



AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism



Nebraska

JUNE 24, 2010

NEWSGRAM

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO VOTE EVERY DAY IN JUNE AT
www.refresheverything.com/autismsource.**

When a diagnosis is made, parents and family members often wonder what to do next. Even where valuable treatments and support services exist, families must negotiate a maze of agencies and providers in search of support appropriate to their individual needs—a process that consumes time and energy already in short supply for families affected by autism. Parents, individuals on the spectrum and professionals often want to talk to a skilled professional about their situation, and many times cannot or do not know who to call. The Autism Society already provides this line of support to many families and individuals, but with the help of this grant, we can expand our contact center to make trained professionals available at any hour of the day or night, and provide more training and support to Autism Society chapters to improve their local outreach efforts.

We sincerely thank all of you who have been voting for us, the comments from many of you have certainly reaffirmed our conviction to find funding that will allow us to set up this kind of round the clock support.

Please help us make this project a reality by visiting www.refresheverything.com/autismsource to cast your vote every day!

*****On behalf of the Nebraska chapter we would like to urge you to vote as well as ask your family and friends to vote EVERYDAY! Our local chapter is primarily volunteer driven and one of the most challenging tasks for us is providing this support in a timely manner. We strive to provide this support to our new families as well as our veteran families but the idea of having a professional available to answer and support these families 24 hours a day is absolutely amazing! PLEASE lend your support to us help make this happen!***

This Newsgram has links embedded in the text to take you to more information on the Autism Society web site. Simply click on the links OR you can obtain all of the same information by visiting our web site at www.autismnebraska.org

LINCOLN: Project EXCEED taking applications for 2010-11

Project EXCEED (Excellence in Collaborative Education & Early Development) & Ruth Staples Child Development Lab will be accepting applications for young children with an educational verification or medical diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder to take part in a research, teaching and service project as part of the Ruth Staples Child Development program. Participating children receive research-based individualized instruction and opportunities to practice critical early social, communication and behavioral skills while participating in a high-quality early childhood program.

For the 2010-11 academic year, Project EXCEED is accepting applications for children between the ages of 18 months-3 years of age. The program takes place Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. from August 23rd 2010 through April 29th 2011. The Ruth Staples child development program is a full-day program (7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.). Participating families will be responsible for partial tuition costs (see application for details). Project EXCEED participants will be required to attend during the morning hours (7:30-12:30) and parents/guardians may choose whether their children continue to participate in the Ruth Staples child development program in the afternoon.

Space for participants is limited. Children and families who are selected will be invited to join Project EXCEED and to voluntarily make a decision whether to participate or not participate. Direct questions to Laura Maddox via email at autismproject@unl.edu or by phone at 402-472-2121. Download an application [here](#).

Did you know?

It was recently brought to our attention that the DHHS will reimburse families for the cost of their primary health insurance if one of their children are disabled and have Medicaid as a secondary. The contact person is Cherie Swanson and her number is (402)471-8418. She is with DHHS and can explain HIPP (Health Insurance Premium Payment). This is only for families that already have approval for Medicaid as a secondary insurance. Call today and see if you qualify.

FREMONT: Autism Awareness at the Fremont Parade



We have a family looking to pull together some of the autism community to participate in the John C. Fremont Days Parade. If you are interested in participating please contact Jill at meuschnebraska3@aol.com The parade is July 11th in Fremont Nebraska.

KEARNEY: Love and Logic Free Parenting Workshop

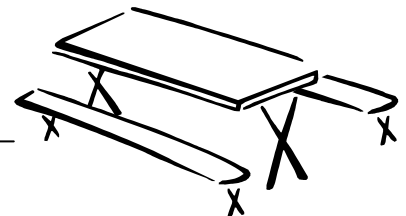
Workshop co-hosted by The Arc of Buffalo County, with a special Invitation for families raising children with developmental disabilities. Come laugh while learning! Practical, effective techniques to help raise the odds that children will become responsible & respectful

Saturday, June 26, 2010
9:00 am – 12:00pm
First Presbyterian Church
4511 6th Ave
(across from the Kearney Family YMCA)

For more information please call Lisa Follmer, Child Abuse Resource Education Coordinator at 308-865-1354 et. 123

FREE Limited Childcare will be provided by The Arc of Buffalo County staff volunteers for children ages 2-12. Preregistration is required for workshop childcare. Register by CALLING 308-237-4343

Download a flyer [here](#).



KEARNEY: Autism Support Group hosts family picnic

Please join the Autism Support of Kearney (ASK) group for a family gathering at the Cottonmill Nature Barn. The picnic will be from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Please bring your own family's picnic fare and join other members of the autism community for a fun family event. Contact Jodi Richards at (308)627-2967 or crandjr19999@yahoo.com with questions.

The Barn Summer Camp Applications

The Barn is now taking registrations for their summer camp for special needs kids. Camp size ranges from 5-10 to allow for more one to one interaction and less waiting by the campers. Campers will experience a variety of sensory activities, outdoor activities and many typical camp events to enhance sensory integration opportunities. Summer camp provides an opportunity for the kids to interact with peers, and build on the skills they have been learning all year through individual therapy, school and other special services.

Socialization with peers within a community setting is important for kids with sensory integration disorders and The Barn summer camp provides that privilege in a safe and nurturing environment. Activities to include: paint, art creations, water play, horses, hayrack rides, climbing, swinging, hiking, wood crafts, gardening, musical instruments, imaginative games, outdoor games and so much more.

Visit their web site for more information www.myplaybarn.com or call (402)301-6829

The Barn Family Camp Out - Postponed

Due to the over abundance of rain and some unfriendly lightning, the Overnight Family Camp Out at THE BARN has been postponed. As soon as they get some sunny days and a tree removed they will announce their new date! Email info@myplaybarn.com to get added to their contact list so you can be the first to know.



OMAHA: Summer Acting Classes at The Rose

Autism Action Partnership and The Rose Theater are offering children and teens with ASD an unique theatrical experience that promotes creativity, confidence and self-esteem. Professional actor/educators from The Rose will use team exercises, game playing and interactive storytelling to introduce your child to the world of theater. These classes are designed specifically for students who are diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

Tuition is \$30 per ASD student, and a registration form is required for enrollment. Please contact Niki Mulkey at nikim@rosetheater.org. *Note: Sibling scholarships are not available during the summer session

Classes for 3rd - 6th Grade - July 19 - 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 per ASD student; Registration: Call The Rose Theater at (402) 502-4617 for an application. Download a flyer [here](#).

Research opportunity

Study name: A Sibling Case-control Study of Maternal Prenatal Body Mass Index

Mothers of two children, one diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, one not. Children who were born from January 1, 1992 to December 31, 2007 with a minimum of 36 weeks of gestation. Participation to this study has been simplified. Please take this online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LVQ3ZYM>

The purpose of this study is to determine if the early pregnancy weight differs by pregnancy for women who have a child later diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Body mass index is the main study variable; another will be birth order.

Your responses are confidential, only the accumulated information from all participants in the study will be presented. The approximate time to complete this survey is less than 20 minutes. Please email Ruthann.hendrix@waldenu.edu with any questions.

**Two participants will be randomly selected for a U.S. \$30 gift card. Participants have a one in 60 chance of winning.

This research study is not affiliated with the Autism Society

Easter Seals— Camp for youth with autism

There are a few spots left during the week of camp for youth with Autism. This camp is held June 28th - July 2nd. This camp is a day camp, with transportation provided to camp by Easter Seals.

There may be some scholarships available as well.

Check the website for application materials. www.campeastersealsne.com



OMAHA: Ollie Webb: Adapted Martial Arts Class

Great Plans PVA Adapted Martial Arts Summer Session began on Monday, June 14 and runs through August 2. Class will be held from 9:15 - 10:00 am. Class is held at Great Plains PVA located at 7612 Maple Street. Cost is \$25.00 for the sessions. For more information, call 398-1422.

HETRA—Summer Camp

Summer Camp at HETRA - Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy facilities

HETRA's mission to improve the quality of life both physically and emotionally of adults and children with disabilities through equine assisted activities.

Discover what it takes to keep a horse healthy, happy and strong. Each student will learn how to groom and saddle a horse, make horse treats, even how to clean a stall. There will be plenty of “horsey” crafts and activities for all ages. This camp is open to everyone.

For more information contact www.hetra.org or 402-359-8830.

Valley: July 5-9, 2010 - 29430 Ida Street, Valley NE

Omaha: July 12-16, 2010 – 4906 S 180th Street, Omaha NE

Advanced Independent Riding Camp: July 19-23, 2010, Valley NE (Student must have previous riding lessons and ability to walk and trot independently.)

Hours: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Cost: \$35/day or \$150/week



OMAHA—Step by Step Dance Class

Step By Step is a fun, safe dance class for special needs students up to age 16. They meet weekly for an hour and stretch, learn basic dance positions, leap, jump, tap and hip hop!

When: June and July 7:35-8:35pm (begins Thurs. June 3)

Where: Broadway Connection Dance Center, 2329 N. 90th St. (90th & Blondo)

Instructors: Sue Booton and Carly Nass plus community volunteers

Tuition: \$35 per month (you may participate in one month or both!)

Download a registration form [here](#). Contact Sue Booton at 571-4446 with any questions.

All information on this Newsgram is also available by visiting our web site at www.autismnebraska.org



OMAHA Support Group is moved to JULY 12th due to Holiday

Please make a special note that the JULY PUMP IT UP / Support Group has been moved to July 12th due to the 4th of July holiday weekend!

Please make a note on your calendars!

OMAHA Support Group hosts Family Pool Party and Picnic

Come join the Autism Society Omaha Support Group for our 4th annual Pool party and picnic! We will have the pool to ourselves Saturday, July 17—Omaha ASD Family Pool Party and Barbecue

10:00am—12:30pm

Maple Village Country Club 3645 Maplewood Blvd

Click here to RSVP <http://www.evite.com/app/publicUrl/ZCVSTYQWMRIOUGOOPYAL/poolparty>

Or contact Karen Al-Hindi at karen.alhindi@gmail.com before Thursday, July 15th.



OMAHA: Support Group sets a Meetup Time for Summer Bowling

The Omaha Support Group will be again having a standing bowling date at Sempeck's Bowling (former Thunder Alley location) in Elkhorn every Friday morning at 10am. This will be all summer long. No RSVP...just show up! We are going at their starting time when they are a little less busy. This is an informal gathering. You don't need to check in with anyone with the support group...just come and bowl and expect to see other ASD families in attendance.

Sempecks again is offering the Kids Bowl Free program where kids can bowl 2 free games every day during the summer! You will need to register online at www.kidsbowlfree.com you can get your kids 2 free games EVERY day during the summer! You can also get yourself a pass for \$25 bucks to bowl along with them all summer long! You will need to pay for shoe rentals but otherwise this is a VERY low cost event! Check with them to get a season show rental as well!

Again, there will not be any reservations for our group. This is just an open event at Sempeck's and we are establishing it as a meet up time where our families can go bowling and know there will be some familiar and understanding faces!



Sensory Friendly Theater Options

The Autism Society is very thankful to AMC Entertainment for their leadership in bringing families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. We have now had almost two full years of Sensory Friendly Movies here in Omaha and for many of our families this has been an amazing way to overcome some of the isolation we as a community tend to experience.

A movie is something that so many in society take for granted but for those with sensory issues it can be very difficult. For some, walking into a dark theater is terrifying. For others the heart pounding sound system is too much to handle. 2 hours is an awful long time to sit still and for many of our community it is just not possible for them to be totally silent for the entire showing.

So what is a **sensory friendly** movie? This is a movie venue that is accommodating to YOUR needs! The auditorium will have their lights brought up, the sound turned down, and a silence policy will not be enforced. AMC showings do not have previews so plan to arrive on time!

We are thrilled to announce additional sensory friendly opportunities in the area! First of all, AMC has expanded their theaters and starting in July there will now be a sensory friendly showing at the AMC –Star 17 theater in Council Bluffs! Also Marcus Theatre has recently developed their own program called **Reel Movies for Real Needs** and there are two Nebraska theatres participating. You can learn more about the Marcus Theatre program [here](#).

Omaha:

Toy Story 3

Saturday, June 26

10:00 am

Oakview 24 Theater (AMC Theatre)

3555 S 140th Plaza

10:30 am

Village Point Cinema (Marcus Theatre)

304 N 174th Street

Lincoln:

Toy Story 3

Saturday, June 26

10:30 am

Lincoln Grand Cinema (Marcus Theatre)

1101 P St

Save the Date for...

The Despicable Me at AMC on Saturday, July 17th

Ramona and Beezus at Omaha's Village Point/Lincoln's Grand on Saturday, July 24th

The Autism Society of Nebraska has developed a toolkit to help you approach your local theater about creating sensory friendly showings in your community! Contact us at autismsociety@autismnebraska.org to find out more information about how to create sensory friendly showings in your community!

AUTISM SOCIETY—OMAHA SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

Come join us at Pump It Up - The Original Inflatable Party Zone - for a night of bouncing, jumping and climbing! This will be a private event for families with children on the autism spectrum.

WHO: Autism Families

WHEN: **MONDAY, JULY 12TH**
6:00pm - 8:00pm

WHERE: Pump It Up 960 S 72nd (72nd & Pacific)

COST: \$5 per child (\$10 maximum charge per family)

**The July meeting
has been moved to
JULY 12th due to
the Independence
Day Holiday!**

NEW! NOTICE OUR CHANGED FORMAT!

We now have two rooms available to our group. One room is for those 8 and older and the other room will be for the younger children. Parents have the right to chose their room if one age group does not work for their child. The children will switch after 45 minutes so that both groups will get to experience both play areas. We will then combine the group for the last 20 minutes in order to facilitate opening up the rock wall.

THIS EVENING CAN BE WHATEVER YOU WANT IT TO BE!

There are a variety of ways this evening can serve your family:

1. Come to Pump It Up and climb, bounce and have a blast with your family. Consider it a family night out. You don't have to participate in the support group meeting. You can also look at this as a night to get the kids out and burn off some energy in reduced cost / autism friendly environment!
2. Leave the kids home (with Dad or Mom or Grandma or a babysitter) and join the support group for a chance to talk and meet other parents. The support group meets in a separate room away from the excited chaos.
3. Bring a helper to supervise/play with your kids and then the adults can come join the support group discussion. Then if you are needed you are only a few steps away. Or RSVP to Shawn Neff at saneff@cox.net to see about a UNO Volunteer to supervise your child while you attend the support group.
4. One parent can play/supervise the kids and the other parent can attend the support group.
5. OR we have some amazing volunteers from the UNO NSSLHA (Speech language students) who are coming to help provide some respite. **If you need a college volunteer to supervise your child you MUST RSVP to Shawn Neff at saneff@cox.net by the prior Wednesday in order to be ensured an adult volunteer.** This will be first come first served as our participation grows we are finding the kids are starting to outnumber the volunteers! We only need the RSVP if you are seeking a volunteer to chaperone your child.

OMAHA: Calendar of Events

Friday Bowling—Kids Bowl Free Program

The Omaha Support Group will be again having a standing bowling date at Sempeck's Bowling (former ThunderAlley) in Elkhorn every Friday morning at 10am. This will be all summer long. No RSVP...just show up!

We are going at their starting time when they are a little less busy. This is an informal gathering. You don't need to check in with anyone with the support group...just come and bowl and expect to see other ASD families!

If you register online at www.kidsbowlfree.com you can get your kids 2 free games EVERY day during the summer! You can also get yourself a pass for \$25 bucks to bowl along with them all summer long! You will need to pay for shoe rentals but otherwise this is a VERY low cost event!

Again, there will not be any reservations for our group. This is just an open event at Sempeck's and we are establishing it as a meet up time where our families can go bowling and know there will be some familiar and understanding faces!

Saturday, June 26—AMC Sensory Friendly Movie Toy Story 3

10:00 am \$5 per person

Oakview AMC Theater 3555 S 140th Plaza

Monday, July 12—Pump It Up/Support Group ****NOTE THAT THE DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED DUE TO HOLIDAY**

6:00 pm—8:00 pm

960 S 72nd St, Omaha

\$5 per child / \$10 family maximum

Saturday, July 17—Omaha ASD Family Pool Party and Barbecue

10:00am—12:30pm

Maple Village Country Club 3645 Maplewood Blvd

Click here to RSVP <http://www.evite.com/app/publicUrl/ZCVSTYQWMRIOUGOOPYAL/poolparty>

Or contact Karen Al-Hindi at karen.alhindi@gmail.com before Thursday, July 15th.

Summer Resources to Check Out!

Please help us complete our list of resources by forwarding any ASD friendly events to AutismSocietyNewsgram@autismnebraska.org

KEARNEY:

Challenger Baseball [Click here for more information.](#)

OMAHA:

AllPlay Baseball [Click here for more information](#)

The Barn Summer Camp [Click here for more information](#)

Camp Munroe Recreational Therapy Summer Camp Call 559-5777 for application

Challenger Baseball [Click here for more information](#)

The Rose Summer Classes [Click here for more information](#)

PTC Camps [Click here for more information](#)

LINCOLN:

Homer's Heroes Baseball [Click here for more information](#)

DreamsUnlimited [Click here for more information](#)

STATEWIDE:

Nebraska Game and Parks Family and Friends Fishing Events [More information](#)

To have your event added to the Autism Society Newsgram and calendar please email AutismSocietyNewsgram@autismnebraska.org or you can post it directly to our calendar at www.autismnebraska.org. Please be aware that it may take 24 hours for your event to appear on the site.

We appreciate your help including our statewide community events! Please help us help you AND your neighbors!

Autism Society of Nebraska

PO Box 83559
Lincoln, NE 68501-3559

Phone: 1-800-580-9279

E-mail: autismsociety@autismnebraska.org



All information on this Newsgram is also available by visiting our web site at www.autismnebraska.org

We hear a lot of questions about what we do with the money raised from the Puzzle Walk. The most exciting answer is that 100% of the proceeds from the Autism Society Puzzle Walk stay in Nebraska. Essentially that money goes where our **Board of Directors** decides it best serves our mission of improving the lives of all (Nebraskans) affected by autism!

So who are our Board of Directors? Our board is open to professionals, family members and persons on the spectrum. We seek representation from communities across Nebraska. **And this is your lucky day because right now we are seeking applications to fill open board positions!**

We all know that there is so much to do in serving the autism community. Trying to meet these needs has been compared to trying to extinguish a three alarm fire with a bucket full of water. In other words, there is never enough time, money or resources to meet all of the needs.

This is why our board is so very important. These community leaders help determine where the Autism Society is going to invest their limited resources. Some previous areas the Autism Society has invested their resources include our web site and Newsgram, ASD State Conference, family scholarships, support groups, community events, sponsorship of summer ASD camps as well as scholarships for parents to attend conferences.

The Autism Society of Nebraska is committed to working with the local grassroots communities to meet their needs because no one knows better than you what your community needs. We are here to partner with you to make it happen! Our goal for 2010 is to expand our network of support groups across Nebraska. With a stronger grassroots organization it will be easier for us to make sure we are having a real impact across the entire state! Therefore...the Autism Society needs passionate individuals who are willing to step up and help lead the Nebraska grassroots community!



WE NEED YOU!

The Nebraska Chapter of the Autism Society seeks to have board representation for across the entire state of Nebraska. We currently have board vacancies and are taking applications for these very important positions.

Board members are asked to attend a quarterly meeting that rotates between Lincoln and Omaha locations. Additionally they are required to participate in a monthly teleconference call to review and discuss Autism Society matters.

Anyone interested in helping advocate for individuals affected by autism is eligible, but we particularly need board representation from the professional community serving our population. Please consider this important volunteer opportunity!

Download an application form [here](#). **Application are due July 1, 2010.**



The Project Lifesaver Bracelet.

A track-and-respond program for families who deal with Alzheimer's, autism and Down Syndrome.

Do you care for a loved one who might wander away from home or become confused while away from their house? Project Lifesaver makes finding them easier. We fit your loved one with a wristband transmitter **before** they wander off, which makes them easy for us to find. And once we find them, our staff has been specially trained to communicate with special needs individuals. So if you need us, we're sure to bring your loved one home quickly and safely.

Take comfort in Project Lifesaver. For more information, contact the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office at 402.593.2288 or projectlifesaver@sarpy.com.



projectlifesaver.org

www.autismnebraska.org

Be sure and check the [ASN Web Site](#) and [Calendar](#) between Newsgrams! We often have new information on the web site that we have yet to include in the Newsgrams!