



Parent/Guardian Support & Resource Pages
Week Ending of January 8, 2021



CASE Collaborative Community News

Dear Parents/Guardians,

CASE will be hosting its next Parent/Guardian workshop on February 11, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom. Representatives from the Department of Public Health and United Cerebral Palsy will present "A Virtual Training on Public Benefits for Children with Special Medical Needs". See flyer below for details. We will also be sending the flyer out separately for you to share!

We will be inviting various speakers in coming months and welcome suggestions on topics that are of interest to you. Please email your suggestions to scampbell@casecollaborative.org.

PHASE 2 OF CASE LEARNING MODEL -

As you know we were planning to transition into Phase 2 of our Learning Model in January. Due to the current resurgence in the pandemic related cases and the renewed caution in MA, it is necessary to delay the implementation of Phase 2. The safety of our students and staff is the number one priority of the Collaborative during this time. We were hoping to implement Phase 2 now but given the fluidity of the situation, we cannot be certain as to the actual date of transition; we will keep you informed as new information becomes available. We understand the need to have students in school but we are necessarily adopting a cautious approach to ensure the health and safety of all.

Stay Well and Stay Warm,

Sanchita Banerjee, Ed.M., C.A.G.S.
Executive Director

Sue Campbell
Resource Assistant



**REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY WILL PRESENT:**

**A VIRTUAL TRAINING ON PUBLIC BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS**

FEBRUARY 11, 2021
THURSDAY, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Please join us to learn about:

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – Eligibility & Application Process
- MassHealth Standard & CommonHealth - As a Primary or Secondary Insurance
- Premium Assistance Program - How the State Can Help Pay for Your Primary Commercial Insurance Premiums
- Kaileigh Mulligan Home Care Program - Home Care for Disabled Children
- Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund – Provides Financial Assistance to Qualified Families Caring for Children with Special Health Needs and Disabilities
- FamilyTIES Resource and Referral Service - Provides Information on a Wide Variety of Topics, Including Community Resources and Services, Programs for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs, Public Benefits, and Support Groups
- Personal Care Attendant Program - How Families with MassHealth can get State Assistance to Pay Caregivers who Assist their Children with Disabilities with Activities of Daily Living

The CASE Collaborative is Committed to Supporting Children with Special Needs and their Families

Zoom Link will be emailed to registered participants

Gail Havelick, Department of Public Health, Public Benefits Training & Policy Specialist and Kayla Buchanan - Craig, United Cerebral Palsy, Director of PGA Program will share resources and information about these programs, how to apply, and answer your questions.

Please register via email to: scambell@casecollaborative.org

We hope you will join us for this informative presentation.

Parent's, caregivers, and professionals are welcome to attend.

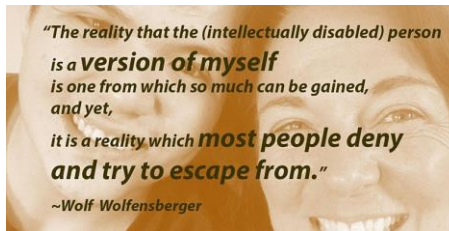
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Community Workshops and Conferences



Creating a Circle of Support for Your Family with Special Needs

When: January 13, 2021 | Wed

Format: On-line Event

Fees Apply. If your greatest fear is "who will take care of the person I love when I'm gone?" then you are NOT alone. If you've decided that the solution is to never die, you're also not alone - but that's not a solution. You may have heard the term "Circle of Support" floating around, but you're not sure what it means, you've rejected the idea as impossible or you're just not ready to hear it. This workshop will be emotional. It will be full of difficult conversation. Your heart and your mind will be challenged. Then, together, we will find a pathway and leave armed with the tools we need to create the most important gift we will ever give the person we love. Who it's for? Parents, adult siblings, caregivers, family members of people with disabilities. It will be most beneficial to those caring for adults over 22.

Your presenter: Cheryl Ryan Chan is, first and foremost, Mom to Nicky – a 26 year-old man severely impacted by autism and intellectual disabilities. Cheryl has spent over 20 years in Massachusetts, integrating her son and family into the disability community and becoming a well-known leader in community organization, legislative activism, mentoring and public speaking. She has served on Boards for a number of nonprofit human service providers, mental health providers, and Support Centers. Her work as a Person-Centered Planning Practitioner began in 2010 and has become her greatest passion. Cheryl has traveled to present, train and provide planning services in California Wisconsin, Maryland, and across New England. To register visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creating-a-circle-of-support-a-hands-on-workshop-tickets-128636949579?fbclid=IwAR3K-zwTqgRJrcoF8RUJyTFaBa8RF8MThtJ7-rtI3S2SVOWfOJMB-ql-lyk>



Basic Rights in Special Education – Understanding the IEP

When: January 13, 2021 | Wed

Format: Virtually via Zoom

This webinar, with the Brookline Special Education Parent Advisory Council. Basic Rights: Understanding the IEP is a workshop for caregivers of children with special needs or needing an evaluation for support of suspected special needs.

- * Tracey Morgan, a special education advocate and Board Member of the Massachusetts Special Needs Advocacy Network will be the presenter.
- * This presentation was developed to help families gain a deeper understanding of the IEP Document. We will talk about why it is important, how it is developed, and the different sections of the document.
- * Further discussion will focus on types of services that may be included and measurable goals.
- * Learn about what to do when you receive a proposed IEP and parent's procedural due process rights for resolving disputes.

To register and for the link sign visit <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qdOurrzgjE9A4RfYyaNTuqWZGnkzWgQco> or contact workshops@fcsn.org. *information provided by www.spedchildmass.com



Adventures of a Female Professional on the Autism Spectrum

When: January 14, 2021 | Thu 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Format: On-line Event

Instructor: Marcelle Ciampi is the author of her revealing memoir *Everyday Aspergers: A Journey on the Autism Spectrum*. Ten years in the making, her author name, Samantha Crafts brings Asperger's Syndrome into a spectrum of brilliant light—exposing the day-to-day interactions and complex inner workings of an autistic female from childhood to midlife.. A professional educator, she has been featured in various literature, including peer-reviewed journals, *Autism Parenting Magazine*, *The Mighty*, *Project Aspie*, *Art of Autism*, and *Different Brains*. Marcelle works as the Senior Recruiter and Outreach Specialist at *Ultranauts Inc.*, a technology company with a neurodiversity-hiring initiative, and is a consultant for *Uptimize* and *Spectrum Fusion*. A contributing author of *Spectrum Women: Walking to the Beat of Autism*, Marcelle speaks and consults globally on the topic of neurodiversity. She also serves as the founder of *Spectrum Suite LLC*, the co-founder of the *Spectrum Lights Inclusion Summit*, co-executive of *Lifeguides for Autistics*, and a contributor to autism organizations internationally. **Register here** <https://www.skillsempowered.com/adventures-on-the-autism-spectrum>



My Child was diagnosed with Autism...Now what?? Early Childhood ages 0-5 years

When: January 14, 2021 | Thu 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Format: Virtual

Please join Swindells Resource Center and Rowan Hill-Walko Autism Specialist as she shares basic characteristics and suggestions for supporting children newly diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum including communication systems, social awareness, flexible thinking, and sensory sensitivities. Register here

https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehgs9zvf63db85f6&oseq&c&ch&fbclid=IwAR2XHuwk0PJdgGEwn8k0BJanrJ5cfhiBY8BoMF6bK63Vn8c_ irrzv5J5AF0



Getting Through the Day!

When: January 21, 2021 | Thu 2:00 pm

Format: Virtual Via Zoom

Caregivers Dianne Huggon, Jorge Pagen, Ingrid Flory and Sue Crosby will share their tips and tricks on how they get through the day! Caregiving Around the Clock – National Family Caregivers Month – celebrated each November – is a time to recognize and honor family caregivers across the country, a time to celebrate the contributions of caregivers and provide them with tools that they need. This series will extend through March 2021. Many sessions will also be recorded and made available on demand via YouTube if you are unable to attend. For all dates and topics or for registration information, visit

<https://arcmass.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYld-2ppz4tHNaEYfbxxhpBRhjrJA41mxr>



Transition and Beyond (ages 14-22)



Easterseals College Navigator Program

College is challenging for all students but especially for our students with disabilities. The Easterseals College Navigator Program helps college students with disabilities identify barriers, develop self-advocacy skills, and get on a path for success. Learn more about the College Navigator Program here

<https://fcsn.org/linkcenter/transition-resources/webinars>

<https://www.easterseals.com/ma/our-programs/college-navigator/>




Mentoring for Transition-Age Youth and Young Adults

Mentoring can be a great way for transition-age youth and young adults to engage in their communities. Learn more about mentoring from Kristin Humphrey, Mentoring Director at Partners for Youth with Disabilities (PYD).

<https://fcsn.org/linkcenter/transition-resources/webinars>

<https://www.pyd.org/programs/mentoring/>



Basic Rights: Transition Planning

A Free Virtual Workshop
for Parents and Professionals

This workshop provides an overview of the transition planning process for youth with disabilities ages 14-22 on IEPs.

Workshop Topics:

- What is Transition and Why is It Important
- Legal Basis for Transition Planning
- Student Vision, Self-Determination and Self-Advocacy
- Student and Parent's Roles
- Transition Planning Form (TPF)
- Age of Majority
- Timelines, Resources and more!



About Your Host:
The Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council is a parent-run organization working to promote a network of caregivers of children with special needs. SEPAC partners with the District and the School Committee on policies that encourage understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of all special education students.

Date: Tuesday January 26, 2021

Time: 7-9pm

RSVP: <https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/t30kd-6gqz8qGdNBXRXTWPtzF7e60Fm8jaAx>

Registration Link:
<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/t30kd-6gqz8qGdNBXRXTWPtzF7e60Fm8jaAx>

For more information about the educational workshops available from The Federation for Children with Special Needs, please visit us at fcsn.org/ptic/workshops or email: workshops@fcsn.org



Community Support



Understanding Our Differences
The Leader in Disability Awareness Education

Virtual Screening and Discussion — The Reason I Jump film

When: January 10, 2021 | Sat 2:00 pm

Format: Virtual

Based on the best-selling book by Naoki Higashida, *The Reason I Jump* is an immersive cinematic exploration of neurodiversity through the experiences of nonspeaking autistic people from around the world. The film blends Higashida's revelatory insights into autism, written when he was just 13, with intimate portraits of five remarkable young people. It opens a window for audiences into an intense and overwhelming, but often joyful, sensory universe. "The Reason I Jump" is an award-winning documentary based on a wonderful book by a nonverbal autistic teen. I hope you can find time to watch it—and join Understanding Our Differences for the YouTube discussion on Sunday, January 10th at 2 pm. The mission of Understanding Our Differences, a nonprofit based in Greater Boston, is to educate communities to value and accept people of all abilities through school-based, interactive disability awareness programs. The film is available on the website of the Coolidge Corner Theater starting January 8th. To learn more visit <https://understandingourdifferences.org/thereasonijump/>



Allison Keller Technology Grant Program Now Open!

The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism is eager to start the new year by opening applications for our 2021 Allison Keller Education Technology Grant Program! As you know, access to technology can provide many opportunities for people with autism, including increased independence, enhancing communication, creating necessary social and educational experiences and more. This grant program aims to fill the financial gap in meeting the technology needs of schools and organizations working directly with people affected by autism in New England. The Flutie Foundation is always seeking innovative partnerships with organizations that have inventive ideas for using technology to address the needs in the autism community. If you know of a New England autism organization, school, or program that would be interested in this opportunity, please forward this email! Applications are open TODAY, January 4, 2021 and will close January 29, 2021. Click here to learn more and apply today! <https://www.flutiefoundation.org/allison-keller-education-technology-program>



Temple Grandin: Strategies for Independence | Move to Include

Focusing on strengths and finding shared interests are key to help young adults with autism navigate the challenges of middle and high school. Temple Grandin talks about how she was able to get through those years and become successful in life. Temple Grandin was nonverbal until the age of four. Today, she is a professor of animal science at Colorado State University, and one of the leading authorities on livestock facility design, as well as an autism awareness advocate. This segment is from Iowa PBS's online series *The Life Autistic*, which explores the challenges and successes of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder at different stages in life and ranges on the spectrum. The series features various age groups ranging from the very young to the elderly, including personal profiles and interviews exploring topics relevant to each age group. To learn more, visit the Iowa PBS *The Life Autistic* website. <https://florida.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/a90b96ae-36ba-4e65-a056-399f16bbc5ce/temple-grandin-strategies-for-independence-for-children-with-autism-video-move-to-include/>



Fun Activities and Recreation



Free Coloring Pages for Kids to Download

Coloring pages are not only a quintessential boredom buster for toddlers; they can also be a creativity launch pad for older kids, who can cut out characters from printable coloring pages to make greeting cards, party decorations, collages, paper dolls, bookmarks, notebook covers, and more. The sky's the limit! If you've exhausted your arts and crafts supply and are looking for some fresh coloring pages, we've curated a list of the best resources for downloading free pages at home. <https://mommypoppins.com/kids/free-coloring-pages-for-kids-to-download>

Coding Programs for Kids: Free and Cheap Websites That Teach Kids Programming

Basic programming has become an essential skill for grown-ups and children alike, and the marketplace is full of coding programs for kids. The benefits of picking up this skill, especially for kids, are huge: Learning how to build simple websites and games helps kids refine their design, logic, and problem-solving abilities. It also allows them to express ideas and creativity in unique ways. There are several FREE and low-cost programs that teach children how to code. We've rounded up 13 of our favorite coding programs for kids here <https://mommypoppins.com/coding-kids-free-websites-teach-learn-programming> *These activities are not disability specific

Free Virtual Events in January: Presidential Inauguration, Martin Luther King Celebrations, and Online Festivals

A new year, a fresh start: Vaccine on the horizon (some of you may have already gotten it) and a change of administration in Washington. We're becoming old pros at the virtual thing even as we become creative with socially distant events. Check out some fabulous virtual events here <https://mommypoppins.com/los-angeles-kids/weekend-events/virtual-concerts-storytimes-events-and-classes-to-stream-from-home>

Best Podcasts for Kids Staying In: Funny, Smart, and Scientific Podcasts

Enter the podcast. Not just for news updates and politics anymore, many podcasts cater specifically to younger audiences. We've rounded up our favorite kid-friendly podcasts that provide quality content the whole family can appreciate. All of these are easily accessed through smart phone, tablet, or computer, so get ready for hours of entertainment and even some learning opportunities. Most are even free! <https://mommypoppins.com/best-podcasts-for-kids-funny-smart-science>



Peter Boie: Magician for Non Believers

When: January 31, 2021 | Sun 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Format: Live -Stream

The award-winning "Magician for Non Believers," Peter Boie presents a live stream magic show that is high-energy, funny, and showcases incredible, interactive magic for people of all ages. During this one-hour event, everyone watching will be able to participate, and a few lucky people will join the performance via video call. Peter will teach everyone two amazing but simple-to-learn magic tricks, and entertain a brief Q&A at the end of the event. A minimum donation of \$10 is required to register. Click the button below to make your donation. You'll receive a link to register for the performance in your donation confirmation email. Register here <https://www.aane.org/event/online-open-peter-boie-magician-for-non-believers-live-stream-magic-performance-1-31-21-300-pm-400-pm-et/>



Family Support & Special Interest



Winter/Spring 2021 Virtual Sibshop

When: January 9, 2021 | Sat 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Format: Virtual via Zoom

Let's Zoom together. Inviting all brothers and sisters of children with Autism to meet and chat. See Zoom information below to join us. Sibshop is a place for brothers and sisters (ages 7-12) of children with Autism to meet with other siblings. It is a relaxed environment that gives the siblings a place to talk about their lives while playing games and getting to know each other. We will be meeting monthly on the second Saturday of the month, January-June.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://advocates-telehealth.zoom.us/j/98707829974?pwd=dkZQRnpiU2dSTkZQQXE0OTFib2VlZz09>



5 Ways to Support Siblings in Special Needs Families

Making sure the other kids get what they need, too. Read article here <https://childmind.org/article/5-ways-to-support-siblings-in-special-needs-families/>



Caregiver Self Care Strategies that Won't Add to Your To-Do List

Most articles about self-care try to convince you to do something: buy a product, exercise more, eat less, or otherwise add something to your agenda. Meanwhile, most of us who work or live with children already feel like we're reaching the point of total exhaustion... Read full article here <https://masfec.org/caregiver-self-care-strategies-that-wont-add-to-your-to-do-list/>



Small Children, Big Feelings

Educator and children's author Mathangi Subramanian shares interactive activities parents/caregivers can do with young children to support their ability to identify and talk about their feelings. <https://masfec.org/small-children-big-feelings/>

**Please Note: These resources are provided for informational purposes only.
Please do your own due diligence and research.**