

Back to School: The Future of Education Policy in Colorado

by Kim Tenure

THIS YEAR MARKS THE FOURTH YEAR OF DEEP CUTS TO COLORADO'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM. ACROSS THE STATE, STUDENTS ARE FEELING THE EFFECTS OF THESE CUTS: FROM INCREASED CLASS SIZES, LOSS OF TEACHERS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, AND OUTDATED TEXTBOOKS. FAMILIES AFFECTED BY AUTISM AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS ARE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE:

- In recent years, many districts have had to cut or decrease their autism teams. Parents must then decide whether they want to send their children outside of their neighborhood for more accommodations. These decisions may become more limited depending on how the courts rule regarding the Douglas County School District's Choice Scholarship Pilot Program.
- Budget reductions also mean that schools may lose or increase the workload of many paraprofessionals.
- Students in higher education may also lose valuable supports they need to succeed.

While Colorado has never led the way in special education, these budget cuts will only make a poor situation worse. The *Denver Post* reported that based on the most recent data available Colorado ranks 51st in support for Special Education.

Colorado's public education system has seen cuts to its funding since 1986. The most recent data reflects that in 2008-2009 (the last year information is available) Colorado spent \$1809 less (almost 18%) than the national average. This trend began before the 2008 recession and is likely to continue after the economy has recovered.

(continued on page 4)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Announcements.....	6	HIMAT Seminar.....	9
Calendar.....	11		



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www.autismcolorado.org

ASC is a local chapter of the

Autism Society of America.

Contact ASA at:

4340 East-West Hwy, Suite 350

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

800-3 AUTISM

www.autism-society.org

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

Look Who's Coming to Dinner!



My family had a dinner routine: my Dad came home from work, took a half hour nap, my Mom made dinner, I set the table, woke my Dad in the same torturous way he woke me every morning by yelling "get up" as loud as I could, and we all sat down at the table, ate, talked, enjoyed our meal and each other.

I did not conceive these actions as a "routine," nor did I realize every physical motion of eating and every act of socializing

could be broken down into practiced, individual acts that can be pieced together to create a fluid event. I did not imagine when I had a family of my own, the dinner routine, so much a part of my own childhood, might not be achievable.

I was amazed when my son, Eli's, therapists, Kathy Schleifer, Diane Stefanik, Diane Osaki and Pat Rydell, put together brief patterned actions that we practiced thousands of times like: sitting upright at a table, holding a utensil, drinking from a cup, chewing food, "Mommy's turn", using a straw, wiping your mouth, saying something (anything) resembling a word like "please."

Eli's progress was agonizingly slow. Like many families with "low functioning" children with autism, I celebrated any tiny one time success, which kept my "hope" fires burning and fueled my advocacy affirmation that Eli could learn. I also hoped he would learn to enjoy eating. He only ate six things.



Kathy Schleifer started a school food routine with Eli in his mainstream classroom. He had to make a snack for everyone once a week. He used his rudimentary understanding of fractions to cut the right number of pieces and count how many pieces he needed. Eli had to overcome severe food aversions to touch food (like grapes), hold utensils, and he had to serve everyone individually with eye contact and language. All the kids were very animated with him. Because Eli's low muscle tone rendered him nearly expressionless, I couldn't actually read his feelings through his face, but I

(continued on next page)

from the
executive director (cont.)

think he felt a fundamental sense of connection through making and serving food to his peers.

Although this was an excellent program, Eli had many obstacles for follow through. He went to five different elementary schools (few administrators wanted him in their schools), he was so medically fragile I was informed it was “medically impossible” for him to be alive, he only had one parent providing care for him (me), and he screamed in pain most of his awake hours, and only slept in two hour increments.

Eli is now 22 years old. He has painstakingly achieved and exceeded many goals beyond any expectation. Diane Stefanik still works with Eli. Diane decided to teach him to cook for a dinner party. She taught him to read recipes and type them on his computer for his recipe book. The day before the party he takes inventory of the items needed, goes to the store, pays for the food himself, puts it away, and preps. Sometimes he makes dessert. Everything he makes is gluten, dairy and soy free.

The afternoon of the dinner party, Diane helps Eli create our meal, but he does most of the cooking himself. Eli sets the table and tells everyone, including me, to come to dinner. Our makeshift family is sometimes as many as ten people. When Eli’s dinner parties first started, there was a moment of shock for Eli as he realized he was also expected to eat the food he cooked.

Since dinner parties started 6 months ago, Eli has learned to cook dozens of meals. He discovered he loves rice, quinoa, tacos, spaghetti, chicken, Sloppy Joes, Mac and cheese, roasted potatoes, banana bread, pizza, cucumbers, peppers, and more. He now displays obvious pleasure to see his family and friends sit around the table, eat the food he prepares, talk and laugh.

When our kids with autism are little, we focus on age level academics, turn taking and other social skills, bullying prevention, and other talents to prepare our children for an independent life. Many of us experience as many failures as successes, and we seldom feel we have done enough. We fight feeling discouraged.

When I look around the dinner party table and see my son enjoying our meal with our friends and family, my

mind sometimes is flooded with all the work it took to get to this place and time, and then, I forget the past and allow myself to enjoy this delicious present.

We all have stories of fatigue, failure, sorrow and resilience, success and triumph. We remember our own stories to be mindful that many families today are struggling to find peace within their own circumstances and deserve support and compassion when they feel despair. No one has a crystal ball to know the future, and I believe every family should be encouraged to be optimistic about their child’s potential. I hope other parents find Eli’s story encouraging.

The Autism Society of Colorado advocates, informs... and shares the journey.

Betty

Imagine! Behavioral Health Services

IBHS Behavioral Services provides individualized services based on your family’s goals & needs. We offer assessments and evidence-based interventions under the direction of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst practicing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Services include function-based treatment, skill acquisition, behavior reduction, social skills training & verbal behavior training. We work collaboratively with individuals & families at home, in schools, work or day programs.

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Despite its lack of prioritization for education funding, Colorado still ranks as the third smartest state according to CNN. This is largely because of Colorado's ability to foster industry and attract transplants with advanced degrees. In order to keep our record as a "smart state" Colorado needs to invest in homegrown talent instead of relying solely on its marketability to transplants. At the end of the day, these changes will cost money. So our education issue becomes not just a spending concern, but is indicative of a larger revenue problem.

What's on the Horizon?

August could bring a new meaning to "back to school" this year, while advocates of educational reform target the legislature and courts for action. There are two court cases that could have widespread impact on school age children in Colorado, and one ballot initiative that proposes a short term solution for preschool through higher education funding.

The Lobato Case: The Colorado Constitution includes a clause that requires the legislature to "establish and maintain a thorough and uniform system of free public schools throughout the state." This case could have important consequences to how Colorado funds its schools. The courts have ruled that TABOR cannot be used as an excuse for our current funding issues. The plaintiffs in the case are parents and school districts from across the state. They represent a cross section of urban, suburban, and rural schools, as well as various income levels, social and cultural demographics, special needs, gifted & talented, at risk, and English Language Learners (ELL) students. The defendants are the State of Colorado, the Colorado State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education and Governor John Hickenlooper. The plaintiffs are hoping the courts will declare that the current system of school finance, as it has been established and overseen by the state legislature, actually violates the constitution and rights of Colorado students. The trial began on August 1st.

The Bright Colorado Initiative: This initiative would restore sales and income tax to their 1999 levels. The

state sales tax would go from 2.9% to 3%, while corporate and personal income tax would go from 4.63% to 5%. It would generate an additional \$532 million dollars in its first year. This quick fix would go into effect in January 2012 and would last for five years. The funding derived from this initiative would be earmarked for public education to include preschool, K-12, and higher education. While this is a short term fix, there is steering committee designated to make a recommendation to the Legislature regarding long term changes to Colorado's School Finance Act. This initiative is Senator Rollie Heath's proposal, and it seems likely to make it to the ballot this November. Petitions for including this on the November 2011 ballot were delivered to the Secretary of State on August 1st.

School District's Choice Scholarship Pilot Program Case: The American's for Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and American's United for the Separation of Church & State have sued Douglas County and the state of Colorado over the controversial school voucher issue. In this case, the plaintiffs complain that the program that was enacted in a 7-0 School Board decision on March 15, 2011 "takes public funds provides by the State of Colorado — which are required by law to be spent on public school—and uses them to pay for tuition at private schools." In their complaint, the plaintiffs further charge that much of this money is "diverted" to private schools with a religious affiliation and allows little or no government oversight. The courts will have to decide if this school choice program violates the state constitution. Arguments began on August 2nd.

For more information about the Lobato Case and Initiative 25 please visit Great Education Colorado's website at www.greateducation.org. For more information on the ACLU's case against Douglas County visit the ACLU's website at <http://aclu-co.org/> or the Independence Institutes website at <http://www.i2i.org/> ■

“So our education issue becomes not just a spending concern, but is indicative of a larger revenue problem.”



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and Co-author of the SCERTS® Model.

Elizabeth Burke Rydell,
Educational Program Coordinator

Ann Folan, MAED, Clinical Coordinator

Alissa Rausch, MAED, Clinician

Jean Lira, MAED, Clinician

Abigail Gilbert, MS, CCC-SLP, Clinician

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- Catherine Bladow, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCBA
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FUNDING ASSOCIATES

- HCBS Children with Autism Waiver
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- Early Intervention Part C
- Tri-Care/Tri-West
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Cigna
- United
- Aetna
- Humana/Lifesynch

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(970) 420-0578

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Functioning Research Study

- Be a part of the solution! Improving our understanding of specific cognitive skills, called “executive function skills”, may be of vital importance because executive function skills predict academic success and independence in everyday life.
- We are excited to announce that the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Research Laboratory at Colorado State University is conducting new research on *executive function* skills in school-aged children experiencing developmental disabilities.
- As a benefit, the parents of child participants will receive a developmental report with recommendations to enhance development, as well as a modest monetary compensation for their time.
- The DD Research Lab at CSU is led by Dr. Debbie Fidler and Dr. Lisa Daunhauer at CSU. This research is being funded by the US Department of Education. We are currently scheduling visits for new participants in both Fort Collins at Denver.
- Interested?! For additional information regarding this new study, please contact our study coordinator, Laura Hahn at (970) 491-1969. Or, please email her at Laura.Hahn@colostate.edu.

Project Search!

This is an exciting school to work employment training program for students nearing the completion of special education services through their school districts. Most students apply the spring before their last year of transition. It is a collaboration between Aurora Public Schools, The Children’s Hospital, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Developmental Pathways, and the Arc of Aurora. For more information about Project SEARCH at The Children’s Hospital please contact Marisa Valeras, Project SEARCH Coordinator at 720.777.8027.

Survey:Autism Spectrum Disorder - The Relationship Between Biomedical Treatment and Healthy Family Functioning

Mothers with a child diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder are invited to participate in this study, which will involve answering 8 background questions and 62 questions regarding the FACES IV survey about their family. FACES IV is an assessment scale that measures family adaptability, cohesion, communication and satisfaction. These questions are available through the website www.autismdeal.com. Answering these questions should take no more than 20 minutes!

For more information visit: <http://www.autismdeal.com>
If you have any questions concerning this research study or your participation in this study, please call me at 843-377-6837 or email me at jreneej1@hotmail.com or Dr. Linda Reed at 937-550-4269, Linda.Reed@capella.edu.

Survey on Educational Planning in School Settings

PEAK Parent Center would like your input regarding your child with a disability. The purpose of this survey is to learn your perspective about your child’s educational planning and services in his/her school setting. Information you provide will inform PEAK Parent Center as to how best to increase access to and provide information and supports that improve quality of services for children with disabilities and their families. We appreciate your time in completing this survey and assure you of confidentiality and that all information gathered will be used in aggregate and no one individual response will be identifiable. Please use this link to access the survey <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R9VGJN9>
If you would like to receive this survey in Spanish, please email pmaycott@peakparent.org

Local Schools Survey Results

2011 Colorado Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning Initiative Survey Detailed Results on local schools. Visit <http://telcolorado.org/reports/>

Autism Grants from the Autism Relief Foundation

Grant awards are available for patients of any age with a diagnosis on the autistic spectrum by a physician. The majority of grants are provided for medical therapies which have helped children recover from the autistic spectrum or significantly improve and are not traditionally covered by insurance. Those therapies include functional, alternative, and conventional treatments provided by a medical doctor or other therapist with specific training in those areas. Grants also include coverage of summer camps specifically for children with developmental disabilities and social skills groups which can help children and adults gain the needed skills for appropriate social interaction.

Awards range from \$300.00 to \$1,800.00 per person and are sent to the qualified physician, therapist, or center directly for the specific grant recipient use. All citizens in all fifty states and US territories are eligible to apply for grants. Visit <http://www.autismrelieffoundation.com/> for details and applications. Postmark deadline 9/15/11.

New Blog

Carole Norman Scott, the parent of a forty-eight year old autistic son created a blog after writing much over the years concerning autism (kept diaries, given talks, etc). Visit autism45.wordpress.com for helpful insights.

Autism Community Store – Summer Specials

Over 200 new Educational Products to keep learning while having fun this summer. Visit the store at 7800 E. Iliff Ave Ste J, Denver Co 80231 or online at www.AutismCommunityStore.com for summer specials!

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

Sibling Study

Laura Smith of the University of Florida invites families to advance the science in autism by participating in a research study. We know very little about the brother/sisters (siblings) of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Promoting a healthy environment where the child with ASD lives is crucial and this requires input from family members. A description of siblings and an examination of associations between their resources to ASD severity and tension management is likely to bring new strategies for dealing with ASD. Please contact Ms. Smith at 727-641-3890 to enroll. Participants will receive a \$20 gift card.

The Children's Hospital and the Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center

are working together to learn more about the effects of Therapeutic Horseback Riding (THR) for children with an ASD. This treatment is very popular, but not very well researched. We want to know if THR will improve agitation behaviors, coordination, and communication skills. Is actual contact with horses necessary for children to improve? In order to investigate this, we are offering two **FREE** ten-week therapeutic groups: **one will include horses and one will not.**

We are looking for children, ages 6-16 years old who meet the following criteria:

- Have an ASD diagnosis
- Are able to come to Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center in Longmont, CO once a week to participate in a ten-week group therapy program

What are the benefits to being involved in this study?

- You will receive a summary of your child's initial assessments
- The therapy will be provided at no cost
- You will be reimbursed for your trips to the riding center and The Children's Hospital
- If you are interested in learning more or to see if you qualify, please contact: **Laurie Burnside, 720-777-4655**



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(continued on next page)

SAVE THE DATE!
Health Insurance Mandated Autism Treatment (HIMAT)
Seminars

Three live seminars - Attend in your LOCAL community! Registration Now Open!

Metro Denver/Aurora - Co-Sponsored by JFK Partners

Tuesday, September 13th from 8:30am-12:30pm at Anschutz Medical Campus

Live Cost: Parents of children/youth with ASD are FREE, other attendees \$30 per person

Webinar Cost: \$5 per person - please use only if you are over 40 miles away or unable to obtain childcare

Colorado Springs - Co-Sponsored by The Resource Exchange (TRE)

Wednesday, October 12th from 8:30am-12:30pm at TRE

Parents of children/youth with ASD are FREE, other attendees \$20 per person

Thank you TRE – Participant Cost Partially Underwritten by TRE

Fort Collins - Co-Sponsored by Foothills Gateway

Wednesday, November 9th from 8:30am-12:30pm at Foothills Gateway

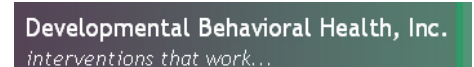
Parents of children/youth with ASD are FREE, other attendees \$30 per person

Speakers:

- Travis Blevins, MS, BCBA, Adjunct Faculty, University of Colorado Denver, Executive Director, Behavior Services of the Rockies
- David Hatfield, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Director, Colorado Coalition of Autism Professionals, Chief Executive Officer, Developmental Behavioral Health, Inc.
- Heidi Loeffel, Paralegal at Ewing & Ewing, P.C.
- Jill Tappert, J.D. (inactive), Director of Private Insurance Policy, Member of the Board of Directors and Member of the Public Policy Committee, Autism Society of Colorado

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

Thank You to our underwriters who made this seminar FREE for families and to our presenters:



CALENDAR

Macy's Shop for a Cause to Support the Autism Society of Colorado

Visit your local Macy's on August 27th and purchase a Shop for a Cause coupon. Please specify that you want your funds to be donated to the Autism Society of Colorado. The coupon saves you 25% on regular, sales & clearance items and 10% on all electronics, furniture, mattresses, and rugs.



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 80th 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



Livin' Life Club

What: The Livin' Life Club is a place where high school and transition age kids with and without special needs come to have an awesome time together. It is a really cool place to hang out with great friends and have fun in a computer lab, play Xbox360 Kinect, and enjoy enough activities to keep anyone jazzed up.

Who: Individuals with special needs age 14-21

Where: Highpointe Center, 7313 S. Alton Way, Centennial

Near I-25 and Dry Creek

When: The first and third Friday of every month from 6:30-8:30

Cost: Livin' Life relies on membership fees for financial support. Fees go toward the cost of club



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Vision problems are common with autism and many times are overlooked. Normal autistic behaviors, such as: poor eye contact, looking through or beyond objects, extreme aversion to light, unusual reaction to sight, lack of reciprocal play, inordinate fear of heights or lack of appropriate fear of heights and stimming, could be treatable vision problems.

Dr. Marcy Rose, O.D.

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Westminster, CO 80260
Phone: 303.469.7770
Fax: 303.469.7772
Web: northparkvision.com



CALENDAR CONT.

activities such as supplies, equipment and field trips. There are 24 events per year.

- Attendance at each club event is \$10.
- Monthly discounted rate of \$15/month for two events (\$60 less than paying by the event) if you pay for a full month at a time.
- Annual discounted rate of \$150 (\$90 less than paying by the event) if you pay annually.

We desire that as many kids as possible benefit from the Livin' Life Club. We will help you explore funding options, including scholarships, if the membership fee is a financial hardship for your family. Multi-child discounts are offered, as well as pay-as-you-go options. We encourage you to attend the first time for FREE to make sure it is a good fit for your child.

Contact: Ken Ziel, Executive Director, ken@livelifeclub.org

For more information: www.livelifeclub.org

Get Work Now!

Get Work Now! Paving Your Way: The Proven Process for Successful Job Placement, Paving Your Way is an exciting and interactive face-to-face training that leads to a successful career in community employment.

This face-to-face, training program is currently scheduled as follows: September 20-22 2011- Denver, CO

Get Work Now! Exploring the Route: Meeting the Unique Employment Needs of your Customers, Exploring the Route delivers practical strategies to support you in serving job seekers with complex support needs.

This distance learning, self study, training program will be offered twice in 2011: October 3, 2011 and ends November 4, 2011

For more information visit: <http://taceregion8.org/>

Webinars for Parents and Educators

Join PEAK Parent Center as we present a series of webinar for parents and educators.

* Join us for all or just the ones that interested you the most.

* Space is limited, so please register online and you will receive a confirmation email with directions for the webinar.

Evening Training Series

Sept. 13, 2011 Life After High School 6:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.

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

Inclusion, Behavior & Social Skill Strategies for the Student/Child with Autism

September 29-30 2011 - Colorado Springs, CO
Speakers: Sheila Wagner, M.Ed., Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D.

AEP Connections offers current targeted autism and related conferences. For further information on upcoming conferences click on the pdf link to download a brochure. To register for a conference click on the link which will take you to our online store where you can complete registration. For more information visit: www.aepconnections.com. If you have any questions email us at info@aepconnections.com.



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CALENDAR CONT.



Sensory Friendly Films:

Spy Kids 4 on Saturday, August 27, 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:

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61 W. Flatiron Crossing Dr.
Broomfield, CO 80021
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103 W. Centennial Blvd.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
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AMC Southlands 16
23955 E. Plaza Ave.
Aurora, CO 80016
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AMC Westminster 24
10655 Westminster Blvd.
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Switch It Up, Assistive Technologies

August 20, 2011

Switch It Up offers a fun filled day of adapted gaming for the whole family. Enjoy the Wii, computer games, pin-ball and an assortment of games and activities designed and modified to be accessible for kids with physical and sensory challenges. We are *Switching Things Up* so that everyone can play and be fully included!

Come and experience the possibilities of what accessible gaming and assistive technology can do to enhance the quality of life for children with disabilities. Gear Up and Get Your Game On!

Limited Space Available, call now to apply
303-315-1278 .
\$25/participant (includes T-shirt and lunch)



Autism Society of Colorado and JFK Partners,
University of Colorado School of Medicine presents:

Teaching Social Skills That Change Lives: Developing Meaningful Relationships

Presented by: Mitchell Taubman, Ph.D. and Ronald Leaf, Ph.D.

Wednesday, September 21st, 2011

9am-3pm

\$100/person* (Lunch included)

Workshop located at:

University of Colorado

Anschutz Medical Campus

School of Medicine

13121 E. 17th Avenue Building L-28

Education 2 South Room 1102

Aurora, CO 80045

For more information and to register visit: <http://autismpartnershipworkshopaurora.eventbrite.com/?ref=ebtn>

For The Love of My Special Child: Estate Planning for Parents of Children with Special Needs

When: August 25, 2011, 6pm-8pm

Where: 6201 S. Syracuse Way, Greenwood Village
CO

Who: Featured Speaker Steven R. Owens J.D.,
Attorney and Counselor at Law

Contact: (720) 529-9800

Reservations are required, no cost.

For more information: www.mydenverlawyer.com

Free Parenting Seminar Sessions

Presented by Children's Hospital
**Texting All Tweens and Teens: Social
Networking and Your Kids**

September 7, 2011 6:00pm-7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jeffrey Dolgan

Transition to New Parenthood

September 12, 2011 6:00pm-7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Ayelet Talmi, PhD

Childhood Sleeping Challenges

September 14, 2011 6:00pm-7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Bart Schmitt, MD

Toilet Training Challenges

September 26, 2011 6:00pm-7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Bart Schmitt, MD

Speak UP for Kids!

Learn how to make a difference on the issues that
matter most to you and your kids.

October 3, 2011 6:00pm-7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Children's Hospital Colorado Staff

Talking About Toddlers

October 4, 2011 6:00pm-7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Ayelet Talmi, PhD

Admission is free, but space is limited. To RSVP,
visit www.childrenscolorado.org/parenting. For
more information call (720) 777-5437. Childcare
is available, but an online RSVP for childcare is
required.

Unless otherwise noted, all seminars are held at:

Children's Hospital Colorado

Second Floor Conference Center

13123 E. 16th Ave, Aurora CO 80045



JFK Partners and Study to Explore Early
Development (SEED) presents:

Diet and Nutrition in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

When: Saturday, August 27th

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Room 1307**

OR

Wednesday, August 31st

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Room 2201

What:

This presentation will address dietary and nutritional
concerns that are commonly present in children with
an ASD. Questions regarding vitamin and mineral
supplements, specialized dietary interventions, and
nutrition guidelines will be discussed.

Who:

Nikki Withrow MS, RD, Ph.D candidate, is a
LEND Trainee, Clinical Registered Dietitian at the
Children's Hospital, and Affiliate Faculty at Metro
State College of Denver. For questions about
SEED study or this presentation, please call Andrea
Cantarero at 303-724-7655. Questions regarding
the web connection or other logistical questions
can be directed to Dina Johnson at dina.johnson@ucdenver.edu.

Where:

This 2-hour event will be offered two times: Sat.,
Aug 27, 2011 or Wed., Aug 31, 2011. Both events
will be held at the Anschutz Medical Campus but in
different rooms and at different times:

- Sat., Aug 27, 2011 - 2:00-4:00 p.m. - Education
2 South, 13121 E. 17th Ave., 1st Floor, Room
1307, Aurora, CO **Saturday's presentation is
contingent upon sufficient registration.

(continued on next page)



Kutz & Bethke LLC

Kristin A Kutz

Attorney & Counselor at Law

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disorders and their parents in special education
matters.**

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Lakewood, CO 80226 303-922-2878 Fax
www.lawkb.com Kakutz@lawkb.com

CALENDAR CONT.

- Wed., Aug 31, 2011 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
- Education 2 North, 13120 E. 19th Ave., 2nd
Floor, Room 2201, Aurora, CO

REGISTRATION: <http://www.jfkpartners.org/workshops.asp>

Due to limited space, registration is required.
Registration deadline is Thurs., Aug 25, 2011.



CTAT Invites You to **More Money: Taking Advantage of Work Incentives**

Take a journey through the maze of Social Security work incentives. Increase your understanding of how a person can earn money and still keep Social Security benefits.

Cost: \$119.00

When: September 22, 2011 1:00pm-5:00pm

Where: Denver Options, Inc.

9900 E Iliff Ave

Denver, CO, 80231

Phone: (303) 636-5610

Registration: <http://ctat-training.com/event-registration-form/10942>



Life And Death Matters Festival: Exploring Life and Death

When: September 1-4, 2011

Where: The Nomad Theatre

1410 Quince Avenue

Boulder, CO 80304-1107

Who: Karen van Vuuren at karen@ladmatters.com
or (303) 520-1759, www.ladmatters.com

What: 9 new and inspirational plays will be unveiled, and various movies will be shown, some with their directors in attendance. Among those films are *The Power of Two* directed by Mark Smolowitz, *Ghetto Physics* directed by William Arntz, and *Mary and Max*, directed by Adam Elliot. Temple Grandin will be speaking Saturday, September 3rd. VIP festival passes are now on sale. Tickets for individual events will be on sale August 16, 2011.

Special Education 101: Individualized Education Program

Webinar August 31

Every parent of a child receiving or in need of special education experiences a new system of educational planning. This process can be both confusing and overwhelming! To help prepare you for ensuring your child has the services and supports needed to achieve in school, AdvocacyDenver's Pam Bisceglia will provide an introduction to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. This is your opportunity to learn about the areas of the IEP, the school's obligation to implement the terms of the IEP, and what all these never-ending special education terms and acronyms mean!

Space is limited.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/768439377>

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



Lauren H. Kerstein LCSW, P.C.

Child and Family Psychotherapist

5347 S. Valentia Way, Suite 120

Greenwood Village, CO 80111

303.284.3603

For more information, please visit our website at:

www.LaurenKerstein.com

For resources including *My Sensory Book*

by Lauren Kerstein,

please visit: www.AutismAspergerBooks.com

CALENDAR CONT.

Colorado APSE presents

2011 Summer Fun

When: September 8, 2011 4:30pm-7:30pm

Where: Fountain Creek Regional Park

What: This event will include food, games, DJ music, and the Colorado APSE awards. There is no cost to attend this event, but please RSVP by September 1st. To RSVP contact Rena Thompson at rthompson@denveroptions.org. For more information and directions, visit <http://adm.elpasoco.com/Parks/Documents/FCRPHandout.pdf>.

Making Connections - Relationship Skills Group

The groups are designed to work on the numerous skills involved in interacting with others, creating friendships and sustaining fulfilling satisfying relationships. Groups run from September to December—9/12, 9/19, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 11/7, 11/14, 12/5.

The groups incorporate the following skills into fun activities:

- Interaction and friendship skills

- Reading nonverbal cues
- Recognizing one's areas of challenge
- Understanding one's strengths and the ways in which to build upon those strengths
- Sensory awareness and strategies
- Cooperation
- Executive Function
- Big picture thinking vs focusing on the small details (Central Theory of Cohesion)
- Bullying
- Effective problem solving

For more information, to fill out intake forms, or to confirm your child will be continuing groups, please visit our website at: www.LaurenKerstein.com or call 303.284.3603.

PECS Basic Training

September 22nd & 23rd

Location: Courtyard Marriott Denver Airport
6901 Tower Rd
Denver, Colorado 80249

Cost: \$395 Professionals/ \$295 Parents

Workshop Hours: 8:00am- 4:00pm

CEUs: 1.3 ASHA CEUs or 15.6 BACB
CEUs available at no additional cost!

The PECS Basic Training is appropriate for parents and professionals working with learners with autism, related disabilities and/or limited communication skills. Seats are still available, but filling rapidly! Please visit our www.pecs.com for more information. Online registration is available if you are using a credit card (the office accepts Discover, MasterCard and Visa). Alternately, you may register via phone using a credit card at 888-732-7462. The office accepts checks and purchase orders through the mail. In addition purchase orders may be faxed to the office at (302) 368-2516.

Larger group discounts are also available! Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions via phone (888-732-7462) or email (ntruehart@pecs.com). I look forward to hearing from you!

Exceptional Learners Behavioral Services



All Children Deserve An Opportunity To Shine!™

OFFERING BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

100 S. Madison Street, Suite 11B
Denver, CO 80209
Ph: 720-331-1419
HillaryRan@ExceptionalLearners.com
www.ExceptionalLearners.com

(continued on next page)



The Incredible, Edible, Gluten-Free Food Fair

Date: Sunday, August 21, 2011

Time: 10:00am- 4:00pm

Place: Denver Merchandise Mart (451 E. 58th Ave Denver, CO 80216 – Expo Hall II)

JFK Partners and the Harris Program present...

Training on DC: 0-3R

Thurs & Fri September 8 – 9, 2011

Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health & Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood.

Day 1: Overview - 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Day 2: Intensive Case Discussion - 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Attendance at Day 1 and Day 2 is considered Introductory Training

Introductory Training is recommended for all clinicians who are planning to use the DC:0-3R system in their practice and have not had prior training on DC:0-3R

Location: Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO.

Cost: Day 1 and Day 2 – Full Introductory Training \$200.

Day 1 only – Overview \$130

Day 2 only – Intensive Case Discussion \$80;

Reduced rate for students or interns is \$100 for the Full Introductory Training or \$65 for the Overview.

Registration Deadline – August 23, 2011 Register at: <http://jfkpartners.org/workshops.asp>

Monthly Educational “Brown Bag” Lunches

11:30am-1:00pm

Bring your lunch, we provide the soft drinks Lunches held at The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas Counties office

Suite 208, Compass Bank Building 8100 E Arapahoe Road Centennial, CO 80112

(Covering different topics related to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.)

September 15 - Key Things to Know about IEPs

September 22 - Guardianship

October 11 - Medicaid Waiver Kids

October 20 - Medicaid Waiver Adults

November 10 - Key Things to Know about IDEA

November TBD - Adult Nutrition

SEATING IS LIMITED – RSVP required. For more information or to RSVP please call or email Jeanette at 303-380-4226 or jeanette@arc-ad.org. (Note: Topics will be offered in Spanish upon interest)



Emotion Recognition Class

How do we feel?

What do we do with our emotions?

Tools we will use to accomplish these goals:

Art therapy

Behavioral skill building

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy

Mindfulness training

Price:

\$20 per class (\$120 total for all 6 classes)

Meeting Times and Dates: 3:30-5:30pm

October 5, 12, 19, 26 and November 2, 9

CALENDAR CONT.

Location:

Imagine! John M. Taylor Conference Center
1665 Coal Creek Drive, Lafayette
Middle Conference Room

For registration form, send interest to:

ibhclassregistration@imaginecolorado.org

Interest due by: September 6, 2011



JFK Partners' Fall Adolescent Social Skills Group

JFK Partners is proud to announce our Fall Adolescent Social Skills Group. This group is primarily designed for high functioning adolescents (with verbal fluency) with diagnoses on the autism spectrum and their parents. Please consider this great opportunity to work on important social skills and enjoy making friends. Call Dr. Lila Kopelioff Kimel at (303) 724-4165 if you are interested in having your teen (and yourself) participate in this group.

The group will take place weekly throughout the fall. Sessions will run for 9 weeks, on Tuesdays between 4:30PM-6:00PM beginning the week of September 20th and ending the week of November 22nd (we will skip a week in between- week is TBD). Groups will be one and a half hours long.

Cost: \$80 per week (to be paid at the beginning of each session by check or credit card- Self-Pay Only)

Instructions:

1. Call our office at 303-724-4165 to complete a 10-minute phone screen with a member of our staff to determine if your adolescent would benefit from the program. SPACE IS LIMITED so call soon.

2. Come in (parent and child) for a half-hour to 40 minutes intake appointment with one of our clinicians to discuss individual goals and priorities for your child's treatment (at no additional cost).
 3. You will subsequently receive an enrollment packet.
 4. Please turn it in by September 13, 2011 in order to hold your spot for group.
 5. Complete and return your enrollment packet by mail (Mail to: c/o Dr. Lila Kopelioff Kimel, JFK Partners, University of Colorado Denver, 13121 E. 17th Ave., C234, Aurora, CO 80045).
- Regular attendance is imperative: No more than 2 group sessions can be missed in the 9 weeks of group in order to promote a sense of comfort and continuity among group members.
 - Payment covers a snack at each session. On the last session of group, we will have a potluck for an early afternoon dinner.
 - Parent participation is required: During the first hour of group, while teens are in the teen group, group leaders will meet with parents in a separate room and will discuss ways to assist their teens in making and keeping friends and discuss ways that they can coach them in weekly socialization homework assignments. Parents will reunite with teens for the last 30 minutes of group to discuss upcoming homework assignments for the next week.

Ages for group: 14-18 (freshmen to seniors in high school)

Location: JFK Partners, University of Colorado Denver, 13121 E. 17th Ave., C234, Aurora, CO 80045 (Near I-225 and Colfax on the Anschutz Medical Campus).

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

OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

Creative Perspectives, Inc. accepts the following:

Medicaid Waivers: CWA (Autism waiver), CWRP, 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.