

AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism



Nebraska

JANUARY 21, 2011

NEWSGRAM

A benefit for the Autism Society of Nebraska

Thank you to EVERYONE who came out to support our night of comedy and music!
The Weisenheimers were awesome and Sarah Benck was amazing!
Special thanks to the PS Collective for hosting!



www.weisenheimers.com



www.sarahbenck.com

SAVE THE DATE

STATE AUTISM CONFERENCE—APRIL 7-8
AUTISM PUZZLE WALK—APRIL 30TH

Autism WALK

**HELP DESIGN THE AUTISM SOCIETY'S
2011 AUTISM WALK SHIRTS!**

2 EASY RULES:

- Your design will need to be on a white shirt and may only use the following colors: Red, Blue, Yellow and Black
- Your design must reflect the spirit and attitude of the Autism Community

Send your Submissions to AUTISMSOCIETY@AUTISMNEBRASKA.ORG by Monday, January 31st. The Autism Society will narrow down the selections and have our community help pick the winner!

**The 2011
Autism Walk
will be Saturday,
April 30th!**

 **AUTISM SOCIETY**
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Nebraska

****We reserve the right to adjust the submission for printing purposes.**



The missing piece is...YOU!

Join the 2011 Autism Walk Brigade!

As many of you may know the Autism Society of Nebraska has had a successful Autism Puzzle Walk for the past 3 years. We are in the process of putting together our 4th Annual Autism Puzzle Walk which will be Saturday, April 30th at Chalco Hills Recreation Area in Omaha.

This event requires a tremendous amount of commitment and planning from volunteers within our community. An orientation meeting for this years walk has been scheduled for

Monday, January 31st at 7:00 p.m.

Assistance is needed in a variety of ways. We need leaders to coordinate food, door prizes and registrations but we also need volunteers who are willing to donate a few hours of work. So, whether you are able to stuff envelopes or have a background planning community events, we need you there on Monday, January 31th!

We also need help securing corporate sponsors. Historically our best partnerships have been with those organizations where our families work. If you know of a possible sponsor please let us know. We will have large and small sponsorships available and would appreciate any help you are able to give to this important cause.

The mission of the Nebraska Chapter of the Autism Society of America is to support and advocate for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families. The funds raised from the walk will be used for family scholarship program, funding support groups, sponsoring activities for families touched by autism, annual ASD state conference speakers and the continuation of our Newsgram, website and virtual support group.

We hope you consider helping us make a difference in the lives of individuals with autism here in Nebraska! If you want to help and just can't make it that night, don't worry. Email us and we'll find a way to use your help! Email us at autismsociety@autismnebraska.org

Remember the missing piece is YOU!

Date: Monday, January 31st, 2011

When: 7:00pm

**Where: Autism Center of Nebraska, 9012 Q Street
NW Corner of 90th and Q Street (former church)
Use main entrance from the upper parking lot**

A BIG thanks to the Autism Center of Nebraska for allowing the Autism Society the use of their facility to host our meeting!!!!

2011 State Autism Conference

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

REGISTRATION IS OPEN! DOWNLOAD A CONFERENCE FLYER [HERE](#).

The 2011 ASD State Conference will feature over 25 breakout sessions. Topics and themes include: Assistive Technology, Evidence Based Practices, Positive Approaches to Problem Behaviors, Social Thinking, Communication Interventions, and much more. This is going to be a great conference so register soon to make sure you get a seat!

A Parent Breakout Strand will be offered throughout the conference with topics specifically designed for parents and family members. This strand is sponsored in part by the Autism Society of Nebraska.

A Panel of Individuals on the Autism Spectrum will discuss their experiences in middle school, high school, college and beyond.

New to the conference this year will be Networking Sessions which will include informal meeting and collaboration rooms for Parents, Support Group Leaders, Ziggurat Model Users, Best Practices in Assessment, STEPS/District Leadership Participants, and Assistive Technology.

Childcare will be provided by the Autism Society of Nebraska during the Thursday evening dinner/keynote presentation.

Scholarships for family members and individuals with ASD are available through the Autism Society of Nebraska. Learn more about our scholarship program [HERE](#).



Growin'



the grassroots!

TWENTY THREE states have passed insurance legislation helping the families of their state get appropriate insurance coverage for their loved one with autism. **Those families are now able to access the treatment and therapy they need!** Sadly, Nebraska is not one of those 23 states.

But there is a movement here in Nebraska taking foot to get a bill introduced to help our families. Historically, these legislative changes do not occur over night and it may take a few attempts to get it done. But the one thing that we have learned from watching the other 23 states pass their insurance laws is that there must be a large grassroots movement behind the effort. Senators don't want to hear from businesses or lobbyists. They want to hear from the voters in their district...the ones who put them in office! And that is YOU!!

A GREAT opportunity lies ahead of us to start being noticed by the legislative body here in Nebraska.

Every year (for 40 years) the ARC of Nebraska has hosted a Senatorial Dinner in Lincoln. They typically have a great turnout from the Senators who are all in session in Lincoln during the event. This is an amazing opportunity for us to come out as a community and meet with our senators. This event is designed as a way for families with developmental disabilities to meet with their senators and share their personal experiences.

We recommend you call your Senator and encourage him/her to attend. Don't know who your senator is? Visit http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php for an interactive map to find out.

Don't be overwhelmed. Make it a short and simple phone call. Let them know that you will be attending the Arc's 40th Annual Senatorial dinner and was hoping that you might be able to meet with him/her at the dinner and briefly introduce yourself.

Don't stress about needing to educate that senator about autism or your families plight. What we really need is for him/her to know that your family exists, that you live in his district and that your loved one has autism. This first meeting should be a friendly exchange with no real demands. Right now it is imperative that they realize we are out here. Imagine the impact it would have for a senator to receive a call from 5 or 6 or 10 of his citizens sharing this similar story!

As a senator they hear from everyone what is wrong in this world and that they aren't doing enough to help us. We strongly encourage you to remind yourself that they really do want to help (otherwise they wouldn't be in public office) but perhaps they just don't realize our plight. So please let them know that you appreciate all that they do and then maybe share a couple of your stories. Please try not to make any demands of them. We don't want to overwhelm them on multiple fronts. Just show them that you exist and that you (just like every other parent out there) want what is best for your family.

We will be gathering the community in the upcoming months to build on this grassroots connection and there will be a time for us to explain exactly what the autism community needs from them. But right now, let's focus on building some relationships and letting them know we are out here.

Please consider attending this dinner! You can download a registration flyer [HERE](#). The dinner is the evening of February 8th in Lincoln. There is a cost but it will be such a great investment! The RSVP deadline is February 1st!

KEARNEY: ADVOCACY NEEDED!

*****CHANGE TO DATE***This meeting is now February 22nd at 7pm**

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

The Arc of Buffalo County hosted a Kearney City Council Listening Session last Thursday evening to share their vision for an inclusive playground. They are now needing to organize a calling campaign to educate the city council members about this project before they make their final capital improvement project decisions in February.

The city is hosting a public hearing on Tuesday, February 22th at City Council Chambers (18 East 22nd Street) at 7:00 pm. It was strongly recommended that playground supporters personally call each of the city council members to ask them to support the project. Please contact them to ask them to support the inclusive playground. Ask friends and other city citizens to also call in support of the project. (Download a list of council members and their contact information [HERE](#).)

It is imperative that supporters attend the public hearing city council meeting on February 22nd. This initiative has made progress but it must end strong in the coming weeks to make the final cut and secure funding.



ASD Network: SE Regional Newsletter

The Nebraska ASD Network is an amazing resource for families and professionals in our state. If you haven't already met your regional coordinator, do it now! Also be sure and check out their statewide web site as well as their regional pages for training opportunities near you! www.unl.edu/asdnetwork

[HERE](#) is the SE Region's January Newsletter. This is a great resource to check out. Print them off. Take them to school. Teachers...put them in the teachers lounge.

Upcoming Workshops

There are a number of upcoming workshop in the next few months. Even though many of these are designed for teachers and school professionals we want to remind our families that YOU are your childs first and perhaps most important teacher. Parents are always welcome to attend the workshops and...

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

OMAHA: Paula Kluth—Your going to love this kid!

Date: Thursday, March 24, 2011

Location: Nebraska Children's Home Society, 4939 S. 118th St., Omaha, Nebraska

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Fee: \$0 SCIP District Staff

\$0 Parents

\$5 Agency Program Staff in ESU #3

\$10 Non-SCIP District Staff

Audience: Parents, Teachers, Special Education Directors, Principals

ESU #3 will sponsor Dr. Paula Kluth for an evening presentation. Dr. Kluth's presentation "You're Going to Love This Kid" focuses on practical ways to support special education students within a general education classroom. Topics addressed include differentiating instruction, creating more active and responsive lessons, making the classroom comfortable and providing opportunities for communication and social skill development. The session will focus on the importance of pushing beyond access and participation and asking schools to challenge students and understand each learner as complex and capable.

Dr. Kluth is a consultant, teacher, author, advocate and independent scholar who works collaboratively with teachers and families to provide inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities and to create more responsive and engaging schooling experiences for all learners. Paula is a former special educator who has served as a classroom teacher, consulting teacher, and inclusion facilitator. She works with teachers in K-12 schools, pre-schools, and early intervention programs. She also regularly works with family organizations and disability-rights and advocacy groups.

Download a flyer [HERE](#) fore registration information.

OMAHA: Autism and the Workplace

Due to a family emergency, James Emmett will not be able to travel to Omaha for our January 25th and 26th workshops. A colleague of James Emmett, Brian King has graciously offered to step in at the last minute. We are thrilled to have Brian to share his expertise!

Brian R. King consults and speaks professionally nationwide, providing groundbreaking insights and strategies for bridging the communication gap between those on the Autism Spectrum and the rest of society. As an adult with Asperger's and ADD, the husband of a woman on the Spectrum, as well as the father of three boys on the Autism Spectrum, Brian has the most comprehensive experience around regarding living on the Autism Spectrum. Brian promises he will "load up" participants with strategies for preparing their students with ASD for the challenges they may encounter in the real world. We are excited to have Brian step in for James Emmett on January 25th (Parent Night 6:00-8:00pm) and the 26th Full Day workshop 8:30-3:30.

Transition...

a word that can send shivers down your spine. For many of our community the biggest transition is moving beyond school. At last year's state autism conference, speaker James Emmet created quite a buzz in his breakout sessions. Therefore the ASD Network is bringing him back for a daylong session AND they are working with the Autism Society to create an evening session particularly for parents! All parents will benefit from this talk not just those with older kids! It is never to early to be thinking about life after school!

James Emmett, M.S., is a national leader in development of employment services for persons with autism spectrum disorders as well as in assisting corporations in creation of outreach efforts to the disability and autism communities. He is an individual with a disability and a parent of three daughters with disabilities. James currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer of Integrated Behavioral Systems and is a Partner in the consulting firm Two Steps Forward. He graduated with a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Illinois Institute of Technology. James recently completed 1.5 years working as the Disability Program Manager for Walgreens helping set up the company's national disability initiative. He also assisted Easter Seals National in laying the foundation for their national autism services network.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that the evening session is for parents and professionals and the information will be relevant no matter the age of your child. It is never too early to start planning and preparing to help make their dreams come true.

January 25, 2011 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm (no cost) ESU3 is located at 6949 S 110th St

Download the Parent Night Flyer [HERE](#).

January 26th 8:30am - 3:30pm \$15 fee

Download the Flyer for the Day Session [HERE](#).

OMAHA: Handwriting Without Tears (Pre-K)

Handwriting Without Tears

Saturday, February 5, 2011 (Registration deadline January 27, 2011)

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Cost: \$20

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

The Handwriting Without Tears Program has been found to be successful for many children with ASD.

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

MILFORD: Executive Function Skills

February 28th, 2011

ASD Network Workshop: ESU 6, Milford, NE

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost: Free (Lunch will be provided)

Do you work with a student that struggles with organization, assignment completion, following direction, displays poor time management skills, and keeps losing things? If so, this workshop is for you! Come and learn about executive functioning skills and how they affect school performance.

Intended Audience:

This workshop is intended for Regular Education Teachers, Special Education Teachers, Parents, Administrators and other Professionals working with students on the Autism Spectrum or other Neurological Disabilities.

Download a flyer [HERE](#).

KEARNEY: Social Communication, Play Skills and Theory of Mind based on Fern Sussman's More than Words and Talk Ability

ASD Network workshop presented by: Judy Lauby, M.S., CCC-Speech/Language Pathologist; Karen Verraneault, Early Childhood Special Educator

This workshop is intended for parents, early childhood teachers, speech/language pathologists, resource specialists, classroom teachers, paraeducators, occupational and physical therapists and community providers seeking information about young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and/or other developmental delays.

Where: Educational Service Unit 10, 76 Plaza Blvd, Kearney, NE

When: February 18, 2011

8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.—Registration

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Workshop

Cost: \$10 (Lunch and Handouts included)

Deadline: February 11, 2011 Please download their flyer [HERE](#). Contact Polly Hays at 308-237-5927 with questions.

COLUMBUS: Teaching Language to Children with Autism

ASD Network Workshop presenters: Deb Rauner, Behavior Specialist from Lincoln Public Schools
Teresa Schultz, Private Practice SLP/Autism Consultant/UNL Project EXCEED-SLP

February 28th and March 1st, 2011, ESU 7, 2657 44th Ave., Columbus, NE

8:00am-4:00 pm

Verbal Behavior is based on the teaching principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis. Understanding Verbal Behavior strategies are key to developing and implementing a language-based curriculum for children with autism. Verbal behavior is a way of understanding the different purposes of language (e.g., a child may use language to ask for things, or to label things in his environment). We will be learning about echoicvocal imitation, tact-labels, intraverbals- answers to questions, mands-requests and listener behavior-following instructions.

Intended Audience:

This workshop is intended for Regular Education Teachers, Special Education Teachers, Parents, Administrators and other professionals working with students with autism.

Please email Angie Stankoski at astankos@esu7.org , or call (402) 564-0815 ext 1017. Download a flyer [HERE](#).

ARC of Nebraska's 40th Senatorial Dinner

Tuesday, February 8, 2011
Cornhusker Hotel, 333 South 13th, Lincoln, NE

2:00p.m. - 3:30p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
4:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. Legislative Briefing
5:00p.m. Registration 6:00p.m. Social Hour
7:00p.m. Dinner

You will be able to meet with the many new Senators and share personal experiences and hopes of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As always, we want to express our appreciation to the Senators for their past and continuing support.

Please call your Senator and encourage him/her to attend. You may call The Arc of Nebraska for the name and phone number of your Senator. The Arc of Nebraska's website also has a Legislative link where you may find your Senator's contact information.

Reservations MUST be made no later than February 1, 2011

Download a flyer [HERE](#). Please Mail or Fax the Completed Reservation Form to:

The Arc of Nebraska
3601 Calvert Street #25
Lincoln, NE 68506

OMAHA: Join the Autism Society at the Shrine Circus

FEEL LIKE LIFE IS ONE BIG CIRCUS ACT? COME COMPARE!

The Autism Society of Nebraska has been invited by the Tangier shriners to join them for a FREE special needs showing of the Shrine Circus!

Join us Friday, February 25th from 1:00pm - 3:00pm.

Yes, the bad news is that their special needs show is during school hours. So if you have school aged children you will have to decide if you want to take them out of school for the afternoon. This really is a great chance for them to experience such an exciting (but oh so overstimulating) environment in the safety of a more accepting crowd.

We hope you will join us!

It is FREE, but you will need to RSVP with us to get seating. Please email Genisa Neal at genisa27@yahoo.com to register for this showing.



OMAHA: Support Group at Pump It Up

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.

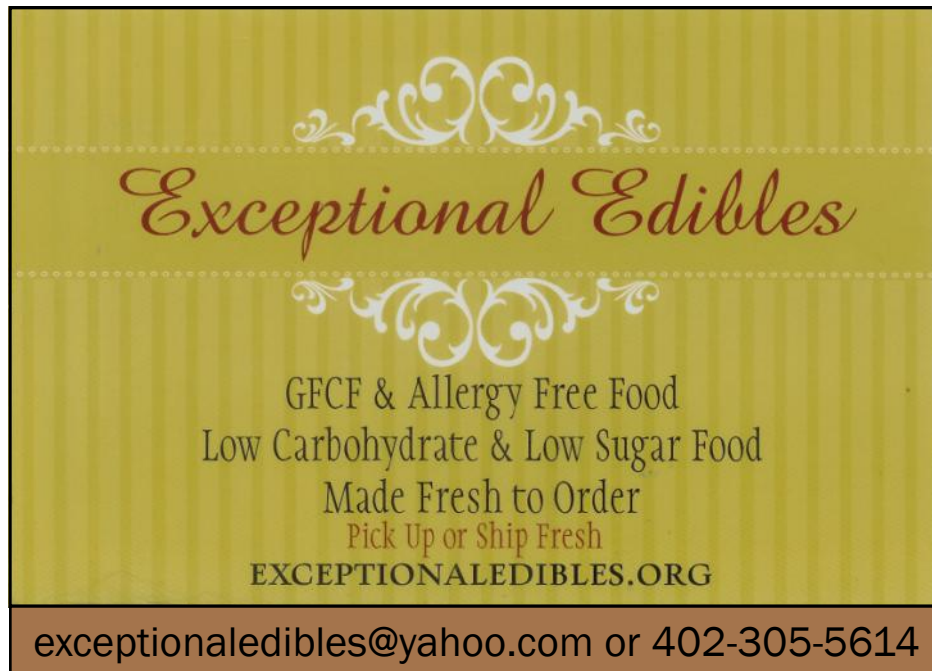
WHO: All Autism Families

WHEN: Monday, February 7, 2011
6:00pm - 8:00pm

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

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

Visit our web site at www.autismnebraska.org/omaha to learn more about how this night can work for your family!



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exceptionaledibles@yahoo.com or 402-305-5614

**Thank you to Autism Mom
Cassandra Herfindahl
for sharing her baking talents
with us!**

**Be sure and check out her
delicious cookies at the
Omaha Support Group
events**

and

**give her a call to order her
homemade treats**

OMAHA: Biomedical Discussion Group

The Biomedical Discussion group meets **Thursday February 17** 7pm at Whole Foods in the Lifestyle Center room. Whole Foods is located just south of the Westroads mall at Regency and Dodge. This is a discussion forum for those families currently involved in biomedical treatments. Contact Chrissy Cameron chrissycameron@cox.net or Karen Falconer Al-Hindi karen.alhindi@gmail.com for more information.

SENSORY FRIENDLY FILMS

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 there are now sensory friendly showings 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.

Gnomeo & Juliet

Saturday, February 12

OMAHA: **10:00 am**
Oakview 24 Theater (AMC Theatre)
 3555 S 140th Plaza

COUNCIL BLUFFS: 10:00 am
Council Bluffs Star 17 Cinema (AMC Theater)
 3220 23rd Avenue

Mars Needs Moms

Saturday, March 12

OMAHA:: **10:00 am**
Oakview 24 Theater (AMC Theatre)
 3555 S 140th Plaza

COUNCIL BLUFFS: 10:00 am
Council Bluffs Star 17 Cinema (AMC Theater)
 3220 23rd Avenue

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!

OMAHA: Movin' and Groovin'

TheraPlayce is offering an exercise and fitness program for children with special needs. They will focus on getting your child up and moving in activities to help increase bone and muscle growth/strength, motor control, and function, and cardiovascular endurance. As your child's strength and endurance increases you will also see an increase in self esteem, socialization skills and attention. The classes will be run by an Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist Assistant and a Certified Speech Language Pathologist.

Movin N' Groovin is a 4 week program. Each week will have a different theme for incorporating fun, aerobic activities, both indoor and outdoor activities (weather permitting).

Visit their website [HERE](#) for more information or to download a registration form.

OMAHA: Social Skating for Special Needs

Theraplayce is offering a new fun way to assist with developing your child's socialization skills along with increasing their strength and balance. Ice skating is also a fun way to spend family time over the winter season and a great way to get exercise at the same time!

Social Skating for Special Needs will take place on Wednesdays from 12:00pm - 2:00pm at Moylan Tranquility Iceplex located on 127th and West Maple Road and will be taught by our Speech Language Pathologist and Physical Therapist Assistant. Our SLP has taught USFSA basic skills and both have backgrounds in skating and enjoy teaching it to others.

Your child will be learning the basic skills for skating as described by the USFSA. These skills include: balance, weight bearing, sitting and standing, marching in place, dipping in place, dipping while moving, and forward two foot swizzles (according to each child's needs and abilities). The skills that will be taught are a progressive set of skills and build on each other so it is very important that you attend each week so your child can get the maximum benefit from our program.

After skating they will enjoy snack together while working on their social language skills like staying on topic; initiating and responding; taking turns; and figurative asking and answering question.

All activities your child participates in during Social Skating for Special Needs are therapeutic and provide input to help your child enhance their lives.

Visit their website [HERE](#) for more information or to download a registration form.

OMAHA: Sensational Saturdays

Drop your kids off for a fun time of sensory activities; speech and language development; auditory, visual and tactile input; and gross motor activities and socialization. Multi-Sensory Saturday is \$25 per class or you can register for 4 classes for only \$90. You must register by the Thursday before the day you wish to attend. Payment is due at the time of drop off.

Theraplayce provides a variety of services and progress is due to the variety of treatment modalities and equipment they use. Sensory integration myofascial release, therapeutic listening aquatic activities and traditional land based interventions are all incorporated to each child's individualized plan of care.

Schedule	Activities during the day will include but are not limited to:
8:45am - 9:00am Drop-off	Tactile/Sensory Exploration
12:00pm - 12:15pm Pick up	Story Time
	Speech/Language Movie
	Social/Language Skills
Visit their website HERE for more information or to download a registration form.	Crafts
	Gross Motor
	Fine Motor

OMAHA: Mommy & Me Yoga

Saturday, February 26th 9:30am - 10:15am or 10:30am - 11:15am

Stones Worth Stepping, 2813 S 88th St, Omaha

Cost: \$35 per session (contact them to see about possible filing with your insurance)

This is an opportunity for you and your child to engage in yoga in a social and therapeutic setting. They will be addressing coordination, strength, body awareness, and motor planning. Only one child per parent. Limited spots available. Download a flyer [HERE](#).

ELKHORN: CREATE hosts a special needs Art Class

Every child is an artist! This class will give your child the opportunity to learn and explore using art. There will be a variety of activities, easily adapted to meet the needs of your child. This class is a place to play and explore using our imagination.

Special Needs class meets every Tuesday from 4:30-5:30pm

Cost - \$10 a day or \$30 for the month (4 Classes) Cost covers all materials and instruction for the class. This is for school age individuals. Just call ahead at (402) 933-4446 to reserve your space! You can join anytime!

LINCOLN: PUMP & JUMP DANCE CLASS

Dance class for boys and girls 8 years old and up with special needs. Class will consist of Hip Hop, Jazz, and Musical Theatre. Students may wear tennis shoes for class. Children will have a buddy to help them during the class.

Feel free to try the class first but please let Tracey know you'll be coming so we'll have enough buddies.

When: Saturdays 1:00-1:40 (beginning in January)

Hart Dance Academy
3534 South 48th Street Suite 2
Lincoln, NE 68506
402-488-9444
www.hartdance.com

Registration: \$15.00

Tuition: \$65.00 per quarter (2 month session)

For more information contact: Tracey Hart at the dance studio or Christy Champoux at 890-8023

OMAHA: Step by Step Dance Class

Step By Step is a Movement/Dance Class for Kids with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Come and dance in a fun, safe, class! They'll stretch their bodies, work general coordination and even do fun acting and creative movement to fun music in a sensory safe environment!

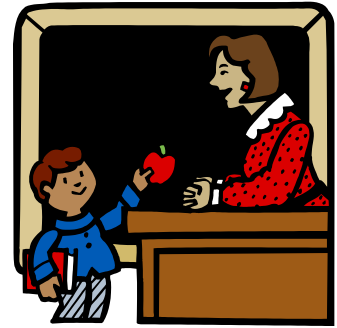
Come learn some basics to ballet, tap or even hip hop! The class is designed for ASD students needing extra help with motor skills, or have trouble assimilating with peers in other dance classes, or just want to have fun. And this is open to both BOYS and GIRLS!

The Broadway Connection Dance Center is located at 2329 N. 90th St. (90th & Blondo next to Hobby Lobby)

Sunday 12 noon-1pm
\$35/ month

For more information call 402-571-4446 or visit www.thebroadwayconnectiondance.com

Friend of Autism Nominations Sought by the Nebraska ASD Network



Do you know an educator who demonstrates remarkable dedication to individuals with autism spectrum disorders? Nominate them for the ASD Network Friend of Autism Award. Submissions should include details of how the nominee exhibits the following qualities.

Commitment: Has the education of families and children and youth with ASD as a primary focus and provides opportunities that enable students with ASD to reach their potential.

Vision: Sees potential in all individuals, readily adapts to change and accepts all individuals with ASD and their strengths and needs.

Innovation: Is aware of empirically supported practices in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorders and shows a willingness to adapt and use resources creatively.

Inspiration: Displays positive interactions with students and parents and actively influences peers with their energy and enthusiasm.

Please include contact information for the nominee and the person(s) submitting the nomination. Nominations can be submitted via email: to Annette Wragge at awragge2@unl.edu, or by mail to the following address: Annette Wragge, UNL, 253F Barkley Center, Lincoln, NE 68583-0738

*Nomination Deadline: March 1st, 2011

*The award will be presented during the evening event at the 2011 ASD State Conference on April 7th and 8th. (Embassy Suites, La Vista)

Please contact Annette with any questions!

It takes a village to raise a child and we truly have to rely on all of the villagers when it comes to our special needs children!



Thank you to all of the professionals out there helping serve our families!

Autism Society of America Membership

The Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We do this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

Founded in 1965 by Dr. Bernard Rimland, Dr. Ruth Sullivan and many other parents of children with autism, the Autism Society is the leading source of trusted and reliable information about autism. Through its strong chapter network, the Autism Society has spearheaded numerous pieces of state and local legislation, including the 2006 Combating Autism Act, the first federal autism-specific law. The Autism Society's website is one of the most visited websites on autism in the world and its quarterly journal, [Autism Advocate](#), has a broad national readership. The Autism Society also hosts the most comprehensive [national conference](#) on autism, attended by 2000 people each year. Our [information and referral](#) team, our program staff, and our strong chapter presence serve thousands of families each year who are searching for help in their journey with autism.

When you join the national Autism Society of America you become a member of your local Autism Society chapter here in Nebraska as well. In fact, the Autism Society of Nebraska receives 60% of those dues paid to the Autism Society of America. ASA forwards those fees on to the local chapter so that we can carry out our local mission here in your neighborhood! The Autism Society of America is committed to helping the grassroots grow in strength and they recognize that those in the local community have the best understanding of the local needs.

The Autism Society of Nebraska has the benefit of being part of a well respected national organization yet we are still able to keep 100% of all of our local fundraising efforts here in Nebraska.

So are you a member yet? It's not too late...you can join online [HERE](#) or download a form [HERE](#). A household membership is only \$25.

Join the Autism Society of Nebraska and help us make a difference here in Nebraska!

With ASA membership you will receive ASA's quarterly magazine, The Autism Advocate and 60% of your membership dues come back directly to our Nebraska chapter!

It is a win-win for everyone!

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



Help us make this Newsgram relevant to you!

We rely on our community to help us find useful information to share with you through this Newsgram. If you have an event that you would like added to the Autism Society of Nebraska Newsgram please email us at autismsocietynewsgram@autismnebraska.org.

You are our eyes and ears across the state. Please help us help you AND your neighbors by sharing your resources and contacts with us!



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

PO Box 83559
Lincoln, NE 68501-3559

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