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# ❖ AUTISM ACTION ❖

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November/December 2003

The Newsletter of the  
***San Diego County Chapter***  
**Autism Society of America**  
Serving the needs of individuals with autism and their families  
through advocacy, education, public awareness and research.

## SUPPORT GROUP SPEAKERS

**Thursday, November 6, 2003 6:30-8:30PM**

### ***Vision Problems in ASD Children: Evaluation and Treatment Options***

**Susan L. Daniel, O.D.**

Dr. Daniel, together with her husband, Dr. Christopher Davis, O.D. has a busy developmental optometric practice in Carlsbad. Dr. Daniel has a special interest in treating children with autism and has first-hand understanding of the special needs and challenges our children. She has a child with autism. Topics will include: Testing and treatment strategies for non-verbal patients, Prism therapy for patients with Autism, Vision Therapy for Visual Efficiency and Perceptual Delays, Treatment for Strabismus (eye turns) and Amblyopia (lazy eye)

**Thursday, December 4, 2003 6:30-8:30PM**

### ***Stay and Play***

Come enjoy an adult evening of networking and gathering with friends while enjoying a toy presentation from the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Toy Lending library. Come learn about this great program available to families as well as get ideas for the holidays

Support Group Meetings are held at  
TMI Conference Center  
4740 Murphy Canyon Road—3rd Floor  
San Diego / Kearny Mesa

## IN THIS ISSUE

### SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Scheduled Meetings	1
President's Message	2
For Your Information	3
Resource Information	4
Autism Advice	5
Upcoming Events	7
Membership Application	8

### FORMAT

6:30-6:45 P.M.	Informal/Social/ Networking Time
6:45-7:00 P.M.	President's Message
7:00-8:00 P.M.	Guest Speaker
8:00-8:30 P.M.	Questions/ Answers

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*It's not easy living with children with autism. Anything that makes their lives better makes the family's life better*  
Anonymous

How true it is that when our children are doing well and are happy, our lives and outlook improve as well. The Board of the San Diego ASA had their annual strategic planning meeting in September. I can honestly report to you that the overall goal of our organization is helping improve all of your lives and this board is working hard to make that happen.

Some of the things that are planned for this year include two educational conferences (Barbara Bloomfield will be here in November, another in April TBA), two major fundraisers to help support recreational programs for our children, (Swimathon and Casino Night), increasing awareness of autism among law enforcement (scheduled to begin in January 2004 at the Miramar Academy), translating some of our resource information into Spanish (to be completed in December), and continuing our monthly support group meetings, newsletter and pool parties. This is certainly not a complete list of all we plan to do this year, but I wanted to give you an idea of what we are working on as an organization to better all of our lives.

The Swimathon is a new fundraising event for us and will help launch Pool PALS-Pool for Persons with Autism Learning to Swim. Please read more about this in the FYI section.

The holidays are fast approaching and this can be a challenging time for us. Dealing with travel plans, family visits, buying appropriate and useful gifts for our children and school vacation can be overwhelming. Please treat yourselves to a break and come to our December meeting. The United Cerebral Palsy toy library will be sharing some great ideas on toys for our kids. We will have holiday refreshments and cheer on hand! Our family holiday party will be held at the Boys and Girls Club on the second Friday of December with a special visit from Santa and more holiday treats.

Remember, not being able to speak is not the same thing as not having anything to say.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes!

Shirley Fett, President

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## Board of Directors

President	Shirley Fett
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3rd VP Newsletter	Jennifer Oke
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Director	Angela Desideri
Director	Cathy Schieffer
Director	Rachel Zijlstra

## 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.

## 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.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### SDASA 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 three days in advance to insure sufficient food and beverages for all 619-298-1981 or [info@sd-autism.org](mailto:info@sd-autism.org).**

Upcoming dates:

November 14 • December 12



### Pool PALS

Pool for Persons with Autism Learning to Swim is a program the SDASA is developing in collaboration with the Aqua Pros Swim School in San Diego. There are three parts to the program: 1) Surf Camp for Children with Autism which is held for 4 days in August and staffed by the surf/swim instructors at Aqua Pros 2) Monthly pool and pizza parties held for our families at the Boys and Girls Club in Clairemont 3) Individual swimming lessons at 50% of the actual cost for 3 months; the SDASA plans to pay the remaining cost to Aqua Pros. The surf camp and pool parties are already in place and we are hoping through the Swimathon and grant writing to raise the funds to begin offering swim lessons in the spring. The aquatics activities have been extremely popular and we want to continue and expand them for all of you to enjoy. More information regarding the "Swimathon" will be announced in the near future. Get out your goggles and fins!!!!

**iGive.com™**  
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### and SibNet LISTSERVS

The Sibling Support Project of the Arc of the United States is pleased to announce SibNet and SibKids. SibNet and SibKids are the Internet's only listservs for and about brothers and sisters of people with special health, developmental, and emotional needs.

Both SibKids (for younger brothers and sisters) and SibNet (for older siblings) allow brothers and sisters an opportunity to connect with their peers from around the world. Both listservs have members from the US, Canada, Australia, England, Japan and elsewhere. SibNet (started in 1996) and SibKids (started in 1997) are remarkably warm, thoughtful, and informative communities where young and adult brothers and sisters share information and discuss issues of common interest.

Anyone who has email can subscribe to SibKids and SibNet. For a no-cost subscription and to learn more about SibKids and SibNet, please visit the Sibling Support Project's Web Page (see address below). Finally, if you have further questions about SibKids, SibNet, our Sibshops or the work of the Sibling Support Project, please contact:

Don Meyer, Director  
Sibling Support Project of the Arc of the  
United States  
6512 23rd Ave NW#213  
Seattle, WA 98117  
206-297-6368  
[donmeyer@siblingsupport.org](mailto:donmeyer@siblingsupport.org)  
[www.thearc.org/siblingsupport/](http://www.thearc.org/siblingsupport/)

### YOUR TWO CENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Did you know that more money is printed daily for the game Monopoly than by the U.S. treasury? If only some of that money could make a difference for the San Diego County Chapter of the Autism Society of America (SDASA). But guess what? You can make that happen just by buying your games, toys, books, CDs and everyday items at iGive.com. At the Mall at [www.iGive.com/SDASA](http://www.iGive.com/SDASA), you get a free membership (no costs or obligations) to shop at 400+ stores and without even knowing it, you'll be helping SDASA at the same time. So, instead of printing money, just find a little here and there by doing a little shopping, and up to 26% of every purchase you make will be donated directly to SDASA!

### ESCRIP

We are participating in a powerful fundraising opportunity called eScrip. eScrip is a hassle-free way to support the SDASA through everyday purchases made at eScrip merchants. Over 150 merchants contribute a percentage of your purchases to SDASA. It's simple and convenient, all you need to do is register your grocery club card and debit/credit card(s). Simply log on to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to sign up and designate our group (#785161) to receive contributions.

### VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM

Just in time for the tax season! eScrip's Vehicle Donation Program makes it easy to donate your vehicle with the proceeds benefiting the SDASA. You may be entitled to an itemized tax deduction on your 2003 tax return. Simply visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and click on "Vehicle Donation Program" and choose "Donate Now" Or you can call 1-800-456-5517 and let a program representative help you. The program ID for the SDASA is **785161**

## RESOURCE INFORMATION

### SUPPORT GROUPS

**Autism Society of America, San Diego County Chapter.** ☎ (619) 298-1981 info@sd-autism.org 📧 www.sd-autism.org Meets 1st Thursday of the month, 6:30—8:30 PM at the TMI Building, 4740 Murphy Canyon, 2nd Floor Conference Center, San Diego.

**Autism Society of America, North County Chapter.** *North County Coastal Group* meets 2nd Thursday of the month *Inland Group* meets 3rd Tuesday of the month *HF/Asperger Group* meets 1st Monday of the month. For more information contact nccasa@cox.net or (760) 479-1420

asanorthcountysandiego.homestead.com/home.html

**Autism of Imperial County.** George Mcfadden 760-353-3191

**East County Children's Disability Council** Focuses on children with physical, developmental and emotional disabilities, ages 0-22 years. Janet Light 619-465-2288

**EFRC & HOPE Infant Family Support Group.** ☎ Mary Sebastyn (858) 569-5370 or Tessie Salcedo (619) 409-3127. Meets in Chula Vista. English and Spanish groups.

**Families & Autistic Children Together Succeed (FACTS).** Cheryl Cisneros PO Box 89-0685, Temecula, CA 92589-0685 F A C T S f a m i l i e s @ a o l . c o m 📧 www.factsfamilies.org

**Fragile X Center of San Diego** ☎ Cindy de Gruchy (619) 697-6468. Will meet May 13 & Oct 14, 2003, 7-9PM Children's Hospital. www.fragilexsandiego.org

**Kaiser Support Group** Meets the second Tuesday at the Vandever Kaiser location 5:30 to 7:00. Must be a Kaiser member to attend. Krissy Hallauer 858 573-5216

**Parent Advocates Seeking Solutions (PASS).** Parents of children 15 & older with disabilities. Beverly Andreos (858) 748-2594 . Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 16275 Pomerado Rd, Poway.

**Parent Support Group for the Resources for Students with Autism Program** of San Diego Unified Schools. Contact Bobbie Kohrt or Mary Lou Evans 858-490-8520

**Spanish-Speaking Support Group** — For families with children under 5: 1st & 3rd Fridays, 9:30-11AM. For families with children 5 and over: 2nd & 4th Friday, 9:30-11AM. Contact Laura Cervantes (619)498-8171 or Tessie Salcedo (619)594-7391.

**SibShop** Sibling support group for kids ages 6-12. Contact Nicole Hadley CCLS (858) 966-7411.

**Supporting Parents of Autistic Young Adults (SPAYA)** Sophia (858) 560-0555 or

SPAYA@san.rr.com Meets at San Diego Regional Center, Rm. 101, 4355 Ruffin Road.

**TACA** Parent training and support group addressing issues of younger children on the spectrum TACAnow@anysite.net

**Understanding Autism Together.** ☎ ASYMCA (619) 532-8156. Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m., Pediatric Conference Room, Building 2-1 of the Naval Medical Center. www.asymcasd.org

### INFORMATION & RESOURCES

**Autism Society of America, National Organization.** 7910 Woodmont Ave., Ste 300, Bethesda, MD 20814. ☎ 1-800-328-8476. 📧 www.autism-society.org/.

**Autism Society of California.** P.O. Box 8600 Long Beach, CA 90808. 1-800-700-0037 DWilson80@aol.com

**Autism Research Institute.** Research center, publishes quarterly journal, information packet on autism. Bernard Rimland, Director. 4182 Adams Ave., San Diego, CA 92116 ☎ (619) 281-7165. 📧 www.autism.com/ari/.

**Children's Hospital and Health Center - Autism Intervention Center** Inclusion Assistance Program offers specialists assistance to children in inclusion settings. Gabriella Albaisa ☎ (858) 966-7453.

**Children's Hospital Laboratory for Research on the Neuroscience of Autism** Volunteers needed for research studies. La Jolla, CA 858-454-7239

**Exceptional Family Resource Center.** Provides information & education for families of children with various disabilities. 9245 Sky Park Ct., Suite 130, San Diego. ☎ (800)281-8252. www.EFRConline.org

**Kids Included Together (KIT).** Assists children with disabilities to be included in community recreation and social programs. ☎ (858) 794-8154.

**Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (PAI).** Non-profit agency for protection of individuals with disabilities. ☎ (800) 776-5746. 📧 pai-ca.org.

**Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK).** Workshops & advocacy training for parents. ☎ (858) 874-2386.

**UCSD Autism Research Laboratory** Pivotal Response Training 858-534-6144

### SERVICES

**ACES, Inc - Comprehensive Educational Services** Behavior Intervention programs, Assessments, Tutoring, Parent training, Program consultation 3731 6th Avenue, Suite 100, San Diego 92103 (619) 278-0884 acesangels.com

**ACES, Inc - Dolphin Assisted Therapy Program** Structured, interactive behavioral program utilizing swim and contact between dolphins, trainer, ACES therapist and child at Sea World. 619-497-2450

**AquaPros Swim School** offers swim lessons for children with autism. Home pool programs or at Boys & Girls Club in Clairemont. 619-209-2990 www.aquapro.org

**Autism Spectrum Consultants (ASC)** social skills groups, ages 7-13, on Mondays 4-6pm, 6 week sessions in Scripps Ranch. Cindy@autismconsultants.com

**Auditory Integration Training** Terri Silverman, MS Conducts sessions several times a year in San Diego 858-278-9534

**Center for Autism Research, Evaluation & Service (CARES)-** Academic and Behavior Clinic, 6160 Cornerstone Ct. East #262, San Diego, CA 92121 (858)623-2777 x397

**Center for Autism Research, Evaluation & Service (CARES) -** Intensive Behavior Intervention, (858) 623-2777 x397

**Children's Hospital and Health Center - Autism Intervention Center** parent training, professional workshops and inclusion services. Cynthia Carter Ph.D 858-966-7453

**Coast Music Therapy** Provides music/assisted learning approach in special education, or adapted music lessons in home. Michelle Lazar 858-453-5211

**Community Coaching Center** Community & Behavioral Life Skills Training and supervision for after school, Saturdays, school vacation. Tina Waters (858) 603-9835 www.ccckids.net

**Coyne & Associates** Offers In-Home Early Intervention programs; In-school services; psychological, educational and behavioral assessments. Dr. Paul Coyne PhD 760-634-1125 coyneandassociates.com.

**DTC - Developmental Therapy Center** Direct Occupational Therapy assessment and treatment, sensory integration, activity-based groups including yoga, art, and sensory motor for children of all ages. 3731 6th Avenue, Suite 103, San Diego 92103 Bridgette Anderson 619-295-4500

**Karen Dodds and Associates** Kara Dodds (619)692-0622 or kdodds\_speech@hotmail.com

**Giant Steps Therapy Center** Berard Auditory Integration Training (AIT) & Interactive Metronome (IM) Training. Jackie Rockwell 800-952-0288 email giantsteps@earthlink.net

**I Can Too Learning Center** Offers behavioral intervention for children with autism between 2-6 years. Kevin Dotts 760-815-4800 www.icantoole.com

**Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center Inclusion Program** Offers recreation and social programs for children with special needs 858-457-3030 x222

**Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes** Learning Center 445 Marine View Drive,

## RESOURCE INFORMATION

Suite 290, Del Mar CA 92014 858-259-3206  
**Kelly McKinnon, M.A.** – Autism & Behavior  
 Consultant specializing in social skills.  
[www.kellymckinnon.com](http://www.kellymckinnon.com)

**Pacific Therapy, Inc.** Angela Desideri,  
 Speech-Language Pathologist, 14667 Via Azul  
 San Diego CA 92127 (858) 442-3072

**Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc.**–  
 staff development, program design and family  
 training for Picture Exchange Communication  
 System (PECS). 888-732-  
 7462 [www.pecs.com](http://www.pecs.com)

**San Diego Park & Recreation Therapeutic  
 Recreation Services Program.** Organized  
 activities for various age groups. Siblings &  
 friends welcome. ☎ (619) 525-8247 FAX:  
 (619) 533-3930.

**San Diego Regional Center.** Information,  
 referral, evaluation and advocacy services for  
 the developmentally disabled. 4355 Ruffin  
 Rd., Suite 204, San Diego CA 92123. ☎ (858)  
 576-2996.

**Sandy Shaw, Ph.D.** Psychotherapy, support  
 and consulting to parents and families with  
 children with developmental disabilities. (619)  
 645-8618

**STAR Program, Inc. Socialization Training  
 and Reinforcement.** After-school social skills  
 program for children with pervasive  
 developmental disorders. Dr. Linda Collins,  
 Exec Dir. & President 619-866-0980

**Vivo Music Therapy Services**  
 Julie M. Guy, MT-BC Music Therapist Board  
 Certified Fax & 24-hour Voice Mail  
 1.866.493.6097 [www.vivomusictherapy.com](http://www.vivomusictherapy.com)

### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:

#### **Community Advisory Committee**

**San Diego** ☎ (858) 578-3148.

**Poway** ☎ (858) 748-0010 or (858) 679-2534.

**California Department of Education.**  
 Special Education Division. ☎ (916) 445-  
 4613. Parent Information Line: (800) 434-  
 2465. ☎ [www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/sed](http://www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/sed).

**Hope Infant Family Support Program.** ☎  
 (858) 292-3700. FAX (858) 569-5394.

**San Diego City Schools Special Education  
 Programs Division web page:** ☎  
[www.sdcs.k12.ca.us/specialed](http://www.sdcs.k12.ca.us/specialed).

#### **Special Education Local Planning Areas**

**East County** ☎ (619) 590-3920

**North Coastal** ☎ (760) 471-8208

**North Inland** ☎ (760) 788-4671

**Poway** ☎ (858) 748-0010

**San Diego** ☎ (619) 225-3606

**South County** ☎ (619) 498-8171

#### **Special Education Parent Facilitators:**

**Poway** ☎ (858) 748-0010

**San Diego** ☎ (619) 225-3623

**South County** ☎ (619) 498-8171

*Please send updates to [info@sd-autism.org](mailto:info@sd-autism.org)*

# AUTISM ADVICE

*Reprinted from May/June 1999 issue of  
 Autism Action*

**We have two children, a nine-year-old autistic son and a seven-year-old “regular” daughter. I guess we have been avoiding discussing the issue of our son’s autism with our daughter. On the one hand, we don’t want to alarm our daughter and overload her with too much information. But on the other hand, we feel she has a right to know about her brother. The latter will be especially important when her classmates start asking her questions about her brother. How should we explain to her about her brother?**

**Also, what advice should we give our daughter when her classmates ask questions about her brother?**

*Jennifer Oke:*

You will find it reassuring to know that research shows that most siblings with a brother or sister with autism learn to handle the experience and show no ill effects. However, there are some experiences and concerns unique to young siblings. These are areas where siblings may have questions or require accurate information.

These concerns include: (1) confusion about the child’s development and disability, (2) misconceptions of the cause of the problem, (3) emotional distress among parents and other family members, (4) disruptions in family plans and routines, (5) prolonged or frequent absences of the child and parent, (6) frequent medical and therapy appointments, (7) heightened attention to the child with autism, and (8) comparisons of health and development. Young children often worry that they caused the child’s disability or they may worry that they will “catch” the disorder.

When talking to the sibling, it is first important to discuss individual differences and similarities among people (e.g. hair color, height, glasses, sex, age, etc). You can talk to your sibling about autism using

simple language including both the child’s strengths and deficits.

Siblings need (1) information about the child’s diagnosis and how it is evaluated and treated, (2) open communication within the family about both positive and negative experiences related to the child, (3) recognition of the sibling’s own strengths and accomplishments, (4) “quality time” with their parent on an individual basis, (5) contact and support from other siblings and families, and (6) ways to cope with stressful events such as disruptive behavior in public.

Choose a period when there is plenty of time for both questions and answers when discussing autism with your sibling. Give some basic and simple information regarding autism, the child’s treatment, the child’s school or classroom, and special services s/he receives. Provide balanced information regarding strengths and deficits. Then ask your sibling if s/he has any questions. If you have an open attitude, your child will be more comfortable and more likely to ask questions and voice concerns.

Children will typically ask questions at the level of their understanding. Give them a brief but accurate answer, then ask if that answered their questions and if they have additional questions. Be knowledgeable, sincere and honest when communicating with your child. It is okay to say “I don’t know.” This may provide you an opportunity to model asking questions and seeking for answers. For example, you may say “I don’t know. Let’s ask his occupational therapist at his next appointment.” You may want to use children’s books about disabilities to facilitate your discussion with your sibling.

Follow up earlier communications with the sibling, asking them the next day if they have thought any more about the discussion and if they have additional questions. Once your child has an un-

# AUTISM ADVICE

derstanding of autism, s/he will be able to communicate this information to friends when they ask questions. It may be helpful for the sibling to talk to the friend about their brother before they come over to play or you may want to wait until the friend comes over to answer questions.

Siblings can benefit from participation in a sibling group for children with a brother or sister with autism. The goal of sibling groups is typically to educate children about the disability, give the children a forum to talk with other siblings and often to teach siblings skills to more effectively interact with their brother or sister. It is important that sibling groups be limited to children within the same developmental stage or age, as concerns and questions siblings have regarding their brother or sister change with development and over time.

There are several good reference books for parents about the needs of siblings as well as several children's books that specifically deal with siblings and their brother or sister with autism.

*Jennifer Oke, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist specializing in behavioral treatment for children with autism spectrum disorders.*

*Laura Heyser:*

I would recommend telling your daughter some facts about autism. Explain it to her in words that she can understand. Perhaps you can explain to her that her brother is special because his brain was made differently than anyone else's. Tell her about what his special needs are and use examples.

For example, since typically developing children learn through modeling and many autistic children do not, we have to teach autistic children how to play, talk,

interact socially, even how to learn. To show your daughter how she learned how to do something versus how you had to teach your son that same skill may help her understand. Some parents have gone into classrooms to explain to the other children when their child (or their child's sibling) is different. This helps other children to understand and hopefully not tease.

Be patient with your daughter and answer her questions as she comes up with them. She's just developing social relationships and is learning that not all brothers are like hers. Make yourself available to her and make sure she feels comfortable asking those hard to ask questions. Her peers may soon be making comments that she finds embarrassing and she needs to feel secure in sharing those comments with you.

*Laura Heyser, M.A. is a therapist and behavioral consultant specializing in working with children with autism spectrum disorders.*

*Joshua Feder:*

Every sibling is different, but by age seven most have an idea that something is different about the autistic child in the family. With luck she accepts and loves her brother. She also will likely be jealous at times, sad at others, face questions from peers, or experience the looks of others when out in public with her brother. To not talk about it at all does not make sense; for the sake of her own self concept and self esteem I think you need to hear what her experience is like, validate it, and help her sort through how to deal with it.

That probably means using clear, age appropriate language to explain to her what you think about her brother's difficulties, e.g., "he has a lot of trouble talking to people...it's hard for him to make

friends...I know he can be pretty active...". Deal with the extra attention he gets too, by specifically spending individual time with her too, by remembering to always recognize her achievements and good qualities, and by noting that you understand that he takes a lot of work and attention.

We also need to protect siblings from aggressive behaviors and from undue disruptions. It's hard to feel good about school, for instance, if you don't get your homework done due to lack of support or because you went right to your room to hide. It might be hard to have friends over, or do sleepovers at your house. These are things kids remember. Siblings can also be depressed or anxious, worried that they might "catch" autism, or they may have subtle but significant regulatory difficulties of their own that need to be looked at and helped.

Considering the burden we often shift to siblings later in life, but more important because they are our children too, we need to keep their concerns and needs in mind.

*Joshua Feder, M.D. is a psychiatrist with special interest and experience in the treatment of PDD spectrum disorders with interactive therapies and medications.*

**Autism Advice** provides a forum for parents and other interested individuals to obtain different viewpoints on a variety of autism related topics. Questions may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the San Diego County Autism office.

P.O. Box 420908  
San Diego CA 92124

Phone: (619) 298-1981

Fax (619) 278-0885

e-mail : [info@sd-autism.org](mailto:info@sd-autism.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Talk About Curing Autism Now (TACA) - San Diego** is hosting a very special presentation by Dr. Bernard Rimland—*What Research Tells Us About the Cause and Treatment of Autism*. Tuesday, October 28th 6:30-9:00pm. Mission Valley Public Library Community Room 2123 Fenton Pkwy, San Diego

**Basic Rights to Special Education** This free workshop is presented by the East County Children's Disability Council in partnership with Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK) San Diego. Wednesday, October 29, 2003, 10:30am-1:00 p.m. El Cajon Library in the Community Room, 201 E. Douglas Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92020. This presentation is for parents, grandparents, caregivers and professionals in English and Spanish. For more information call Janet Light at (619) 465-2288 or e-mail: [secsess@cox.net](mailto:secsess@cox.net)

**Get a HANDLE on Neurodevelopment** a 12-hour (2-day) course, introduces the Holistic Approach to NeuroDevelopment and Learning Efficiency, and offers an understanding of how the systems of our body/mind interact internally and with the environment to affect all human behavior. The course is coming to San Diego County: Friday and Saturday, Nov. 7 and 8, at Lake San Marcos. For a registration form and related information, go to [www.handle.org](http://www.handle.org), the website of The HANDLE Institute; click on Schedule of Events, and scroll to California. The instructor, Marlene Suliteanu, OTR/L, has a private therapy practice in Oceanside. Her website is [www.getable.net](http://www.getable.net).

**SibShop** A sibling support group for brothers and sisters of kids with special health care needs will meet Saturday, November 8th, 10am-2pm at Children's Hospital. This group is for siblings aged 6-12. Lunch is provided and participation in this group is free. For questions and registration please contact Nicole Hadley, Child Life Specialist (858) 966-7411

**Free Workshop** for Parents, Educators, and Community Members *The I.E.P. Process*. Saturday, November 8, 2003 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Registration at 8:30 A.M. Lindberg-Schweitzer Elementary School 4133 Mt. Albertine Ave. (92111) Instruction, information, materials, and resources to help you: Learn about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.) Participate more effectively in the IEP process, Understand more about how kids learn, know more information about 'related services', 'behavior intervention', 'assistive technology' For workshop information call: 1-800-281-8252

**Barbara Bloomfield Workshops** Barbara is returning to San Diego with two NEW workshops. "Using Visual Supports in General Education" will be on Saturday, November 15, 9:00—3:30 and "Pragmatically Speaking" will be on Monday, November 17, 8:00—3:00. Both workshops will be held at the Neighborhood House Conference Center, 5660 Copley Drive in San Diego. Workshops are \$55 each or \$90 for both. Continental Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Journey to Solutions 2003** Conference sponsored by Autism Society of Los Angeles and Jay Nolan Community Services. Friday, November 14 — Sunday, November 16th Pasadena Conference Center. For more information contact Your Great Event at (818) 242-9108 or email [conference@jaynolan.org](mailto:conference@jaynolan.org)

**Grandparent Group** presented by Children's Autism Intervention Center (CAIC), Children's Hospital San Diego. This group will help grandparents and other caregivers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders become familiar with ASD, communication, play, and social skills development. This group will also introduce and review basic behavioral techniques. Group format includes lecture and discussion, question and answer, and support group facilitation. Meetings will be held Tuesday evenings at the CAIC center at Children's Hospital main campus in Kearny Mesa. December 1, 9, 16, 23 -- 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Fee: \$140 for the four sessions. For more information and to register, please call Melissa or Jennifer at (858) 966-7453.

**Auditory Integration Training** December 20 to December 29, 2003 (including Christmas day) For more information, contact T. Silverman, Training and Consultation [www.we-exist.net/ait](http://www.we-exist.net/ait) [terries@execpc.com](mailto:terries@execpc.com) In San Diego, call 858-278-9534

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHAPTER / AUTISM SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA / AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

YOU MAY USE MY NAME AND ADDRESS AS A REFERRAL FOR OTHER PARENTS .....  YES  NO  
 YOU MAY GIVE MY NAME TO OTHER PARENTS IN MY AREA .....  YES  NO

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE PERSON WITH AUTISM (CHECK ALL BOXES THAT APPLY):

- |  |   |                                    |                                       |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PARENT        | <input type="checkbox"/> GRAND PARENT         | <input type="checkbox"/> TEACHER   | <input type="checkbox"/> AIDE         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CARE PROVIDER | <input type="checkbox"/> RELATIVE             | <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> PSYCHOLOGIST |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FRIEND        | <input type="checkbox"/> SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER     |                                       |

DUES (INCLUDES NATIONAL AND STATE DUES):

- FULL TIME STUDENT: \$25.00
- INDIVIDUAL: \$35.00
- FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$45.00
- NEWSLETTER ONLY - 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION: \$10.00

PLEASE CHECK IF:

- NEW MEMBER
- RENEWING MEMBER

APPLICATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO: Autism Society of America, P. O. Box 420908, San Diego, CA 92124

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA • ***DUES AND DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE***



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

(619) 298-1981  
 Email: [info@sd-autism.org](mailto:info@sd-autism.org)  
 Website: [www.sd-autism.org](http://www.sd-autism.org)