

Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

www.childrensnational.org/CASD



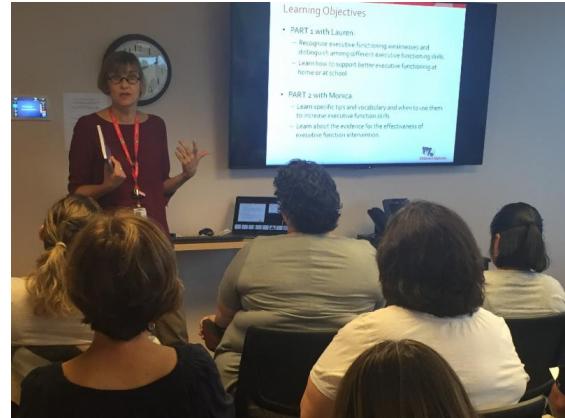
Children's National: CASD CHAT

Research Report

eUnstuck and On Target Parent Training Study is Underway

The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD) at Children's National is studying effective methods for training parents, either in person or online, to improve flexibility, planning, and organization in children with autism ages eight to twelve. Eligible families were randomly assigned to the computer-based or in-person version of the Unstuck and On Target training program developed by a group of autism experts at CASD and the Ivymount School.

(Dr. Kenworthy training eUnstuck study participants)



Thank you to all the families that expressed interest. None of this would be possible without the participation of families. Recruitment for this study is closed, but please be sure to visit our [CASD Research Page](#) to learn more about other research study opportunities.

CASD Cares

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

In 1988, the United States Congress declared October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month to raise awareness of the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. This is an extension of the "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week" originally observed during the first week of October beginning in 1962.

In August 2017, only 20.5 percent of people with disabilities in the U.S. were participating in the labor force - working or seeking work. (By contrast, 68.8 percent of people without disabilities were in the labor force.) ([Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017](#)). With a nearly 50 percent difference between people with disabilities and those without a disability participating in the labor force, there is still a great deal of work to be done to ensure people with disabilities are afforded every opportunity to work. It is up to parents to prepare their child now to ensure that they can become working adults. Here are a few things you can do to help your child prepare for employment.

- 1. Get educated about transition services:** According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004), the term 'transition services' means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that "is designed to be a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities." Whether your child is school aged or currently receiving transition services, it is important for you as a parent to be educated about the transition process. This knowledge will assist your child in obtaining the necessary supports to ensure a successful transition to adulthood and gainful employment.
- 2. Investigate funding streams for anticipated services:** Every state and the District of Columbia (DC) has agencies to support people with disabilities with housing supports and supported employment to vocational training and assistive technology services. These agencies can oftentimes be challenging to navigate. If you take the time to familiarize yourself with the agencies now, you may save yourself time in the future.
- 3. Develop life skills goals for your child:** Think of all the things your child will need to learn to do independently by the time they are an adult. Can your child wash their own clothes? Pack their lunch? Navigate public transportation? Can your child wake up on their own by an alarm clock or are you still waking them up? Working on these life skills goals now, will make it a lot easier as your child reaches transition age.

It is never too early to start thinking about transition, as this will pave the way to employment.

Calendar of Events

AJE Special Education Thursdays

Understanding Inclusion in Early Childhood Classrooms

Guest: Monica Lesperance, Lead Instructor of Include DC

Thursday, October 5th at 12:30pm

These 30 minute sessions are available online every other Thursday 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/>

AMC Sensory Friendly Films: My Little Pony: The Movie

AMC Theatres Nationwide

Saturday, October 14th at 10am

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! For more information, please visit, www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films

Music for Autism: NSO Violinist Glenn Donnellan, a.k.a. "Mr. Bat-a-lin"

The Ivymount School

Rockville, MD

Saturday, October 14th at 10:30am

Music for Autism provides autism-friendly, interactive concerts developed specifically for individuals with autism and their families. To learn more about Music for Autism,

please visit, www.musicforautism.org. RSVPs are gladly accepted from parties with a family member or friend on the autism spectrum only. Register [HERE](#).

Moving on to Life in the Community

Lake Braddock Secondary School

Burke, VA

Tuesday, October 17th at 6:30pm

Learn about vocational, residential, leisure, recreational, independent living and advocacy options. This Resource Fair is for all individuals requiring ongoing employment and community support services after graduation. Check out the [flyer](#)! Register online [HERE](#), or call the Fairfax County Public Schools Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941.

Project SEARCH Information Night

The Ivymount School

Rockville, MD

Wednesday, October 18th at 7pm

Project SEARCH is a one-year Transition Program designed for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are either in their last year of high school or are recent graduates. Parents, professionals and potential students who are interested in applying to the Project SEARCH programs should plan to attend this event. The evening's agenda will include a Program Overview and a review of the application. Please see the [event flyer](#). For more information, please visit, www.ivymount.org/projectsearch or www.seeonline.org

AJE Special Education Thursdays

Understanding ABA in the Classroom and Who Are BCBA

Guest: Brittany Frey, BCBA

Thursday, October 19th at 12:30pm

These 30 minute sessions are available online every other Thursday 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/>

AMC Sensory Friendly Films: My Little Pony: The Movie

AMC Theatres Nationwide

Saturday, October 28th at 10am

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! For more information, please visit, www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films

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