



Parent/Guardian Support & Resource Pages Week Ending of March 5th, 2021



CASE Collaborative Community News

We Hope you can Join us for this Important and Informative Workshop.



GUARDIANSHIP AND ALTERNATIVES

**A PRESENTATION BY ATTORNEY MEREDITH H. GREENE,
SPECIAL NEEDS ATTORNEY AND CHAIR OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS
PRACTICE GROUP AT FLETCHER TILTON,**

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

For parents and family members of persons with an intellectual or developmental disability, this seminar provides an overview of the legal consequences of reaching the age of emancipation at 18. Discussion will include a description of the range of decision-making options.

We will discuss Guardianship, the powers and duties of a guardian, the procedure of initiating a guardianship, and substituted judgement. We will also cover Supported Decision Making as an alternative to Guardianship, along with basic concepts such as Legal Emancipation, Presumption of Competence, Least Restrictive Alternative, and prioritization of the areas requiring decision-making.



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

Zoom Link will be emailed to registered participants one hour before presentation begins.

Meredith H. Greene practices in the firm's Trust & Estate Department and focuses on special needs planning, estate planning, guardianship, conservatorship, adult services advocacy, and government benefits advocacy. Ms. Greene was trained as a parent advocate representing children and families in the area of special education through the Federation for Children with Special Needs. She is a member of multiple organizations on behalf of individuals with special needs.

Please register via email to: scampbell@casecollaborative.org

Please join us for this informative seminar.

Parents, caregivers, and professionals are welcome to attend.

CASE COLLABORATIVE

120 Meriam Road
Concord, MA 01742
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www.casecollaborative.org



Community Workshops and Conferences



Adult Family Care Virtual Workshop

When: March 9, 2021 | Tue 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Format: Virtually via Zoom

Presented by Opportunities for Inclusion, this workshop informs participants and their families about Adult Family Care, a MassHealth-funded program. This virtual workshop, for participants and their families, will give an overview of the program, followed by a question & answer session. Pre-registration is required. A Zoom meeting link will be sent prior to the Workshop. Contact Patty Carlson, Phone: 508-485-4227 x1115 or Email: pcarlson@icanthrive.org for registration.



Basic Rights: Evaluation and Eligibility

When: March 9, 2021 | Tue 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Format: Virtually via Zoom

This presentation is a comprehensive introduction into special education laws and procedures. We will delve into the purpose of the law, referrals, evaluations, and the team meeting process including determining eligibility. Further discussion will focus on services, placement, and what to do when you receive a proposed IEP. You will also learn what to do if the student is not eligible and parent's procedural due process rights for resolving disputes. Learn more here <https://fcsn.org/ptic/events/basic-rights-evaluation-and-eligibility-14/>



Individualized Education Plan-Covid-19

When: March 10, 2021 | Wed 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Format: Virtually via Zoom

Don't wait until your child's next IEP date before you start planning!! Parents are welcome to join us for an evening with Pam Kaufmann, retired and former Special Education Director of Framingham Public School for an autism education workshop. This workshop will help parents better understand their child's IEP and updates created by the pandemic. All families are welcome. Don't miss out on this FREE virtual workshop. https://www.autismalliance.org/events/iep-workshop-covid-19-edition?blm_aid=34829



Stress & Coping During Covid19

When: March 11, 2021 | Thu 6:00 pm

Format: Virtually via Zoom

PPal Parent Network Socials are a place where you can find and share resources, be a part of informative workshops and brainstorm solutions to support your journey in raising a child with mental health needs.

- * Are you feeling more anxious than usual?
- * Struggling to do everyday tasks?
- * Experiencing emotional mood swings?
- * Learn more about how stress affects us and how we can cope with it during the pandemic, including free resources.
- * Providers are welcome to attend.
- * Free for Parent and Caregivers.

ZOOM AND RSVP Info <https://zoom.us/j/98798978222> / Meeting ID: 987 9897 8222

+1 646-558-8656 OR RSVP to Ann_parentsupportgroup@ppal.net or 508-767 -9725. **information found at www.spedchildmass.com*



Autism 102 for Massachusetts Families: Comorbid Conditions Seen With ASD & MCPAP For Autism

When: March 11, 2021 | Thu

Format: Virtually via Zoom

“Autism 102” parent webinars series held during the COVID-19 crisis. Open to anyone interested in learning more about supporting Autism.

- * This series is designed for parents of children ages 8-14. The initial shock of receiving the diagnosis has past, you’re now encountering different challenges.
- * Guest speaker will be Isha Jalnapurkar MD.
- * Isha Jalnapurkar is an Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Medical School with a specialty in Psychiatry
- * Attendees need to register about 10 minutes ahead of time to download the handouts that are available for all sessions.

Zoom Meeting registration is required by visiting www.autismresourcecentral.org/event/autism-102-the-next-steps-feb-18-mar-25-2021/2021-03-11/ or for more information contact autism@hmea.org



Effective Communication

When: March 16, 2021 | Tue 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Format: Virtually via Zoom

Host: South Hadley SEPAC

This presentation was developed to help families gain a deeper understanding of the how to be an effective communicator. We will talk about why effective communication with the school is important and about the different methods of communication. You will also learn about parent’s procedural due process rights for resolving disputes.

Please sign up to attend through our Zoom registration link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkd-yqjMuGtHVhxFig-W0Pw9GrsRRmk9f> Zoom will confirm your registration by email which will include your meeting link to join on Thursday night. All handouts will be sent to attendees from our workshop coordinator, Kristin LaRose, within 24 hours of the presentation.

Friends of Lurie presents



LURIE CENTER FOR AUTISM



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL



MassGeneral Hospital
for Children

Join us Virtually

March 24th, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

for a discussion with
Nicole Simon, EdM, LABA, BCBA, and
Nora Friedman, MD

SOS for Home: How to Manage Challenging Behaviors During Covid

Are you feeling overwhelmed by managing your child's challenging behavior at home? Is the Covid-19 crisis making behavior management even more difficult? Join the Lurie Center for Autism for an open discussion with Senior Behavioral Consultant, Nicole Simon, EdM, LABA, BCBA and psychiatrist, Nora Friedman, MD on how to help the home environment feel less stressful.



*Nicole Simon, EdM, LABA, BCBA
Lurie Center for Autism*



*Nora Friedman, MD
Lurie Center for Autism*

Registration is Required for this Virtual Event

Email: LurieCenter@partners.org or call: 781-860-1700

Event link will be emailed to participants one day before event





Transition and Beyond (ages 14-22)



My IEP Owner's Manual for Transition-Age Students

The "Advocating for Myself" page (just mentioned) also includes a wide range of written materials for youth, such as the IEP Owner's Manual. Youth can use the manual to learn about the different parts of their IEP that will help them succeed in their plans for life after high school. <https://www.pacer.org/parent/php/PHP-a55.pdf>



Social Security Benefits for People with Disabilities

When: March 10, 2021 | Wed

Format: Webinar

Free. Learn how to use my Social Security online account and other online services.

* It is strongly encouraged to visit the www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to create a my Social Security account and print out your Social Security Statement before attending the workshop.

Topics include:

- * Information about disability benefits and the disability application process.
- * How to use your my Social Security online account and other online services.
- * What are Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Benefits and how do you qualify?
- * What do you need to report when you receive SSI?
- * What other Social Security programs are available, and who qualifies?

About the Speaker: Kentia Torres is a Public Affairs Specialist with Social Security Area II Boston, MA.

Zoom link registration is required to Bridgewell – to Judith Doherty, Program Director, Bridgewell Family Support, jdoherty@bridgewell.org *information found at www.spedchildma.com



Basic Rights: Transition Planning (for IEP students ages 14-22)

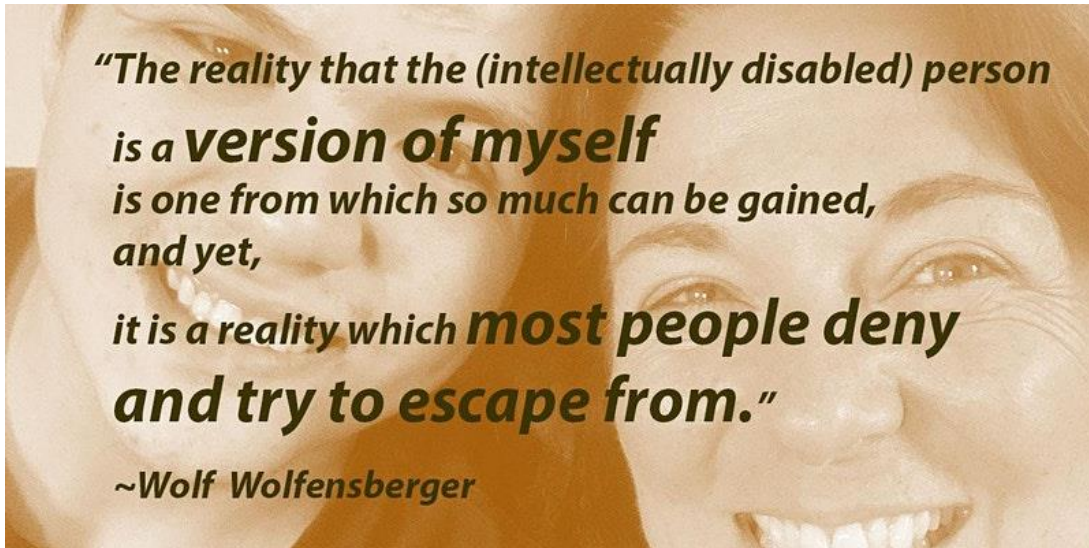
When: March 11, 2021 | Thu 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Format: Virtual via Zoom

Host: Wayland Public Schools

This presentation addresses the planning involved when a student is of transition age. The importance of planning, the roles of both parent/guardian and student and the student's post-secondary vision. We will discuss how to prepare for the transition planning meeting, the age of majority, and procedural due process rights for resolving disputes. Please sign up to attend through our Zoom registration link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtd-2upjkh92arz9zRdIADEKAas6Wu46A>

Zoom will confirm your registration by email which will include your meeting link to join. All handouts will be sent to attendees from our workshop coordinator, Kristin LaRose, within 24 hours of the presentation.



Creating a Circle of Support: a HANDS ON workshop

When: March 15, 2021 | Mon 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Format: On-line

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. Fees apply. Register here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creating-a-circle-of-support-a-hands-on-workshop-tickets-128636949579?fbclid=IwAR3K-zwTqgRJrcoF8RUJyTFaBa8RF8MThtJ7-rtI3S2SVOwfOJMB-ql-lyk>



"Housing 101"

When: March 24, 2021 | Wed 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Format: Virtually via Zoom

In this FREE virtual workshop, Cathy Boyle from Autism Housing Pathways, will introduce families to the range of public funds available to pay for housing and supportive services (including for those without DDS supports). Some examples are given of how these can be combined with private funds to create housing. No registration necessary. Just click on the zoom link to join. https://www.autismalliance.org/events/parent-workshop-housing-101-cathy-boyle?blm_aid=34829



Community Support



Eligibility Criteria for the Emergency Benefit Program

Last week the FCC released the Order that creates the eligibility criteria and other important rules for the Emergency Broadband Benefit. The agency also released a fact sheet that can be found here:

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370324A1.pdf>

A household is eligible if one member of the household:

- *Qualifies for the Lifeline program.
- *Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year.
- *Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- *Experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020, and the household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers.
- *Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating providers' existing low-income or COVID-19 program.
- *The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per eligible household.

The FCC has not established a start date for consumer enrollment. Please check our website,

www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, regularly for the latest information.

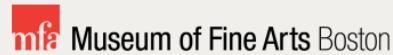


Contact Your Representative: Ensure Important FY22 Budget Line Items Are Increased to Support Individuals with I/DD and Autism

Last week, The Arc of Massachusetts sent our budget requests to the state legislature for certain line items regarding the Governor's FY'22 House 1 budget. We need your help to ensure that important FY'22 budget line items be increased to support individuals with I/DD and autism as integrated members of their communities using Department of Developmental Services (DDS) day and employment programs and transportation services as well as provide much needed relief for family caregivers (respite). We ask that you please take a few minutes to write to your Representative regarding the FY'22 budget using this quick and simple template. The budget is currently being debated by the House Ways and Means Committee and you can influence your legislators' priorities by contacting them now. You can also see the budget request here as well <https://thearcofmass.org/post/contact-your-representative-ensure-important-fy22-budget-line-items-are-increased-to-support-individuals-with-i-dd-and-autism>



Fun Activities and Recreation



ASL Night

When: March 10, 2021 | Wed 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Format: On-line

Join us online for the MFA's fourth annual ASL Night, a celebration of Deaf culture for members of the Deaf community and friends! Kicking off Deaf History Month, which runs from March 13 to April 15, this free virtual event highlights the art, language, and culture of the community. The entire program is presented in ASL by Deaf artists, performers, and tour guides with voice interpretation and open captions. Stream here or on the MFA's Facebook or YouTube channels to watch.

Featuring:

- *Welcome remarks from Jessica Doonan, the MFA's manager of Accessibility
- *A dance performance from DEAFinitely, Inc, merging ASL, hip-hop, b-boy, and breakdancing
- *An art-making activity led by local artist Takiyah Harris
- *A tour in ASL with MFA guide Leon Jerfita
- *A performance combining magic and art with magician Steve Weiner

Presented in partnership with DEAF, Inc, Boston Children's Hospital Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, and Massachusetts State Association of the Deaf (MSAD) or more information visit www.mfa.org/event/community-celebrations/asl-night?fbclid=IwAR2g39EALBlnD63hCuxc8kcBd5d3WJ8zjx9cGGwD8e3oKiw-a28ZzYBmX1M or contact Accessibility or access@mfa.org or 617-369-3189.



Southwick Zoo Club at Home and School

When: March 18, 2021 | Thu 9:30 am to 10:00 am

Format: Virtually via Zoom

Southwick Zoo Club will give you an up close and personal look at some fun and interesting animals that live at the zoo. No registration necessary just click on the zoom link. https://www.autismalliance.org/events/southwick-zoo-club-home-school?blm_aid=34829



Drop-in Silly Songs Music Time

When: March 16, 2021 | Tue 9:30 am to 10:00 am

Format: Virtually via Zoom

Come sing and dance with us as we enjoy music with our friends from Roman Music Therapy. Home and school classrooms that support students with autism are welcome to drop-in and join the fun. Click on the link to join.

https://www.autismalliance.org/events/silly-songs-drop-music-roman-music-therapy?blm_aid=34829



Wearin' o' the Green Dance Inclusive Party

When: March 17, 2021 | Wed

Format: Virtually via Zoom

Virtual All Abilities Dance, March 17th, 2021, with a Family Support Center in Bridgewater, MA. For special-needs youth and families. Please inquire with the host regarding appropriate ages for this class.

- * Wear something green – dance to some fun Irish tunes and have some St. Patrick's Day Fun with Friends.
- * No prior Dance experience needed.
- * All ages & abilities are welcome.
- * Join the Recreation Committee and Family Support Center at a fun Friday event where you will see friends old & new.
- * Just get those iPads and cell phones charged to be ready for 30 minutes of non-stop fun.

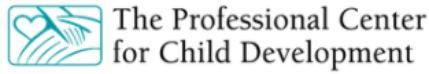
To register for the Zoom link or for more information visit https://bridgewell.org/disability-services/autism-services/family-support-center/?tribe_events_cat=family-support-center-event&tribe-bar-date=2021-02&tribe_event_category=family-support-center-event%2F



This must-see, kid-focused event allows families to enjoy the thrill of the larger-than-life showcase of Hot Wheels Monster Trucks and legendary vehicles from the comfort and safety of their own vehicles. Guests will experience more than 50 life-size vehicles including Hot Wheels favorites Tiger Shark™, Demo Derby, V8 Bomber™ and Bone Shaker®, plus the original monster truck BIGFOOT®, and the world's tallest monster truck, BIGFOOT#5. Also featured in the lineup will be Hot Wheels iconic vehicles Twin Mill®, Rip Rod®, Loop Coupe® and the original Bone Shaker®. Paired with an inspiring online audio companion, the Hot Wheels Ultimate Drive-Thru delivers an immersive and exciting experience for the whole family, enjoyed from the safety of a vehicle. Gillette Stadium will host the Hot Wheels Ultimate Drive-Thru Thursday through Sunday, from March 19 through April 18, 2021. For a complete schedule and additional event information, visit <https://hotwheelsmonstertruckslive.com/event/foxborough/>. Guests can purchase tickets for an assigned date for just \$45 per vehicle, and will receive a FREE Hot Wheels 3-Car Pack with EVERY ticket purchased. Hot Wheels and BIGFOOT merchandise bundles are also available for purchase online for contactless pickup, allowing guests to bring part of the Hot Wheels experience home with them. Tickets and add-ons will go on sale to the general public Thursday, March 4 at 10 a.m. at <https://hotwheelsmonstertruckslive.com/event/foxborough/>. Tickets can also be purchased at participating O'Reilly Auto Parts stores.



Family Support & Special Interest



April Vacation Sibshops

When: April 18, 19th, & 24th, 2021 | 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Format: Virtual via Zoom

For the adults who run them and for the agencies that sponsor them, Sibshops are evidence of their loving concern for the family member who will have the longest-lasting relationship with a person who has a disability. However, for the kids who attend them, Sibshops are lively events where they will:

- Meet other sibs (usually for the first time)
- Talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sib with special needs with others who “get it”
- Play some great games
- Explore how other sibs handle challenges that are unique to having a sibling with special needs
- Learn about the services their brothers and sister receive
- Laugh and have fun!

Now accepting registration for siblings ages 8 to 13! Limited space available for the first 10 applicants. See links below for more information and registration.



Sibshop
Informational Flyer.1



Sibshops
Registration (002).pc



Sensory Friendly Mask

Developed in partnership with Easterseals SoCal! Our Sensory Friendly Mask was developed in partnership with Easterseals SoCal, a leading provider of disability services for people with autism and other sensory sensitivities.

A face covering that feels good, the Sensory Friendly Mask has been tested by kids, adults, and therapists to ensure a sensory friendly experience for all wearers. For those with Autism and sensory sensitivities, mask wearing can be a challenging task, yet one that is needed to help keep our communities safe. Check it out here https://rafinova.com/products/sensory-friendly-mask?blm_aid=31765&blm_aid=34829



10 Ways to Promote Your Child's Cognitive Development

Cognitive development is characterized by the way a child learns, acquires knowledge and interacts with his surrounding environment. Different cognitive skills are acquired as a child meets certain developmental milestones, but a child of any ability will benefit from activities that promote active learning. As a parent, you can encourage your child's cognitive development in the areas of memory, concentration, attention and perception by incorporating simple activities into your everyday routine. Here are 10 easy ways you can help your child's cognitive development

<https://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2014/06/09/10-ways-to-promote-your-childs-cognitive-development/>



Autism Behind the Wheel: Teaching Teens and Young Adults with ASD to Drive

Driving is an important milestone in the lives of teenagers and young adults. No longer do they have to ask Mom or Dad for a ride to their friends' houses. Now they can drive themselves to school, work, and beyond, giving them more freedom over their own schedules. Learning to drive is an opportunity for teens and young adults to earn their independence. Learning to drive is a long and complicated process, though, and for teens and young adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), learning to drive (and deciding whether to learn) has unique complications. This website that discusses key things to think about when deciding if it is time to learn to drive as well as while learning to drive. Helpful for both parents and the student driver. Check it out here <https://sellmax.com/driving-with-autism/>



Biobank Poised to Transform Down Syndrome Research by Shaun Heasley | February 26, 2021

first-of-its-kind effort is underway to collect biological samples from people with Down syndrome in a bid to improve care and outcomes for those with chromosomal disorder. Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the research advocacy group Down Syndrome Achieves said they are launching the DSA Biobank to provide a central repository for biological specimens from individuals with Down syndrome and their immediate families. The biobank is the first in the Down syndrome field to "catalog, store and openly share biosamples and associated health data for study," according to those behind the project, which has been years in the making. Read full article here <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/02/26/biobank-poised-to-transform-down-syndrome-research/29213/>



Nourished Festival

Gluten-Free & Allergen-Friendly ONLINE Festival - THE NOURISHED FESTIVAL

When: March 20-21, 2021 | 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Format: On-line

FREE to Attend!

*Get Free Samples & Coupons

*Discover New Products

*Enter Giveaways

*Watch Classes – 15 Educational classes <https://live.nourishedfestival.com/tradeshow/session-schedule>

To learn more and to register visit <https://live.nourishedfestival.com/coming-soon>

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