



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

Southwest Chapter Autism Society of America

September 2004

OFFICERS

Lisa Mitchell
President
Julie Bermann
Vice President
Rosie Carrasco
Treasurer
Patti Martinez
Secretary
Gilda Lopez
Administrative
Assistant

DIRECTORS

Arlen Bowden
Michael Spurlock
Roman Bilynsky
Cheryl Metz
Debra Crump-
Toulet
Richard Razo
Lydia Hernandez
Diane Tatem
Luz Yrigoyen
Karl Zeff
Rita Duran
Tom Luevano
Jose Villalobos

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

Welcome Back! We are having our Monthly Support Group Meeting on Tuesday September 7, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the El Paso Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 511 Executive Center Blvd. Our guest speaker is Rick Razo from Region 19 with a presentation on the National Autism Conference in Seattle. Childcare and refreshments will be available. Our office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are having a Family and Sibling Relationships Workshop on Thursday September 16, 2004, for more information please read the colored insert. 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.

EXAMINING AUTISM—CBS Sunday News airs story about a 7 yr. old boy with autism. The interview with his parents describes how they found out he had autism and how hard it was to find a pediatrician to diagnose him. They also interviewed Rebecca Landa of the Kennedy Krieger Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine who is director of the Center for Autism and Related Disorders. She describes the early warning signs that doctors should be on the lookout to be able to identify autism early so intervention can begin as soon as possible. Patricia Stacey is the mother that was interviewed and has recently written a book called “*The Boy Who Loved Windows.*” In this book she describes all the hard work that her family had to do with their son. They tried speech and occupational therapy, floor time for eight to ten 20 minute sessions a day, almost every moment when the boy wasn’t sleeping or eating. Cliff the father, describes floor time: “It’s simply getting down on the floor with a child, meeting them where they are, having them, as much as possible, direct the play, and creating circles of communications, where you do something and the child responds. And then they do something and you respond, and back and forth. A paper copy of the interview is in the office if you are interested in reading the whole article.

INDEX	
SWASA’S Events	1
Upcoming Events and Information	2
Presidents Column	3
Submit Your Family’s Stories	4

JOIN US FOR FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT. We will be joining the El Paso Rehabilitation Center in their bowling night on Tuesday September 14, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at Freeway Bowling Lanes (6926 Gateway East). The cost is \$2.00 per game and there is no need to rent shoes. Hope to see you there!

UCP (Understanding Disabilities-Creating Opportunities) is having the following workshops for parents and other interested individuals.
Inclusive Education & Assistive Technology on Tuesday September 14 from 9:00 am-12 pm
Working with Computers for Assistive Technology on Tuesday September 28 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
 These trainings will be held at 6501 Boeing H-4

REGION 19 ESC TRAININGS:

TEACCH-Follow up Training and Support
 September 14, 2004, 8:30-3:30 Fee: Paid by Region

Introduction to TEACCH: One day Overview
 September 24, 2004, 8:30-3:30 Fee: Paid by Region

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

EL PASO REHABILITATION CENTER presents:
ADHD: Building the 3 way Partnership Family, School-Doctor
 September 25, 2004 8:30-2:45 at Las Palmas Medical Center
 Pre-Registration is \$10.00
 Late Registration is \$15.00
 Dr. Roman Bilynsky is the morning speaker and Vicky Hernandez will speak on Section 504 vs. IDEA
 For more information call Aurora Arriola (915) 544-8484

OTHER TRAININGS:

Is it ADHD or Pediatric Bipolar? Differential Diagnosis and Effective Treatment-Friday October 8, 2004 at El Paso Airport Hilton. To register call (800) 397-0180

DEFEAT AUTISM NOW! (DAN) Fall Conference, October 1-4, 2004, Los Angeles, CA. To register call 1-866-208-0207 or go on line to www.DANconference.com

SNAP (Special Needs Advocate for Parents) is now offering Medical Insurance Empowerment Program for parents of children with special needs. This program trains and supports parents to work positively with their medical insurance company. Their goal is to maximize authorizations and reimbursements for medically necessary care for their child's health and well-being. The process starts with a phone call or e-mail to SNAP. Call toll free: 1-888-310-9889 or e-mail them at info@snap.org. Visit their website at www.snapinfo.org

Hollywood Movie Update:

"Mozart and the Whale" is a new movie coming out which portrays the life of Jerry Newport and his wife Mary. Jerry is an adult with Asperger Syndrome. It should be a blockbuster!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Lisa Mitchell

Language is a powerful tool. We need language to communicate our feelings about ourselves and others, our thoughts, likes and dislikes, wants and needs, and to teach. With the power of language, we have the ability to hurt, stigmatize and lower self esteem, or we can nurture, encourage, and build up one's self esteem. Many individuals with special needs lack the ability to have the power over language. It can be difficult and frustrating to communicate even the simplest of needs. As parents, educators, and human beings, we have the responsibility to use our language to help and teach, not hurt or harm, our children with special needs. When used appropriately, language can inspire any individual to reach his/her potential. The following poem from the book You're Going to Love this Child, will hopefully make us all think about how we use our language with students in the classroom, as well as loved ones.

The Language of Us and Them

By: Mayer Shevin

We like things. They fixate on objects.

We try to make friends. They display attention-seeking behavior.

We take breaks. They display off task behavior.

We stand up for ourselves. They are non-compliant.

We have hobbies. They self-stim.

We choose our friends wisely. They display poor peer socialization.

We persevere. They perseverate.

We like people. They have dependencies on people.

We go for a walk. They run away.

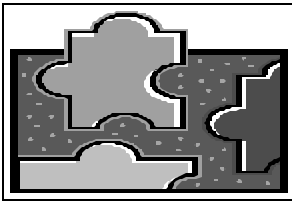
We insist. They tantrum.

We change our minds. They are disoriented and have short attention spans.

We have talents. They have splinter skills.

We are human. They are??

I always tell my daughter to look for the bright side of everything. With my son, we see the little things usually taken for granted as a huge accomplishment. When looking at your own children or students, with or without special needs, look for the positive things and choose your language accordingly.



SWASA
Southwest Autism
Society of America
511 Executive Center
Blvd.
El Paso, TX 79902

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EL PASO, TX.
PERMIT NO. 1020

Mailing
Address

In This Issue...

PRESENTATION ON NATIONAL AUTISM CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE

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

