

# Transitioning to College: Is College Right for Your Child?

By Susan Glairon



It was ironic. I had just returned home from the Colorado State University’s Symposium on Autism Spectrum Disorders, which focused on the needs of ASD college students, when my husband called with the news. Our 18-year-old son (PDD/NOS) had skipped the last two weeks of his University of Colorado classes.

I remember clearly Eliot as a toddler, spinning and flapping in a secret dance with the microwave’s number display. I also remember him in his crib; he figured out the workings of a light-sensitive night light and pushed me back and forth to watch my shadow turn it on and off. Somehow, at eight months he taught himself to change channels with the remote.

He had learned numbers long before he said “Mom” and shocked the preschool director when at barely age 2, he read the school’s address “2100.” That year a person from the state’s early childhood program told me Eliot could enter a vocational track when he advanced to high school; I looked at her and replied, “This kid is going to college.”

*(continued on page 4)*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

In Memory/Honor .....	8	Announcements.....	15
Calendar .....	10		



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For more information, please contact ASC Staff using the contact information listed below.

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

ASC is a local chapter of the

#### Autism Society of America.

Contact ASA at:

7910 Woodmont Ave., #300

Bethesda, MD 20814-3015

800-3 AUTISM

[www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)

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### Support Groups

The listing of autism and related support groups throughout the state has become too large to publish each month. Call ASC at 720-214-0794 and we will send you the most current listing for your area.



## from the executive director

### Fighting

**A**t Autism Night at Beau Jo's Pizza last month, I met a charming family of an adorable young child with autism. The child's grandmother told me how unfair her daughter's life had become. She said, "My daughter had to fight to get the diagnosis, fight to get treatment paid for, she fights with the schools. Her life is just constant fighting." With tears in her eyes, she said, "It just isn't fair."

When our child is diagnosed with autism, it is disappointing to discover our immense, fiery, heart-aching parental love for our children is not going to be enough to give them a fair opportunity in life; they will need our advocacy. It is especially disappointing when we figure out, they will need a lot of advocacy; all the time and in nearly every arena of their life.

Although we did not have children because we needed a cause, out of necessity, our children become our cause. However, our life change is about more than a new cause. When you experience the crash of our secret, personal, daydream life plans and dealing with the strange systems of care our children need, with their dead ends and roadblocks, is just downright scary. The fact that you have to fight for your child with autism really is not fair.

Like every parent, not only do we want our children to be happy and enjoy their lives, we want them to be enjoyable for us as well. We try to figure out what it will take to see the light at the end of the autism tunnel of unfairness – and we will barter any reasonable or even unreasonable sacrifice to get back to a life without a heart-breaking, personal, all-consuming cause that requires constant fighting.

Many of us also strive to become really good at negotiating for our kids. However even if you are typically a good negotiator, a bad situation involving your child can make you feel angry or cry or both, which is a bad negotiating position.

But who can suppress these feelings? I remember when Carol Meredith, one of the best educational advocates in Colorado, called me after her son, Alex, finished an IEP meeting. Carol said, "I advocate for hundreds of families, and yet, when it's my own son, I always cry."

I used to cry too, but I also got so mad. My boyfriend, Ken, tells me if I think I am being taken advantage of, I get mad. But I really get mad if I think my son is being taken advantage of. Bad news about Eli makes me feel outraged, and trying to control my reactions takes a lot of discipline.

**I** found the antidote to my feelings of ire was group action. A purpose of the Autism Society of Colorado is to be there for families who need a real live, accessible person who is compassionate about their journey and to be a bridge to opportunities for parents who want to change our world. Many parents become visionaries of creative means to advocate not only for their own child, but for all children.

As our kids become adults, some of our adult children still need us to advocate on their behalf. The Autism Society continues to not only share the journey with other parents, but also fight for change on behalf of our adult children.

Many times our circumstances with autism are not fair. However, looking back, we have achieved a lot. The Autism Society fought for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) back in 1970. At that time, our children did not even have the right to go

from the  
executive director (cont.)

to public school, let alone have a free and appropriate public education standard. The Autism Society has been the source of 14 laws and has elevated autism awareness in our State Capitol, in our Departments of State, with the media and for the public in general.

Looking ahead, because of your support, the Autism Society will continue to advocate, inform and share the journey.

While the grandmother and I were talking, her grandson found a friend. They had a blast. Their mothers made their children's first play date. They took pictures with their phones. I told the parents when they needed information and support or if they just wanted to talk about their feelings, to call the Autism Society. Our autism journey can be both terrible and wonderful, but it is good to know that because of the Autism Society, you are never alone.

*Betty*

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# SLA behavior therapy

structured learning aspects



 <p>Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Assessments</li><li>○ In-home Behavioral Therapy</li><li>○ Consultations</li><li>○ Trainings</li></ul>	 <p>Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ HCBS CES/SLS Waivers</li><li>○ Children with Autism Waiver</li><li>○ Private Pay</li><li>○ Insurance</li></ul>	 <p>Contact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dr Keelee Burtch</li><li>○ Dr Cheryl Ostry</li></ul>
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[www.slatherapy.com](http://www.slatherapy.com)

720-470-0578  
[info@slatherapy.com](mailto:info@slatherapy.com)

# Transitioning to College

(Continued from cover)

But while I never doubted he would go, I never understood till now how much easier it would be for him to get accepted into college than stay there. Despite a small army of therapists and others watching out for him, Eliot binges on video games. He skips classes and meals and often goes without sleep. I'm exhausted from the phone calls to keep him on track, and I am saddened when I contemplate his future.

But there's hope. He performed well in his classes, until he stopped going. But even more significant, my son, who in the past could only see as far as the next click of the mouse, looked at me last night and asked, "What will happen next year? What will happen this summer?"

Those questions are the answer. If he can see a future, then he has one. Eliot is an adult. To be independent, he needs to want to stop gaming. He's not there yet, but I pray some day he will. Here are my tips for parents who want to prepare their children on the spectrum for college. The tips also include information from lectures

by Dr. Jane Thierfeld Brown, director of University of Connecticut School of Law's Student Services and Dr. Lorraine Wolf, director of Boston University's Disability Services, who presented at CSU's Symposium on Autism Spectrum Disorders on March 23 and 24. They also co-authored the book, "Students with Aspergers Syndrome: A Guide for College Personnel" (collegeautismspectrum.com).

## Preparation

Begin preparing ASD students for college in 9th grade because they need repetition to learn skills. Ask yourself, "Should I be doing this for my child, or should I be teaching this?" Teach whatever you can.

- Teach him to use an ATM card.
- Stop waking him up and make him use an alarm clock.
- Be sure he knows how to carefully check email and voice mail and how to respond in a timely manner.
- Teach him how to refill his medications.

(continued on next page)



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### **Dr. Marcy Rose, O.D.**

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# Transitioning to College

- Show him how to schedule his appointments with doctors, teachers, etc.
- Let him run his IEP meetings so he learns to advocate for himself.
- Find a time management system that works, such as Google calendar, and practice using it.
- Encourage volunteer or job experience.
- Be sure he completes an independent living skills class.
- Use real-life situations to teach your child to advocate for himself. If he received the wrong change, ask him to talk to the cashier.
- “Develop a script to be a good advocate,” Dr. Thierfeld Brown said. “Having a disability does not guarantee a particular accommodation.”
- Beginning in elementary school, limit computer time.
- Install a program that turns off the computer/Internet at a certain time. Or try purchasing a clock from [www.timetimer.com](http://www.timetimer.com), which shows visually the amount of time left.
- Be sure his IEP team develops a transition plan.

## Is your child ready for college?

Just because your high-functioning child performed well in high school doesn't mean he'll succeed in college. “When they go to college no one knows them, no one is sensitive to their sensory needs,” Dr. Wolf said. “Nobody cares. Higher education is about change every single day, every single week.” The most successful students are those who understand and accept their disabilities, Dr. Wolf said. They also possess good regulatory skills and don't melt down or scream. They are internally motivated and major in something they feel is worthwhile. They are also excellent self advocates.

Ask yourself: Does my son understand his disability?

- Can he say, “I need this accommodation?”
- Does he possess independent living skills?
- What does he do with unstructured time?
- If your child isn't ready, then tell him, this is what you must do first to show you are ready and devise a plan, Thierfeld Brown said.

## Help for ASD students

Approximately 15 college campuses nationwide offer programs geared to help ASD students succeed, and most

cost \$2,500 to \$3,000 per semester. For a current list of those colleges, visit <http://www.collegeautismspectrum.com/collegeprograms.html>. Private companies charge as much as \$25,000 per semester. Since October, CSU has offered *Opportunities for Post-secondary Success*, which helps ASD college and transitioning high school students be successful at CSU. Funded by a \$2.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education and run through CSU's occupational therapy department, the program offers coaching from professional staff and paired mentoring from occupational therapy students. The program is free for ASD students, but once the grant is exhausted, it will become a fee-for-service program. CSU also offers sliding-scale social skills groups for adults aged 18 to 35 through its psychology department. For those ASD students living in Colorado covered under HIMAT, health insurance money can be used for therapists to visit your child on campus and help him become self sufficient. Under this program, our son receives 12 hours assistance per week. There are co-payments.

## Choosing a college

Before spending \$20,000 to \$50,000 annually for university tuition, consider a community college to allow your child to understand college expectations. Decide where your child would thrive. As Dr. Thierfeld Brown said during the conference, “It's not about getting in. It's about getting out.”

- Does the student have the academic skills to match the college's expectations?
- Does the college offer the accommodation your child needs?
- Does he have the skills to live far from home?
- Will he regularly take showers, shave, do laundry?
- Can he successfully juggle taking classes, turning in assignments on time, managing email?
- Before enrolling in a college, check the school's policy on parent-access to professors. CU-Boulder students can sign a release form that allows parents to talk to professors about their progress. I would not let my ASD child attend a college that didn't have this available. I would also not sign the check unless my child signed the form.
- Does your child drive? If not, choose a college that has easy bus access to other parts of the town/city and to other cities.

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# Transitioning to College

## Housing

- Does he have the social skills to live with a roommate? ASD students may be able to request a single, but decide carefully. Students with poor social skills in a single may resort to excessive video gaming. But a child with extreme sensory issues may not be able to live with a roommate.
- Another option is substance-free dormitories, which require residents to sign a contract saying they will not bring drugs or alcohol into the dormitory and that they will not enter the dorm intoxicated.
- Another option is to live home. Although most colleges require freshmen to live on campus, housing services can usually make exceptions, especially for documented disabilities.

## Getting Ready

- Early in his senior year of high school, schedule a neuropsych evaluation. Most colleges won't accept evaluations older than three years. To save money, check with his school district to find out which evaluations it can perform.
- Check if the college offers a summer "camp" where ASD kids can practice being at college by taking one summer class and living on campus.
- Ask housing services if your child could visit several dormitories before choosing. One of the CU Housing directors showed us several rooms over the summer.
- Immediately contact the college's disability center and set up an appointment to meet the disability counselor and to block out regular meeting times before his or her calendar fills.
- Disclose if your child has been hospitalized, or if he is vulnerable under stress. Service providers need to know so they know what to expect, Dr. Wolf says.
- Dr. Wolf and Thierfeld Brown advise not to disclose your child's disability to his professors. In our experience at CU, professors wanted to help when they found out our son was on the autism spectrum.
- Assemble a loose-leaf notebook containing important information, such as bus routes, pizza delivery numbers, contact information for professors and what to do in an emergency. Add photos of the recreation center, dining hall and classrooms, and if possible take photos of the professors and put their names underneath. Print out a map of the university and highlight class locations.

- Go with your child to find his classes before they start.
- Practice "going to class" to know the fastest routes.
- Have your child meet the campus police, especially if he exhibits behaviors that could be wrongly interpreted, such as getting too close to people, flapping, rocking, pacing, reacting strongly when touched, or reciting videos when stressed.
- If your child is sensitive to sound, let the RA know how he will react during a fire drill.
- Let him also know how your child reacts when he's stressed--such as reciting videos-- so that you can be notified before the situation escalates.

## Setting Clear Rules

- Set up clear expectations and clear consequences for infractions such as skipping classes.
- Require your child to give you her login to check her grades. Otherwise refuse to sign the check.
- Require your child to keep a Google calendar of how he spends his time, and make sure you and the disability counselor have access.

*(continued on next page)*



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[www.consultantsforchildren.com](http://www.consultantsforchildren.com)

# Transitioning to College

## Making the Most Out of It

- Check if the school offers a Social Skills 101 class, and if so enroll your child.
- Check with the university's counseling center (not disability center) as to what's available for counseling. Many colleges limit one-on-one appointments, but they may offer unlimited group sessions.
- Review a list of university clubs with your child to find three that interest him. Call the clubs and let them know your student has a disability and what to expect, such as pacing back and forth, repeating the same words, poor eye contact, etc., and see if he could be paired with a buddy.
- Visit the university's recreation center with your child. Many universities offer discounted swimming lessons and intramural clubs such as racquetball. Let the coach know about your son and see if he/she will work with him. The CU racquetball coach emails me every time my son comes to practice.

Working with children and families to create an individualized, effective approach.



**Lauren H. Kerstein LCSW, P.C.**

**Child and Family Psychotherapist**

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For more information, please visit our website at:

[www.LaurenKerstein.com](http://www.LaurenKerstein.com)

For resources including **My Sensory Book** by Lauren Kerstein,

please visit: [www.AutismAspergerBooks.com](http://www.AutismAspergerBooks.com)



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by Amy Roach

## *In memory of*

Nicholas Pohlit by Alicia & John Mitchell  
Nicholas Pohlit by Arleigh Nelson,  
Nicholas Pohlit by Larry & Cynthia Pohlit  
Nicholas Pohlit by Elizabeth C. Burns  
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Call (609) 613-1900 or E-mail [colorado@autismspeaks.org](mailto:colorado@autismspeaks.org)

## Did you know?

- Today, a shocking 1 in 110 children is diagnosed with autism
  - 1 in 70 boys is on the autism spectrum
  - A new case is diagnosed every 20 minutes
  - There is no medical detection or cure for autism

Family Teams, Corporate Teams, Individual Walkers, Agencies and Organizations, Virtual Walkers... Join us as we walk in support of research and awareness to bring hope to everyone affected by autism.



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# CALENDAR



## **ABC's of Autism: Being Safe & Comfortable in the Social World: Social & Emotional Competency**

For teens and adults with Asperger's syndrome or high-functioning autism, parents, friends and professionals. Building friendships and social relationships is an important skill for teenagers and young adults. The rewards of true friendship are enormous. It is also important, however, to avoid false friends, bullies, and exploiters. Dr. Rosenberg will talk about social conventions and clues to look for in people's faces so that you can tell what they're feeling. Dr. Stone will talk about friendship, research on bullying and exploitation, and will review some specific tools to help you or your loved ones gain new confidence in the three most stressful social situations: dating, school/workplace interactions, and meeting new people.

Guest Speakers: Valerie Stone, PhD (and Erika Rosenberg, PhD on video)

When: Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
(Second Wednesday of every month)

6:30 – 7:30 PM Presentation

7:30-8:00 PM Networking/Support Group

Where: The Autism Society of Colorado

Basement of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bank Building

550 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Ste. 100

Lakewood, CO 80226

Childcare is not available for this meeting.



*Beau Jo's Pizza and the Autism Society of Colorado cordially invite you to*

## **Autism Family Pizza Night**

Where: TWO LOCATIONS in 2011!

1. Beau Jo's on South Colorado Blvd. and Yale, Denver CO
  2. Beau Jo's at 80<sup>th</sup> and Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO
- When: First Wednesday of every month from 5:30 – 7:30p.m.

Beau Jo's invites individuals and families from the Autism Society of Colorado to join them for a monthly Pizza Party in a semi-private area of their restaurant for an Autism Family Friendly dining experience.

Beau Jo's offers a Gluten Free menu, dairy-free cheese and a Healthy Menu Guide for people on specific diets. Beau Jo's will do their best to meet your specific dietary needs. Families will be responsible for the cost of their own meals.

For more information contact Kim Tenure at 720-214-0794, x15 or [kim@autismcolorado.org](mailto:kim@autismcolorado.org)

## **Mom's Nights Out**

Exceptional Families announces the Mom's Nights Out for the following months:

April 21st -- Applebee's (Boulder)

May 19th -- Chili's (Lafayette)

June 16th -- La Mariposa (Longmont)

We will meet at 7 pm. We will provide appetizers and non alcoholic drinks.

Please RSVP by email at [exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com).



## **Upcoming Summer Camps through Extreme Sports Camp**

Welcomes people ages 7 and up with an autism spectrum disorder, including classic autism, PDD-NOS, Asperger's and related diagnoses. Participants of any athletic ability can succeed. We pride ourselves in ensuring progress in our sports while having lots of fun!

### **The Lake Powell Travel Camp - ONLY 3 SPOTS LEFT!**

May 29 - June 11

Set in beautiful Lake Powell, our Travel camp takes place on a 70' houseboat. Campers enjoy camping under the stars and during the day, they are challenged to learn wake boarding, tubing, and many more sports on the blue waters of Lake Powell.

The program is two one week sessions but families have the option to register for either one or both weeks.

### **Aspen/Roaring Fork Valley Summer Camp sessions**

June 26 - August 27

## CALENDAR CONT.

ESC offers nine weekly camp sessions this summer, come for one or several. Located in the Aspen/Roaring Fork Valley of Colorado, our camp enjoys all of the extreme sports that attract people from across the country: wake boarding, rock climbing, kayaking, ropes courses and much more! Your camper will enjoy the experience of learning these wonderful outdoor activities while proceeding at their own pace guided by our experienced instructors and counselors. They will have new social interactions and make friends over the summer.

To learn more about Extreme Sports Camp visit [www.extremesportscamp.org](http://www.extremesportscamp.org) or register for a camp at <https://www.camperregsecure.com/extremesportscamplogin/>.



### Creating a Fulfilling Life for Young Adults With Autism

Jewish Disabilities Network and Autism Society of Colorado are hosting a webinar viewing of the Fourth Annual UJA-Federation of New York Hilibrand Autism Symposium.

Many children with autism are eligible to receive special education services through the school system until age 21 -- but what happens afterward? As children with autism become adults with autism, we must think about meaningful ways to promote their interests, independence, and participation in the workforce. Our conference will examine the numerous ways that communal infrastructures can support adults with autism in finding fulfillment and independence in their adult lives.

Thursday, May 26th — 7:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Jewish Family Service Board Room  
3201 South Tamarac Drive  
Denver, CO 80231

Space is limited. Please RSVP by May 10th to Inna Ermakov at (303) 623-0251 x212 or [iermakov@jewishfamilyservice.org](mailto:iermakov@jewishfamilyservice.org).



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RSVP to Peggy Schroeder  
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### Canvas and Cupcakes

A fun art experience for individuals with special needs ages 8 & up and their friends.

WHEN: April 9, 2011 from 1:30—3:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Parker Recreation Center, 17301 E. Lincoln Avenue,  
Parker

(Younger children welcome with parent participation). Come create your own 16 x 20 masterpiece that you will take home with you. No painting experience necessary for this class, all levels welcome...just a love of art! Helpers will be available for each artist with special needs, if needed. Cost is \$25.00 which includes all supplies, snacks, and your take home work of art.

Please register by April 3rd with Dylan's Down with the Arts at 303-886-5224 or [leslie@downwiththearts.org](mailto:leslie@downwiththearts.org). Visit [www.downwiththearts.org](http://www.downwiththearts.org) for more info.

### Upcoming FREE Events at Developmental Pathways

**Karaoke and Decorate Bags for Project Angel Heart** - April 19 –ages 18+ at Aurora, 6-7:30pm

**Spring Family Fun Night** - April 5, 6:30-8:00 p.m. - Families in the Family Support Program (and waitlist) with children ages 3-10 will enjoy carnival type activities lead by community volunteers.

**Money Matters Series Classes** - May 4, 11, 18, 25 - 6-7pm

Where: 11111 E. Mississippi Ave. Aurora, CO 80012

Please contact Wendy Anderson at (303) 858-2381 or [wendyanderson@developmentalpathways.org](mailto:wendyanderson@developmentalpathways.org) if you plan to attend as space is limited.



### Autism Family Potluck

When: The Third Tuesday of the Month; 5:45 PM – 8PM

Where: The Children's Hospital; the Mt. Yale Conference Room on the Second Floor in the Main Hospital.

Who: Families of children having an Autism diagnosis.

What: Please bring a dish to share.

Please join us at this monthly event to meet other families, share  
(continued on next page)



## CALENDAR CONT.

good food, and develop new friendships. TCH volunteers provide arts and crafts activities for the children.

RSVP to: Sarah McSwegin, 720-777-6869; [mcswegin.sarah@tchden.org](mailto:mcswegin.sarah@tchden.org)

Parking is available in the Visitor's Parking Lot in front of the Main Hospital Entrance. Take the Lobby Elevators to the Second Floor and Follow the Signs.

2011 dates are: 4/19 ~ 5/17 ~ 6/14 ~ 7/19 ~ 8/16 ~ 9/20 ~ 10/18 ~ 11/15 ~ 12/20

### People First of Arapahoe & Douglas

WHEN: April 9 & May 14 from 2-5 (Meetings are on the second Saturday of the month)

Where: Bethany Evangelical Free Church, 6240 S. Broadway, Centennial (Broadway & Caley).

People First is for adults with developmental disabilities who gather to influence systems and participate in social activities. They do not meet in the summer time. To RSVP, please call Judy at 303-797-0893. Everyone is welcome.



### College Living Experience Hosts Community Open House

Wednesday April 13 • 4 PM - 6 PM

1391 Speer Blvd • Suite 400, Denver, CO 80204

College Living Experience invites you to learn about a transition program for students with diverse learning needs.

Join us to meet the director and staff members of CLE, a post-secondary program for college students who require additional support with academic, social and independent living skills.

Tour our center, see student residences and learn how CLE can help young adults with special needs attend college and become more independent. CLE assists students and parents with every step of the college transition process, including college enrollment, registration, tutoring and counseling.

CLE SERVES STUDENTS WITH:

Asperger's Syndrome ~ ADD/ADHD ~ Learning Disabilities ~ Nonverbal Learning Disorders ~ Developmental Delays

RSVP TO JUDI STEIN STUTMAN at (303) 825-2533 or [jsteinstutman@ExperienceCLE.com](mailto:jsteinstutman@ExperienceCLE.com).

WEBSITE: [WWW.EXPERIENCECLE.COM](http://WWW.EXPERIENCECLE.COM)

### Free screening of a new film called *Fly Away*

When: Friday, April 15, 2011 from 6-8 PM

Where: Anschutz Medical Campus, Education 2 South Building, 13121 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 1102.

Based on the award-winning short *Flying Lessons*, *Fly Away* tells the moving story of a single mother, Jeanne, grappling with the challenge of raising her autistic teenage daughter, Mandy. As Mandy becomes more and more unmanageable, so too does Jeanne's life. Over the period of two weeks, Jeanne is confronted with the most difficult decision a parent can make: to let go, allowing her child to grow, but also grow apart, or to hold on tight and fall together.

This film depicts a young woman with autism who has some difficult behaviors that might be upsetting for young children to watch. We recommend parents consider this when deciding whether to bring their child or children to the screening.

We ask that you pre-register for this event due to limited seating at [www.jfkpartners.org/workshops.asp](http://www.jfkpartners.org/workshops.asp).

### PEAK Parent Center Presents:

**A series of webinars for parents and educators**

**Transition: Grade-to-Grade**

April 7, 2011, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### Creating Circles of Support

May 12, 2011, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

To sign up online go to: [www.peakparent.org/workshopsTrainings.asp](http://www.peakparent.org/workshopsTrainings.asp) or call PEAK Parent Center 719.531.9400 or 800.284.0251.



### ABA International's 37th Annual Convention

ABA International is pleased to host the 37th Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado, May 27–31, 2011 at the Colorado Convention Center.

Visit [www.abainternational.org/Events/conv2011](http://www.abainternational.org/Events/conv2011) for more information. CEU's available.

Use the ABAI Portal to access ABAI's services, including call for papers, the membership directory, and the on-line store.

Phone: (269) 492-9310 | Fax: (269) 492-9316 | E-mail: [mail@abainternational.org](mailto:mail@abainternational.org)

# CALENDAR CONT.

## **KEJI College Fair and Institutions of Higher Learning Night**

When: Tuesday, April 26, 2011

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm (Doors open at 5:30 pm)

Where: The Rotunda at the Community College of Aurora  
16000 East Centre Tech Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011

Free and Open to the Public, Visit us at [www.forkeji.org](http://www.forkeji.org)

Meet Admissions Reps - Hear Inspirational Speakers

KEJI is a non-profit, charitable parent support group that provides information and social support resource services for families and caregivers of children and adults with specific needs and diverse abilities, through volunteered services of community supporters providing information and education on various health, education, employment, independent living and care giving topics.

For further information, please contact Robin Bruce at 303-751-3033 or [forkeji@pgdworks.com](mailto:forkeji@pgdworks.com).



## **Sensory Friendly Films:**

**Hop** on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 10:00 am

**AND**

**Rio** on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 10:00am

Tickets range from \$4-6

AMC Entertainment® and the Autism Society of Colorado have teamed up to bring families affected by autism a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis.

With Sensory Friendly Films, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down. The "Silence is Golden" policy will not be enforced.

At Four Participating AMC Theaters:

AMC Flatiron Crossing 14  
61 W. Flatiron Crossing Dr.  
Broomfield, CO 80021  
303-256-2181

AMC Southlands 16  
23955 E. Plaza Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80016  
303-627-5430

AMC Highlands Ranch 24  
103 W. Centennial Blvd.  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129  
303-471-5232

AMC Westminster 24  
10655 Westminster Blvd.  
Westminster, CO 80020-4166  
303-437-7359

## **Implementing a Verbal Behavior Program**

Date: April 29, 2011

Time: 9:00- 4:00

Please RSVP by April 28, 2011

Presented by: LaRee Kelly-Warner, MA, BCBA Summit Behavioral Services

Location: Summit Behavioral Services

611 N. Weber Street, Suite 202

Colorado Springs, CO

Fee: \$100.00 per person (Fee will include materials)

Space is limited, however future trainings will be offered.

Call: 719-460-3233 (leave a voicemail and a coordinator will return your call)

## **Dynavox Colorado Device Training**

Where: The Children's Hospital

13123 East 16th Avenue

Mt. Maroon Peak Room

Aurora , CO 80045

When: Tuesday April 26, 2010 at 1:00 PM — 3:30 PM

ASHA/CEUs: No

Can't make this training. Have no fear we have trainings the last Tuesday of each month.

Questions? Contact Annette Higgins at [annette.higgins@dynavoxtech.com](mailto:annette.higgins@dynavoxtech.com) or 720-272-8536.



Our mission is to transform the lives of children with autism.

Partnering with families, we create lifelong relationships through thoughtful, innovative, empirical learning treatment programs.

Located in Denver, both the Firefly Autism House and our Outreach Program support children ages 18 months to 18 years in the Denver-metro area and beyond.

For more information call 303-759-1192, email [info@fireflyautism.org](mailto:info@fireflyautism.org) or visit us on the web at [www.fireflyautism.org](http://www.fireflyautism.org).

## In Support of the Autism Society of Colorado...



### **Charity Poker Run at Loveland Ski Area**

Bring your skis or snowboards out on April 9th 2011 to Loveland Ski Area for an on mountain Poker Run.

Live music starting at 3pm by Denver's own Coral Thief.

Tickets: \$50 for a lift ticket and Poker Run entry or \$20 for Season Pass holders.

Prizes will be awarded for 'Top Poker Hands'. Brought to you by Loveland Ski Area, Sunglass Management Design Inc., MOB Factory Inc., Dizez Eyewear, HARD Nutrition, Never Summer Ind., Tyrant Snowboards, Grenade Gloves, and the Autism Society of Colorado.

Call 720-257-3734 for more information.  
Proceeds benefit the Autism Society of Colorado

## ***Run for the Autism Society of Colorado!***



### **Proud Charity Partners with the 2011 Kaiser Permanente Colfax Marathon!**

ASC is proud to be partnering with the  
Colfax Marathon in 2011!

When: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Where: City Park, Denver

Interested in running & raising money for the Autism Society of Colorado? Want to volunteer for the day of the event? Contact Justin at (720) 214 - 0794, x11 or [events@autismcolorado.org](mailto:events@autismcolorado.org).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Take the Social Challenge – End the “r” Word

The “r” word. Ugh! We’re working hard to eliminate it but it’s a challenge when it’s used so casually and so often. An advocacy group called LifeMyWay estimates the “r” word is used more than 24,000 every day on Twitter. So they’ve launched a new campaign called The Social Challenge to raise awareness about intellectual and developmental disabilities. Check out [www.thesocialchallenge.org](http://www.thesocialchallenge.org) to join the campaign and help create a community rooted in respect and equality. Some other great resources for information about people first language and how to communicate with and about people with I/DD are [www.disability.gov](http://www.disability.gov) and [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org).

## 911 Emergency Services for Individuals with Disabilities Survey

On March 16, 2011, the FCC’s Emergency Access Advisory Committee (EAAC) released a national on-line survey to determine the most effective and efficient technologies and methods by which persons with disabilities may access Next Generation 9-1-1 emergency services systems. Among other things, the survey asks about accessing emergency services via video, text, and voice. The results of the survey will inform the EAAC as it develops recommendations for the FCC to draft rules to ensure that people with disabilities can access NG 9-1-1 services. The survey is available in English, Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) video.

This survey will be available until April 24, 2011. We encourage people with disabilities to complete this survey, and share information about the survey with other people with disabilities and organizations that represent persons with disabilities.

Link to the survey in English and ASL:

<http://fcc.eaac.sgizmo.com/s3>

Link to the survey in Spanish:

<http://fcc.eaac-es.sgizmo.com/s3>

## Missed the CSU Transitioning with Autism Spectrum Disorders Into College Conference Last Month?

The keynote speaker was Temple Grandin and that video is now available on the web.

Here is the link:

<http://www.colostate.edu/events/autism-spectrum-symposium.aspx>

## Autism Parenting Survey

We are inviting parents of children with an ASD to join an online discussion group. We want to learn about the experiences of those parents and how they compare to parents in similar situations. We would like to learn about the issues that parents feel are unique and specific to having a child with an ASD. We plan to share what we learn with each participant and other parents of children with an ASD.

### Who will participate in the discussions?

People who want to participate must:

- Be a parent of a child with an ASD
- have access to the Internet at least weekly
- be able to commit approximately 1 hour to the discussion group at your convenience for 4-6 weeks

### How will participants be involved in the discussions?

Participants in this project will be asked to take part in a group “discussion”. This discussion will take place at a website on the Internet, where individuals will be able to type and post comments, and read the comments of the other participants.

### How can parents get more information about the project?

Please contact us directly so that we may discuss additional information and informed consent procedures.

Erinn Finke, Kathryn Drager

308 Ford Building, Penn State University, University Park, PA, USA 16802.

E-mail: [enh109@psu.edu](mailto:enh109@psu.edu)

Phone: (814) 867-4340

E-mail: [kdd5@psu.edu](mailto:kdd5@psu.edu)

Phone: (814) 863-6249



# Financial Alignment Partners

Serving Special Needs Families and the Community

## How?

A question frequently asked by parents of special needs children.

- How will we make sure our special child is *always* taken care of?
- How will we send our typical children to college?
  - How will we even retire?

In a world where picking your head up from the “day-to-day” seems impossible, it’s nice to know you can have Special Care Advisors understand and help create your vision. From steps A-Z, we will walk with you and act as your catalyst to finally be able to answer the “How’s” of your life.



Melissa J. Edelman, CLTC, Managing Director  
Paul G. Larance, MBA, Special Care Planner  
Stephanie A. Boyles, Special Care Planner  
kaugustfarr@finsvcs.com  
303.300.4341



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## CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES, INC.

Creative Perspectives, Inc. Autism Centers of Colorado is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2003. Our mission is to provide comprehensive, innovative, and effective interventions to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, dedication and support to their families and friends, and knowledge and encouragement to the professionals who serve them.



## OUR SERVICES

CPI provides home, center, and community-based interventions to individuals ages 18 months to 25 years. Following the Interdisciplinary Intervention Model, CPI offers a variety of programming options, all of which effectively address the diverse needs of individuals across the Spectrum of Autism.

- ~ Early Childhood Interventions, ages 18 m to 6 years
- ~ Childhood & Adolescent Interventions with school pick up
- ~ Speciality Interventions, including but not limited to:

Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Individual & Family Counseling, 1:1 and small group Social Skills Interventions, FBAs, Behavioral Consultations, and Multi-disciplinary diagnostic evaluations.

## OUR LOCATIONS:

901 Englewood Parkway, #118  
Englewood, Colorado 80110

1724 Majestic Drive, #109  
Lafayette, Colorado 80026

303 935 5200

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

## OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

Creative Perspectives, Inc. accepts the following:

Medicaid Waivers: CWA (Autism waiver), CHRP, CES, SLS, & DD waivers through all local CCBs.

Insurance: Kaiser, Anthem, Premera, United Health Care, Rocky Mountain Health Plans, and CIGNA.

CPI has 2 insurance specialists on staff to assist families with funding. Feel free to call us and see how we can help you access services!



WHERE IT ALL COMES TOGETHER