

# Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

[www.childrensnational.org/CASD](http://www.childrensnational.org/CASD)



## Children's National: CASD CHAT

### Research Report

#### RDoC Project Enters Year Four



**RDoC**  
Research Domain Criteria Initiative

The Research Domain Criteria Initiative (or RDoC) project is entering its fourth year this fall! The project entitled, "Executive Function Across Pediatric Psychiatric Disorders," is a collaboration between CASD and Georgetown University's Developmental

Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory (DCNL), and is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. The project is studying executive function skills, such as attention, memory, and learning, using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) across different diagnoses. 142 children have already participated in the study over the last three years of the project.

The RDoC research team would like to thank you for your interest and participation, as none of this would be possible without the participation of families. Our recruitment efforts are currently being focused on participants ages 8-13 with non-ASD or Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder related executive functioning challenges, such as learning disabilities, anxiety, mood disorder, conduct disorders, depression and bipolar disorders.

To learn more about the RDoC project, please check out our [February 2017](#) and [October 2018](#) CASD Chats. If you are interested in participating in the RDoC project, please contact Charlotte Jeppsen at 301-765-5425 or [cljeppsen@childrensnational.org](mailto:cljeppsen@childrensnational.org).

### Supporting Students with Special Needs



#### Online Training Modules for School-Based Professionals who Support Students with Disabilities

Dr. John Hussman of the Hussman Institute and Dr. Katherine Holman of Towson University developed a series of open-access training modules in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education to offer systematic training and support for

school-based professionals who work with students with disabilities. These modules cover topics including disability awareness, essential dispositions such as the presumption of competence, individualized education plans, least restrictive environment and other central concepts in special education, key roles and responsibilities, student engagement, communication strategies, positive behavior supports, instructional adaptations, sensory accommodations, strategies to support meaningful inclusion and relationships, and more. To access the modules, please visit: <https://www.scaffolds.org/learn/special-educator-training-modules/>



Check out Ivymount Outreach's Fall 2019 Catalog, which includes after school and weekend, recreational, educational, and therapeutic programs for school aged children through young adults. Programs are led by trained, experienced professionals that work at Ivymount School and the Maddux School.

Click [here](#) to view the catalog. To register for programs, please click [here](#).

## Calendar of Events

### September 2019\*

#### **AMC Sensory Friendly Films: TBD**

#### **AMC Theatres Nationwide**

#### **Tuesday, September 10th**

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](http://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films)

#### **Smithsonian's Morning at the Museum**

#### **National Museum of Natural History**

#### **Washington, DC**

#### **Saturday, September 14th at 8:30am**

Morning at the Museum is a FREE sensory-friendly program for families of children with disabilities. Programs rotate throughout the Smithsonian museums and take place on Saturday or Sunday morning. Each program consists of providing pre-registered families early entrance, facilitated activities, pre-visit materials, and a take-a-break space. Registration is required. For more information about the program, please contact Ashley Grady at [Access@si.edu](mailto:Access@si.edu) or 202-633-2921. To register for the National Museum of African Art program, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/morning-at-the-museum-national-museum-of-natural-history-tickets-63379582036>

#### **AMC Sensory Friendly Films: TBD**

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**My Way Matinee: TBD****Regal Theatres Nationwide****Saturday, September 14th at 10:30am**

This program gives everyone the opportunity to experience a movie with the lights turned up and the volume turned down. Guests are free to express themselves by singing, crying, dancing, walking around, talking or shouting while enjoying Hollywood's latest films! All screenings for these sensory friendly movies will begin at 10:30am on the second and fourth Saturday of the month for a special discounted ticket price! For more information, please visit, <https://www.regmovies.com/static/en/us/promotions/my-way-matinee>

**AMC Sensory Friendly Films: TBD****AMC Theatres Nationwide****Tuesday, September 24th**

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](http://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films)

**Smithsonian's Morning at the Museum****Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center****Washington, DC****Saturday, September 28th at 8:30am**

Morning at the Museum is a FREE sensory-friendly program for families of children with disabilities. Programs rotate throughout the Smithsonian museums and take place on Saturday or Sunday morning. Each program consists of providing pre-registered families early entrance, facilitated activities, pre-visit materials, and a take-a-break space. Registration is required. For more information about the program, please contact Ashley Grady at [Access@si.edu](mailto:Access@si.edu) or 202-633-2921. To register for the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center program, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/morning-at-the-museum-udvar-hazy-center-tickets-63380095572>

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**AMC Sensory Friendly Films: TBD****AMC Theatres Nationwide****Saturday, September 28th**

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\*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's activities to shows that are appropriate only for older teens or adults.



**Saturday**  
**September 14, 2019**  
**from 9:00am – 3:00pm\***  
\*half day option available

Trinity University Gymnasium  
125 Michigan Avenue NE,  
Washington DC 20017



THE HSC HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



Join **The HSC Health Care System** in partnership with The HSC Pediatric Center's Kids in Action Program, for our annual **Adaptive Adventure Day!** Children and young adults with disabilities from ages 4 to 22 are invited to participate in **FREE adaptive sports**. All abilities are welcome. Lunch and water are provided.

- **Adaptive Boxing**
- **Kayaking**
- **Rugby**
- **Wheelchair Basketball**
- **Boccia**
- **Lacrosse**
- **Tennis**

**To register or volunteer, please go to [hschealth.org/adaptive-adventure-day](https://hschealth.org/adaptive-adventure-day)**

For questions, contact Robyn Winston Cohen at [rwinston@hschealth.org](mailto:rwinston@hschealth.org) or call 202-557-1851



@HSCHealthCare



@HSCKidsinAction





Inspiring Inclusion, Expanding the Workforce.

# INFORMATION SESSION

**for 2020 Programs**

## **October 9th, 2019**

National Youth Transitions Center  
2013 H Street NW  
H Street Conference Room  
Washington DC, 20006

**9:30 - 10:30 am**

Coffee & Croissants,  
Presentation and Q&A

**10:30 - 11:00 am**

Optional Extended Q&A

BroadFutures is revolutionizing the way young people with learning disabilities enter the workforce through a holistic training, mentoring and paid internship program.

BroadFutures has a strong commitment to Financial Aid. **SCHOLARSHIPS** are AVAILABLE.

If interested, please RSVP to:  
[cjeppsen@broadfutures.org](mailto:cjeppsen@broadfutures.org)

## **BroadFutures serves young people:**

- Between the ages of 18 and 26
- Who have diagnosed learning disabilities
- Who have a high school diploma and are in transition either to college or community college, taking a break from their educational pursuits, or focusing on workforce development skills

## **Program:**

Includes 2 weeks training and 7-11 weeks of paid internships

## **Application deadline:**

October 15, 2019 for Winter 2020 Program

# Dr. Dan Shapiro's Parent Child Journey An Individualized Approach to Raising Your Challenging Child

led by  
**Sarah Wayland, Ph.D.**  
*Guiding Exceptional Parents*

**THIS 10-SESSION PROGRAM IS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN (AGES PRESCHOOL THROUGH EARLY ADOLESCENCE) WITH CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS.**

The Parent Child Journey program is designed to help parents identify the source of their child's challenging behavior and learn what they can do about it. During each session, we will discuss proactive strategies for raising children with difficult temperaments and developmental differences. The emphasis is on customizing the strategy to fit each child's unique profile. Different children, different parents, different approaches.

**Fall 2019**

**Wednesday evenings, 7:30 to 9:00 pm**

- September 18, 25
- October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- November 6, 13, 20

## TOPICS

- Know Your Child/Know Yourself
- Time-In and Self-Care
- Engagement and Understanding
- Motivation through Positive Attention
- Self-Motivation & Learning from Experience
- Motivation through Rewards
- Problem-Solving
- Ignoring and Timeout
- Pausing for Empathy and Self-Reflection
- Weaknesses, Strengths, and Independence

**Law Offices of Michael Herman**  
**6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 200**  
**Riverdale Park, MD 20737**

**For more information, or to register, go to:**

<http://bit.ly/Fall2019-Wayland-ParentChildJourney> or [www.parentchildjourney.com](http://www.parentchildjourney.com)

*Suggested price range: \$150 - \$350.*

*If you pay what you can it helps us keep our program accessible to all..*

Contact for more information: [info@guidingexceptionalparents.com](mailto:info@guidingexceptionalparents.com)



**Sarah C. Wayland, Ph.D. - [www.GuidingExceptionalParents.com](http://www.GuidingExceptionalParents.com)**  
*Helping students with learning differences and their families.*

# 2019 AUTISM RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

## EVENT DETAILS

When:

Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 am – 1:30 pm

Where:

Fairview Park Marriott  
3111 Fairview Park Drive  
Falls Church VA 22042

Breakfast & Lunch  
included

Open to the community  
at no cost (space is  
limited, RSVP required)

Tour the VT Mobile  
Autism Clinic

Certificate of Attendance  
provided



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS NO COST PROGRAM...

The Virginia Tech Autism Clinic and Center for Autism Research, Virginia Tech and The Washington Group Special Care Planning Team present the 5th annual Autism Research Symposium. This groundbreaking Symposium will feature autism research from biomedical and imaging, technology, education and clinical translational fields. You will also be able to tour the VT Mobile Autism Clinic. Our keynote speaker will be Hallie Hovey-Murray, a law school graduate, disability advocate, speaker, author and Miss Commonwealth 2019.

Who should attend? Service providers, educators, psychologists, researchers, program officers, individuals, families and others in the community interested in learning about autism research. **Network with other professionals and caregivers in the autism community.**

### Agenda:

- 7:30-8:00am: Arrive, breakfast served, visit resource tables
- 8:00-8:30am: Dean Morton, Dr. Harald Sontheimer & Jerry Hulick, "Welcome & Intro Dr. Angela Scarpa-Friedman"
- 8:30-8:58am: Dr. Sarah Clinton, "The Epigenetic, Neurodevelopmental & Behavioral Consequences of Early Life SSRI Exposure"
- 8:58-9:26am: Dr. Denis Gracanin, "Telehealth & Immersive Technologies for ASD: Challenges & Opportunities"
- 9:26-9:54am: Dr. Deanna Swain, "Targeting Parent Stress & Child Outcomes in a Group Treatment for Young Children with ASD"
- 9:54-10:22am: Lauren-Lee Askew & Dr. Andrea Burchfield Mascitelli, "Is a Competitive Market the Key to Better Community Inclusion?" (Research by: Facilitating Awareness & Valuable Experiences)
- 10:22-10:42am: Break
- 10:42-11:10am: Dr. Michelle Olsen, "Astrocyte Contributions to Central Nervous System Maturation & Neurodevelopmental Disorders"
- 11:10-11:38am: Dr. Emma Condry, "Characterizing the Onset & Severity of Restricted Repetitive Behavior in Young Children with ASD"
- 11:38-11:56am: Masumeh Farchtchi, "Empathy Among Adolescent Siblings of Individuals with ASD"
- 11:56am-12:24pm: Dr. Tom Williams, "Evaluating the IEPs of Elementary School Students with ASD"
- 12:25-1:30pm: Lunch and Special Keynote, Hallie Hovey-Murray

Due to space limitations RSVP is required, please RSVP to Carey:  
(571) 378-0245 or [calford@financialguide.com](mailto:calford@financialguide.com)







**This 10-session program is for parents of children**  
(ages preschool through middle school) with challenging behaviors.

The interactive format is designed to help parents identify the source of their child's behavior and learn what they can do about it. Group leaders for this program will be Jill Jerome, LCSW-C and Orly Zimmerman-Leizerov, LCSW-C. At each session, Jill and Orly will provide proactive strategies for raising children with difficult temperaments and developmental differences. Parents will learn to customize their approach to fit their child's unique profile. *Based on Dr. Dan Shapiro's Parent Child Journey.*

#### SESSION TOPICS

- Know Your Child
- Time-in
- Engagement and Understanding
- Motivation through Positive Attention
- Motivation through Experience
- Motivation through Rewards
- Problem Solving
- Time-out and Ignoring
- Pausing for Empathy and Self-Reflection
- Accommodations/Interventions

**For more information and other course offerings, go to [parentchildjourney.com](http://parentchildjourney.com)**

#### WITH:



Jill Jerome, LCSW-C and  
Orly Zimmerman-  
Leizerov, LCSW-C

[parentchildjourney.com](http://parentchildjourney.com)

#### LOCATION:

Potomac Pediatrics  
15204 Omega Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850

#### WHEN:

Fall 2019  
Sept 25 – Dec 11

(Skip October 9 for Yom  
Kippur and Nov 27 for  
Thanksgiving)

Ten Wednesday nights  
7:00 - 8:30 PM

#### REGISTER:

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER:](#)

*Suggested range:  
\$150-\$350 for all ten  
sessions.*

*Those who can pay more,  
thanks very much  
for supporting  
those who can't.*

A photograph of three students in a library setting. In the foreground, a young Black woman with a pink headband looks off to the side. Behind her, a young Asian man in a red shirt looks towards the camera. In the background, a young white man with glasses and a red checkered shirt also looks towards the camera. Bookshelves filled with books are visible in the background.

# College *and* Career Conference

**October 26, 2019**

For Middle and High School Students  
with Disabilities, Their Families, and Adult  
Professionals Who Work with Them

**Please visit: [futurequestgmu.org](http://futurequestgmu.org)**

# FUTURE QUEST



Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education's Region IV Training & Technical Assistance Center and the Northern Virginia Transition Coalition [www.novatransition.org](http://www.novatransition.org)



The course is an interactive online parent training program based on the proven **Unstuck and On Target** curriculum and in-person training. Intended for parents and caregivers of verbal children with autism aged 8-11, the **Unstuck** course helps parents support their children's executive function so they can be more flexible and more easily reach goals.



### Learn more about:

- Brain-based executive function challenges
- Can't, Not Won't thinking
- Adapting for success
- Motivation strategies
- Verbal cues to build flexibility
- Identifying feelings
- Coping strategies
- Setting and reaching goals

### Features



Self-paced modules



Interactive practice exercises



Video tips by experts



Printable resources to use and share



Real-life examples

### Does it work?

#### What the research says:

Yes! It works! Our research shows that the online parent course works as well as the in-person trainings.

#### What parents say:

*The 'Can't, Not Won't' has been transformative and it has shifted our entire mindset as a family, especially between me and my husband.*

*There were things I could take to the teacher and say, 'Let's try this,' and it was easy to share.*

*The flexible words were so helpful for my child in social situations. If she had a playdate, we would talk about Plan A and if that didn't work out how we would go with a Plan B.*



Development of **Unstuck and on Target: Course for Parents** and research reported on this website was supported by the National Institute of Mental Health of the National Institutes of Health under award number R44MH109193. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.