

# Community Autism Resources

*A Place to Start...A Presence on Your Journey*

## Monday Morning Message

December 19th

**Please note that there will be NO Monday Morning Message on Monday December 26<sup>th</sup> and Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our office will also be closed on those days as well. Community Autism Resources wishes for all of our families and friends a joy and fun filled Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy 2012!**

**This brief article about the Holidays and communication comes from the RDI Connect Newsletter: <http://www.rdiconnect.com/>**

The Holiday season can be a bittersweet experience. Television blares the joys of family with each advertisement trumpeting the notion that true happiness comes from giving and getting the perfect present. Even though Ellen's parents waxed nostalgic as Christmas approached, remembering the luster of their own childhood, they also remembered previous holidays which had been difficult for their daughter. In the past Ellen had not been motivated to consider presents for others and her parents decided that this would be their underlying theme for December.

An interesting observation regarding the way Ellen's mind worked emerged. Her parents discovered that her memory was less integrated than brother Charlie's and she often relied on the minds of others, lacking confidence in the use of her own. Thus, Ellen rarely took time to think before responding. She easily and quickly parroted a phrase, often one that was in the conversational ballpark.

Read the rest at: <http://www.rdiconnect.com/pages/Sink-or-Swim.aspx?PostID=2816#>

### **Family Ice Skating!**

**Monday, January 16, 2012 (Martin Luther King Day) from 10:00 a.m. – Noon**

Please join us for some ice skating fun at the Armstrong Skating Arena on 103 Long Pond Road in Plymouth. We invite you to skate from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and then stay to enjoy a hot cup of hot chocolate and snacks!

There is no cost for this activity and skates are included. Walkers will be available that day at the rink.

Space is limited, so please pre-register via our website [www.community-autism-resources.com](http://www.community-autism-resources.com) by Monday, January 9, 2012. We prefer you register online, but if you have questions, or cannot register online, please call Lori DeCrescenzo at [\(508\) 379-0371](tel:5083790371) or [\(800\) 588-9239 ext. 10](tel:8005889239). – Thank you!

This event is being generously sponsored by SafetyNet by LoJack ("*Peace of Mind for Caregivers of People At Risk for Wandering*"). For more information on SafetyNet, please visit their website <https://safetynetbylojack.com/>.

### **December Vacation Camp & Sunday Respite Program**

The Bridge Center , is offering a Sunday Respite Program 12/18 from 10 AM to 2 PM- Parents can enjoy a kid-free shopping day while the kids enjoy arts and crafts, sports and a movie. Cost is \$40.00 per day for 1st child and \$10 per day for additional children. There is also a December Vacation Camp from 12/6 to 12/30 from 10 to 3PM- Extended Day for Tuesday through Thursday from 3 to 5 PM. Transportation is available from Dorchester, Randolph and Brockton.  
<http://www.thebridgectr.org/schoolvacationcamp.html>  
You can get more information by calling Spencer Nichols at 508-697-7557, ext.12 or email [snichols@thebridgectr.org](mailto:snichols@thebridgectr.org)

### **The Autism File Magazine is offering a FREE No Obligation issue of their magazine. Articles include:**

- "Give Me A Break!"
- "Homeschool How-To"
- "IEP Strategy: Scoring A Win For Your Family"
- "Let's Do Lunchboxes"
- "Working The System"
- "Helping Your Older Child"
- "Life After Highschool"
- "Climb Every Mountain"
- And Much More!

For families impacted by autism, time is always of the essence. Autism brings real challenges to families and The Autism File offers real solutions, right now. Here at the magazine, we know that parents and caregivers need relevant up-to-date information they can immediately apply to their daily lives. From educational options to reducing toxic exposures, saving money and exploring alternative treatments, the topics we address ensure that each and every issue is designed to make life a little easier for you and your child. To get your free issue go to:

<https://ssl.drgnetwork.com/ecom/bel/cgi/subscribe/order?org=BEL&publ=AF>

### **Fun Workshops for Children and Parents**

Conducted by Deb Titus, this new program offers a wide variety of workshops for ages 3 through adult. Although these programs are not designed for children on the Autism Spectrum they may be a nice fit for some, and also for siblings and parents. Two new workshops for 2012 are:

- Developing Friendships (Boys & Girls ages 9-12)
- Healthy Relationships "The Magic of the Word" (Girls 9-12)

She also offers a very wide variety of other works shops that can be seen on her website. <http://www.workshopsforchildren.com/children-and-parent-workshops.php>

### **Webinar on Federal Tax Provisions that Help Meet the Costs of Home and Community-based Care**

Please join the National Research and Training Center for Personal Assistance Services (PAS Center) on Friday, December 16, 2011, for a free webinar entitled Federal Tax Provisions that Help Meet the Costs of Home and Community-based Care. Steve Mendelsohn from the Burton Blatt Institute will discuss the over half dozen federal income tax law provisions that can be used to help meet the costs of remaining in one's home and community as an alternative to nursing home. These include individual income tax deductions and credits, and taxing subsidized fringe benefits of employment. Learn about these provisions, about how and when they apply, and about whether any of them can be of benefit to you or your family.

The 60-minute webinar will begin at 2.00pm Eastern; 1:00pm Central; noon Mountain; 11:00am Pacific; 10:00am Alaska and 8:00am Hawaii.

There is no fee and no pre-registration for this webinar, which is open to everyone.

An archive of this webinar will be available at a later date.

To join the Webinar on that date, please click here.

[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=reuel6bab&et=1108926859891&s=398&e=001aTYSnjsboixO1mkto6EJWiiifMad5cM0kCrY63kBWGeQ9Ik-A\\_b5EDzjWW9Olar1n\\_akBDUII2cHTo4mzwrcqP9XtVf8yeWNN9ybX8229UNxmndCN0yqcfFCCzBfA7Ls](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=reuel6bab&et=1108926859891&s=398&e=001aTYSnjsboixO1mkto6EJWiiifMad5cM0kCrY63kBWGeQ9Ik-A_b5EDzjWW9Olar1n_akBDUII2cHTo4mzwrcqP9XtVf8yeWNN9ybX8229UNxmndCN0yqcfFCCzBfA7Ls)

It is recommended that you visit this link a few minutes beforehand, as the Webinar software (Elluminate) needs to be downloaded to your computer, which can take a few minutes.

The audio of the conference can also be accessed by phone at 1-800-625-5918, passcode 7023043.

**About the Presenter: Steven Mendelsohn, JD**, advocate and author, is recognized as one of the nation's leading experts on the intersection of tax law and disability. He has extensive experience analyzing and explaining the role of tax law in the lives of people with disabilities, and in providing technical assistance and guidance in the use of tax laws to enhance the autonomy and economic independence of people with disabilities and their families. He is the author of many educational articles and research papers, including the groundbreaking book *Tax Options and Strategies for People with Disabilities*.

Currently, under the auspices of a project jointly sponsored by the UCSF PAS Center and Syracuse University's Burton Blatt Institute (BBI), he studies the economics of PAS

and the role that tax laws have and can play in affecting reimbursement rates for PAS and in determining the net cost to consumers of various kinds of long-term care. While our nation awaits reform of the Medicaid long-term care benefit and of private long-term care insurance programs, he believes it is essential for people to be informed about the strategies that are available to them for making home and community-based care as affordable as possible, and for reducing the disparity between the funding available for such care and for nursing home placement.

**Snack 'n' Chat for Teens ages 13 – 21 with Asperger Syndrome, High Functioning Autism and others with similar diagnoses.**

Snack 'n' Chat is a social atmosphere where teens can hang out with their peers. The teens will work together to cook a meal, have conversations during dinner, set the table and practice community living skills. Parents can stay and chat with other parents or have a few hours to themselves. Snack 'n' Chat fosters social skills and builds friendships at the same time.

It is held at the: House of Possibilities, 350 Washington Street, North Easton, MA

From 5:30-8:30 on Tuesday or Thursday evenings

Cost: \$110.00 for 6 week session

Schedule session 1 - 2012

Tuesday sessions: 1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, & 2/7

Thursday sessions: 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, & 2/9

For more information or to register contact Amy Busch Email at:

[a.busch@houseofpossibilities.org](mailto:a.busch@houseofpossibilities.org)

Please specify which session you would like to register for Tuesday or Thursday

Or call Amy H. Busch, Children Services Program Director, 508-205-0555

[www.houseofpossibilities.org](http://www.houseofpossibilities.org)