Talking with Parents about Autism Spectrum Disorders

Web-based Resources on Autism Spectrum Disorders For Families of Young Children

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Kansas Inservice Training System
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http://kskits.org

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Association for Behavior Analysis (ABA) International The professional organization of behavior analysts. Behavior analysis is the scientific study of behavior. This is the portal to access the special interest group for autism.
http://www.abainternational.org/constituents/special-interests/sig-details.aspx

Autism Speaks Dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism and to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society. Includes First 100 Days Kit, Autism Video Glossary, Family Services Resource Guide. http://www.autismspeaks.org/

Autism Society of America “The voice of the autism community” for individuals with autism, parents, family members or friends, professionals or other interested advocates. Services include annual conference, publications, research support, advocacy, and local chapters across the nation. Also Autism 101: A free online course introduction to autism spectrum disorder. www.autism-society.org or in Spanish http://www.autism-society.org/espanol/

Beach Center of the University of Kansas has launched a Community of Practice to share evidence, values, and wisdom among families, practitioners, researchers, and policy makers about supports for families of young children with disabilities (including parent-to-parent supports).
http://www.beachcenter.org/

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Autism Information Center. Read about autism spectrum disorders, as well as CDC research projects at the federal, state, and local levels. Find the most current information regarding the prevalence of autism or the association between vaccines and autism. Also interactive tools for parents on detection and community awareness materials (Know the Signs/Act Early campaign). http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning Develops and disseminates evidence-based, user-friendly information to help early childhood educators meet the needs of the growing number of children with challenging behaviors and mental health problems in child care and Head Start programs. Practical resources for classroom settings and staff development training modules (some in Spanish) http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/
Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) web page on autism spectrum disorders has resources on early identification, prevalence, elements of effective practices, appropriate services, family support, federal resources and low-cost or no-cost NECTAC publications. http://www.nectac.org/topics/autism/autism.asp

Educating Children with Autism. National Academy Press, National Academy of Sciences (2001) At the request of the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs a group of researchers evaluated the scientific evidence regarding intervention for young children with autism to come up with specific recommendations for effective educational services. www.nap.edu/books/0309072697/html/115.html

Head Start Center for Inclusion This website is funded by the Office of Head Start with the goal of increasing the competence, confidence, and effectiveness of Head Start personnel in providing services to young children with disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders. The site includes video and print resources for trainers, administrators, and practitioners. http://depts.washington.edu/hscenter/

Interactive Collaborative Autism Network (ICAN) Free online instructional modules for anyone who lives with, teaches, or otherwise supports children and youth with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), including parents, teachers, and individuals with ASD. www.autismnetwork.org

Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) is a part of the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) and a long-standing program of the University of Kansas Life Span Institute at Parsons. KITS is supported through grants from the Kansas State Department of Education-Student Support Services and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment-Infant/Toddler Services. The KITS project is designed to provide a training and resource system for early intervention networks and early childhood special education program staff through collaborative training and technical assistance activities on a comprehensive statewide basis. Additionally, parents and staff of agencies collaborating with these early intervention networks and preschool programs can be involved in activities associated with the project. From the website, professionals and family members can sign up for training events, download free technical assistance packets on a wide variety of topics, find links to state and national resources, sign up for one of the list services, or locate and request materials from the resource center at no cost. http://www.kskits.org or 1-800-362-0390 Ext. 1651

Georgetown University Maternal and Child Health Library Knowledge Path: Autism Spectrum Disorders Site offers a selection of current, high-quality resources about ASD screening and diagnosis, treatment and intervention, communication, education, vocational challenges, and impact on family life. Separate sections identify resources that address concerns about vaccines, environmental health research, and inappropriate use of seclusion and restraints. Separate briefs point to resources for families and schools. http://www.mchlibrary.info/knowledgePaths/kp_autism.html
National Autism Center (NAC) National Standards Project (NSP) The NAC is a nonprofit organization that sponsored the recently completed National Standards Project, an effort to use scientific merit to identify evidence-based guidelines for treatments of individuals with ASD younger than 22 years of age. The focus of the project was limited to interventions that can reasonably be implemented with integrity in most school or behavioral treatment programs (excluding biomedical literature for ASD). A panel of multidisciplinary autism researchers applied a rigorous scoring system to evaluate the quality and usefulness of interventions for individuals with ASD described in nearly 1,000 studies. In September 2009, the NSP released a 160-page report classifying ASD treatments as established, emerging, or unestablished. A 2-page summary, summary of findings, or full report can be downloaded from the website. [http://www.nationalautismcenter.org/](http://www.nationalautismcenter.org/)

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY) This site provides comprehensive information on autism spectrum disorders, including a 6 page fact sheet in English/Spanish, tips for parents and teachers, and links to state specific resources. [http://nichcy.org/disability/specific/autism](http://nichcy.org/disability/specific/autism)

National Institute of Child Health and Development The goal of this site is to provide easy access to the most current information about NICHD research projects, publications, news releases, and other activities related to autism and similar disorders. The NICHD is one of several institutes doing research into various aspects of autism, including its causes, prevalence, and treatment. [http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/autism/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/autism/Pages/default.aspx)

National Professional Development Center on ASD Based on their published criteria of efficacy established through peer-reviewed research, the National Professional Development Center has to date confirmed the evidence base for 24 interventions for individuals with ASD. Evidence Briefs are available for each of the following practices (in alphabetical order): Computer-aided instruction; Differential reinforcement; Discrete trial training; Extinction; Functional behavior assessment; Functional communication training; Naturalistic interventions; Parent-implemented interventions; Peer-mediated instruction/intervention; Picture Exchange Communication System; Pivotal response training; Positive behavioral supports; Prompting; Reinforcement; Response interruption/redirection; Self-management; Social skills training groups; Stimulus control/Environmental modification; Structured work systems; Task analysis; Time delay; Video modeling; Visual supports; VOCA/Speech generating devices. Additional resources include an online module on Early Identification of ASD and a online course on ASD [http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/](http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/). The center is partnering with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in creating Autism Internet Modules that can be accessed at no cost. Training modules supporting the 24 evidence-based practices are available at [http://www.autisminternetmodules.org/](http://www.autisminternetmodules.org/)

Sibling Support Project Based on belief that all disabilities, illness, and mental health issues affect the lives of all family members. Mission is to increase peer support and information for brothers and sisters of people with special needs and to increase parents’ and providers’ understanding of sibling
issues through workshops, websites, and written materials.  
http://www.siblingsupport.org/

**TASN Autism and Tertiary Behavior Supports Project** is a part of the Kansas State Department of Education's (KSDE) Technical Assistance System Network. The Project assists Kansas school districts in building local capacity to serve students with diverse learning needs through professional development and technical assistance. This mission is carried out through the creation of networks of individuals (i.e., mini-teams) with high levels of expertise in serving children with intense cognitive, communicative, and/or behavioral concerns; the development of Communities of Practice (CoP); and the identification of local resources. In recent years, in collaboration with Families Together, KITS, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, supports for Infant-Toddler Networks have been developed. On the website, professionals and families can find more information about the Project’s services, along with a link to the free resource lending library.  
www.kansasasd.com

**Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention (TACSEI)**  
Sponsored by the Office of Special Education Programs, this grant takes the research that shows which practices improve social-emotional outcomes for young children with, or at risk for, developmental delays or disabilities and creates free products and resources to help decision makers, caregivers, and services providers apply these best practices in the work they do every day.  
http://www.challengingbehavior.org/

**Treatment and Education of Autistic and other related Communication Handicapped Children (TEACCH)** Funded since 1964, this research based approach centers around understanding autism, adopting appropriate adaptations, and a broadly-based intervention strategy building on the skills and interests of the individual. Sponsor of *The Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* and other publications.  
http://www.teacch.com/

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families** created a web page with information and resources about autism spectrum disorders specifically for early childhood providers. Find practical tips, fact sheets, and links to websites that offer free, high quality resources for providers and families.  
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/asd

**Wrightslaw** Parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys will find information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities, including autism.  
www.wrightslaw.com

**Zero to Three National Center for Infants Toddlers and Families** The mission of this national non-profit organization is to promote the health and development of infants and toddlers by informing and training professionals, parents, and policymakers in practices that improve the lives of infants, toddlers and their families. In the section on Behavior & Development, see *What is PDD?*  