



FACT SHEET NUMBER 23

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PROJECT ACCESS

Missouri's educational
 leader in autism support

NEED INFORMATION ON AUTISM? HERE ARE THE SOURCES

Q. I am getting a student with autism. Where can I get information?

A. Project ACCESS is a good place to begin looking for information regarding autism. We have one page fact sheets on topics of high interest as well as links to helpful websites on our web site.

The Autism Society of America (ASA) (<http://www.autism-society.org>) provides extensive information online. Email or call their hotline, 1-800-3AUTISM. Find out if there is a local chapter of the ASA in your area to network with parents and professionals. ASA sponsors an annual national autism conference.

Contact your Regional Center for Persons with Developmental Disabilities and speak to your regional Autism Project to find out what training and resources they can offer. MPACT, Missouri Parents Act located at 8301 State Line Rd. Suite 204; Kansas City, MO 64114 (800-743-7634 or local: 531-7070), specializes in advocacy issues, but also provides disability information online: www.ptimpact.org

Many people go to their local library for information on autism and come back with dated and incorrect materials. Be careful with sources that are over five years old. What we know about autism is changing so fast that many sources become quickly outdated.

Helpful Websites

Project ACCESS recommends these websites as valuable resources for educators, administrators and parents.

Autism Society of America's mission is to promote lifelong access and opportunities for persons within the autism spectrum and their families, to be fully included, participating members of their communities through advocacy, public awareness, education, and research related to autism. <http://www.autism-society.org>

Behavioral Analyst Certification Board This is a nonprofit corporation established as a result of the identification of credentialing needs by behavior analysts, agencies within several state governments, and consumers of behavior *analysis* services. The BACB's main purpose is to develop, promote, and implement a voluntary national certification program for behavior analyst practitioners. <http://bacb.com/>

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted. CEO advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides continual professional development, advocates for newly and historically underserved individuals with exceptionalities, and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice. <https://www.cec.sped.org/>

Department of Health and Human Services – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is "the nation's premier public health agency—working to ensure healthy people in a healthy world". CDC's Mission is "to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability." www.cdc.gov/actearly

(DESE) The Missouri Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education Division of Special Education assists school districts in establishing and improving services for children with disabilities. <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education>

Design to Learn strategies and materials address the educational needs of children and adults who have severe disabilities including multiple and low incidence disabilities such as deaf-blindness and autism. These materials are especially useful for individuals who do not have conventional means of communication. <http://www.designtolearn.com/>

DMH - Department of Mental Health Network of Care for Mental/Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is an online resource for individuals, families and agencies concerned with mental and emotional wellness, substance abuse and developmental disabilities. It provides information about developmental disabilities services, laws, support, advocacy tools and related news, as well as communication tools and other features. missouri.networkofcare.org

First Signs provides a wealth of vital resources, covering a range of issues: from healthy development to concerns about a child; from the screening and referral process to treatments for autism spectrum disorders. www.firstsigns.org

Fraxa is a research foundation whose mission is to support research aimed at treatment for Fragile X Syndrome. This website offers concise explanations of the symptoms and cause of Fragile X, and provides information on research and how to get involved with the foundation. <http://www.fraxa.org/>

Dr. Stanley Greenspan Learn more about Floor Time and the other strategies of Dr. Greenspan, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Behavioral Sciences, and Pediatrics at George Washington University Medical School. Dr. Greenspan is also the Chairman of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders, and Founder and former president of the ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families. <http://www.stanleygreenspan.com/>

Indiana Resource Center on Autism The Indiana Resource Center for Autism staff conduct outreach training and consultations, engage in research, and develop and disseminate information focused on building the capacity of communities, organizations, agencies, and families to support children and adults across the autism spectrum in typical work, school, home, and community settings. The Indiana Resource Center for Autism does not promote one method or a single approach. Instead, IRCA staff strive to address the specific needs of the individual by providing information and training on a variety of strategies and methods. <http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/>

In Your Pocket Designs, Inc. The look of regular clothes with the built-in benefits of sensory integration therapy for school, for home, for everyday life. Ready-to-wear vests with weights to address proprioception and vestibular issues. <http://classroom.kidshealth.org/>

KidsHealth for Kids: offers doctor-approved, age-appropriate health information about kids. The autism topic page includes descriptions of symptoms, causes and treatment options. <http://classroom.kidshealth.org/>

LinguiSystems Publishing Company has lots of materials on autism. <http://www.linguisystems.com/index/home>

Maap Services, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing information and advice to families of More advanced individuals with Autism, Asperger's syndrome, and Pervasive developmental disorder (PDD). www.maapservices.org

Margaret A. Pericak-Vance, Ph.D., Director of the Duke University Medical Center for Human Genetics. Latest genetic findings for autism. <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/449158>

Missouri Developmental Disability Resource Center (MODDRC) serves all Missourians free of charge as the main source for information on disability and related topics, and links persons with disabilities and their families to community support and <http://www.moddrc.org>

Missouri Families for Effective Autism Treatment (MO-FEAT) has the mission of providing education, advocacy, and support for families and the autism community and to promote early diagnosis and effective autism treatment. <http://www.mofeat.org>

Missouri Parents ACT (MPACT) assists parents to effectively advocate for their children's educational rights and services by providing parent training, information and peer support. <http://www.ptimpact.org/>

Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services (MO P&A) protects the rights of individuals with disabilities in Missouri by providing advocacy and legal services. The services provided include information, education, direct advocacy, mediation, investigation of abuse and neglect, and legal services. <http://www.moadvocacy.org>

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) is the only forum of its kind in Missouri for students with disabilities. Juniors and Seniors in high school who attend the forum are able to learn about leadership principles, disability experience, resource sharing, assistive technology, developing their advocacy skills and much more. <http://transitioncoalition.org/transition/>

National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) operates for the purpose of providing services to State agencies to facilitate their efforts to maximize educational outcomes for individuals with disabilities. <http://www.nasde.org>

National Information Center for Children & Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY) is the national information and referral center that provides information on disabilities and disability-related issues for families, educators, and ()the—professionals. Our special focus is children and youth (birth to age 22). <http://www.nichy.org>

National Institutes of Health. The NIH has an autism list serve which you can subscribe to: <http://www.nih.gov>

O.A.S.I.S. t MAAP, Online Asperger's Syndrome Information and Support center has joined with MAAP Services for Autism to create a single resource for families, individuals, and medical professionals who deal with the challenges of Asperger Syndrome, Autism, and PDD/NOS. This website provides articles, educational resources, links to support groups, sources of professional help and various other resources. <http://www.aspergersyndrome.org>

Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) supports programs that assist in educating children with special needs, provides for the rehabilitation of youth and adults with disabilities, and supports research to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html>

OZMO Autism Toys, Relaxers, and Rewards--created by parents of an adult with autism and OCD to encourage easy, safe, wonderful fun with toys, posters, books, novelties, puzzles, jokes and other interesting stuff. <http://www.ozmofun.com>

Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (PACER) programs help parents become informed and effective representatives for their children in early childhood, school-age and vocational settings. Through knowledge about laws, resources and parents' rights and responsibilities, families are better equipped to work with agencies to obtain appropriate services for their sons and daughters. <http://www.pacer.org>

People's Resource Guide to Autism is on the peoplefinders.com website and provides links meant to help those seeking information about autism. <http://www.peoplefinders.com/article-peoples-resource-guide-to-autism.aspx>

Partners in Policymaking is a training program for parents of young children and persons with developmental disabilities that is designed to provide state-of-the-art training on the best practices in disability related areas. <http://www.moddcouncil.org/>

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) was developed 12 years ago as a unique augmentative alternative training package that allows children and adults with autism and other communication deficits to initiate communication. It was created with educators, resident care providers and families in mind, and so it is readily used in a variety of settings. <http://www.pecs.com>

SERI Autism Resources contains many links to autism resources nation wide. www.seriweb.com/autism.htm

Southwest Center For Independent Living is an organization that serves people with disabilities and their families. Their services are designed to find ways to assist with overcoming barriers in their lives, whether physical, empowerment, legal issues or safety for the home. They have been in Springfield since 1985 and all services are free. <http://www.swcil.org>

Thompson Center at University of Missouri has developed a "Free Materials" webpage that contains Missouri-specific resources for individuals with autism, family members, healthcare, childcare, and service providers who work with young children and families affected by autism. Resources include awareness materials about developmental milestones and red flags for autism, online training modules about autism spectrum disorders, state and regional autism resource guides, and financial resource guides. To view the webpage and download free materials, go to <ftp://thompsoncenter.missouri.edu/morr/free.php>

TouchPoint Autism Services, St. Louis, MO (formerly known as Judevine) For more than 30 years, TouchPoint has been a pioneer in treatment and training of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their families. Its programs rooted in principles of applied behavior analysis within a social exchange framework, they have provided effective training and treatment to thousands of families across the world. <http://www.touchpointautism.org>

Tangible Symbol Systems are designed for people who are unable to understand the meaning of the abstract symbols used in formal language www.tangiblesymbols.com

Wright's Law As new reports about dramatic increases in the number of children diagnosed with autism are issued, this site aims to bring you up to date on issues about educating and advocating for children with autism. <http://www.wrightslaw.com>

Wrong Planet An online resource and web community designed for individuals (and parents of those) with Asperger's Syndrome, Autism, ADHD, and other PDDs. <http://wrongplanet.net>