



ASGC NEWS

Updates for May 2011



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AutismNE

North Central Ohio Chapter



ASGC members,

Thank you to our members and allies who attended this year's chili cook-off, for making it a fun and fruitful event! We hope to see you (and some friends) next year!

But in the meantime, May promises many exciting opportunities, along with suddenly pleasant weather. The RSC is hosting a feedback and input session; The Cleveland Clinic is giving a lecture on preschool education; and for fun, the ARC of Ohio and Think Computer Foundations are organizing a family day at Cedar Point!

Explore the rest of this month's opportunities for growth and fun inside.

Wishing you the best,

*The Autism Society of
Greater Cleveland*



Regular Meetings and Events

ASGC Meetings

ASGC meets the first Monday of each month (May 2), at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm and Independence Civic Center 6363 Selig Drive, Independence OH 44131.

Independence Dads Meetings

This informal support group for dads of children on the autistic spectrum provides a casual environment for fathers to discuss, trade tips, and vent over coffee. They meet the second Wednesday of each month (May 11) at 7 a.m. in the Bob Evans at 5980 Rockside Road in Independence. For more information, contact Phillip Irvin at phillip.irvin@gmail.com

AutismNE Online Support-Group

AutismNE offers various online support groups for individuals and families affected by ASD. Please contact Marian Helmick at: dmhelmick7@wmconnect.com



Sensory Friendly Movies

No movie for May

June 4-Kung Fu Panda 2

All movies are at 10:00 AM at AMC's Ridge Park Square, 4788 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH 44144. Tickets \$4.50/person.. AMC Entertainment (AMC) and ASGC have teamed up to bring families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy movies in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis with the "Sensory Friendly Films" program. In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for this unique audience, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down. Families will be able to bring in gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the film. Audience members are free to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing - in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden[®]" policy will not be enforced unless the audience's safety is questioned.



ASGC Social Skills Camp—Starting in July!



What: The mission of the ASGC Summer Camp is to cultivate social skills in children and teens on the autism spectrum social skills. Certified special educators work towards the goal of teaching ASD kids to apply generalized social skills into their daily life. They do so by providing necessary educational support as identified through an Individual Education Plan written for each camper.

Participating youths work and play alongside typical peers who have been educated on autism issues and trained to offer guidance, support, and supervision. This unique summer camp experience will nurture and educate all participants.

Activities take place in the old recreation building at the City of Independence Recreation Center, which has access to a pavilion, playground, baseball and soccer fields, basketball courts, and full kitchen and bathroom areas. There are three separate rooms to accommodate teaching, play and quiet area.

ASGC camp hosts two four-day sessions, with Session One for kids 6 to 12, and Session Two for teens 13 through 19.

When:

Session One: July 11 thru July 15

Session Two: July 18 thru July 22

Where: The City of Independence Recreation Center, 6200 Elmwood Ave., Independence, OH

Cost: \$250.00 per week. Price does not include transportation, lunch, snacks or drinks for participants, which must be provided by parents. Fee is due at registration and is non-refundable.

Registration: Download an application online at www.asgc.org. Hard copies are also available by calling the ASGC at 216-556-4937.

Upcoming Events

Student Learning Community session for prospective college students in Columbus

What: High school students with ASD and other disabilities planning to attend college are invited to attend a weeklong information session presented by the Ohio State University Nisonger Center and the Office for Disability Services at OSU's campus. Students will participate in workshops to discuss which careers and majors could fit their personalities and interests, Assistive and Universal Technology that can support their learning needs, and general college lifestyle support topics. Students can receive assistive technology.

When: July 25 at 10 a.m. to July 29 at 2 p.m. **Where:** Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Registration/Contact: To register, contact Graham Day at graham-day1@osu.edu or 614-599-8901

Preschool education discussion

What: Aletta Sinoff, director of the Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism will speak on preschool education and ASD children.

When: May 11, 2011, 07:00pm - 08:30pm **Where:** W.O. Walker Bldg-1st Floor Auditorium 10524 Euclid Ave. Cleveland

Contact: Ann Marie Dragon, annmarie.dragon@uhhospitals.org, or 216-286-5500



Training session on online bullying

What: Todd Walts will give two free training sessions on recognizing and confronting bullying when it occurs out of sight on the Internet.

One workshop will be targeted for educators and other professionals, and the other serves the needs of parents.

When/Where:

The professionals' workshop is May 12, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in ADAMHS offices, 2012 W 25th Street, 6th Floor, Cleveland

The parent's workshop is May 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Cuyahoga County Public Library Strongsville Branch, 18700 Westwood Drive

Contact: ADAMHS, 216-241-3400

More Events

Behavior Focused Independent Learning Programs (IEP)

What: Presenter Karen Lyke will explain what a Functional Behavior Assessment is and how to collect the information needed to conduct one. They will be given ideas and suggested accommodations that may help eliminate behaviors.

When: Thursday, May 26
2011, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Where: Behavioral Intervention
Institute of Ohio, 24865 Detroit
Rd., Westlake

Contact: 440-250-8800

Free VizZle training session

What: Lauren Stafford of Monarch Teaching Technologies will lead a free VizZle training session and learn how to search the VizZle library and make lessons, social stories and play lists regarding summertime activities. Call to register, or go to monarchcenterforautism.org/

When: Wednesday June 1 from 3 to 4 p.m. **Where:** 22001 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland

Contact: Local Phone: 216-320-8945 Toll Free: 1-800-879-2522
Fax: 216-932-6076

RSC to host input session in Cleveland

What: The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) invites members, families, and allies of special needs communities to participate in a series of “café conversations” input sessions on the state’s 2012 Vocational Rehabilitation State Plan, the State Plan for Independent Living, and renaming the RSC. Citizens will be able to give feedback to planned services while they are still in the developmental state.

When: May 11, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **Where:** 1909 E. 101st St.,
Grasselli Auditorium, Cleveland

Contact: 216-791-8118

National IDEA survey released

The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD), National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS), Autism Society of America (ASA), Autism National Committee (AutCom), and The Advocacy Institute (AI) are sponsoring a survey of whether the rights of students with disabilities and their parents are protected. The survey is open through May at www.ideasurvey.org/

Out Yonder:

Headlines from around the country and world



Monarch Center for Autism offers customized birthday parties for ASD children

"Every child deserves to have a memorable birthday party filled with fun, laughter, family and friends," which is why Monarch Center for Autism is now offering birthday planning and facilitation for children with autism!

The Center's professional staff will plan and facilitate a customized birthday party for a child on the autism spectrum. The child's family selects the theme (sensory, art, cooking, music/dance), and Monarch's staff will lead activities, create customized visual supports, supply food and drinks, and create sensory-friendly goody-bags.

For more information, call 216-320-8658 or visit:

monarchcenterforautism.org

Many autistic children wander from safety

The Interactive Autism Network (IAN), the nation's largest online autism research project, revealed the preliminary results of a survey of parents of ASD children that suggests approximately half of children with autism wander away from safety on a regular basis.

A phone interview of about 800 families conducted over three weeks indicated wandering peaked around age four. Almost fifty percent of parents reported that their children were out of sight long enough to cause significant worry about their safety. More than one third of children who elope are never or rarely able to communicate their name, address, or phone number verbally or by writing/typing. Two in three parents report their missing children had a "close call" with a traffic injury 32% of parents report a "close call" with a possible drowning.

In response to the study, the advocacy group Unlocking Autism circulated five suggestions for keeping wandering children safe:

- Develop an informational handout about your child. Circulate it to family, friends, and neighbors.
- Teach your child to swim [to prevent drowning].
- Get an ID bracelet for your child.
- Secure your home
- Consider a personal tracking device

Out Yonder:

Headlines from around the country and world

Studies suggest link between epilepsy, autism

Researchers believe they have found a common genetic cause for both epilepsy and autism spectrum disorders. Neurologist Dr. Patrick Cossette lead a team at Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal in an investigation of the genetics of a Quebecois family with many epileptic and autistic members. Cossette and his team found "severe" mutations on a gene (SYN1) which governs synapses, the section of a neuron cell which transmits chemical or electrical "communications" to other neurons. The results of the present study were published in the latest online edition of *Human Molecular Genetics*.



This finding coincides with a report published in the *Journal of Child Neurology* which found one-third of brain donors with autism also had epilepsy. The study's data came from brain tissue donated to the Autism Speaks Autism Tissue Program, which allocates donated organs for research purposes, and autopsy reports from the California State Department of Developmental Services. The survey found that 39 percent of ASD tissue donors also had epilepsy. The Californian autopsy reports also found that patients with both autism and epilepsy had a rate of premature death 800 times those with autism alone.

ASD diagnostic rates between poorer and higher-income children closing

Health professionals still suspect poor U.S. children living in low-income neighborhoods are still underdiagnosed for autism, but the gap has closed compared to their higher-income peers, new research published in *American Sociological Review* suggests.

Researchers from Columbia University and the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Center for the Social Sciences examined birth records and autism diagnoses of children born between 1992 and 2000. Researchers tracked children until 2006 to allow time for autism diagnosis. As time progressed, the average age of autism diagnosis fell from 5.9 in 1992 to 3.8 of those born in 2000.

Overall, of the 4,906,926 children born in California from 1992 to 2000, 18,731 or .38 percent were diagnosed with autism jumping from 29 per 10,000 in 1992 to 49 per 10,000 in 2000, the study said. The study's authors attribute the rise in diagnoses to increased awareness about the condition.

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Website: www.asgc.org

Phone: (216) 556-4937



Your help is needed!

Please join the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland are **only \$5.00** per year. Checks for dues or donations can be sent to: ASGC, P.O. Box 41066, Brecksville, Ohio 44141. **We are always seeking volunteer help.** The ASGC is in need of dedicated volunteers to help with our events through out the year, such as our Chili Cook, other one-off programs, and day-to-day help. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call (216) 556-4937 or send an email to support@asgc.org.