

AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism

Nebraska



JULY 29, 2010

NEWSGRAM

Join the **Bellevue Fire Department**

Autism Society of Nebraska - Omaha Support Group
The Ollie Webb Center
and the Omaha Down Syndrome Parent Network
for a

Fire Safety Day

for all families with special needs!

Saturday, August 7th from 1:00pm - 4:00 pm

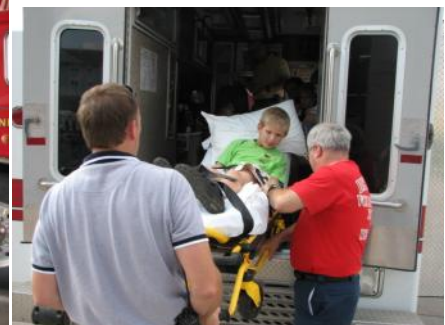


Please check in promptly at 1:00 p.m. to be placed in a small group. Groups will rotate throughout the various activities. If your child opts to sit out an activity or leave the event altogether that is fine. Child must have an adult chaperone.

Come see a rollover car demo, friendly firefighter in full equipment, learn about 911, seat belt safety, and even some basics about first aid. Come visit the smoke trailer and have supervised practice crawling out of the smoke trailer window to safety! Another huge thrill will be taking a ride on a fire engine and even hold your own fire hose to squirt out a pretend fire.

This event is built around our community and our special sensory needs. There will not be any sirens used and the staff will follow your child's lead. This is a perfect opportunity for those kids who might be fearful of the fire trucks to come and learn that the fireman is their friend.

RSVP is required prior to August 1st. You can register online [HERE](#) or call Shawn Neff at (402)861-1947 to register.



Keeping all Students Safe—helping you track legislation on restraint/seclusion

The use of restraint and seclusion in the schools has been an issue of significant concern and activity at a local as well as national level. The **Our Children Left Behind** organization (a volunteer, parent-led organization) has done significant work for the rights of children with disabilities and their families in Special Education law and policy and now see this as a priority in their work.

It is vital that you know that there are discussions going on within the Senate and that there is a possibility that the Senate might pass a bill that would not prohibit the use of restraint/seclusion as a planned intervention in a student's IEP. Now is the time to educate ourselves about this issue so that we all can be ready to advocate for our children's safety at the national level once the Senate bill has taken its final form and is presented for debate.

[Visit the Our Children Left Behind web site to follow these bills that have passed in the House of Representatives and as introduced in the Senate.](#)

Survey—Predictors of Impairment in Pediatric Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Rothman Center for Pediatric Neuropsychiatry is conducting an internet study entitled Predictors of Impairment in Pediatric Autism Spectrum Disorders. The purpose of the study is to investigate the relationship between autism spectrum disorder (ASD) symptoms and functional impairment and to gain a comprehensive understanding of the co-occurring factors (e.g., anxiety, behavior, etc.) that may contribute to this relationship.

Inclusion criteria are as follows: (a) The child participants must have an ASD diagnosis; (b) The child participants must be between the ages of 5 and 18 years; (c) The parent or caregiver participants must have a computer with internet access and know how to navigate through the website; (d) The participants must be English speaking as we are unable to translate the measures due to resource limitations. Participants who do not wish to participate in the study will be excluded.

This study has no affiliation with the Autism Society. Please follow the link bellow if you wish to participate... <http://hscm2.hsc.usf.edu/checkbox/Survey.aspx?surveyid=4693>

Douglas County—Project Lifesaver Survey

The Douglas County Sheriff's Department needs feedback on the implementation of Project Lifesaver. If you live in Douglas County, please answer this 2-question survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W8S2MPQ>

Thank you for your input!



OMAHA: Sibshop Workshop at Ollie Webb

This award winning, national affiliated program for youth ages 6 -13 is uniquely designed to provide high-energy activities for siblings of children with developmental disabilities.

Sibshops will be held Saturday, August 28th at the Ollie Webb Center from 10:00am to 12:15pm To make reservations for Sibshops, call Annie at 346-5220 ext 23 or email her at aanderson@olliewebbinc.org

OMAHA: BSC TOPSoccer Registration deadline

TOPSoccer has had the joy of extending the sportsmanship, camaraderie and thrill of competition through soccer to hundreds of children and young adults with special needs. TOPSoccer stands for the Outreach Program for Soccer and is a national program created to give young people with differing abilities the opportunity to learn and play the game of soccer.

The TOPSoccer program not only gives young athletes with differing abilities an opportunity to play soccer, it also gives them a renewed sense of accomplishment and self worth. As the season progresses, we see not only improvement in athletic ability and physical stamina but also development in emotional and social well being.

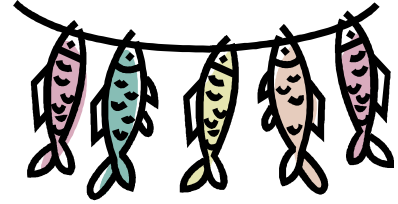
BSC TOPSoccer is fortunate to have volunteers of all ages participating as coaches, buddies, team parents, field crew, committee members and fans. These dedicated people attest that in assisting our TOPS players they have experienced true joy and have learned wonderful lessons about themselves and others. They return season after season and are a valued members of the BSC Tops Family.

It is time to register for the TOPSoccer Fall 2010 Season. All registrations are due by Aug. 5th, 2010. Registrations received after this date can not be guaranteed team placement as team formation and uniform ordering will be done at that point. Acceptance of late registrations will be based on availability of open spots on teams.

Registration forms can be found [HERE](#). Fall registration is due by Aug. 5, 2010 Fee \$20. All 3 forms are required. After 8/5/10 registration fee is \$40. The first game is 9/12/10. Confirmation email with information about team placement and a season schedule will be sent the beginning of September. For more information visit the TOPSoccer tab at their web site, www.bscneb.org



OMAHA: Nebraska Walleye Association hosts Special Needs Fishing clinic



This is a special clinic for special youth and young adults that need a smaller and more hands on experience at fishing. The Nebraska Walleye Association (NWA) puts these clinics on all over the state of Nebraska. We've made this clinic smaller in size to give special youth and young adults a chance to try out fishing. No rods or reels are needed. We will provide a short lunch, instructional training (about 1 hour), fishing gear, bait and assistance with fishing. All that you need are your children and a lawn chair. Brothers and sisters are welcome but please sign them up at the same time. We will begin checking everyone in starting at 12:30 PM at the boat ramp picnic shelter at Lake Zorinsky. For Youth and Young Adults (Parent or guardian must attend)

There will be hot dogs, chips and drinks before starting the clinic. The NWA will teach casting, knot tying, bait, tackle, & fish ID. Then everyone gets to try their hand at fishing!

Saturday, August 14, 2010

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Zorinsky Lake - 156th and F Street

Check-in and Meal: 12:30 pm - 1:00pm

Workshop starts at 1pm with fishing after the workshop

Contact: Rich McShane: redcopper@gmail.com to register or for additional information. Download a flyer [HERE](#).

Co-Sponsored by: Cabela's, Wimmer's Meat, Midlands Financial, Woodmen of the World,

OMAHA: All Star Basketball League

Great Plains Paralyzed Veterans Association and Ollie Webb Center, Inc host a Basketball League for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

6 week league: September 20 - October 28

COST: \$35 Arc Member / \$45 Non-Arc Member

LOCATION: Great Plains PVA at 7612 Maple Street, Omaha, NE

If you have questions, please call contact person Annie Anderson at the OWC at 3465220, ext. 23.

For more information and to download their registration form please refer to page 2 in their Newsletter [HERE](#). Scholarships may be available.



OMAHA: Handwriting Without Tears Pre-K Workshop

Saturday, August 28

8:30 A.M. TO NOON (LIGHT BREAKFAST 8:00-8:30)

COST: \$20 (INCLUDES BREAKFAST AND ALL MATERIALS)

LOCATION: ESU3: 6949 S 110th Street, Omaha NE 68128

For more information, please contact Jennifer Haggart at jhaggart@esu3.org or 402-597-4991. Registrations and payment must be received by August 11. To register, please complete the registration form and mail with payment. Download a flyer [HERE](#).

Brought to you by the Early Childhood Consortium of the Omaha Area (ECCOA), the professional development partnership supporting training, technical assistance and consultation for those who work with children ages birth through age eight in Cass, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. ECCOA is supported in part by a grant from federal and/or state funds administered by the Nebraska Department of Education.

At the end of the Handwriting Without Tears Pre-K Workshop, attendees will be able to:

- Plan new activities to teach body awareness and other school readiness skills
- Understand how to use music to prepare children for school
- Identify developmental stages in writing readiness
- Understand how to use multisensory, hands-on manipulatives to prepare children for handwriting
- Teach a correct and effective grip and other fine motor skills
- Teach counting, drawing, shape recognition, and letter/number formations to children at the Pre-K level



ASD Network Upcoming Trainings

The Nebraska ASD Network is committed to providing up-to-date information and training based on current research about autism spectrum disorders. They have workshops that scheduled throughout the state on a variety of subjects. Check out their upcoming events on their web site [HERE](#).

OMAHA: Transitions—A social skills program for College-aged young adults with autism and Asperger’s Syndrome.

Transitions is a new program designed to assist high-functioning young adults on the autism spectrum develop and refine social skills needed for their transition into adulthood. Transitions has been created through a collaboration among Autism Action Partnership, the Robertson Family Foundation, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Participation is free and completely voluntary. Participants will be paired with college-aged peers to develop and practice social skills, attend regular group meetings to prepare for organized social activities, interact with other participants and peers, and complete periodic written surveys to assess the effectiveness of the program.

Participants will be selected for Transitions in mid August of 2010. Participants who are selected will be asked to commit about four hours a month to the program.

For more information or to apply to participate in the program, please contact Catelyn Newman at crnewman@unomaha.edu. You can download a flyer [HERE](#).

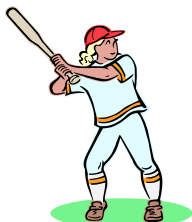
Free Admission to Fontenelle Forest’s Great Bug Adventure

Individuals with disabilities and their caregivers and/or family members may have free admission to “The Great Bug Adventure” at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, an exhibit serving people of all ages and abilities. Many thanks to the William R. Patrick Foundation for making this possible. Contact Shawn at 861-1947 or saneff@cox.net to receive a voucher for admission.



Royals Baseball—Disability Awareness Night

Come out and enjoy some Royals Baseball on August 9, 2010!



Free tickets are available to families within the disability community thanks to event sponsor, Continuum Financial! Contact Michelle Schrage at (402)343-8308 or mschrage@finsvcs.com. Tickets are first come, first served so contact them today before they run out!

Please see the flyer [HERE](#).

ASD Network Training—Ziggurat Model

Check out this training opportunity the Nebraska ASD Network has coming up this fall!

PRESENTED BY Ruth Aspy, Ph.D. and Barry G. Grossman, Ph.D

WHEN: September, 28th, and 29th, 2010

LOCATION: NE Children's Home Society
4939 S. 118th St. Omaha, NE 68137

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

COST: \$150 .00 In-State Participants
\$300.00 Out-of-State Participants

Deadline: September 13th, 2010. Registration is limited.

*Registrations are on a first come first-served basis.

The Ziggurat Model is a guide for designing comprehensive behavior interventions for individuals of all ages with autism spectrum disorders. The Model has been adopted at the district-wide and statewide levels. The Ziggurat approach centers on a five level system, structured in a hierarchy. Each level represents an area that must be addressed in order for an intervention plan to be comprehensive. The premise of the Ziggurat Model is that underlying needs and characteristics related to the autism spectrum must be addressed. Assessment tools to facilitate this process will be introduced including a new Early Childhood Underlying Characteristics Checklist (UCC-EC).

Parents, teachers, speech pathologists, psychologists, physicians, occupational therapists, counselors, school administrators, autism consultants, and others will benefit from this training. Emphasis is placed on working as an intervention team.

Download a flyer / registration form [here](#).

MMI—Big Splash

The Munroe Meyer Institute will be hosting their 2nd annual Big Splash Fundraiser. All Big Splash proceeds go towards helping UNMC's Munroe Meyer Institute provide clinical services, research, and innovative therapies to area families and individuals with developmental disabilities and genetic disorders.

August 21, 2010 - 8am - noon
Fun Race and Relay Meet

Visit their web site to learn more!
<http://www.mmibigsplash.org/>

August 21, 2010 1pm - 3pm
Family Swim and Splash Party

Autism Society National Advisory Panel Member with Autism Meets President Obama

A dream came true this week for Sondra Williams, a member of the Autism Society's Panel of People on the Spectrum of Autism. On Monday, the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, she stood with one of her heroes, President Barack Obama, and shook his hand – twice.

"I still think it's like a dream that's not really happening," said Williams, a woman with autism who serves as an adviser to the Autism Society. "The only higher person than him is God – that's the only higher person I haven't met yet."

Williams, who lives in Columbus, Ohio, is a married mother of four children, all of whom have been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, and a grandmother of two. She is a self-published author and recently took up dance lessons. One of the characteristics Williams respects about the President is the resilience he showed during the presidential campaign. "He didn't let the water ripple under his feet; he just stood there strong," she said. "To me, I think he really represents the people ... he didn't come from a lot of money and wealth."

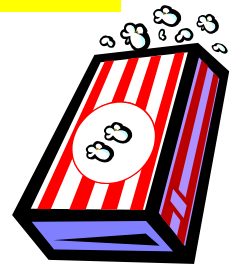
Read the full article at the Autism Society national web site [HERE](#).

And a big thanks to Nebraska Advocate Sharon daVanport who also joined advocates at the White House to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the American's With Disabilities Act!



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](#) as some of their accommodations vary.

Omaha:

Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore

Saturday, August 7

10:00 am

Oakview 24 Theater (AMC Theatre)
3555 S 140th Plaza

Nanny McPhee Returns

Saturday, August 21st

Omaha:

10:30 am

Village Point Cinema (Marcus Theater)
304 North 174th St—Omaha

Council Bluffs:

Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore

Saturday, August 7

10:00 am

Council Bluffs Star 17 Cinema (AMC Theater)
3220 23rd Avenue

Lincoln:

10:30 am

Lincoln Grand Cinema (Marcus Theater)
1101 P St

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

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, AUGUST 2, 2010**

6:00pm - 8:00pm

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

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



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.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Join the Autism Society of Nebraska on Facebook!
Become a Fan...click [HERE!](#)

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

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.

Autism Society of Nebraska

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Phone: 1-800-580-9279
E-mail: autismsociety@autismnebraska.org

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



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