



C.A.R.E. Coping with Autism through Research and Education

Southwest Chapter Autism Society of America

November 2004

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**MONTHLY
MEETINGS**

General

Membership Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at the El Paso Center for the Deaf, 511 Executive Center Blvd. beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Board Meetings are held on the Monday, one week prior to the Membership meeting at 5:45 p.m.. All members are welcome to attend, and your input is always welcome.

MONTHLY MEETING

Join us at our Monthly Support Group Meeting on Tuesday November 2, 2004 at 6:30 pm, in the El Paso Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 511 Executive Center Blvd. Our guest speaker is Rosie Carrasco with a presentation on “Empowering Parents of Children with Special Needs”. Childcare and refreshments will be available. Our office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come on by or call to schedule a time to come and get information or look at books. Join us to discuss issues important to families and to network with others who understand. We have a Spanish version of the newsletter if you would like to get one please give us a call at (915) 532-6014. SAVE YOUR ARTWORK– If you are interested in having your child’s artwork put on a note card that will be printed and sold as a fund raiser for SWASA please bring it to the office or mail it, please put the child’s name and age, we will only put first names in the back of each card.

House Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Flu Vaccine -ASA Submits Statement For The Record

The U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing on October 5 on the Childhood Influenza Vaccine Program. Speakers included the Director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), directors of the vaccine programs at various government agencies, such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as well as scientists from respected universities around the country. ASA submitted a statement for the record on the issue, which it has been posted on the Web site in conjunction with this article. Subcommittee Chairman Ralph Regula agreed to conduct the hearing on the issue of the continued use of the thimerosal-containing influenza vaccines in the pediatric population as a result of an amendment proffered during the fiscal year 2005 Labor, HHS appropriations mark up by Representative Dave Weldon, MD (R-FL). Opening the hearing at approximately 9:30 am to C-Span taping and three (cont. 2)

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JOIN US FOR FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT. We will be joining the El Paso Rehabilitation Center in their bowling night. Starting in November, we will meet Thursday evenings at Fiesta Lanes, 5850 Onix, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. There will be no bowling on Thursday Nov. 25 (Thanksgiving). Starting in December, we will rotate between two locations. We will meet at Fiesta Lanes the first, third and fifth Thursday of each month and Oasis Lanes, 1660 N. Zaragoza Rd., the second and fourth Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. We will not meet on December 23 or December 30. The price has also changed. It will now only cost \$1.50 per game for each child.

UCP (Understanding Disabilities-Creating Opportunities) is having a workshop for parents and other interested individuals.
How Does Augmentative Communication Help? on Tuesday November 30 from 9 am—12 pm at UCP 6501 Boeing, H4.

Region 19 Conference
“TOGETHER FOR AUTISM”
 November 11-12, 2004 at Region 19 ESC
 8:30-4:00 Fee: \$75
 Keynote Speakers: Steven Knox & Pat Knox on Thursday Nov 11
 Paula Kluth, Ph.D. on Friday Nov. 12
 For more information call 780-5350

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS-SUMMIT 2004
 Parents and professionals come and share your thoughts on what our community needs to better serve children with special health care needs. This is a community assessment and we need your input. On Friday November 5th, 2004 from 8:30 to 3:30 pm at the Housing Authority Assembly Room 5300 E. Paisano Dr. Lunch will be provided. Call now to register: El Paso Rehab-Aurora Arriola 544-8484, Texas Tech-Grace Camacho 545-6763, DSHS Frank Encinas 834-7693

OTHER TRAININGS:
 One-Day Seminar that provides an objective overview of the role of nutrition therapy in the comprehensive treatment of ASD -**Nutrition Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.**
 At the El Paso Airport Hilton on Wednesday November 17, 2004. Course Director is Elizabeth Strickland, MS, RD, CD
 Registration Fee: Early Regular
 Single Registrant \$169 \$179
 2 to 4 149 159
 5 or more 129 139
 To register by phone call (800) 397-0180 or call 532-6014 for more info.

CASD International Conference for Autistic Spectrum Disorders
 November 12, 13, 14 & 15, 2004 in Austin, Texas. To register on line www.CASDWEB.ORG or call (512) 233-2432

(from pg. 1) camera crews covering the hearing. Chairman Regula spoke to a packed audience, “Few things are as important as the health of our children.” The chairman went on to explain his understanding of the concerns and to state the need to get the facts on both the supply of influenza vaccines and the potential harm of continued exposure to thimerosal. This hearing conducted during the busiest week of the Congressional session was well attended by the members of the Subcommittee. There was bipartisan agreement that this was an important topic. More than one member mentioned that their constituents in the autism community had reached out to them on this issue and they shared family’s concerns about the deleterious affects of mercury exposures through vaccines. For more information about the hearing, include excerpts from the various speakers, and to view the statement ASA submitted for the record go to ASA’s Web site and click on the News section.

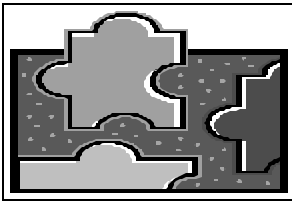
PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By: Lisa Mitchell

Frustration, confusion, sadness, self-pity, anger, and hope. These and many other emotions are what I felt when trying to get help and finally receiving the diagnosis of PDD-Pervasive Developmental Disorder for my son, T.J. That was 5 years ago, and I still go through many of these emotions, as do most parents. There are so many books, magazines, theories, and therapies, that it is quite overwhelming. I always hear, "read everything you can and become more educated." I often find that the more I read, the more confused and frustrated I get. Am I doing the right thing, should I try something different, am I really helping T.J; or am I hurting his progress? I have learned to understand that there will always be doubts, frustration, confusion, anger and sorrow, BUT, there is always hope!

Not everything can work, and not one thing can work for all children within the autism spectrum. So, keep reading, keep trying, and keep hoping. I just read a recent issue of "Mothering Magazine"-Sept.-Oct. 2004, no. 126. It has some very interesting issues. More and more evidence is beginning to link autism to childhood vaccines, as well as other brain and immune system disorders such as asthma, ADHD and diabetes. More evidence is showing that Gluten and Casein Free diets and herbal/natural supplements are a major link to lessening autistic symptoms. It may not be true for all of our children, but it may open a few more doors to some of them. The confusion or frustration may always be there, but never give up on the hope. Even the smallest accomplishments can be a huge achievement for our special children.

If you like the articles, you can go to the website at www.mothering.com for more related material-past issues are no. 125, 115, 105 and no. 100.



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In This Issue...

EMPOWERING PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Submit Stories about your Children to the News Letter

We want to know more about your children and your entire family. Please share your family's activities, events, and endeavors with all of us through the SWASA News Letter. We would like each family to contribute a story about your children's accomplishments, hobbies, likes and dislikes.

You may mail your stories to SWASA office at 511 Executive Center Blvd., El Paso, Texas, 79902, e-mail us at autism@elpbizclass.com, fax us at 532-6015 or contact our office at 532-6014. Also please submit a photo of your child or family along with your story. Visit our website at www.autism@swasa.com

