

Family Connections Center

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CONGRESS PASSES ABLE ACT

MAJOR VICTORY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

For first time in nation's history, federal government recognizes added costs associated to living with a disability

Last night, the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly passed the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014 by a vote of 76 to 16. The ABLE Act will allow people with disabilities (with an age of onset up to 26 years old) and their families the opportunity to create a tax-exempt savings account that can be used for maintaining health, independence and quality of life.

The ABLE Act is a critical strategy to providing a pathway to a better economic future for all people with disabilities. The National Disability Institute has created a list of 10 items about ABLE accounts that individuals with disabilities and their families should know:

ABLE Accounts: 10 Things You Must Know

1. What is an ABLE account?

ABLE Accounts, which are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities and their families, will be created as a result of the passage of the ABLE Act of 2014. Income earned by the accounts would not be taxed. Contributions to the account made by any person (the account beneficiary, family and friends) would not be tax deductible.

Continued on page 2

1. Why the need for ABLE accounts?

Millions of individuals with disabilities and their families depend on a wide variety of public benefits for income, health care and food and housing assistance. Eligibility for these public benefits (SSI, SNAP, Medicaid) require meeting a means or resource test that limits eligibility to individuals to report more than \$2,000 in cash savings, retirement funds and other items of significant value. To remain eligible for these public benefits, an individual must remain poor. For the first time in public policy, the ABLE Act recognizes the extra and significant costs of living with a disability. These include costs, related to raising a child with significant disabilities or a working age adult with disabilities, for accessible housing and transportation, personal assistance services, assistive technology and health care not covered by insurance, Medicaid or Medicare.

For the first time, eligible individuals and families will be allowed to establish ABLE savings accounts that will not affect their eligibility for SSI, Medicaid and other public benefits. The legislation explains further that an ABLE account will, with private savings, "secure funding for disability-related expenses on behalf of designated beneficiaries with disabilities that will supplement, but not supplant, benefits provided through private insurance, Medicaid, SSI, the beneficiary's employment and other sources."

2. Am I eligible for an ABLE account?

Passage of legislation is a result of a series of compromises. The final version of the ABLE Act limits eligibility to individuals with significant disabilities with an age of onset of disability before turning 26 years of age. If you meet this criteria and are also receiving benefits already under SSI and/or SSDI, you are automatically eligible to establish an ABLE account. If you are not a recipient of SSI and/or SSDI, but still meet the age of onset disability requirement, you would still be eligible to open an ABLE account if you meet SSI criteria regarding significant functional limitations. The regulations to be written in 2015 by the Treasury Department will have to explain further the standard of proof and required medical documentation. You need not be under the age of 26 to be eligible for an ABLE account. You could be over the age of 26, but must have the documentation of disability that indicates age of onset before the age of 26.

3. Are there limits to how much money can be put in an ABLE account?

The total annual contributions by all participating individuals, including family and friends, is \$14,000. The amount will be adjusted annually for inflation. Under current tax law, \$14,000 is the maximum amount that individuals can make as a gift to someone else and not pay taxes (gift tax exclusion). The total limit over time that could be made to an ABLE account will be subject to the individual state and their limit for education-related 529 savings accounts. Many states have set this limit at more than \$300,000 per plan. However, for individuals with disabilities who are recipients of SSI and Medicaid, the ABLE Act sets some further limitations. The first \$100,000 in ABLE accounts would be exempted from the SSI \$2,000 individual resource limit. If and when an ABLE account exceeds \$100,000, the beneficiary would be suspended from eligibility for SSI benefits and no longer receive that monthly income. However, the beneficiary would continue to be eligible for Medicaid. States would be able to recoup some expenses through Medicaid upon the death of the beneficiary.

4. Which expenses are allowed by ABLE accounts?

A "qualified disability expense" means any expense related to the designated beneficiary as a result of living a life with disabilities. These include education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology, personal support services, health care expenses, financial management and administrative services and other expenses which will be further described in regulations to be developed in 2015 by the Treasury Department.

5. Where do I go to open an ABLE account?

Each state is responsible for establishing and operating an ABLE program. If a state should choose not to establish its own program, the state may choose to contract with another state to still offer its eligible individuals with significant disabilities the opportunity to open an ABLE account.

After President Obama signs the ABLE Act, the Secretary of the Department of Treasury will begin to develop regulations that will guide the states in terms of a) the information required to be presented to open an ABLE account; b) the documentation needed to meet the requirements of ABLE account eligibility for a person with a disability; and c) the definition details of "qualified disability expenses" and the documentation that will be needed for tax reporting.

No accounts can be established until the regulations are finalized following a public comment period on proposed rules for program implementation. States will begin to accept applications to establish ABLE accounts before the end of 2015.

6. Can I have more than one ABLE account?

No. The ABLE Act limits the opportunity to one ABLE account per eligible individual.

7. Will states offer options to invest the savings contributed to an ABLE account?

Like state 529 college savings plans, states are likely to offer qualified individuals and families multiple options to establish ABLE accounts with varied investment strategies. Each individual and family will need to project possible future needs and costs over time, and to assess their risk tolerance for possible future investment strategies to grow their savings. Account contributors or designated beneficiaries are limited, by the ABLE Act, to change the way their money is invested in the account up to two times per year.

8. How many eligible individuals and families might benefit from establishing an ABLE account?

There are 58 million individuals with disabilities in the United States. To meet the definition of significant disability required by the legislation to be eligible to establish an ABLE account, the conservative number would be approximately 10 percent of the larger group, or 5.8 million individuals and families. Further analysis is needed to understand more fully the size of this market and more about their needs for new savings and investment products.

9. How is an ABLE account different than a special needs or pooled trust?

An ABLE Account will provide more choice and control for the beneficiary and family. Cost of establishing an account will be considerably less than either a Special Needs Trust (SNT) or Pooled Income Trust. With an ABLE account, account owners will have the ability to control their funds and, if circumstances change, still have other options available to them.

Determining which option is the most appropriate will depend upon individual circumstances. For many families, the ABLE account will be a significant and viable option in addition to, rather than instead of, a Trust program.

Food for *Thought*

The Can-List

From the www.disabilityisnatural.com E-Newsletter by Kathie Snow

When my son, Benjamin, was very young, he was routinely assessed by professionals, like most children and adults with disabilities, and I was routinely disturbed by these assessments – they told me everything my son could not do. (*Duh!* Tell me something I didn't already know!) As a three-year-old with cerebral palsy, he couldn't sit up, crawl, or walk; didn't have the pincer graps, protective reflexes, and more; and he had just started talking.

Benjamin was also a happy, funny, and determined kiddo with many abilities. Once he began to talk, he demonstrated an extraordinary auditory memory and the gift of mimicry: he perfectly recited dialogue from "Thomas, the Tank Engine" videos *with a British accent!*

But because his strengths he *did* have were not included in the developmental assessments, *they didn't count*. Thus, based on the tests, he looked like a failure. The child represented by test results was not the child we knew. So we declined formal assessments, opting for informal assessments instead. (See "After Formal Assessments: Do Not Pass Go" at www.disabilityisnatural.com/explore/children-families.)

We recognized the importance of focusing on what Benjamin *can* do, and building on those skills, instead of focusing on – and trying to "fix" – what he *cannot* do. A formal assessment given today would probably still show him as "deficient," despite his being a successful 23-year-old college student, award-winning filmmaker, and more.

Who *is* the real person? The one who *can't*, or the one who *can*? Who are *you*? How much time do you spend trying to fix what you can't do? Isn't more time spent building on what you can do? Let's do the right thing: focus on what a child or adult with a disability *can* do by making a Can-List!

What should be included in the Can-List? A person's abilities, strengths, talents, and/or interests. Stay away from things like the pincer grasp, walking, crawling, reading level, appropriate behavior, etc. that reflect medical-model thinking. (You don't include that stuff when describing your strengths, do you?)

What does the person do well now or want to do? What about unique personality traits, hobbies, interests, and much more! Who should contribute to the list? The person with a disability and the family, plus teachers, friends, professionals, and/or others.

A Can-List creates a more accurate and positive perception of the person, not only in the eyes of others, but also in the eyes of that person. Imagine the possibilities when the Can-List is longer than the Can't-List!

The Can-List can also create new possibilities. What is the Can-List was the first discussion in a team meeting (IEP, ISP, etc.)? In kindergarten, my son had difficulty picking up beans/marbles during counting

lessons, but he easily picked up his beloved "Thomas" trains I sent from home.

If a boy collects sports trading cards, his parents and teachers could use those to help him with reading, math (using sports stats, players' numbers, etc.), and more. A middle-school girl who loves fashion, but struggles with reading, can be provided with fashion books, magazines, websites, etc. – she'll be motivated to read about what she loves. An adult who likes to cook (or who wants to learn) can take a cooking class, and that can open the door to friendships, which may lead to a job and more.

When time and effort are spent trying to "fix" a person's "deficits," there's little time left for building on strengths. Time's a wasting – let's get busy creating a Can-List and enjoy the extraordinary outcomes!

**Those who believe
in our ability do
more than stimulate
us. They create for
us an atmosphere in
which it becomes
easier to succeed.**

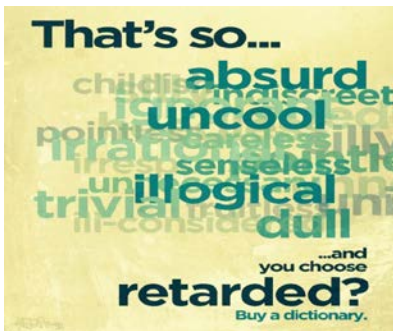
John Lancaster Spalding

Available *Resources*

DARTMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

**SPREAD THE WORD
TO END THE WORD
03.04.15**

Often unwittingly, the r-word is used to denote behavior that is clumsy, hapless and even hopeless. Whether intentional or not, the word conjures up a painful stereotype of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It hurts, even if you don't mean it that way. Using the r-word doesn't just hurt people with intellectual disabilities, but it hurts their siblings, parents and friends.



Dartmouth SEPAC has created an online/social media pledge event to raise awareness of the derogatory use of the r-word and its negative effects on people with intellectual disabilities and their loved ones. However, this campaign is more than just raising awareness of the r-word. It's also about changing the attitudes of segregation, ignorance and hate to attitudes of acceptance, inclusion, tolerance and understanding. Please help to focus on a better r-word: RESPECT!

Please go to www.r-word.org . Make the pledge, and encourage your family and friends to do the same. Share on social media. Use hashtag #IPLEDGERESPECTINDARTMOUTH and #RWORD on your twitter, Facebook or Instagram pages. Let's create a movement of RESPECT. Let's end the use of the R-word

Join us at our next SEPAC meeting, March 5th, 6:30-8:00. We will have table set up with access to the online pledge.



MASSACHUSETTS ANTI-BULLYING LAW:

*IEP and School wide Strategies
To Prevent Bullying of
Students with Disabilities*

Catherine Mayes, Autism Project Advocate will speak to parents & professionals who would like to have a better understanding of:

- Legal obligations of a school district in addressing bullying for students through the IEP process.
- The need for intensive, coordinated services for students with ASD and other disabilities to make effective progress and be able to address bullying so the student can feel safe at school.
- Recognizing and addressing bullying of a child lacking social cues who may not understand he/she is the target of bullying.

Join us!

Thursday March 5th

6:30-8:00

James M Quinn Elementary School

529 Hawthorn Street, Dartmouth

RSVP TO dartmouthsepac@gmail.com

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DARTMOUTH SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

SOUTHEASTERN MA REGIONAL SEPAC NETWORKING NIGHT

Thursday April 2nd

6:30-8:00pm

James M Quinn Elementary School Community Room

529 Hawthorne Street, Dartmouth MA 02747

- Are you from a SEPAC in Southeastern MA area?
- Are you looking to establish a SEPAC in your district?
- Would you like the opportunity to connect with other SEPAC officers and share local resources? This facilitated Networking Night will focus on SEPAC leadership issues with time for questions and answers about running a SEPAC.

Refreshments and daycare provided

RSVP: dartmouthsepac@gmail.com

10th Annual "Focus" on Vision Impairment & Blindness Conference

Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Intellectual Disability & Vision Loss

March 11, 2015
8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood, MA

Keynote Speaker:

Susan L. Connors M.D.

MGH and Mass General Hospital *for* Children
Assistant Physician Pediatrics and Medicine
Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School
MGH Lurie Center, Lexington, Massachusetts

"Seeing Autism Clearly"

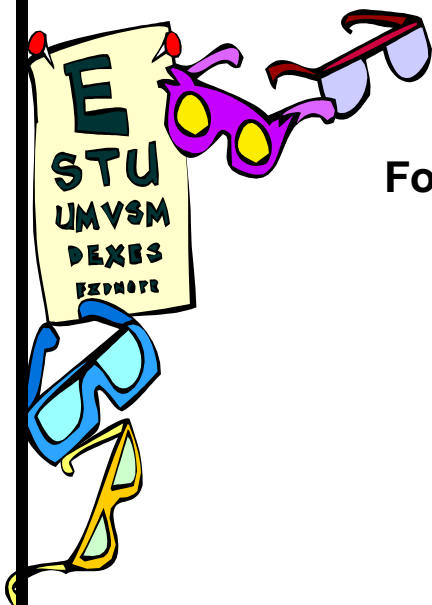
Conference Agenda "At-a-Glance"

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 – 8:25 | Registration / Vendors Open / Refreshments |
| 8:25 – 8:30 | Opening Remarks |
| 8:30 – 8:45 | Welcome Remarks |
| 8:45 – 9:45 | Keynote |
| 9:45 – 10:00 | Break / Exhibits Open |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | 1 st Concurrent Session |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Break / Exhibits Open |
| 11:15 – 12:15 | 2 nd Concurrent Session |
| 12:15 – 12:30 | Exhibits Open |
| 12:30 – 1:30 | Lunch & Award Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Holt Gift of Lunch • Paul McDade "Focus" Awards for Distinguished Service and Leadership |
| 1:30 – 2:00 | Dedicated Time for Exhibits Session |
| 2:00 - 3:00 | 3 rd Concurrent Session |
| 3:00 – 3:15 | Break / Refreshments / Exhibits Open |
| 3:15 – 3:45 | "Focus" On Talent!!! (Performance) / Raffle |



Registration Brochure and Form can be downloaded from "Training and Events" section of the DDS Vision Loss website:
www.mass.gov/dds/visionloss and from the "Perkins eLearning Schedule" on the Perkins website:
www.perkinselearning.org/events-monthly

For questions regarding Registration, please contact Donnamaria: Donnamaria.Linfield@state.ma.us or phone 508-384-5679





A Full Life Ahead ~ Workshop Series

Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change (MFOFC) in partnership with Building Futures and the Family Connections Center of the Nemasket Group is sponsoring "A Full Life Ahead" ~ a series of monthly workshops for parents and guardians of young adults with a disability. The series focuses on transition, employment, housing, friendships and other topics that will lead to interdependent, full lives in the community for young people with disabilities.

All training is 6 – 8 PM at the Nemasket Group, 56 Bridge St., Fairhaven, MA 02719

Workshop Schedule:

Friendships – March 25, 2015

Building and keeping relationships is an important part of a REAL LIFE. Happiness can come from knowing we have friends and people who care for us. Building relationships between individuals with or without disabilities should be encouraged wherever you live, learn, work and play. The Real Friends Project Coordinator will lead a discussion with a focus on ways to build relationships between individuals with and without disabilities.

Employment – Let's Get to Work – April 8, 2015

High School Years is the perfect time for students to start exploring different jobs, gaining job experience and even acquiring an after school job. The presentation will focus on what schools can do to adequately prepare students for work; why this preparation is important; what should parents expect from the school; and what role families can play to help prepare students for the work world.

The Alphabet Soup of Resources: SSI, SSDI, PCA – April 29, 2015

Come learn about Social Security programs; who is eligible, how and when to apply and general rules. Speakers will also explain the Personal Care Attendant (PCA) program – eligibility criteria and how hours are allotted based on need.

Creating a Home for Your Loved One–Combining Personal Resources & Government Benefits- May 27, 2015

This workshop will address the issue that every person may not receive a fully funded residence from the government for their loved one. It will discuss the estimated costs of various residential options and how a family can combine their resources and savings with government benefits to pay for their loved one's home. The workshop will also cover ensuring that a parents own retirement and estate planning needs are incorporated

Life After Turning 22 – Parent Panel Discussion – June 17, 2015

We attend a million workshops to "plan" for life after "Turning 22." Join us for a lively discussion about life on the other side of transition for young adults with disabilities. Four parents of young adults who have made that leap or are preparing to will share about the experiences of what it is really like.



A Full Life Ahead

**Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change (MFOFC)
in partnership with the Family Connections Center and the
Building Futures Project of the Nemasket Group**

A Full Life Ahead is a series of monthly workshops for parents and guardians of young adults with a disability. The series focuses on transition, employment, friendships, housing and other topics that will lead to interdependent, full lives in the community for young people with disabilities.

Please join us... Wednesday, March 25, 2015

6 – 8 PM

**The Nemasket Group
56 Bridge St.
Fairhaven, MA 02719**

Widening the Circle - Expanding Opportunities for Friendships between People with and Without Disabilities

Building and keeping relationships is an important part of a REAL LIFE. Happiness can come from knowing we have friends - people who care for us. Building relationships between individuals with or without disabilities should be encouraged wherever you live, learn, work and play. Jim Ross, the WTC Coordinator and Jorge Pagan-Parent, Nemasket Group Family Connections Advisor, will lead a discussion with a focus on ways to build relationships between individuals with and without disabilities.

Widening the Circle, Expanding Opportunities for Friendships between People with and Without Disabilities (formally the Real Friends Project) is a partnership between The Arc of Massachusetts and MA Department of Developmental Services.

Please RSVP by March 23, 2015 to:

Amy Cornell @ amycornell@nemasketgroup.org or 508-999-4436

www.mfofc.org

www.nemasketgroup.org

Mediation in Special Education

When an IEP team does not agree

Thursday May 7th
6:30-8:00pm
James M Quinn School
529 Hawthorne Street, Dartmouth

Myrto Flessas and **Rebecca Stone**, mediators from the Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA) will present an overview of mediation and other dispute resolution processes.



“The BSEA conducts mediations, advisory opinions and hearings to resolve disputes among parents, school districts, private schools and state agencies concerning eligibility, evaluation, placement, individualized education programs (IEPs), special education services and procedural protections for students with disabilities. The BSEA is an independent subdivision of the Division of Administrative Law Appeals.”-mass.gov

THIS WORKSHOP IS FREE.

PLEASE RSVP TO DARTMOUTHSEPAC@GMAIL.COM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DARTMOUTH SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Information to *Share*

Community Autism Resources & Family Connections
are excited to be collaborating together to present:

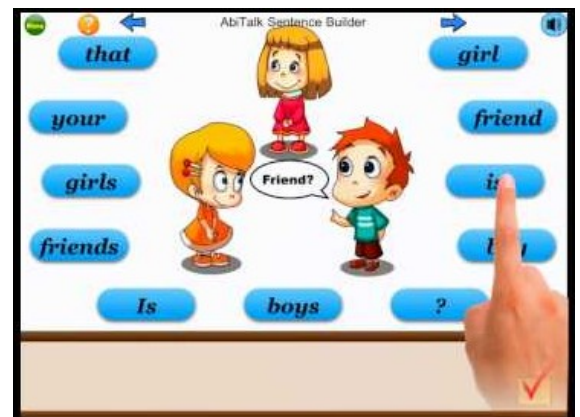
FREE Monthly "CHAT"

*C*hecking in with Assistive Technology

This month's topic is "Communication"

There are many apps that can support an individual with communication on many different levels. We will showcase apps that can help individuals at all ages and stages with communication. Some apps are extremely robust and comprehensive that will support all aspects of communication. Others can simply assist an individual with making choices or communicating where they are feeling discomfort or practice forming sentences. Some of the apps we will explore will be:

- Proloquo2go
- Autismate
- Tap To Talk
- Niki Talk
- Sentence Builder



This program will be presented by:

Kate Dansereau, B.A., ATP (RESNA Certified Professional) & Autism Specialist

Tuesday, March 31

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Family Connections Center at the Nemasket Group
56 Bridge St., Fairhaven

Please bring your lunch & join us!!

This program is free but you must preregister at www.community-autism-resources.com under the "Events" section.

Please call Lori DeCrescenzo at (508) 379-0371 or (800) 588-9239 ext. 10. with any questions.

Joey's Fund Family Grant Program

Joey's Fund Family Grant Program accepts grant applications from families in New England (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire & Maine) that are in need of financial assistance for their family member(s) with autism. Families can apply for up to \$3,000 through the program.

You may apply to use the money for anything that directly improves the life of an individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Please note, we can only accept **one application per family**.

Examples of possible uses of the grant money include, but are not limited to:

- Respite care
- Recreational programs
- Horseback riding lessons
- Educational consultant's fees
- Educational evaluation
- Art classes
- Books and educational videos
- Computer software
- Medical bills
- Therapies
- Legal fees related to advocacy
- Camp tuition
- Safety-related items such as fencing and service dogs
- Social skills training
- Music Classes/Instruments



For information: <http://flutiefoundation.org/programsgrants/joeys-fund-family-grant-program/index.html>



The REC Club is a social, recreation and specialized respite program e~specially designed for individuals to join to make friends and create memories.

- Build friendships
- Expanding their life experiences
- Introduce individuals to theater, arts, recreation, travel
- Allow families/caregivers respite time while their family member enjoys independent experiences and opportunities
- Personal growth
- Build self-esteem
- Reach their dreams and check off those bucket list items

For more information: [visit www.therecclub.net](http://www.therecclub.net), [email theRECclub@ gmail.com](mailto:theRECclub@gmail.com) or [call 508-758-8323](tel:508-758-8323)



Visions of Community

Visiones de la Comunidad
Visões da Comunidade
Viễn Ảnh Cộng Đồng
年度社區展望

Register Now!

A Conference for Families of Children with Special Needs and the Professionals Who Serve Them

March 7, 2015 | 7:30 am-5:00 pm | Seaport World Trade Center, Boston, MA

The *Visions of Community 2015* conference is sponsored by the Federation for Children with Special Needs, including its projects: the Parent Training & Information Center, Recruitment, Training and Support Center, Family TIES of Massachusetts and Massachusetts Family Voices. In addition, the Federation is proud to have as partners and co-sponsors for the conference the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project, Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change, and the Parent/Professional Advocacy League. The conference is a fabulous opportunity to:

- Attend your choice of workshops about early childhood, special education, transition to adult life, special healthcare needs, managing challenging behaviors, mental health services and supports, inclusion, autism, fostering friendships, assistive technology, stress management for parents, parent leadership, and more.
- Meet Federation staff and learn about all the projects at the Federation
- Visit our exhibit hall with parent organizations, vendors, and lots of FREE resource
- Network, network, network!

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Joe Petner and Dr. Bill Henderson

We've Only Just Begun: How far we've come in special education and how much further we need to go

Presented by

Dr. Joe Petner, Former Principal, Haggerty Elementary School and
Dr. Bill Henderson, Former Principal, O'Hearn Elementary School
(renamed the Dr. William W. Henderson Inclusion School)

To register, go to: <http://fcsn.org/voc2015/>

THE 20TH ANNUAL ASD SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH & FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH

RHODES ON THE PAWTUXET • CRANSTON, RI

★ ★ 2015 ★ ★
A FUNDRAISER FOR OUR PARENT RETREAT AND FAMILY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Presenters:

Ron Suskind

Emily Rubin

Dena Gassner

8:30 – 3:00 each day

The ASD Symposium offers:

- Practical strategies and support for parents and professionals
- ASHA CEU's and other credits available
- Come one or both days
- Choose your lunch at registration
- Minutes from I-95, free parking

All presentations provide practical strategies for supporting persons with ASD and their families.

3/12: Emily Rubin, SLP- Emory University, Marcus Autism Center

- Morning: NeuroScience and Autism: From Research to Education Practice
- Afternoon: AAC and Autism: Matching Tools to Developmental Priorities

3/13:

- Morning: Dena Gassner, LMSW-advocate with ASD, parent, social worker: The Connection Process: Integrating the Diagnosis and Spinning INTO Control: Understanding Dysregulation
- Afternoon: Ron Suskind - Author, Pulitzer prize winning journalist, parent Autism Affinities: Prison, or Pathway?

For more information go to:

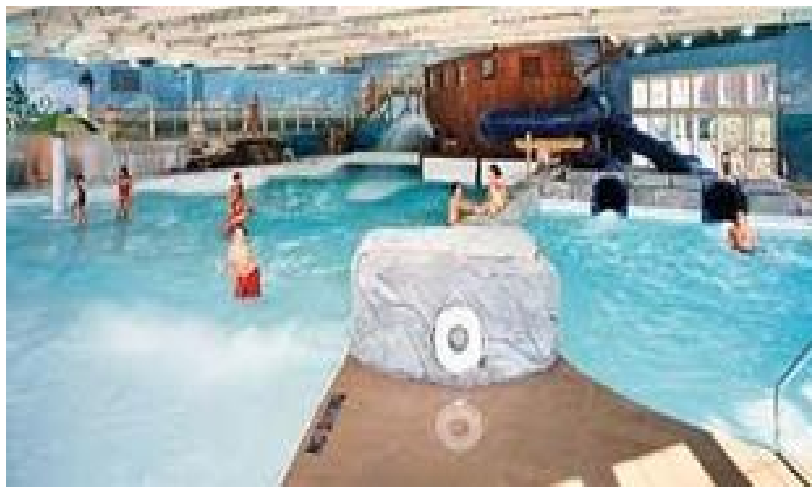
<http://www.community-autism-resources.com/events/symposium.php>

Community Autism Resources Pool Party

March 22, 2015

Cape Codder Resort Wave Pool
1225 Iyannough Road, Hyannis, MA

Come join us at the exclusive 8,200 square foot CAPE CODDER INDOOR WAVE POOL, complete with 2-foot waves, 80-foot and 50-foot water slides, waterfalls, and dancing water fountains.



We will have Two Parties - One Day!!!!

Noon - 2:45 p.m. (First Session)

3:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Second Session)

PLEASE pick one SESSION and register for that specific party/session

Please register via our website: www.community-autism-resources.com.

If you have questions, please call Lori DeCrescenzo at (508) 379-0371 or (800) 588-9239 ext. 10.

Save the Date!

Transition from School to Adult Life

A statewide all-day conference for parents

Saturday, October 3, 2015

Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlboro MA

A statewide all-day conference for families, introducing state-of-the-art, best practices around Transition, covering topics focused upon creating seamless, successful transitions into the adult world.

Workshops will cover education in the school system, employment, post-secondary education, community involvement, self-determination, independent living skills, financial and legal considerations, eligibility for services and many others.

For more information:

<http://thearcofmass.org/event/transition-from-school-to-adult-life/>

Legislators Invited:

Southern Bristol County

Rep. Antonio Cabral
Rep. Carole Fiola
Rep. Robert Koczera
Rep. Christopher Markey
Sen. Mark Montigny Sen.
Michael Rodrigues
Rep. Alan Silva
Rep. Paul Schmid
Rep. William Strauss



You are invited to

A Legislative Breakfast

Friday, March 13

White's of Westport

66 State Road, Westport, MA 02790

**Doors open at 7:30 am
Program 8:00-10:00 am**

Please join us to speak directly to local Legislators regarding budget items and the needs of the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

**Please RSVP
Call your local agency
listed below to
reserve your seat. The
breakfast is free but
please let us know
you are attending.**

Co-hosts of this event:





**June 10-12, 2015
Providence,
Rhode Island**

www.srvconference.com

*Enriching Lives Through Valued Roles
Gaining Depth & Setting Direction*

CONFERENCE THEMES

Socially valued roles opening the door to
the "Good things of life"

Image enhancement and competency enhancement

SRV teaching and implementation

PASSING training and evaluation

Looking to future developments in SRV

PLENARY SPEAKERS

John Armstrong (AUS)
Darcy Elks (US)
Mary Kealy (IRE)
Jo Massarelli (US)
Mitchel Peters (AUS)
Susan Thomas (US)

The 2015 SRV International Conference will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the historic Biltmore Hotel in Providence, RI (US)

For Family Members: The Louis Nisenbaum Scholarship Fund is available to support families of individuals with disabilities to attend this conference. The fund can pay for registration, hotel, respite/child care and travel costs. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact

Emily Murgo Nisenbaum, The Nemasket Group @ 508-999-4436 X 153

or emilynisenbaum@nemasketgroup.org

the nemasket group

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT NO. 651

Family Connections Center

Joint Project of The Nemasket Group and
DDS (*Greater New Bedford Department of Developmental Services*)
56 Bridge Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719
Phone: 508-999-0077
Fax: 508-997-9239



Creating a network of family support
for individuals with developmental
disabilities and their families



Corporate Sponsors:



Join us for a great morning of fun as we run or walk through Fairhaven with views of the water and charming New England fishing town homes. Bring a friend, the family and/or your co-workers as we raise awareness and money for our programs.

Date: Sunday, May 3, 2015
Location: The Nemasket Group
56 Bridge St. Fairhaven, MA

Registration Begins: 7:45 AM

Runners Start: 9:00 AM

Walkers Start: 9:05 AM

Awards and Prizes

For more information and to Register online
please go to:

www.NemasketGroup.org
or call 508-999-4436 ext. 101

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