



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

Southwest Chapter Autism Society of America

February 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

Please join us the 1st Tuesday of each month (Tuesday February 3, 2004 this month) at 6:30 p.m. at the Deaf Center, located at 511 Executive Center Blvd. President Lisa Mitchell will have some announcements. We will be having a presentation by Speak Up Texas on a telephone service offered by the State of Texas and Raquel Lauretano from the Probate Court will have a presentation on how to obtain guardianship for children when they turn into adulthood. Do you know that in the State of Texas when a minor turns 21 you as a parent have no legal rights over him? If he is unable to take care of himself you must obtain legal guardianship to make decisions for him. This will be a very interesting presentation. Creative Kids and childcare will be available. There are some changes for the next meeting. Please come in through the double doors that are in the back of the building instead of the door we have been using. Childcare will now be in the big room where our meetings were, and we will be in the smaller area where the childcare was. We will have someone directing you where to come in and where to go with your children. Please join us to discuss issues important to families and to network with others who understand! Come early and look at our Resource Room where we have books and computers with internet access where you can get information on Autism. Call us at (915) 532-6014 if you would like to come in during the week. We have a Spanish version of the newsletter, if you like one call us and we will mail you one.

5th Annual Autism Conference

“Breakthrough Strategies for Autism Spectrum Disorders”

Raun K. Kaufman

Friday April 2, 2004

Ysleta Cultural Arts Center

*Raun Kaufman is an international writer, lecturer, and teacher for the Son-Rise Program at the Autism Treatment Center of America. Fully recovered from Autism, he will discuss his personal story and key principals for his recovery. This lecture will be interactive. Raun’s story was recounted by his father, Barry Neil Kaufman, in the best-selling book Son-Rise: The Miracle Continues and was later subject of an award winning NBC television movie Son-Rise: A Miracle of Love! **Registration Forms will be mailed soon.***

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KARATE CLASSES

Sal Hernandez from Sal's Karate at the Deaf Center is offering our kids some Karate classes. The days he has open are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Each class will cost \$5.00 and you can bring your child as many times as you like. Please call 532-6014 to sign up.

Shop at Albertson's and Blue Sage and contribute to SWASA.

Remember to show your Community Partners Card when you pay at Albertson's, if you don't have a card please come and pick one up from SWASA.

SAVE A TAPE program is what Blue Sage Supermarkets offers to the community. When you get your shopping receipt sign the back of it with Southwest Chapter Autism Society of America and give it back to the cashier, 2% of what you spend will come back to your organization.

JOIN US FOR FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT. We will be joining the El Paso Rehabilitation Center in their bowling night on Tuesday February 10, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at Freeway Bowling Lanes (6926 Gateway East). The cost is \$2.00 per game and the re is no need to rent shoes. Hope to see you there!

El Paso Rehabilitation Center's ADHD Building the 3-Way Partnership Family-School-Doctor

The event will feature speakers in the fields of medicine, education and mental health. The speakers will offer information on preparing to terminate medication and/or transitioning to adulthood, working through the frustration, anxiety and failure at school, and provide some positive interventions for daily challenges. The seminar will be held at El Paso Rehab (1101 E. Schuster Ave.) February 7, 2004 from 8:00 a.m.—1:10 p.m.

Presenters: Dr. Rodolfo Fierro-Stevens
Irma Keys—El Paso Bridges Academy
Mayu Quevedo-LPC, LMFT-T, RPT

Limited to 40 people

Pre-Registration fee February 4th is \$8.00.

Late Registration fee after February 4th is \$12.00.

This workshop is open to families and community members interested in the well being of children with ADHD. This seminar is for adults only and no child-care is available at this time. For more information call Lydia Hernandez at (915) 544-8484

REGION 19 TRAININGS

Region 19 ESC will be offering all of these Trainings on Autism and AU Spectrum Disorders for Spring 2004. All trainings are in English unless noted.

Visual Strategies for Improving Communication: Workshop and Make-n-Take. February 2-3, 2004, 8:30-3:30 Event Code:12056

TEACCH Network Meetings (Summer 2003 Participants Only, Please) February 17 and May 11, 2004, 2:30-5:00 Event Code: 11111

TEACCH: An Introduction to Structured Teaching for Parents February 25, 2004, 8:30-3:30 Event Code: 12355 (Spanish Available)

Asperger's Syndrome:101 March 1, 2004, 8:30-3:30 Event Code: 12374

Visual Strategies for Improving Behaviors Related to Communication Problems (Workshop and Make-n-Take) March 12, 2004, 8:30-3:30 Event Code: 12311

Structured Teaching based on the TEACCH Model (Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication handi-capped Children) SUMMER INSTITUTE June 5 (Saturday) and June 7-11, 2004 (6 days total) 8:00-4:00 at Del Valle High School

If you need help with registration call Mary at 780-5347.

For information on the trainings call Katherine Chacon at 780-5350

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY LISA MITCHELL

After several months of planning, I am pleased to announce that our vision for a new and better childcare program is now a reality. Children learn through play, so they will now be able to participate in developmentally appropriate learning centers. Learning centers enable children to play at their own speed and interact with learning materials and other children as much as they are able.

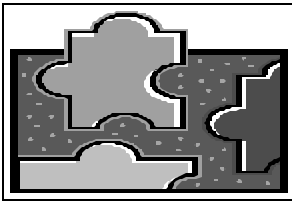
The large room for our meetings will now be divided into 5 centers; music, movement, and active play to promote large motor skills (throwing, catching, tumbling, riding tricycles); an art center with Creative Kids to promote creativity and fine motor skills (drawing, painting, cutting); table play with manipulatives which promote fine motor skills, math skills, and sensory processing (puzzles, lacing, matching, sorting, play dough, water play); a library center to promote language and reading development with books and computers; and a quiet area for the children to relax, read, or have time alone if they get over stimulated with all the choices. We will also have a Music Therapist doing music therapy. Each area is color coded with picture icons for the children to choose where they will begin, and to help them understand how they will rotate to each center. They will also learn that they need to clean up when they are finished in each center.

I teach in a preschool that is center-based and it gives the children great opportunities to learn through play, social interaction, and no pressure. Many Special-Ed classrooms use pictured icons with the TEACCH method to help the children with structure and choices. By combining the two principles, we are giving our children the ability to learn, play, and socialize in an inviting, yet structured setting which they can not get with regular babysitting or child care.

We are very excited and hope you will take advantage of our new program for your children. Parents are encouraged to volunteer their time one evening to help with the learning centers and see the benefits of our new child care.

Thank you so much to Diane Tatem, Julie Bray, Rosie Carrasco, and Gilda Lopez for all their hard work and dedication in making this project happen.

As always, the resource room is open for parents to look through and check out informative material. If you have any suggestions for additional materials, please let us know. We are here for you and your children. Now you have another great reason to come to the meetings and not only listen and learn from our wonderful presenters but, have your children involved in activities that will be fun and educational. See you at our next meeting.



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In This Issue...

PRESENTATION BY RAQUEL LAURETANO FROM PROBATE COURT

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@whc.net, 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

