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VISION:
 We envision a community where people with autism achieve their maximum potential as they live, learn and work.

Fall Conference 2014
"Language Development in Autism Spectrum Disorders Across the Lifespan"

Presenter: Diane L. Williams, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Associate Professor, Anna Rangos Rizakus Chair for Health Sciences & Ethics, Department of Speech-Language Pathology, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA



Wednesday, November 5, 2014
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Robert Morris University
Sewell Center
Moon Township Campus

Continuing Education Credits Offered:
Act 48, AOTA, ASHA, Counselors, Psychologists, Social Workers, Other Healthcare Professionals

Register at www.autismofpa.org

Executive Director Message

Dear Readers,

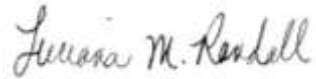
What do these things have in common: ballet, Fall conference, Duckstock Music Festival, early diagnosis, employment, estate planning, grandparent support, Gymboree, and a wedding? If you say “Those are all over the map, involving people from babies to elders, with events both indoors and out, at recreation or work” – you’d be right! And if you noticed they are listed alphabetically – bonus, you have at least one positive autism trait.

We love exploring many ways to improve the quality of life for people of all ages who face challenges. Behind the scenes, we advocate for legislative protections or changes to improve services and funding. But our real love is working the frontlines of community collaborations, big or small, taking your calls, or meeting with you in person to answer questions or give new information you haven’t thought about yet.

Join us this fall for some fun activities, and look for winter offerings popping up soon in your email box. We hope to meet you at our November conference in Moon Township to learn about Communication Across the Lifespan with Dr. Diane Williams. Meanwhile, read about generous and creative donors who help us keep programs flowing, and think about ways you might also like to help.

We will be encouraging walkers and runners (from one mile to a full marathon) to join our forces by signing up at our special “move with us” table at the November 5th conference. Stop by for an Autism Connection lunch box for every walker or runner you register. By doing so, you can help support our ongoing programs you’ll be reading about in these pages.

Thanks for connecting with us!



Luciana Randall



Luciana Randall
Executive Director

The autism ID card helps people on the autism spectrum explain their medical condition to Police, EMTs, and other first responders in the event of an emergency.

Autism Connection of PA has produced these cards and are available for FREE for individuals! Larger quantities are available for a small fee.

To order Autism ID Cards, please contact us at
(800) 827-9385 or at
support@autismofpa.org



Thank You Duckstock 2014

What sounds like a concert, acts like a concert, but it's not a concert? It's Duckstock! What's Duckstock? It's an amazingly generous party given by Tracy and Mike Duckworth* at their home featuring fantastic music acts, while guests dined on fabulous food under the stars. We cannot thank them enough for opening up their hearts and home to support our mission.



We had a great time meeting and greeting guests and doling out the specially designed tee shirts provided to donors - the Duckworths' friends, co-workers, and neighbors. They are a fabulous and generous group who supported our mission in such a remarkable way - over \$15,000 raised in one night! That is an unbelievable feat that we will always be so grateful for. So the next time you visit our onsite community room to learn about autism in a seminar or to attend a support group, and you see the Duckstock name, know that he, his wife and their friends are funding this programming, and many of our community outreach efforts over the next year.

*Mike Duckworth leads The Duckworth Group as a Managing Director within The Private Banking and Investment Group at Merrill Lynch. http://pwa.ml.com/Duckworth_Group

Thank you to our Supporters!

Aetna, Inc. Moon Township Employees
Charity Program

Bay Valley Foods Employees
Charity Jeans Day

James and Anne Carlson

Tim and Crystal Guilfoyle

Stan and Patricia Hasselbusch

Merrill Hayes
In support of Jim and Leslie Walter's
daughter, Lily

Margot Latchem

Dr. James MacDonald for book and DVD
donation

Denise Nunez

Regina Rattigan-Desbrow

Betty Simonetti

Christopher Teachout

W.J. McNabb Plumbing for April Facebook Like
Promotion

Robert and Melissa Walls

James Walter

We were so honored to learn of a generous couple, Celeste Johnston and Clifford Rowe, who decided to share their wedding gifts with us and the Mario Lemieux Foundation. What a creative way to honor their love by extending this spirit to others. Thanks, Celeste and Cliff, for making a really big difference in the lives of our families and adults who will benefit from programming supported by your wedding gift - to us!



When asked permission to publish this note, Celeste said "That's great, and I hope it will motivate people to do the same!"

David and Wendy Barenfeld

Albert and Alice Bobersky

Ann and Paul Bridges

Cathleen Brozack

Jane Burton

Stephen and Regina Clark

Nadia and Christopher Eckert

Mark Gitomer

Mary Beth Heinrichs

Philip Joyce

Dominic Palombo, Jr.

J.P. Phillips, Inc.

Hedy Pitcairn

Cynthia Rosky

Clifford and Diane Rowe

Steven and Linda Smiga

John and Patricia Staley

The Use of Life Insurance in Charitable Giving

**Russell Livingston
President of Babb Inc.**

Life Insurance has Unique Attributes -- Gift Amplification

Life insurance has unique attributes that other asset classes do not possess and therefore has the potential to significantly enhance an individual's charitable giving plan. In addition to the death benefit being tax free, life insurance also offers the opportunity to amplify (multiply) a donor's gift. Through a relatively small annual cost (the premium), a benefit far in excess of what would otherwise be possible can be provided for charity. For example, a 50-year old committed to giving \$5,000 annually for 10 years could leverage the \$50,000 gift into a \$200,000 gift. A second-to-die, or survivor life policy, adds even more leverage. A 50-year old couple could make a gift of \$320,000 with the same \$5,000 annual 10 year commitment. (Assumes 50-year old(s), preferred non-smoker(s) using a guaranteed universal life policy). This type of policy will generally yield a 5% to 6% tax free internal rate of return to life expectancy on premiums paid.

Qualified and Non-Qualified Retirement Plans – Asset Replacement Using Life Insurance

Qualified and non-qualified retirement plans are one of the best assets to give to charity because from a tax standpoint they are an inefficient in passing wealth to heirs. This asset is subject to income tax, state inheritance tax and possible federal estate taxation resulting in as much as 80% asset erosion potential for the heirs. Many donors choose to leave all or a portion of their retirement plans directly to charity and then use life insurance as a way to "replace" the wealth to their heirs. Life insurance is an excellent asset replacement tool. Remember, the death benefit is received income tax free to heirs and can be structured to be both federal and state tax free (via an irrevocable trust).

Gift or Assign Existing or New Life Insurance

Gift or absolutely assign an existing life insurance policy, donate a new life insurance policy, or have the charity purchase life insurance on the donor's life and pay the annual premiums. Each of these methods will generate a current income tax deduction. As stated above, life insurance has the potential to amplify the gift.

Utilize a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)

This technique is especially useful for those donors who have highly-appreciated assets and a desire for increased income. These assets are often non-income generating and property tax-draining land or low-yielding stocks. By gifting the asset to a charitable remainder trust the potential capital gains tax is avoided and the full value of the asset is available to earn income. In addition, an immediate income tax deduction is created (based on the present value of the future interest going to the charity). A life insurance policy equal to the original gift, but owned in trust, allows the heirs to receive the full value of the assets without paying potential estate taxes. The annual premium can often be paid with the income generated from the tax deduction and/or a portion of the excess income, which results from the avoidance of capital gains tax.

Conclusion

The techniques mentioned above are only a small sampling of how life insurance can be utilized in charitable giving. To determine what planning ideas would fit for a particular situation requires case-by-case planning and analysis. Without a doubt, the use of life insurance can be an essential part of any comprehensive charitable gift plan.

*If interested in learning more about charitable giving to Autism Connection of PA,
please contact Lu Randall, Executive Director, at 412-781-4116*



Please Support Us!
It's budget time for many corporations. Please include our neighbors with autism in your 2015 giving plans.




autism CONNECTION
OF PENNSYLVANIA

Advocacy • Education • Support

Become a 2015 Gala sponsor!

Support local people living with autism

Please include us in your charitable giving budget for the coming year. You will be supporting:

- Over 19,000 individuals, families and care providers receiving our weekly e-news
- Families and individuals calling with over 120 requests for help each month
- A staff of parent-professionals governed by a board of directors with first-person autism experience – both parents and autistic adults serve on our board
- Numerous conferences and seminars
- 79 support groups across 44 Pennsylvania counties

Giving levels available for the February 21st event at Phipps Conservatory \$1,500 to \$20,000

Detailed sponsor packets coming soon!

Our mission is to be a lifeline for families and individuals affected by autism. We provide education, advocacy and support.



35 Wilson Street, Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Contact us today at 412.781.4116 to discuss your donor options and to start receiving our autism information

The Playful Side of Fitness: Establishing a healthy lifestyle to grow on

By: Jana Clay

Lifting one's head for the first time, rolling over, reaching for a ball and crawling are all part of the first stages of physical development. Though these developments happen naturally, the rate at which they happen can depend on the experiences we provide our children in the early years. As adults, it is important to provide children with an opportunity to move and explore their world. From day one, being active is important to help set the stage for an ongoing active lifestyle that's promotes fun and fitness!

In fact, the National Association for Sports and Physical Education (NASPE) states "all children birth to age 5 should engage in daily physical activity that promotes health related fitness and movement skills."

Providing opportunities for your child to be physically active is key. Children should be encouraged to crawl, play with balls and toys, balance, walk, climb, and play alongside peers. Whether you are involved in a structured program or you dedicate a certain amount of daily time to playing and moving with your child, activity is a must for young children, physical activity for children helps them establish and maintain a healthy, active lifestyle.

How do you provide daily activity for your child beginning at birth? During infancy (0 -12 months) support your child's motor development by allowing him/her opportunities to reach and grasp for favorite toys. Also, give your child opportunities to rollover, crawl, climb, stand and walk.

TODDLERS (12-36 months) Once your child is a confident walker, provide opportunities for increased exploration. Allow her/him to climb different styles and sizes of stairs inside and out of the home. Give your child open space to run on different surfaces and dance to different genres of music. Expose your child to an environment that has age appropriate climbing structures that are safe and challenging.

PRESCHOOLERS (3-5 years) Provide your preschooler with continued movement activities while adding extra challenges. Play games with him/her that provide practice in a variety of skills such as kicking, throwing, catching and jumping. Engage your child in games that nurture his/her budding imagination. Now is the time when your child may become interested in a particular sports such as T-ball or soccer. Encourage these interests!

Providing an active lifestyle for your child promotes healthy habits and is linked to providing a positive effect on brain development. According to the national Association of Sports and Physical Education, "Current research confirms that the physical activity of infants and young children is an important component of early brain development and learning. Positive early movement experiences increase the infants chance of achieving full developmental potential throughout life"

As parent or caregiver, you are the role model for your child's active lifestyle. Start in infancy by encour-

aging movement, and continue through the toddler and pre-schooler years by providing enthusiasm and opportunities that support an active lifestyle. If your child sees you being active, she/he will want to be active. Make physical activity an important part of your daily routine and your families as well! The health and developmental benefits of an active lifestyle will last a lifetime!

Author Jana Clay has owned and operated Gymboree Play and Music for almost 30 years. She recently invited us to train all of her staff about how to serve young ones with autism. From reaching and grasping to rolling, climbing, jumping and kicking, Gymboree Play & Music provides age-appropriate classes for your newborn to five-year-old. Gymboree's specially designed wooden equipment, bright foam and air pieces, variety of props and trained teachers, create an environment to stimulate your child's physical, cognitive and social development. With you by their side, The action, fun and learning never ends! Locations at the Galleria Mall and in Wexford Plaza 724-933-0033



Support Group Happenings

Allegheny County

Ask an Aspie

Facilitator: Phil Garrow & Caitlin Freeman

phil@garrow.com

412.605.0113

Caitlin and Phil are a couple that have been together for nearly a decade. What makes their relationship remarkable is that they are both high functioning adults on the autism spectrum. Together, Caitlin and Phil are able to clearly articulate the reasons for many autistic behaviors based on their own personal experiences. If you have ever wondered why your son or daughter acts the way that they do, this group is your opportunity to ask your questions of two of the most highly educated and insightful adults on the autism spectrum that you are likely to meet. Call for more information.

Family Behavioral Resources - Family Support Group Monroeville and North Hills offices

Facilitator: Jackelyn Hart

jhart@familybehavioralresources.com

412.824.4005

Connects families with others who support individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and offers a platform for discussing concerns, resources, and problem-solving.

"Just Us Parents Autism Support Group"

Facilitator: Lisa Gordon

lisagord1@msn.com

412.443.0142

Our support group meets once/monthly, usually the 3rd Tuesday of the month, at North Hills Christian Church on Thompson Run Road, in the North Hills. Our group is formed of a variety of parents that have children ranging from 3 years old to 17 years old, and all have some diagnoses of autism spectrum. We discuss different ways that we work with our kids in supporting them with schoolwork, different diets, therapies we use, and sometimes have speakers come and present to the group.

Star Parent Support Group -- St. Stephens Church in Sewickley

Facilitator: Christina Meditch

cameditch@gmail.com

412.716.6415

This group meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at 7p.m. Sometimes they meet at a local coffee shop. They will email everyone in advance to remind them of the meeting day and location. Through St. Stephens we have connections to be able to provide some speakers. Thanks!

TGIF Airport Area Adult Social Group

Facilitator: Terry Doughty

TGIF.ASGroup@gmail.com

724.457.1088

TGIF is a social group for young adults ages 18 - 40's that meets every Friday evening from 7 - 9 PM at the Sharon Community Presbyterian Church's YCCs (Youth Community Center) located in Moon Township. We started meeting in Nov. of last year and have had about two dozen individuals participate at least once in our program. Usually we have between 5-9 people (mostly male in early 20's) attending on a regular basis now after a fairly slow start. There are two or three mom's that choose to stay during the meeting time (they provide transportation) and often we are in a separate room talking while the young adults choose to play cards, board or video games. (We also now have permission to use the gym if it is empty which the guys have liked.) We have gone to play mini golf one evening followed by ice cream treats, (people paid their own way) and we've had a bon fire with mini hot dogs and S'mores at the back of the church parking lot where there are some big trees and a fire pit. The group seems to be doing well and we will be making plans for the coming year which I hope will involve at least one special event a month like a party or bowling etc. Those that attend seem to really like coming. We don't have very many girls yet. Those that have given us a try have not come back telling me that they don't like being the only girl. The guys like it when there are girls to play games with so I'm hoping with time a couple of young women will show up together and then decide to come on a regular basis.

Support Group Happenings continued

Armstrong County

Freeport Area Autism Support Group

Facilitator: Carolyn Van Cott

cvcl@verizon.net

412.491.1804

The Freeport Area Autism Support Group meets once a month. We currently have about a dozen members. Our membership is limited to parents/caregivers of individuals with autism. The group is new, and so far our meetings have consisted of free flowing conversations about the joys and challenges of raising/living with a loved one who is on the autism spectrum. In the coming year we intend to begin inviting speakers to the meetings. We will be brainstorming different topics we would like to hear covered.

Butler County

Autism Support Group at Parents in Toto

Catherine Lalonde

clalonde@zoominternet.net

724.538.4823

Cambria County

Ebensburg Social Group

2nd and 4th Tuesday Monthly, 1-3pm

Facilitator: Lydia Aney

ebensburg@aerionline.com

814.419.8046

The Social Group is always open to all adults, regardless of association with AERI or any other provider agency, and is free to join for one or multiple activities. Any activities with cost to attend will be noted.

Young Adult Autistic Social Club

Facilitator: Becky Leap

bleap@atlanticbb.net

814.535.7860

We have 24 +/- social club members that come from Blair, Cambria, and Somerset counties. We have a meeting once a month where we play group games and do little planning for the next meeting. Some attend with family, others with care workers, and a few attend alone. We have had a few themed meetings such as an Ice Cream Social and a Tailgate Party (the whole meeting was outside and we played tailgate games). We are working on plans for a Halloween Custom party, and a family Christmas Party. We have been doing a group outing once a month too. So far we had attended a private movie showing at a local movie theater and a trip to a professional baseball game. In the

works we have a bowling night out and an outing to a therapy horseback riding stable. At our meeting, we play games, usually Pictionary and UNO but we have recently discovered that a lot of the kids like to just throw a football around outside. I am learning to kind of let the kids drive the meeting activities so it is whatever the majority is in the mood for.

What makes all the work worth it is seeing the kids enjoying themselves. Like last meeting when they, without parent involvement, started a football throwing routine; passing it from one to the other all the way down the line. No one was excluded and there were even some encouraging words!!!

Indiana County

FBR Family, Social & Play Group

Facilitator: Amy Gill

indiana@familybehavioralresources.com

724.463.3600(Office)

I sent a survey to families in the area asking what times would be best for a support group. Most of the families that responded wanted to do Saturday mornings or Tuesday evenings.

Lackawanna County

NEPA AWARE-Special Needs Family Group

Facilitator: Elaine Jimenez

ejimenezsas@gmail.com

570.766.0683

Lancaster County

AERI –Adult Social Group

Facilitator: Pam Bhalla

pbhalla@aerionline.com

717.295.5500

We hold events throughout the month, dates and times vary. Some events are held in house and some in the community. Our support groups are held during the 4th Thursday of the month 12-2 most months, unless there is a change requested by participants. Our groups consist of adults on the spectrum who come to share about their own experiences and socialize with each other. We have had events led by participants which we highly encourage based on their interests and strengths. We are also hosting workshops for various skill development including job readiness, nutritional, budgeting etc.



Be a hero for autism and Run for a Reason in any Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon Event! Full or Half marathon, form a team with friends or family for the Marathon Relay, 5k or run with your child during the 1 mile kids fun run!

Raise fund towards our mission of being a lifeline for families and individuals affected by autism

Email Jennifer at autismrunpgh@gmail.com for information or Register at www.crowdrise.com/autismconnectionpittsburgh2015





PBT's sensory-friendly performances are designed to serve patrons with sensory sensitivities and other special needs. Adaptations include relaxed house rules, lower light and sound levels, and trained front-of-house volunteers and staff.

<i>The Nutcracker</i>	Tuesday, December 23, 2014	2:00 PM
<i>Beauty and The Beast</i>	Friday, February 13, 2015	11:00 AM

All performances will be presented at the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts

TWO OPTIONS FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY!

Sensory-friendly Performance Subscription Series

Want to lock in your seat location and last year's prices for this year's sensory-friendly performances? Buy a SFP subscription series! Save \$5 on each subscription and enjoy all the benefits of being a PBT subscriber! Subscriptions range from \$26.50-\$87.50.

Single Tickets

Want to try one and see how it goes? You can do that too! Tickets range from \$15-\$46.

HOW TO BUY TICKETS

- For SFP subscriptions, call 412-454-9107 or buy online at: http://pbt.culturaldistrict.org/pbt_home/subscriptions/sensory-friendly-package/
- For single tickets, call 412-456-6666 or buy online at: www.pbt.org/sensory-friendly-performances
- Single tickets for both sensory-friendly performances will be mailed two weeks prior to the performance date.
- Don't forget to mention your special PROMO CODE to receive discounted community tickets: SFPAUTISMOFPA



FAMILY BEHAVIORAL RESOURCES
INTEGRATED THERAPY



Family Behavioral Resources (FBR) and the AERI Behavioral Health Services (AERI)
are proud to support the mission of ABOARD's Autism Connection of PA
to maximize the potential of families and consumers.

All Family Support Groups, Social Skill/Play Groups, and Sibling Support Groups offered by FBR and AERI are proudly hosted in collaboration with and support from ABOARD's Autism Connection of PA.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FBR OR AERI:
www.familybehavioralresources.com / 1-866-4-FBR-ASD
www.aerionline.com / 1-866-727-AERI



Nathan Speech Services

*Janice Nathan, M.S., CCC-SLP
Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist*

**ASD
Specialist**

**Speech
Therapy**

Consultation

*Specializing in Speech Therapy
and Social Skills Therapy for
Individuals with ASD*



412-363-8388
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

nathanspeech@aol.com
www.NathanSpeech.com

A Beautiful Spectrum

Written by: Delaine Swearman, an adult with autism



When I hear the word “spectrum”, I immediately think of rainbow. Actually, the word spectrum was originally used to describe the rainbow of colors formed by the separation of visible light. Over time, the word has been applied more broadly to describe a continuum with a unifying theme between two extremes.

So, we come to the autism spectrum. We are all persons with autism across a continuum. Or if we use the rainbow analogy, we are all persons of different colors within the same rainbow. Doesn’t that make us sound beautiful? I would much rather be thought of as “indigo” with my autistic friend being “violet” than comparing our levels of functioning. Each person on the autism spectrum has struggles for sure, but there are also many strengths, many beautiful aspects, and inherently each person has value for who they are. After all, aren’t all the colors of the rainbow equally beautiful and important?

And in fact, all of humanity is part of a larger rainbow of sorts if you want to look at it that way. If my non-autistic brother is “orange”, it doesn’t do any good for him to try to change me into orange, because the whole rainbow still needs indigo, and it needs violet too. The rainbow needs every single color, and that requires every single one of us being included with all our characteristics that make each color unique. The rainbow wouldn’t be nearly as beautiful without people of different abilities, appearances, interests, talents, and backgrounds.

Every human being is unique and the world would be much more loving and peaceful if we just accepted one another and saw our differences as necessary and beautiful, just like all the colors of the rainbow. And we need to help each person become the most vibrant they can be, and finally accept ourselves for who we are.

Parent Tips: From Total Meltdowns to Mild Non-Compliance: It's All a Challenge!

By Diana Wolf, MA, BCBA, Verbal Beginnings

Have you ever been in a situation where no matter how many times you've told him to clean his room, he doesn't listen? You have to repeat yourself so many times you eventually get tired of hearing yourself talk. Or are you stuck in the house and have to wait until someone stays with your child so you can get some grocery shopping done? You know that a trip to the grocery store with him will mean a public embarrassment to you, as he grabs everything in sight and throws a tantrum if he doesn't get what he wants .

No matter how intense or mild the challenging behavior, it's a challenge to make it go away. However, with the help of a professional and the steps below, it's not an impossible task to accomplish.

Step 1: Identify the Challenging Behavior

A challenging behavior is anything that someone does that significantly interferes with his or her daily routine. It is also an action that may pose harm to self or others. To identify the behavior pinpoint specifically what it is that makes a routine difficult. Do you stay home because going out in the community causes tantrums? Are you afraid of aggressive behavior when you end a fun activity? Once you identify the problem, it's time to find out why it's happening.

Step 2: Understand Why a Challenging Behavior Occurs

The occurrence of challenging behavior is determined by the outcome of the behavior. If your behavior results in something good happening then you are more likely to act that way again. However, if your behavior results in something bad happening then you are less likely to repeat the behavior. Our children's behaviors work un-

der the same principles. If there is something that they want and a challenging behavior has resulted in them getting that in the past then they are likely to act that way to get it. So challenging behavior is essentially their way of telling us that they need something.

Finding out what they need is the tricky part. Most challenging behavior occurs when children want attention, preferred items, sensory stimulation or if they are trying to avoid something they don't like such as work, yucky food or places where they dislike being. Professionals determine the cause by seeing what positive outcomes followed the challenging behavior. Was the child removed from a loud environment?



Parent Tips: From Total Meltdowns to Mild Non-Compliance: It's All a Challenge!

(continued)

Did they get a treat? Did they get out of doing a chore? Were they given attention for what they did? Professionals then look for patterns. If the child is being "rewarded" each time the behavior occurs then the reason for the challenging behavior becomes known.

Step 3: Fix the Challenging Behavior

Now that we know what the problem behavior is and why it's happening, how do you fix it? The following strategies are found in most Behavior Intervention Plans:

Use Preventative Strategies These strategies are used to prevent the problem behavior from occurring. Examples include: provide higher levels of attention, have communication devices available, include breaks (especially if the work is difficult), offer choices, arrange the environment to make it safe, make visual schedules and pictures available to be able to understand the environment.

Teach Good Behavior When we try to stop a bad behavior we need to teach a good behavior that serves the same purpose. Remember that the behavior is occurring because the child needs something. If you don't teach a new replacement behavior they will continue to do what works, even if it's not an acceptable behavior. For example, if the child screams to get attention, we should teach him to use a quiet voice and ask for attention.

Provide Rewards for Good Behavior Show your child that you like what she's doing by rewarding it. Whether it's social praise or a sweet treat or going out to the store to buy a new toy, the rewards will help your child maintain the good behavior.

Avoid Rewarding Bad Behavior If we know why the challenging behavior is occurring then make sure that they do not access any positive outcomes. If your child is screaming as a way to get your attention, hold off on giving your attention until she can use a quiet voice. Once she uses a quiet voice, go overboard with your attention (tickles, social praise, hugs, etc.) to show her that she did a good job using good behavior.

Be Consistent Rules are rules. If you can't follow your rules consistently, how can you expect your child to. Lack of consistency means confusion, a no go for reducing challenging behaviors. Consistency with the rules between people and environments is also very important to show success in generalization

***Diana Wolf** is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, who has been practicing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) with children diagnosed with Autism and other developmental disabilities since 2005. She received her Master of Arts degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and her training from the Kennedy Krieger Institute. In 2011 she co-founded Verbal Beginnings, a company dedicated to providing high quality home-based ABA Therapy. For more information about picky eating or information on how to access home-based Feeding Therapy from a BCBA contact Diana at diana@verbalbeginnings.com or call [\(888\) 344-5977](tel:8883445977)*

***Thank you to the following 2014
Organization members with Autism
Connection of PA.
Memberships for 2014 are still being
accepted!***

Abram's Bed maker of The Safety Sleeper™	Glade Run Lutheran Services	Paula Teacher & Associates, Inc.
ACHIEVA	Goodwill of Southwestern PA	Pediatric Therapy Professionals, Inc.
AERI Behavioral Health Services	Green Acres Contracting Co., Inc.	Pediatric Therapy Specialists, Inc.
Alliance Health, Inc. (Allegheny)	IKOR of Western Pennsylvania	PLEA
AOT, Inc.	InVision Human Services	Shamrock Solutions, Inc.
Augmentative Communication Consultants, Inc.	Julian Gray Associates	TEIS Early Intervention Provider
Barber National Institute	Ligonier Valley Learning Center	Total Learning Centers
The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh	Metz Lewis Brodman Must O'Keefe, LLC.	Tri-Medical Rehab Supply, Inc.
Early Intervention Specialists	The Monarch Center of Autism - a division of Bellefaire JCB	Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania
The Early Learning Institute (TELI)	NHS Human Services	The Watson Institute
Family Behavioral Resources	PA Connecting Communities	Wesley Spectrum Services
Familylinks, Inc.	PACE	Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration	Passavant Memorial Homes Family of Services	Westmoreland Case Management and Supports



2014 Organization/Corporate Partners Membership Form

Your membership has benefits! It supports our work in meeting the needs of Pennsylvanian families challenged with autism spectrum disorders. It also keeps your organization “front and center” in the minds of those very families.

Members will be acknowledged in our quarterly newsletter, a link on our website to yours, and discounted exhibitor rates at our conferences. If you would like to include your logo on your listing on our web page, please e-mail it to jennifer@autismofpa.org.

Organization/Corporate Partners Membership Dues: \$200

For remainder of 2014 (discounted from \$400 full year rate)

Please complete the following:

Organization _____

Primary Contact Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

E-mail _____ Website _____

Send completed form with payment info. to:

(checks payable to Autism Connection of PA)

ABOARD's Autism Connection of PA, 35 Wilson St., Suite 100, Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Fax: 412-781-4122 or email Jennifer Fulton - jennifer@autismofpa.org – phone 412-781-4116

Credit Card (VISA, Master Card) _____ Card # _____

Name as it Appears on Card _____ CID# _____

Statement Billing Address _____

Expiration Date _____ Authorized Signature _____

AUTISM CONNECTION OF PA

35 Wilson Street
Suite 100
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We are on the web!

www.autismofpa.org

MISSION:

The Autism Connection of PA provides a lifeline for families and individuals affected by autism.

We provide advocacy, education and support.

VISION:

We envision a community where people with autism achieve their maximum potential as they live, learn and work.

Education - Advocacy - Support

ABOARD's Autism Connection of PA
is a 501 (c)(3)
nonprofit organization.

Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction.

ABOARD's Autism Connection of PA is registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations. To receive a copy of the official registration and financial information, please call 800-732-0990 within Pennsylvania or visit www.dos.state.pa.us.

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