



Autism Action

Serving San Diego families for 40 years: 1966-2006

ASA The Voice of Autism.
Autism Society of America.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Autism Society of America is to promote lifelong access and opportunities for persons within the autism spectrum and their families, to be fully included, participating members of their community through advocacy, public awareness, education and research related to autism.

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All Out for Autism a huge success

Congresswoman Susan Davis is presented with certificate of appreciation at *All Out for Autism*. More photos page 5

The SDASA recently held their 6th Annual Camp I CAN fundraiser, *All Out for Autism*. This year the event was held at Sea World, and was a huge success. SDASA honored the California members of the Congress' Coalition for Autism Research and Education (CARE), which includes Congresswoman Susan Davis, Congressman Bob Filner and Senator Dianne Feinstein. Congresswoman Davis' speech about never underestimating the power of parents was very well received. See *All Out for Autism*, page 7

SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL SKILLS

Featured in this issue, beginning on page 6

- Autism Advice
- Social Skills Providers

This is fifth in a series of therapies spotlighted in Autism Action. visit <http://www.sd-autism.org/newsandevents/newsletter.htm>

SAN DIEGO AUTISM SOCIETY INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

3rd Tuesdays of the month
6:30-8:30pm
TMI Conference Center-2nd floor
4740 Murphy Canyon Rd
San Diego/Kearny Mesa

Enjoy a light dinner!

see speaker profiles on page 10

Tuesday May 16, 2006 Teacher Appreciation Night & Music Recital

Invite your child's teacher or provider
Gifts for all honorees
Please RSVP

Tuesday June 19, 2006

Lars Perner, Ph.D.

Perspectives on Autism

Annual Meeting and Election

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from the president Shirley Fett



It is hard to believe that three years ago I was your newly elected president. I have been truly honored to serve as the president of this terrific chapter. It has been my privilege to represent this organization on many levels throughout my tenure. I am proud of the many accomplishments we have achieved in recent years. It never ceases to amaze me how much we can accomplish by working together.

I have had the good fortune to work with a growing and dynamic board each and every year. I can honestly say that we are a group who shares a common vision for providing what is needed for persons with autism and assisting families with their day-to-day burdens. I want to thank all of the current and former board members who have made "my life" as the president easier and, actually, a lot of fun.

My husband, Bruce, has been a true supporter during the three years of my presidency. All of those nights I had to attend meetings, answer emails and talk on the phone, he kept things together at home. We are a team and I thank him for his patience and help.

I want to wish all of you Happy Mother's Day and Happy Father's Day! Even though I will no longer be the president of the SDASA, I will always be the mother of two sons with autism. There is no

term or election for that role! I will always be committed to helping families and their children with autism. I am convinced that much more can be gained by banding together for the common good.

I am pleased to announce that on July 1, 2006, the SDASA and the North County Chapter of the ASA will be merging together into one chapter. By combining our chapters, we are looking forward to reaching more families, providing them with more information and support and truly becoming the "Voice of Autism" for San Diego County! Over the next few months, we will be working very hard on a smooth transition for this merger.

I will continue to serve on the board as past president and will be leaving the role of president in the capable hands of John VanBrabant. Your continued support of the chapter will make us stronger and better in the year to come!

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as the president of the SDASA. It has been a pleasure and an honor.

Shirley

**THE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS
RESOURCE GUIDE**

& past issues of *Autism Action*
available online: www.sd-autism.org

Join the Board of Directors

If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, we would like to hear from you! There is no prerequisite for board participation, just a commitment to work together to further the mission of the SDASA. Elections will be held in June. For information, please contact DeeDee Spangler, 619.822.6340

SDASA is looking for a Scrapbooker

to organize photos, invitations, programs, etc., of chapter activities. If you would like to volunteer for this activity which will require only a minimal amount of your spare time, please contact the office!

Endorsement Policy

The Autism Society of America does not endorse individual programs. References appearing in the Autism Action regarding programs, resources, treatment, etc. should not be interpreted as an indication of endorsement by the Autism Society of America. They are provided for information only.

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for your information

SAN DIEGO WELCOMES STEPHEN SHORE

The Autism Society of San Diego is pleased to announce that Stephen Shore, author of *Beyond the Wall: Personal Experiences with Autism and Asperger Syndrome* and member of the national ASA Board of Directors, will speak on July 19th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the City of Carlsbad Faraday Complex. This lecture will be hosted by the North County Asperger's/HFA Parent group and there will be a \$10.00 charge.

Mr. Shore was given a diagnosis of "Atypical Development with strong autistic tendencies" in childhood and was recommended for institutionalization. Non-verbal until age four, Mr. Shore is currently completing his Ph.D. in special education at Boston University, is happily married, and speaks around the world on autism spectrum conditions. Illustrating with his own story and those of others on the autism spectrum, he teaches effective self-advocacy and life planning based on unique interests and skills.

For more information about Mr. Shore, see <http://www.autismasperger.net/>. City of Carlsbad Faraday Complex is located at 1635 Faraday Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92008 (see <http://www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us/map/dir22.html> for directions). or take I-5 to Canon Road exit east, right on Faraday; complex is on the right.

UCSD SEEKING ADOLESCENT STUDY PARTICIPANTS



UCSD is looking for adolescents (age 12-18) with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (Asperger's Syndrome, PDD-NOS, or high functioning autism) to participate in a study investigating visual perception.

Participating in this research study provides you the opportunity to take an active role in accelerating the pace of autism research. With your help, we hope to better understand how people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) process visual information differently than other individuals. This study may help us identify a marker for ASD that could, in the future, result in earlier diagnosis and treatment.

Participants will sit in a quiet, dimly lit room and push keyboard buttons to signify when he or she sees visual

FAMILIES OF NEWLY DIAGNOSED MATCHED WITH MENTORS IN NEW PROGRAM

Autism Tree Project Foundation (ATPF) launched a new Mentor program this year geared at newly diagnosed families. Each family receives a FREE copy of Chantal Sicile-Kira's award-winning guide to living with Autism Spectrum Disorders and a personal meeting with an Autism Tree Project mentor to provide advice and ongoing support that will continue even after the meeting ends.

Our next meeting: May 23, 2006 at 6:00 PM

Location: UCSD Dept of Psychology

Center for Brain and Cognition

Crick Conference Room, Mandler Hall

9500 Gilman Drive

La Jolla, CA 92093-0109

Please RSVP as quickly as possible as we have a limited number of spaces & free books. ATPF spends time with each family to then assign the best ATPF mentor – based on families location & challenges with individual child. RSVP: daynahoff@cox.net

EDUCATION ADVOCACY

at no charge to families!

phone 619-594-7383

Integrated Continuum of Services (ICS)

patterns on a computer screen. In addition to the visual perception test, participants will complete a brief assessment involving vocabulary, block design, and reasoning exercises. Testing time averages 2.5 hours, distributed over 2-3 sessions. A parent of each participant will also be interviewed about his or her child's developmental history.

Participants will be paid \$10 per hour and free parking will be provided. Testing appointments are available on weekdays, evenings and weekends. We will gladly share and explain testing results with participants and their parents.

More information can be found at: <http://autism.ucsd.edu/teen.html> or <http://psy.ucsd.edu/babylab/teen.html> or by calling Celeste Campbell at 858-243-3522.

for your information



TOYOTA San Diego offering support and a great benefit for the San Diego Chapter of the ASA

Employees from TOYOTA San Diego (TSD) came out and showed their support for the SD-ASA at the "Splash for Cash" fundraiser.

The Autism Society of America is an organization that hits home at TOYOTA San Diego. General Manager, Dan Kimberly and "Fleet Purchase Program" Director, Janine Martuscelli, both have sons with autism and are members of the San Diego chapter of ASA.

"We had representatives participating from many different departments at the dealership", said Janine, "Some even came directly from work, swam, and went right back to work!"

When Janine explained the event to the Charitable Funds Committee at the dealership and asked if anyone might

be interested in forming a team, she received an overwhelming YES response. The committee was formed to oversee and distribute funds, which are donated from each TSD employees' paycheck, to worthy organizations and causes in the area. They plan on being involved with more events for SD-ASA in the future. Collectively, they raised more than \$1000.00 for "Splash for Cash"!

"The employees at TOYOTA San Diego are a very caring group", Janine adds, "but it all begins at the top and we have a very compassionate and pro-active leader in Dan Kimberly. He believes in giving back to the community and instills that enthusiasm amongst his employees."

Dan has also opened the Fleet Department doors of TOYOTA San Diego to all SD-ASA members and their families allowing them to purchase a new or used vehicle at a substantially discounted price through the "Fleet Purchase Program". Anyone in the market is invited to call Janine Martuscelli toll free at 1-866-228-3333 or cell # 619-857-2371.

The Foresters Organization

Offers Their Continual Support to the San Diego County Chapter of the ASA



Co-Chair Andrew Zjilstra and President Shirley Fett thank the Foresters Board members and volunteers

The Foresters Hospitality Branch is teaming up with the San Diego County Chapter of the ASA offering financial support, volunteers to help at events and free educational workshops and seminars for families dealing with autism.

Foresters is a financial services organization which measures success not only in financial strength, but also by the positive impact they have on children and communities and that is where the Fraternal side -The Independent Order of Foresters - comes into play. They sponsor children's charities across the United States and provide opportunities for members to volunteer in their local communities.

The Board of Directors for Foresters adopted the SDASA and are committed to give ongoing support to the organization.

Beginning with the "Splash for Cash" benefit, they sponsored a lane and supplied a team, the "Foresters Fish",

helping to raise funds for the "Pool Pals" program.

They also came "all out" on April 15th, sponsoring the "All Out for Autism" benefit at the Orca level and supplying 10 volunteers to help with the set up on the day of the event. The volunteers and board members all attended the gala event and many went home with some auction items!

For 125 years, Foresters has been guided by a very powerful principle: the growth and prosperity of our members is linked to the communities in which they live. Through the members who volunteer and through the children they help, the Foresters Organization hope to inspire others by their leadership and involvement.

For more information about the Foresters and upcoming seminars, please visit their website at www.Foresters.biz and/or call the San Diego office at 619-641-9226.

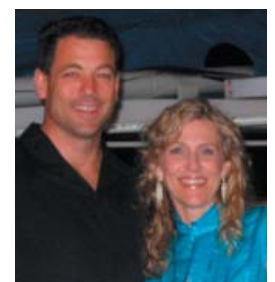
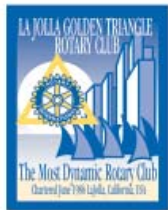
SDASA THANKS ITS SPONSORS FOR GOING ALL OUT FOR CAMP I CAN!



A financial services organization inspired by helping children.



SOUND • LIGHTING • VIDEO • SETS & STAGING



photos top to bottom:
Tapwater performs live,
Firefighters auctioned to
highest bidder, YMCA rep-
resentatives, Co-chairs: The
Zijtras and VanBrabants

North Island Credit Union
Vista Hill/Stein Center
San Diego Gas & Electric

Surfer Beach Hotel
Cathy Cary, Grandmother of Benjamin
McCune Chrysler Jeep

Splash for Cash

It was a fund and "wet" day on March 4, 2006 when young and "old" swimmers hit the pool for our 3rd Annual Splash for Cash. The 10-hour swim-a-thon was our most successful ever helping to raise nearly \$20,000 for the SDASA's aquatic programs.

A special thanks goes to our biggest supporter, **Tammy Anderson and Aqua Pros Swim School**. All of our aquatic programs are managed and run by Aqua Pros. They offer their time and expertise to make certain these quality programs continue.

The event would not be possible without the additional help of **Ralph and Andrea Carrasquillo, their family and the**

San Diego City Firefighters. They prepared the great pancake breakfast and chili dog lunch, which was delicious and enjoyed by all! Thank you!!

In addition, thanks to our lane sponsors. These are local businesses and organizations who supported the event. They are **GEICO Insurance, Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 206, Foresters, Toyota of San Diego, Sandy Shaw and Applied Interventions & Methodologies (AIM), Wal-Mart (Clairemont Mesa Store) and The Surfer Hotel in Pacific Beach**.

Our team winners were: Most Money: GEICO: Team Spirit: Benny and the Jets; Smallest Team: Team Chancy and Jaden; Largest Team: Aqua Pros.

Congratulations and thanks to all who helped make this a huge success! See you next year!

autism advice

By Dawn Holman, Ph.D.

The long held notion that individuals with autism spectrum disorders lack an interest in social interactions is often inaccurate. Many individuals with autism do indeed desire social interaction, however, these individuals typically lack the necessary skills to interact effectively. There are several factors that can impede social skill development in children (and adults!) with ASD: Behavioral excesses (self-stimulatory behaviors, tantrums or aggression), and skill deficits in the areas of eye contact, attention, tracking, Executive Functioning, language (non-verbal and verbal), play skills, perspective taking (Theory of Mind,) Sensory Dysfunction, fine motor delays, and gross motor delays, to name a few!

Social impairments are thought to be the “core” problem of autism (Baron-Cohen, 2001; Ruble, 2001). Social deficits in ASD are qualitatively and quantitatively different from those behaviors in other childhood disorders. As they mature, positive peer relationships and social skills in adults with autism directly affects their community inclusion and mental status in the future.

One important feature of being a social being is the ability to take another person’s perspective, or to have what is known as a “Theory of Mind”, to attribute independent mental states to self and others in order to explain and predict behavior. (Premack & Woodruff). Deficits in the ability to understand another’s mental state (i.e things we cannot SEE) include the following: Understanding Desire (which can result in an inability to choose a topic of interest to a listener, to negotiate play and other preferences.)

Understanding Belief (inability to anticipate what other people might be thinking about, believe in, etc); and Understanding Emotion (difficulty with emotion perception (reading facial cues, body language, situations that cause emotions), insensitivity to other’s feelings, inability to anticipate how other people may respond emotionally, etc).

In order to teach social skills to persons with ASD, there are four commonly used techniques:

1. Direct Instruction in a 1:1 Format, or Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)
2. Therapist / Teacher / Parent Mediated Skill Instruction
3. Peer Tutoring
4. Group Social Skills Instruction

Direct Instruction:

Most commonly used in Applied Behavior Analysis programs (1:1 therapy, Discrete Trial Teaching) this approach first identifies social skills that need to be developed and breaks them down into sequential steps using a task analysis. It provides practice across various settings, and uses the techniques of modeling, repeated trials, prompts, and reinforcement with adults and then peers in order to teach necessary play and social skills.

Advantages

1. Offers an opportunity to repeat and rehearse social skills without risk.
2. Instruction that uses task analysis and prompt/reinforcement strategies repeatedly has been shown to be an effective social interaction intervention for even the most socially withdrawn children and youth with autism.

Disadvantages

1. Skills taught in artificial environments and don’t generalize without specific practice and structure
2. It is based on a Therapist / Teacher interpretations of how to teach a social skill, rather than peer based.

Parent/Teacher/Therapist modeled instruction:

In this approach the therapist / teacher / parent prompts the child to engage in some kind of interactive behavior, which, if it occurs, is responded to positively by peers and the therapist / teacher / parent. The adult stays in the play area and provides periodic prompts to the child with autism to engage in one of a variety of interactive behaviors (e.g., sharing, offering to engage in an activity). The adult then waits a reasonable period of time (e.g., 3 to 5 seconds) for a response. If the child responds, the adult provides reinforcement. If the child fails to respond, the adult repeats the prompt for a specific set of trials in order to get the child to engage in the social interaction. Specific individualized reinforcement schedules are often used to promote continued success.

Advantages

1. More control over choice of peers and social goals targeted
2. Child gets immediate reinforcement / consequences for attempts at the social goal
3. Can be performed across settings / environments with repeated practice

Disadvantages

1. Sometimes interactions are stilted by the prompts and or reinforcement
2. Can lead to prompt dependence if fading is not used
3. Sometimes a child's preference to speak to the adult can be a distraction from the goal

Peer Tutoring:

With these strategies, socially competent peers are taught how to initiate and encourage social interactions with children on the spectrum in natural settings. Peer Tutors must learn basic characteristics of autism. They are informed that their role involves both privilege and responsibility. Social skill directors must train the peers on the following:

- what tasks and materials to use
- how to give directions
- how to give reinforcement
- how to manage inappropriate behavior.

In addition, the director of such a program should educate peers/classmates about autism to help them understand the child. A good resource is Carol Gray's Sixth Sense lesson, published in Taming the Recess Jungle.

Advantages

1. Research supports positive outcome (studies show an increased positive social response by children with autism)
2. More natural than 1:1 instruction with adults
3. Structured and monitored

Disadvantages

1. Sometimes the child on the spectrum is left out if more than 1 peer is involved (triads), or it can sometimes lead to ridicule if there is an inappropriate pairing.
2. Difficult to organize across environments (school, home)

3. Dependent on training of teachers and peers

Group Social Skill Instruction:

Research supports and refutes social skills group instruction as an effective strategy (Barry, Klinger, Lee, Palardy, Glimore, & Bodin 2003 refutes, while Hwang & Hughes, 2000 supports). Common designs include ASD children of up to 8 students with a teacher and 1-2 aides (with similar social deficits). Social Skills curricula varies across groups from manualized therapies to individualized group programs or some combo of the two. Some groups include "neurotypical" children in the group. Groups are best if they are flexible to the needs of the participating children

Advantages

1. More social interaction opportunities are available in group format
2. Can be set up to be a controlled setting, with specific curriculum
3. Opportunities for rehearsal and practice of newly learned social skills abound
4. Modeling / imitation of appropriate peer interactions are possible especially when socially competent peers are present

Disadvantages

1. A child can easily be mismatched to a group
2. Depending on the teacher/therapist to child ratio, some children may get more attention than others, especially if some children display behaviors
3. The group targets may not always apply to the child's needs
4. Skills taught in the group may not generalize across environments

All Out for Autism continued from page 1

We appreciate their show of support for the Autism Society and their efforts on behalf of CARE. Event Chairs Rachel and Andrew Zijlstra, and co-chairs John and Shelly VanBrabant did a spectacular job organizing the silent auction, a live auction, dinner and a comedy show. The event was attended by 340 people, and was estimated to have raised over \$50,000 in funds to help underwrite Camp I CAN 2006, which will once again be held at the Toby Wells YMCA. The SDASA would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our sponsors for this event, including Sea World, ACES, Foresters, Fishtank, NCI Events, San Diego County Credit Union, Applied Intervention and Methodologies, Autism Spectrum Consultants, La Jolla

Golden Triangle Rotary Club, Geico, Northrop Grumman, San Diego Gas and Electric, McCune Chrysler Jeep, North Island Credit Union, Surfer Beach Hotel, D3 Technologies, Cathy Cary-Grandmother of Benjamin, and Vista Hill/Stein Center for their generous support and commitment. SDASA would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Tony Calabrese for donating his talents as the night's Master of Ceremonies, TapWater for donating their musical brilliance, NCI Events for donating the amazing audio and visual production, and Fishtank Brand Advertising for donating their creative manpower in designing the All Out for Autism logo and invitation. ■

spotlight on social skills

The following is a list of Social Skills Providers serving individuals with autism.

Inclusion on this list does not imply endorsement, nor does oversight/exclusion suggest a lack of endorsement by SDASA

Autism Solutions for Kids (ASK) and Coast Music Therapy

Social Skills Interventions Offered:

Ages: 3-12. This dynamic small group program is facilitated by an ABA-trained music therapist from Coast Music Therapy, with behavioral support, social coaching, and parent consultation from Autism Solutions for Kids. Music provides a structured way for children to practice core social and communication skills while sharing the enjoyment of interactive songs, instruments, and movement. Weekly data is maintained along with a written report provided to families at the end of each group series.

Location: Kearny Mesa

Contact: Ellah Orevi of ASK at 619-275-2224 or orevi_ask@yahoo.com

Applied Interventions & Methodologies, Inc.

Social Skills Interventions Offered:

Social skills groups are offered through AIM for children 5 through 18 years old. Each session will be 1 hour and 15 minutes long with 8 sessions in each series. Each series will focus on a specific topic on social skills development, including understanding Autism & Asperger's Syndrome; perspective taking & theory of mind; executive functioning; initiating, maintaining and staying on topic in conversations; making friends and maintaining friendships; assertiveness & bullies; emotional regulation and control when in social settings; and dealing with abstraction & inferential thinking. The topics will be introduced to the group members through a variety of methods, including using videotapes, role playing, reading related stories, creating social stories and comic strip conversations together and playing related therapeutic games to make learning fun.

Location: 6540 Lusk Blvd., C256, San Diego, CA 92121

Funding Sources: Out of the Network Provider for Insurance Companies - Dr. Shaw is a Clinical Psychologist /School Districts/Private Pay

Contact Information:

Dr. Sandy Shaw at 858-492-8511 or e-mail at sshaw2@earthlink.net

Autism Spectrum Consultants, Inc.

Social Skills Interventions Offered:

a) **One on one behavioral intervention** targeting specific play and social skill instruction, in both home, school and community settings. Skills taught initially in a one to one setting are then generalized across people (adding peers, play-dates etc) and across environments (from home to community, to school etc). This intervention is usually part of an overall ABA therapy program, under the direction of a Master's level clinical supervisor.

b) **Circle of Friends:** A social skills group for high functioning children on the spectrum of mixed gender, from ages 9-14, that is curriculum and thematically based. The group is led by a Master's Level clinician, as well as a high adult to student ratio, depending on the needs of the individual group participants. The group meets on Monday afternoons, and includes dinner.

c) **Teenage Boys Detective Club:** An all boys social activity group, based on discovering and practicing the unwritten social rules or "hidden curriculum". The group is designed by the Clinical Director, Dr. Dawn Holman, and led by two qualified male behavioral therapists. The boys meet weekly in the clinic, and then go on different outings together. The group meets weekly, on Wednesday evenings.

Location: One to one therapy is in

home, or school. Circle of Friends meets in Scripp's Ranch, and the Teenage Boys Detective Club meets in La Jolla and surrounding areas.

Funding Sources: Various ABA based social skill instruction provided by school districts, Regional Center, insurance and private party payments. Circle of Friends is also funded by school districts, private payment. Teenage Boys Detective Club is currently in the process of seeking Regional Center vendorization, and private payment.

Contact Information:

tara@autismcosultants.com
or call 858.456.2249

Children's Hospital

Social Skills Interventions Offered:

1) Pathways is a group language therapy program designed for children 2½ to 5 years old with limited, but emerging, expressive language skills. The goal of Pathways is help children with autism spectrum disorders generalize skills learned in one-on-one settings to more complex social settings. Pathways is designed to maximize participation in group activities found in early school environments and facilitated free play. The group also includes occupational therapy consultation. Pathways meets twice a week for 1½ hour sessions and includes typical peer models trained in play facilitation.

2) Bridges is a speech pathology group program for children ages 4 to 6 years and is aimed at increasing social pragmatic skills. Bridges is specifically designed for children with a diagnosis of PDD or Autism, who have "graduated" from a language skills based group therapy program. This program will emphasize school readiness activities. This group is designed to improve and enhance children's abilities in socially interacting, engaging peers in activities, organizing sensory motor infor-

spotlight on social skills

mation, communicating pragmatically, fine motor/writing, using grammatically correct complete sentences, following linguistically complex directions in distracting environments and responding appropriately to questions

Next session begins May 9th, Tues and Thursday afternoons, 3-4:30pm, for 12 weeks.

Location: 8010 Frost Street Suite 200, San Diego 92123

Funding Sources: Insurance Companies –group speech therapy, OR behavioral health insurance Private Pay

Contact Information:

Jill Smith, Developmental Specialist, 858.576-1700 ext 4460

STAR Program, Inc.

Social Skills Interventions Offered:

Small social skill training groups offered during after-school hours on six school sites and one Recreation Center across San Diego County. These groups offer intensive staffing support, typical peers, as available, and a consistent play routine of social activities. Groups are currently offered for children between the ages of 5-13 years of age two afternoons per week.

Location: Administrative site is located at 6440 Lusk Blvd. Suite D203, San Diego, California 92121. Social skill training groups are located at the following locations in San Diego County: Mira Mesa: Walker Elementary School
Central San Diego: Lindbergh Schweitzer Elementary School
Santee: Sycamore Canyon Elementary School

Del Mar: Carmel Del Mar Elementary School
National City: New Horizon Elementary School
San Marcos: Richland Elementary School

Central San Diego: Standley Recreation Center

Funding Source: Regional Center and private funding

Contact Information:

Dr. Linda Collins, Executive Director
858-450-4785

I CAN PLAY!

Social Skills Intervention Offered:

Recreational groups and individual facilitation

Location: North County San Diego

Funding Source: Private Pay

Contact Information:

millercarilnn@yahoo.com

Comprehensive Autism Services and Education (C.A.S.E.)

Social Skills interventions offered : Friends' Club®

Dr. Cynthia Norall began Friends' Club® in the Spring of 2000. As a pioneer in social skills training, her goal was to help children with social skills problems become socially successful. Hundreds of children have benefited from the program.

Friends' Club® group sessions are part of a treatment program providing children with intensive training, experience, and practice in social problem solving skills and in making friends. The children participate in recreationally-based group therapy activities that include age-appropriate games and activities which promote pro-social behaviors.

What Friends' Club® is all about...

1. Developing the understanding of social skills within a safe and comfortable environment.
2. Learning to greet one another and to initiate and maintain social interaction.
3. Asking questions of others and

responding to others' questions to increase both attending and listening in a group and social situations.

4. Practicing problem solving skills in a social setting through modeling, social stories, and comic strip conversations.

5. Learning game skills in a small group. Children are encouraged to join in cooperative games and activities that include turn-taking and social exchanges.

6. Developing perspective-taking skills by accurately reading emotions in others and giving compliments as well as showing empathy.

Social Coaching

A social coach is a college student trained as an Applied Behavioral Analysis Therapist (ABA), under the supervision of Dr. Cynthia Norall, Ph.D. and Malia Wilson, M.A. They are also trained facilitators with our Friends' Club®. Our Friends' Club® introduces pre-teens/teens social strategies, including those described by Tony Attwood and Carol Gray (both noted experts in the field) and their application. The social coach goes out into the community with the pre-teen/teen to help generalize social skills. They organize "fun" activities for the teen and integrate social strategies and techniques into the activity.

A social coach covers:

- Conversation skills
- Anxiety strategies
- Strategies for making friends
- Recognizing social cues
- Generalizing
- Community outings and much more

Location: Carlsbad

Funding Sources: San Diego/Inland Regional Centers, Private Pay, School Districts

Contact Information:

Natalie Jorgensen, Events Coordinator / ABA Therapist 760.720.4964

spotlight on social skills

Sam and Rose Stein Education Centers

Social Skills Intervention Offered:

The Recreation Programs are an after-school socialization resource for participants with Developmental Disabilities who are between the ages of 3 and 17. The services are designed to develop acceptable behaviors through leisure time activities, recreation, and socialization skills appropriate to the person's age and functioning level. Programs are licensed by the Department of Social Services. Activities include arts and crafts, cooking groups, table games, music, field trips and adapted physical education. The program operates Monday through Friday from 1:00 to 6:00 PM.

Location:

Main Campus
6145 Decena Drive
San Diego, CA 92120
Chula Vista Campus
647 E Street
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Funding Source: Participants are referred and primarily funded by the San Diego Regional Center. Admission is open to individuals who are ineligible for service by other day care or after school programs due to disability conditions or behavior problems.

Contact Information:

Phone: 619-281-5511
Fax: 619-281-0453
<http://www.vistahill.org/programs/stein.htm>

CCC Kids

Social Skills Intervention Offered:

The Community Coaching Center is an after school/Saturday/school break Community and Social Skills Coaching Program for children and teens on the autism spectrum. We serve a population of children ages 5-

18 with a variety of abilities, including our new CCC Friends Group for young teens with HFA/AS.

At CCC, we encourage appropriate social interactions and behaviors, cultivating community and peer relationships, to learn what it means to make good choices and be a friend both within our group and in a variety of community settings.

Location: Central San Diego

Funding Source: San Diego Regional Center

Contact Information:

Web Site: www.ccckids.net,
Email: info@ccckids.net
Phone: 858-603-9835

TeenJam!

Social Skills interventions offered:

TeenJam's purpose is to create a comfortable and non-threatening environment in which the members, with high-functioning autism/Asperger's Syndrome, can interact with each other and develop social skills. In this way we hope to have these teenagers form genuine friendships. Recently, we have also founded Junior Jam, an organization with the same goal as TeenJam for children in elementary school and middle school.

Location: Scripps Ranch and local areas

Funding Sources: Parents pay for cost of activity. TeenJam received a donation from the SD ASA to fund outreach and development.

Contact Information:

teenjamsd@hotmail.com

ACES

Social Skills intervention offered:

Ages 5-18 years old
Buddy groups (two children working together for emotion sharing through cooperative activities)

Relationship Development Intervention

NEW--Mentor program for boys to learn master apprentice relationship with male influences

Location: 3731 Sixth Ave. San Diego Ca, 92103

Funding sources: primarily private pay, some groups might fall under OT insurance

Contact information:

Bridgette Anderson 619-549-5751

about our meetings

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

TEACHER APPRECIATION NIGHT MUSIC RECITAL

As part of Teacher Appreciation Night, Coast Music Therapy's inspiring students will honor teachers with a music recital featuring their talents on keyboard, voice, guitar, and percussion.

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

LARS PERNER, PH.D. ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

Lars Perner is an Assistant Professor of Marketing San Diego State University. Dr. Perner holds a Ph.D. in marketing, an M.B.A., and a B.A. in political science and psychology. He became interested in autistic spectrum disorders after being diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome late in life. In addition to his work in consumer psychology, Lars has written on the paradoxes of autism, abstraction and other cognitive processes in autism, perspectives on autism, and self marketing and college preparation for individuals on the spectrum. Lars operates several web sites on autism, including <http://www.AspergersSyndrome.org>.

upcoming events



TEACHER APPRECIATION NIGHT!

Tuesday, May 15, 2006

Invite your child's teacher, aide, service provider and say THANKS. SDASA will host an evening to show appreciation for all those who make a difference for our kids. Gifts for all honorees. RSVP: 619-298-1981



SAN DIEGO WALK FOR AUTISM RESEARCH

(formerly Walk F.A.R. for NAAR)

for info: www.autismwalk.org/sandiego

Fun walk and resource fair, music, entertainment, bouncy houses and climbing wall, fun for all ages.

June 11 at the Coors Amphitheatre.

Lead a team, or join a team.

All proceeds benefit autism research.



MONTHLY POOL & PIZZA PARTIES



Mark your calendars to attend our fun and popular monthly pool parties. They're held the 2nd Friday evening of each month at the Boys & Girls Club in Clairemont. 4635 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. 6:00-8:00 pm. **Free pizza & drinks!** The whole family can swim in an indoor, heated pool. Lifeguards provided. Please RSVP at least FIVE days in advance to insure sufficient food and beverages for all 619-298-1981 or info@sd-autism.org

May 12, June 9, July 14

University of San Diego School of Leadership and Education Sciences

1st Annual Autism Institute

People Moving On: A 21st Century Approach to Understanding and Supporting Individuals with Autism and Those Who Care for and About Them
July 10 to July 12, 2006

Anne M. Donnellan, Ph.D., Gary W. LaVigna, Ph.D., Martha Leary, CCC-SLP, Kate McGinnity, Ph.D., Nan Negri, Ph.D., and Jodi Robledo, Ph.D. (Candidate)

www.usd-online.org

SWING AWAY FOR SDASA! 4th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser August 6, 2006



LIGHTING THE WAY TO
HOPE

NAVIGATING TO SUCCESS & SOLUTIONS

Autism Society of America's
37th National Conference
Providence RI, July 12-15, 2006

AN EVENING WITH STEPHEN SHORE

noted author

July 19, 2006

7:00-9:00pm

1635 Faraday Avenue

Carlsbad, CA 92008

hosted by

North County Asperger's/

HFA Parent Group

tickets: \$10.00

see page 3 for details



SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE ON AUTISM

November 3 & 4, 2006

Featured keynote speaker, Temple Grandin, and other speakers to include Michelle Garcia Winner, Peter Gerhardt, Gary Mesibov, and more!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Title _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Membership type (includes National, State and SDASA dues)

- Full Time Student \$25
- Individual \$40
- Family \$50
- Autism Action Newsletter only
-1 year subscription \$10
- Yes, I'd like to make an additional
donation to the SDASA of
\$ _____

Is this a:

- New Membership
- Membership Renewal

Payment

- Check (payable to Autism Society of America)
- Credit card # _____ Exp _____
name on card _____

I am interested in helping the SDASA by:

- Serving on the board
- Special events
- Newsletter
- Legislative action
- Parent Mentor
- Fundraisers
- Speaker's Bureau

What is your relationship to the person with autism? (check all that apply):

- Parent
- Service Provider
- Individual with autism
- Family Member
- Medical Professional
- Educator
- Other _____

*Applications can be mailed to: San Diego /Autism Society of America,
PO Box 420908, San Diego, CA 92124
Or, you can join/renew online at www.SD-autism.org
Dues and Donations are Tax Deductible*

Website: www.sd-autism.org
Email: info@sd-autism.org
(619) 298-1981

San Diego, CA 92124
PO Box 420908
Autism Society of America
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHAPTER

