

THE AUTISM CONNECTION

THE AUTISM CONNECTION IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER THAT DELIVERS INFORMATION ABOUT WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND EVENTS FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY AUTISM



VARIETY’S AUTISM AMBASSADORS

Lowering the barriers that prevent children with Autism from participating in the school system as fully-functioning students

2012

According to a [recent study in the journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry](#), children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are more likely to improve their social skills when their typically developing peers are taught how to interact with them as compared to only teaching the ASD children such skills. The benefits to children who participate in Variety’s Autism Ambassadors are numerous. The school community is enhanced; incidents of bullying decreases and students are empowered to lead.

Variety’s Autism Ambassadors Program implements a successfully proven curriculum developed by inspirational high school trailblazer, [Zak Kukoff](#). With the help of a psychologist Zak created a straightforward curriculum that utilizes a unique blend of behavioral techniques.

For more information about Variety’s Autism Ambassadors [click here](#)

Cool Kids Meet Up! A Social Skills/Social Thinking Group for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum is now in **THREE** Locations!

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Norcom Community Center

10980 Norcom Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154

Tuesdays 5:30—7:00pm
[New group beginning February 7](#)

North East Treatment Center (NET)

458 N 2nd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Tuesdays 5:30—7:00pm
[New group beginning February 7](#)

Variety Club Camp & Development Center

2950 Potshop Road
Worcester, PA 19403

Mondays 5:30—7:00pm
[New group beginning February 6](#)

Cool Kids will:

- Develop skills to communicate effectively in verbal and nonverbal ways
- Develop problem solving and conflict resolution skills
- Understand, express and inference emotions
- Share space effectively
- Learn to work as part of a group

**Space is limited!
Sign up today!**

THE AUTISM CONNECTION CAN INSTANTLY CONNECT YOU TO THE RESOURCES YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT! CLICK ON THE ICONS TO BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE!

AWARE Walk

**Register Today for our 6th Annual
Autism Walk for Awareness!
April 15 8:00am**

www.firstgiving.com/variety/2012autismwalk

It will be a morning of fun and exercise as individuals, families, schools and businesses walk inside the mall to raise awareness for autism.

There will be food, moon bounces, games, music and more!

There will also be a resource fair with dozens of autism related organization sharing helpful information.

The event will be hosted Amy Buckman of 6abc. **Find out how you can get involved!**

There are plenty of Sponsorship Opportunities available! Contact nicolesimon@varietyphila.org



The Autism Resource Center is very excited for our returning and NEW events this year! We are also rolling out a series of new programs and are forming partnerships everyday to provide you with more resources and support !

Since 2010 Variety had partnered with the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia to provide children with autism and their families a night of hands-on learning as they explore the museum's various exhibits.

This years **Autism Evening at Please Touch Museum** will be held **April 7th at 6:00pm**

Come and enjoy the facilities with hundreds of other families affected by autism.

Registration for this event will open early February!

Sponsorship Opportunities Available! Contact nicolesimon@varietyphila.org

PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM**AUTISM DAY AT SESAME PLACE**

For more than 20 years, Sesame Place, the nation's only theme park based entirely on the award-winning television program, Sesame Street, opens its gates to Variety's children and their immediate families as a special event at the beginning of each season. Sesame has given over 200,000 Variety's children a day they'll always remember.

Registration opens February

Sesame makes special accommodations for our children.

- Designated quiet areas
- Volume of public address system and music turned low
- Characters are instructed not to initiate contact
- Gluten Free and Casein Free Foods
- Staff training to familiarize the challenges those affected with autism face.



**April 2012
Date to be announced soon!!**



Seedlings
3300 Henry Ave
Philadelphia PA 19129

Childcare Available

No Registration Needed

PHILADELPHIA AUTISM NETWORK

A supportive workshop for families and professionals helping children with Autism

Wednesday, February 1st 6-8pm
Sensory Integration and Occupational Therapy

Kelly Bryan, MOTR/L will discuss sensory integration and how it affects children with Autism. Learn about how to understand a child's sensory needs as well as how to address this at home or in the classroom.

Wednesday, February 29th 6-8pm
Floortime and ABA? How to use them Together with Children with Autism!

Eric Mitchell, PhD, La Salle University, Penn Behavioral Health, Greentree School, Center for Autism
Learn the fundamentals of both ABA and Floortime and how they can be used effectively... together!



Can't make it to a workshop? Miss a lecture? Looking to learn more about a topic? Visit www.momsfightingautism.org and choose from dozens of webinars!

Moms Fighting Autism is a monthly webinar service dedicated to helping moms who have children with autism. Each month this site hosts new speakers that share their perspective on various autism topics.

www.momsfightingautism.com



February 3, 2012

What all Parents of a Disabled Child REALLY Need to Know About Special Needs Trusts and Estate Planning

Lesley M. Mehalick, Esq of McAndrews Law Firm

An interactive discussion about estate planning techniques designed to serve families with a disabled child or family member, with a focus on the purposes, types and uses of Special Needs Trusts. Special needs trusts provide an invaluable option for parents who wish to leave an inheritance, whether large or small, to their disabled child while still preserving that child's necessary public benefits.

7:00—7:15pm Parent Support & Networking
7:15pm Introduction and Presentation
Saint Alban's Episcopal Church
Newtown Square, PA 19073



Spring Conference 2012

New York/New Jersey

April 26-29, 2012

General Sessions, Science Sessions & Practitioner Seminars, Early Childhood, School Age & Adult Issues, Nutrition

Parents/Caregivers [Register](#)
Medical Professionals [Register](#)
Non-Medical Professionals [Register](#)

MORE EVENTS & SOCIAL SKILLS GROUPS!

VARIETY—THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

1520 LOCUST STREET
2ND FLOOR
PHILADELPHIA PA 19102

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E-MAIL:
NICOLESIMON@VARIETYPHILA.ORG



www.varietyautism.org

Sensory Friendly Films



Click on the movie title to find a theater near you!

February 25, 2012

[The Secret World of Arrietty](#)

March 24, 2012

[Dr. Seuss' The Lorax](#)

April 7, 2012

[Pirates! Band of Misfits](#)



Sibling Group!

Join a weekly group for art making, creative writing and peer support.

When: Mondays 6:00—7:30pm

Where: 638 Newtown Yardley Rd #1F,
Newtown, PA 18940

Cost: \$15 per session

Group runs for 12 weeks

Feb. 6—to April 23rd

Ages 8 through 12

For more information and registration please contact Tracy at: 215-579-0670 or TCrozier@potentialinc.org

Creative Dramatics

Stratford Friends School
2 Bishop Hollow Road
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Targeted skills include

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Dialogue | Emsemble Skills |
| Concentration | Communication |
| Problem-solving | Compromise |
| Critical thinking | Cooperation |

This program is covered by some health plans

For More information or to enroll:
610-325-2906 or collageotp@aol.com

