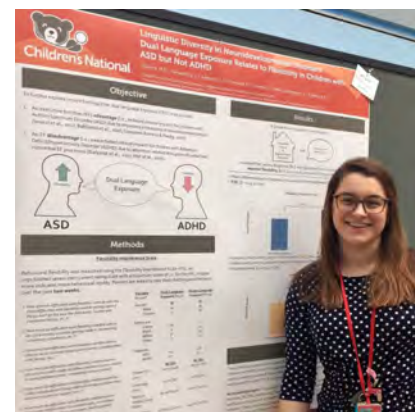




Children's National: CASD CHAT

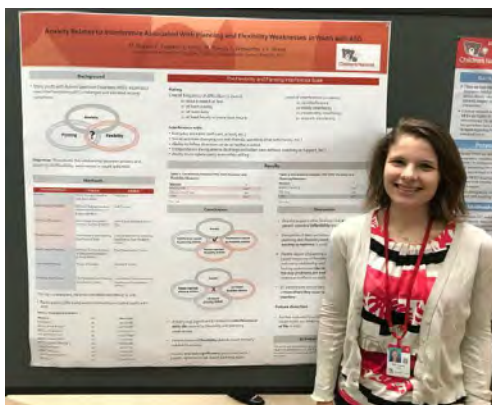
Research and Education Week

The Children's Research Institute hosted its 8th Annual Research and Education Week from April 16th-20th to showcase the wide array of research and education programs occurring throughout the institution. The theme, "Diversity Powers Innovation," focused on the importance of diversity and inclusion to power creative thinking, problem solving and the development of new ideas to meet the pediatric healthcare needs of a racially, socially, and economically diverse patient population.



Meredith Powers

As in past years, members of the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD) research team participated and contributed to Research and Education Week. CASD's Director, Dr. Lauren Kenworthy, was nominated by members of the CASD team, and was awarded the Mentorship Award in Translational Science. Dr. Cara Pugliese, clinical psychologist and CASD faculty member, won an award in the Clinical Research category for her work in "Characterizing Longitudinal Change in Executive Functions in Autism Spectrum Disorders."



Mary Skapek

CASD Research Coordinators, Mary Skapek and Meredith Powers also participated in poster sessions at Research and Education Week. Their posters are titled below:

"Anxiety relates to interference associated with planning and flexibility weaknesses in youth with ASD" - Mary Skapek, 1st author

"Linguistic Diversity in Neurodevelopmental Disorders: Dual Language Exposure Relates to Cognitive Flexibility in Children with ASD but

Not ADHD" - Meredith Powers, 1st author

If you are interested in learning more about CASD Research Opportunities, please call 301-765-5425 or email autism@childrensnational.org with the SUBJECT LINE: "CASD Research Opportunities".

CASD Cares

Autism Prevalence: 1 in 59

About 1 in 59 eight-year-old children in 11 communities across the United States were identified as having autism in 2014, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s [newest report](#) from the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network.

Since the launch of the ADDM Network in 2000, CDC has funded 16 sites in areas of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. CDC also operates an additional ADDM site in Georgia. The ADDM Network tracks more than 300,000 8-year-old children.



1 in 59
children living in
ADDM sites are
identified with ASD

To learn more, you can view the:

[Executive Summary](#)

[Key Findings from the Report](#)

[The Maryland Community Report](#)

CASD in the Media

On Saturday, April 21st, C-SPAN's Washington Journal hosted, CASD psychologist, Allison Ratto, PhD, and the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) Executive Director, Julia Bascom, as they discussed Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and related programs and policies surrounding it. Click here to watch: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?444310-3/washington-journal-julia-bascom-allison-ratto-autism-spectrum-disorder>

Calendar of Events

May 2018*

AJE Special Education Thursdays

What DC Parents Need to Know About Restraint and Seclusion

Guest: Francis Nugent, Disability Rights DC-University Legal Services

Thursday, May 3rd at 12:30pm

These 30 minute sessions are available online one Thursday a month to give parents and professionals: information, education and a better understanding of DC special education issues in a "bite-size" format. For more information, please visit, <http://www.aje-dc.org/programs-3/special-education-thursdays/>

Kids in Action: Only Make Believe

The HSC Pediatric Center

Washington, DC

Saturday, May 5th at 10am

Join Kids in Action as they host Only Make Believe, a non-profit organization that creates and performs interactive theatre for children in hospitals and care facilities. Performances at The HSC Pediatric Center are designed for children with varying abilities. Only Make Believe allows participants to take a break from their everyday obstacles, express themselves in their own way, and "let loose" in a safe environment. Advance registration required. Email Jenn Preyers, CTRS at jpreyers@hshealth.org. For more information, please visit, <http://www.hshealth.org/medical-programs-therapy/services-programs/adaptive-sports>

Ford's Theatre Sensory Friendly Performance: The Wiz
Washington, DC

Saturday, May 5th at 2pm

Join Ford's Theatre as they present their first-ever Sensory-Friendly of The Wiz, which is designed to welcome anyone who might benefit from an adjusted theatre environment--including those on the autism spectrum or others with sensory sensitivities. This performance will feature adjustments to lighting and sound effects, a relaxed theatre environment that allows for movement and processing during the performance, designated break spaces, and "pre-visit" materials providing information about Ford's Theatre and the production. Recommended for ages 8 and up. For more information about this performance or to order tickets, call the Box Office (202) 347-4833, and select option 7. Ford's Theatre staff are trained to assist you in finding the best seating options for you and your family. Please see the flyer below.

AMC Sensory Friendly Films: Avengers: Infinity War

AMC Theatres Nationwide

Tuesday, May 8th

The program provides a special opportunity for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums dedicated to the program have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members are invited to get up and dance, walk, shout, or sing! Please check your local theatre listings for specific show times. For more information, please visit, www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films

AMC Sensory Friendly Films: Avengers: Infinity War

AMC Theatres Nationwide

Saturday, May 12th

The program provides a special opportunity for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums dedicated to the program have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members are invited to get up and dance, walk, shout, or sing! Please check your local theatre listings for specific show times. For more information, please visit, www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films

Imagination Stage Sensory Friendly Performance: Robin Hood

Bethesda, MD

Sunday, May 13th at 11am

Sensory-Friendly performances are designed to be more accessible to those individuals on the autism spectrum or to others with sensory sensitivities. Adaptations for Sensory-Friendly performances include: Reduction of the sound level; low lighting; intentionally unsold seats; a social story; designated break spaces; and more. For more information

please check out the [Sensory Friendly Flyer](#), call 301-280-1660 or visit <http://imaginationstage.org/shows-tickets/accessibility/>

AMC Sensory Friendly Films: Deadpool 2

AMC Theatres Nationwide

Tuesday, May 22nd

The program provides a special opportunity for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums dedicated to the program have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members are invited to get up and dance, walk, shout, or sing! Please check your local theatre listings for specific show times. For more information, please visit, www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films

AMC Sensory Friendly Films: Show Dogs

AMC Theatres Nationwide

Saturday, May 26th

The program provides a special opportunity for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums dedicated to the program have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members are invited to get up and dance, walk, shout, or sing! Please check your local theatre listings for specific show times. For more information, please visit, www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films

*Parents need to assess the appropriateness of any given event for their child. The sensory-friendly opportunities listed are appropriate for a broad range of ages, from children to shows that are appropriate only for older teens or adults

CASD Community Workshop Series Transition and ASD: What You Need to Know

Thursday, June 14th 6-7:30pm

This workshop seeks to increase understanding of the transition process for youth and young adults with autism spectrum disorders. An overview of the four pillars of transition: education, medical, employment, and independent living will be provided.



Presenters:
CASD's Social Worker, Allysa Ware, MSW, LGSW and Community Outreach Coordinator, Yetta Myrick, both mothers of autistic teenagers, work to link families with resources and services. They work together to provide the best possible care for autistic youth, and facilitate research

participation among interested families.

Location:

Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders
Children's National Health System
15245 Shady Grove Road, North Building
Suite 300 Conference Room
Rockville, MD 20850

This workshop is FREE and open to parents, family members and professionals, but registration is required.

To register, please contact Yetta Myrick at ymyrick@childrensnational.org or 301-765-5488.

Sensory-Friendly Performance: May 5, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.



FORD'S



THEATRE

WHERE LINCOLN'S LEGACY LIVES

book by William F. Brown; music and lyrics by Charlie Smalls; from the story *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum; choreographed by Dell Howlett; directed by Kent Gash

This performance is designed to welcome anyone who might benefit from an adjusted theatre environment—including those on the autism spectrum or others with sensory sensitivities. This performance will feature adjustments to lighting and sound effects, a relaxed theatre environment that allows for movement, designated break spaces, and pre-visit materials. We can't wait to welcome you to Ford's! Tickets are \$25-\$30.

Tickets and Info: (202) 347-4833, option 7

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Autism Support Group

Looking for a support group where you can talk with other autism parents?

Do you want to participate in a group while in your comfort zone?

Join **DC Autism Parents (DCAP)** as they host their monthly support group phone call!

This event is free, space is limited and registration is required. To learn more and register, contact:

ymyrick@dcautismparents.org.



Tuesday,
May 8, 2018

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Conference Call

Call-in number will be provided upon registration.

IVYMOUNT LECTURE SERIES

11614 SEVEN LOCKS ROAD
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
7 - 9 P.M.



HOW AND WHY TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR AUTISM

TUESDAY
MAY 8

Amy Alvord, Education Director, IvyMount School & Programs
Sharon Nickolaus, Director of Transition Services

Amy Alvord and Sharon Nickolaus will discuss the importance of talking with your child or loved one about their differences and diagnosis. Ms. Alvord will provide attendees with practical approaches and materials to support how to have the initial discussion (especially if your child is older), possible responses, and ongoing support focusing on strengths. This interactive talk should help parents support their children in becoming more effective self advocates through an open and honest appraisal of their strengths, challenges and areas of need for additional supports and accommodations.

WWW.IVYMOUNTOUTREACH.ORG

IVYMOUNT LECTURE SERIES

11614 SEVEN LOCKS ROAD
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
7 - 9 P.M.



THE IMPACT OF AUTISM ON SUCCESS IN TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM

THURSDAY
MAY 24

Monica Adler Werner, Director of Development, Training,
and Consulting
Sarah Wayland, Special Needs Care Navigator, Guiding
Exceptional Parents

Monica and Sarah will look at the complex impact that autism has on learning in a traditional classroom environment. By appreciating the commonly co-occurring disorders, the different cognitive styles associated with autism and areas of real deficit, participants will understand some of the challenges of navigating the complexities of standard curricula, despite strong basic cognition. In addition, the speakers will provide solutions to make classrooms and homes more "neurodiverse friendly" and support areas of challenge for autistic learners.

WWW.IVYMOUNTOUTREACH.ORG

Children's National, Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders,
15245 Shady Grove Road, Suite 350, Rockville, MD 20850

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