

Connections

A Newsletter For Teachers Working With Autism
Educational Equity For All



April 2016



Nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all, and assure that each person with ASD is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life. This year we want to go beyond simply promoting autism awareness to encouraging friends and collaborators to become partners in movement toward acceptance and appreciation.



<http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/>



BE SAFE The Movie is an instructional DVD that teaches teens and adults how to interact safely with the police. Seven realistic scenarios with real officers show what to do and say in a variety of everyday situations ranging from an innocent mistake to an arrest. View our informational video [HERE](#)

BE SAFE Teaching Edition includes the BE SAFE The Movie (instructional DVD) and the Companion Teaching Guide on CD, offering more than 300 pages of information, activities, materials and resources to use at home, school or community programs to help teens and adults with a wide range of disabilities learn to interact safely with the police.



Don't miss the next Sensory Friendly Film!



BATMAN V.
SUPERMAN:
DAWN OF JUSTICE
Saturday: 4/9
Tuesday: 4/12



THE JUNGLE BOOK
Saturday: 4/23



THE HUNTSMAN
WINTER'S WAR
Tuesday: 4/26

Movie Showings for Guests & Families Living with Autism or Other Special Needs

AMC is proud to partner with the Autism Society to bring you unique movie showings where you can feel free to be you! We turn the lights up, and turn the sound down, so you can get up, dance, walk, shout or sing!

We are now expanding our Sensory Friendly Film program to four showings per month.

- The second and fourth Tuesday and Saturday.
- Family-friendly movies will continue to show Saturdays, starting at 10am local time
- We've added Tuesday showings at 7pm local time that may appeal to others on the autism spectrum.

Tickets are \$4-6 depending on location and can be purchased on the day of the event. To find a participating theater: <https://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films>

EDUCATIONAL
EQUITY FOR ALL
..... Giving kids what they need to succeed.

Tana Donaghy Ed.D, President, Educational Equity For All
Misstanad@educationaequityforall.org; 909-964-5057
<http://www.educationequity4all.com/>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

SCHOOLS' AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK 14-18 MARCH 2016



Free teacher resource packs

Don't forget to download a free teacher resource pack too. Each pack is level-specific, and

contains teacher guidance, lesson and assembly plans, presentations and activities to help you improve understanding of autism at school.

<http://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/world-autism-awareness-week/schools-autism-awareness-week.aspx>



Autism Empowerment

Accept, Enrich, Inspire, Empower

Support for Educators, Care Providers and other Professionals

Welcome to Autism Empowerment's new hub for educators, care providers and other professionals who provide support to individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. We appreciate you taking the time to stop by. **Thank you** for all the work you do with, and on behalf of, individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families.

<http://www.autismempowerment.org/>



The National Autistic Society

Understanding difficulties at break and lunch

Free time such as lunchtime for pupils with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In our short guide, which you can download below, we explain why and suggest some ways in which school staff and other pupils can help. **Parents and carers** may also find this information useful.

The guide includes information about lunchtime clubs, buddy systems, social skills classes, **bullying**, and creating a safe place for pupils with an ASD to go to if they feel especially anxious or need some time out.

We hope that some of the suggestions and ideas will help you to support pupils with an ASD in your school.

<http://www.autism.org.uk/professionals/teachers/lessons-breaktimes/understanding-difficulties.aspx>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.autismafter16.com/>
<http://www.mhnews-autism.org/>
<http://autism-insar.org/>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Webinar on Autism and Brain Research

What have scientists learned about autism research, what do they hope to learn? David Amaral, Ph.D., chair and director of

of California MIND Institute, discussed brain research and the Autism BrainNet Initiative during an online conference on October 28, 2015.

SIMONS SIMPLEX COMMUNITY
@interactive autism network

It Takes Brains To Solve Autism
Dr. David Amaral

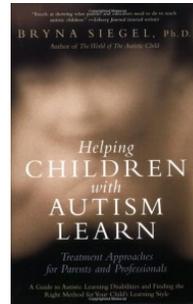


The webinar will begin shortly. If you have questions during the talk, please email tfumberi@simonsfoundation.org

Simons Simplex Community at Interactive Autism Network: It Takes Brains to Solve Autism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zirFHiywmIk&feature=youtu.be>

RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



Helping Children with Autism Learn: Treatment Approaches for Parents and Professionals. Bryna Siegel, Ph.D., Oxford University Press (2003)

In *Helping Children with Autism Learn*, Dr. Siegel provides a practical guide to

treating the learning differences of those with autism. She explains how these learning differences can affect those with autism in four dimensions of their lives: social, communication, leisure, and daily living skills.

Top Five Evidence Based Practices for Classroom PBS

1. Maximize **structure**.
2. Post, teach, review, monitor, and reinforce a small number of **positively stated expectations**.
3. Actively **engage** students in observable ways.
5. Establish a continuum of strategies to **acknowledge appropriate behavior**.
7. Establish a continuum of strategies to **respond to inappropriate behavior**.