, modification, design/build and maintenance services.

Are you following us on Twitter? — Home Evolutions will give you real-time updates when our latest blogs are posted as well as timely information on Aging-in-Place news from around the country.

GUARDIANSHIP VS. POA...WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Both a Power of Attorney and a Guardian are individuals who act on your behalf and in your place. This is called being an "agent." There is a duty to do what is in the person's best interest and in the best manner reasonably possible. This duty means the agent is acting in a fiduciary capacity.

An agent under a Power of Attorney is granted authority to act by the individual naming him or her (the Principal). That means the Principal must be able to understand what he or she is signing and the ramifications. If the Principal does not have the proper capacity, any Power of Attorney document signed by that person will not be upheld as valid.

If an individual does not have capacity to sign a Power of Attorney but cannot function independently and safely, the Court may appoint a Guardian. A Guardian performs many of the same functions as a Power of Attorney. However, a Guardian can ONLY be appointed by a Judge. A physician expert is typically required to prove the person is truly incapacitated and not able to safely manage their own physical and/or financial well-being.

A Guardian is required to file reports with the Court on a regular basis. A Power of Attorney can be called to file a report if requested. However, there is no requirement to file regular annual reports like a Guardian must.

Because a Guardian is appointed to manage the affairs of an incapacitated person, a Guardian can make decisions even if the person knows about it and disagrees. This differs from a Power of Attorney. For example: If a competent Principal's agent under a Power of Attorney felt the Principal should not live

in an apartment alone for safety reasons, the Power of Attorney could not force the individual to move. A Guardian, on the other hand, would be able to ensure the person was relocated to a safe living situation.

There are different types of Guardians and Powers of Attorney. A Power of Attorney can be limited for a time period, limited for a particular purpose (such as transferring a car title), can be unlimited, can be durable (continue to be valid even AFTER the Principal becomes incapacitated). They can be for Financial purposes, Medical purposes, or both.

There are different types of Guardians and Powers of Attorney. A Power of Attorney can be limited for a time period, limited for a particular purpose (such as transferring a car title), can be unlimited, can be durable (continue to be valid even AFTER the Principal becomes incapacitated). They can be for Financial purposes, Medical purposes, or both.

A Guardian may be appointed over the person (for decisions actually affecting the person i.e. medical treatment), or appointed over the estate (for decisions affecting the person's finances). In the hierarchal scheme, a Power of Attorney is accountable to the Guardian.

A Power of Attorney can ONLY be granted by the actual individual needing or wanting the help. A Power of Attorney can be in place for an incapacitated person ONLY IF that person signed it prior to becoming incapacitated.

A minor is considered legally incapacitated. The parent is legally responsible to make decisions for the child. Once the child turns 18, he or she is presumed to be a competent adult and the parent no longer has legal authority to do certain things in the child's place without a Power of Attorney. If the child NEVER has the capacity to sign a Power of Attorney, the Court must appoint the parent as Guardian to continue making decisions for that child. The parent must disprove the presumption that the child is capable.

Attorney Lynette Costa is the founder of COSTA Law Offices. In addition to being an attorney, she is also a Registered Nurse. Each attorney at COSTA Law Offices brings a strong background to the firm. We can be reached at (724)318-8155 or info@costalawoffices.com. Based out of Monaca, PA, the Attorneys travel to their clients for appointments. Services provided by COSTA Law Offices include but are not limited to, guardianship matters, establishment and administration of special needs trusts, estate planning, and probate. We offer quality, convent and competitive legal services that are brought to you.

The information provided is not written or intended as legal advice. If you have questions regarding any of the information contained in this article, you should seek advice from a qualified attorney. Individuals involved in the estate planning process should work with an estate planning team, including their own personal legal or tax counsel.



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kids to learn
the way we teach.

We teach
the way kids
learn.



Milestones Achievement Centers of America, Inc.

Every child is unique. Some children with serious and/or complex educational and behavioral challenges need a school that can implement an individualized program integrating all supports needed to attain a better life, including returning to the child's home school district. Milestones Achievement Centers are the answer.

- Pennsylvania Department of Education licensed private school for students with developmental disorders, including autism spectrum disorders
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Monroeville - 412.373.5235

Reading - 610.396.3672
Wyoming - 570.714.2350
York - 717.767.8902

Pittsburgh Early Autism Study

Our Goal

Understand the earliest indicators of autism spectrum disorders (ASD)

What We Now Know

Family videotapes of children later diagnosed with ASD suggest that diagnostic signs may emerge within the first year of life

What We Will Do

Study infants who have an older brother or sister already diagnosed with ASD

Look for infant behaviors that predict a later ASD diagnosis

Benefits

Screens and assessments of autism symptoms between 18 and 48 months at no cost

How You Can Help

Participate with your infant in one or both of the projects on the reverse side. Compensation is available for participants.

1-866-647-3436 or
autismrecruiter@upmc.edu

How Babies Develop Intellectually

(directed by Dr. Mark Strauss)

Where: Infant & Toddler Development Center, University of Pittsburgh (free parking provided)

When: Infants are seen at 6, 11, 16, 24, 36 and 48 months of age

What: Babies watch pictures and movies (e.g. Mr. Rogers Neighborhood) while we record how they look at them

Infants who do not have a sibling with autism are also welcome in this research study

Website: www.pitt.edu/~infants
Email: infants@pitt.edu

How Babies Communicate

(directed by Dr. Jana Iverson)

Where: In your own home at a time convenient for you

When: Monthly while babies are between 5 and 14 months, then again at 18, 24, and 36 months

What: Trained staff visit your home for about an hour and observe infants during everyday activities and playtime with you

Website: www.pitt.edu/~icl
Email: icl@pitt.edu

*Pitt Early
Autism
Study*

Supported by the National
Institutes of Health



Family & Child Development Center Providing High Quality Autism Services

Our services are tailored to specific needs through a variety of community based and site based treatment programs.

BHRS (Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services) provides services within the family, home, school and other community based settings.

Wonder Kids offers site based small therapeutic group sessions with up to 12 children/adolescents per group.

Creative Arts Program includes music, movement and art groups, instrument instruction, digital storytelling and a focus on expressive arts.



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- Monitor your child's developmental progress

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- Offered at no cost to the family

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- Is open to Allegheny County children ages birth to 3 years
- Actively involves parents and other caregivers
- Is confidential

Early Intervention in Pennsylvania is a system of services & supports designed to help families with children who have or who are at risk of developmental delays. In Allegheny County, coordination of services for children between ages birth to 3 years is provided by The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, Inc.

Contact The Alliance to make an appointment:

412.885.6000

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Alliance Health Wraparound

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The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh

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Fayette County MH/MR Program

GuyauxMandlerMah Financial Group

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Westmoreland Case Management

& Supports, Inc.

Westmoreland County MH/MR Program

WJS Psychological Associates, Inc.

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.



Advisory Board on
Autism and Related
Disorders

35 Wilson Street
Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Toll Free: : 800-827-9385
Phone: 412-781-4116
Fax: 412-781-4122

We're on the web!
www.aboard.org

Our Core Principles

ABOARD believes that because there is considerable debate throughout the autism community regarding therapies, inclusion, autism cause, vaccine impact, and the potential effects of proposed legislation, our policy is to inform. We trust individuals to assimilate the information and make the best decision for their children, clients and students!

We believe that families are entitled to accurate and timely information, require emotional and practical support from other families grappling with comparable challenges, and often need advocacy assistance and training to maximize availability and utilization of treatment educational and vocational possibilities required by law.

Yes, I want to help ABOARD!

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