



## News and Happenings From Marcus Autism Center

### **Marcus Autism Center--News and Happenings e-Newsletter**

To continue to help families with children who have autism and related disorders, this Marcus Autism Center e-newsletter has several reminders and useful information. Also, visit the newly redesigned Marcus Autism Center [Web site](#) for additional information.

#### **Reminder: DeKalb autism support group 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009**

The DeKalb autism support group is excited about our October meeting. We will welcome Jodi McMahon from the MetLife Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids. Jodi has been involved with autism and related disorders for many years, and MetLife provides this educational program with no solicitations. She has presented to our group before, and has tremendous knowledge about how to plan for your child's future while protecting his interests and your financial resources.

McMahon will be speaking about "How to Plan for Your Special Child's Future" at Marcus Autism Center, located at:

1920 Briarcliff Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329-4010

Spread the word--no reservations are needed. We will meet in the third floor conference room. Contact Moshe Manheim, L.C.S.W., at [moshe.manheim@choa.org](mailto:moshe.manheim@choa.org) or 404-785-9491 with any questions.

#### **Emotion perception study at Georgia State University is looking for participants**

Georgia State University is conducting research about emotion perception in relation to autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We are seeking individuals with ASDs who are:

- Ages 7 to 50
- Verbal
- Make yes and no decisions about what they have seen and heard

We also are looking for typically developing individuals, ages 7 to 50. Participants will be compensated as much as \$100 for up to nine hours of participation during two to four sessions. The study involves behavioral and diagnostic testing, psychophysiological measurements (these are body measurements, such as heart rate and sweat production) and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scanning during emotion perception tasks. [Click here](#) to view the flier about the study. Contact Diana Robins, Ph.D., at 404-413-6472 or [devneuro@gsu.edu](mailto:devneuro@gsu.edu) for more information or to apply.

#### **New autism book to benefit FACES summer camp**

**Submission deadline: Oct. 15, 2009**

Teresa Johnson, a parent mentor for the Department of Education for Exceptional Students (DEES), is collecting stories from mentors and parents in school systems to develop a new book titled *The Missing Pieces: A Compilation of Autism Stories*.

Only first names of individuals will be used, and you can substitute a different name for your child if you choose (or use an initial). Once you have submitted your story, you will receive a privacy release form granting permission to include your story in the book. Proceeds from the sale of this book will go to help fund the Families of Autism/Asperger's Syndrome Care, Educate and Support (FACES) summer camp.

Attached is a [flier](#) with additional information. Contact Teresa Johnson at 770-207-3166 if you are interested in participating.

**New fetal alcohol syndrome training course for parents  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m., every Monday, from Oct. 5 to Nov. 9, 2009**

National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) Georgia is hosting a new 12-hour course, offering parents--birth, adoptive, foster and grandparents--the information and tools needed to work more effectively with their children living with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD).

The course, titled "Triumph Through the Challenges of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome," will demonstrate how to better cope with experiences faced by families living with FASD; deal with meltdowns; work with sensory integration disorders; social skills training; advocate for the rights of your child; set realistic expectations for your child; and connect with other parents. These meetings are \$108 a person for the 12-hour series, including a workbook. Childcare is provided and included in registration fee. The meeting location is:

Temple Kehillat Chaim  
1145 Green St.  
Roswell, GA 30075-3609

Call NOFAS Georgia at 404-207-1068 for more information or to register. Late registrations are being accepted.

**Research opportunity for families**

The Autism Research Program in the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is offering an exciting research opportunity to families of children with autism.

This study, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health with the direction of Joseph Piven, M.D., is being conducted by some of the world's leading researchers in the field of autism at four different sites across the U.S. Currently, we are searching for 100 participants in the Southeastern U.S. who meet the following criteria:

- Are between ages birth to 12 months (mothers who are expecting also may be eligible)
- Have an older sibling diagnosed with an ASD

Once a family is enrolled in this study, they will travel to [Chapel Hill, N.C.](#) for a comprehensive series of developmental, noninvasive assessments, to be completed on the infant sibling at six, 12 and 24 months. During this trip, the infant also will receive an MRI scan while asleep.

There is no cost for family participation. All travel and lodging costs are reimbursed by

the study, and any services the study provides are at no charge to the family. Families will receive feedback about the assessments. The family also will receive \$50 for each assessment completed and \$50 for each MRI scan completed on the infant sibling.

Call 800-793-5715 for additional information or to apply, or click [here](#) to view a brochure.

### **Emory Autism Center workshop series**

Emory Autism Center is hosting a new workshop series this fall for parents of children with ASDs and Asperger's syndrome. Click the links below for additional information.

- [Asperger's Training Workshop](#)
- [Autism Training Workshop](#)

### **Sensory Family Films**

AMC Entertainment and the Autism Society of America have teamed up to bring families affected by autism and related disorders a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis. Upcoming films include:

- Where the Wild Things Are  
10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 17
- Planet 51  
10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 21
- The Princess and the Frog  
10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 12

[Click here](#) for more information, including participating theater locations.

### **Stonemill Race for Autism and Family Fun Day Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009**

The Stonemill Race for Autism is a 5K (3.1 miles) race at Stonemill Church in Suwanee. There also will be a One Mile Fun Run/Walk and a Tot Trot. Runners and walkers are both welcome. Following the race is a Family Fun Day with many enjoyable activities for the whole family. The race benefits the Autism Society of America Greater Georgia Chapter and Spectrum Autism Support Group.

Marcus Autism Center will have a vendor table at the Family Fun Day, so drop by and pick up some useful information about our programs.

[Click here](#) for more information or to register for the Stonemill Race for Autism.

To share news and happenings for an upcoming edition of this e-newsletter, e-mail Moshe Manheim, L.C.S.W., at [moshe.manheim@choa.org](mailto:moshe.manheim@choa.org).

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