



Newsletter of the

KENTUCKY AUTISM TRAINING CENTER

The mission of the Kentucky Autism Training Center is to enhance support for persons with autism by providing information and technical assistance to families and service providers across Kentucky.

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Dear Friends,

In the last 12 months, we have seen an enormous increase in requests for training and technical assistance from professionals and parents from around the Commonwealth. In terms of our School Technical Assistance and Training Services we are working with many teams of parents and professionals from around the Commonwealth. Through our Family Workshop Series, our staff members along with guests and parent co-presenters are completing five sessions in four different regions of the Commonwealth on such topics as academic supports, communication, social integration, transition, and self-help skills such as toileting. As part of our efforts to partner with other organizations, we have been especially busy presenting at regional professional conferences as well as professional development workshops offered by outside local parent and professional organizations. We have also seen a dramatic increase in the enrollment of students in our Masters in Special Education Program which has an emphasis on Autism, Technology, and Collaboration offered through the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisville.

As we continue to help meet the growing needs in Kentucky, we as a group of professionals as well as our Citizens Advisory Board have a continued commitment to collaborate with other organizations and individuals who are also striving to meet these needs. Contained within this issue is information on the development of the Endeavor Program which is a collaborative effort between Carriage House and Families for Effective Autism Treatment of Louisville. This program will offer an important option for children and their families and has great potential to have a substantial impact in our community. In addition, as always, we have information on events from a number of other groups and agencies.

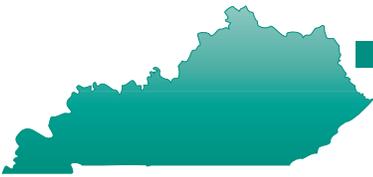
If you have suggestions or comments pertaining to our services, please do not hesitate to either contact myself or our Citizens Advisory Board.

John C. Burke, Ph.D.

Director of Kentucky Autism Training Center



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:
 Rebecca Grau, MPA
 Editor
 Rebecca.Grau @Louisville.edu
 Phone: 502-852-4631
 Kentucky Autism Training Center
 911 South Brook Street
 Louisville KY 40202



M.ED. IN SPECIAL EDUCATION: A DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

This program is designed for persons seeking a Master's of Education (M.Ed.) degree in the area of Special Education with a concentration in Autism.

Linking theory and best practice, this graduate program prepares professionals for careers/advancement in this innovative field of educational development. Working with experienced practitioners and researchers, students acquire the knowledge and skills needed to address the needs of learners with low incidence/severe disabilities.

Program emphases

- Engaging students as active agents in their own learning
- Valuing diversity
- Meeting the special needs of individual learners
- Supporting school reform initiatives and standards-based instruction
- Application of appropriate technologies
- Opportunities for research and service
- Developing collaborative leadership skills

For more information, contact:

Student Support

Special/Distance Education EDTL

College of Education and Human Development

University of Louisville

Louisville KY 40292

<http://www.louisville.edu/edu/edsp/distance>

Phone: 800.334.8635 Extension 852-0560

AMANDA L. KING RESOURCE CENTER IS ACCEPTING DONATIONS

Rebecca Grau, Kentucky Autism Training Center

The Kentucky Autism Training Center Resource Center is named after KATC staff member, Amanda King. Amanda was in part motivated to pursue a career in special education, due her sister, Belinda, diagnosed with autism. Throughout her career at the KATC, Amanda worked to enhance the lives of individuals with autism throughout the Commonwealth; however, her heart was always close to her beloved eastern Kentucky. Perhaps Amanda's most tangible accomplishment while working at the KATC was the development of our Resource Library.

As many of you know, Amanda was killed tragically in a car accident in Clay County, Kentucky in March 2000. Amanda's colleagues at the KATC presented a plaque to Amanda's mother, Scarlet King, stating that the Amanda L. King Autism Resource Center was dedicated July 20, 2000. If you wish to make a contribution to the Resource Center in Amanda's name, the materials will be distinguished with a bookplate in honor of Amanda's memory.

Amanda L. King Autism Resource Center contains print, electronic, and video materials that can be mailed to patrons across the Commonwealth. Materials are available in the following areas: Asperger's, Adolescent/Adult Issues, Behavior, Communication, Educational Issues, Sensory Issues, Family Supports, Strategies & Techniques, Medical Issues and Awareness Stories for Young Readers.

The Amanda L. King Resource Center welcomes donations that will contribute to its expansion. Below are several ways that you can contribute: Donate new or used books relevant to the autism community
Financial contributions for books and journal subscriptions

If you wish to make a donation to the Amanda L. King Resource Center, or receive a list of materials please contact the Kentucky Autism Training Center at 1-800-334-8635 extension 852-4631.



CREATING SCHEDULES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE

Kelly Shepperd, M.Ed., Kentucky Autism Training Center

We all use calendars, memos, recipes, to do lists, and shopping lists; these environmental supports help us to plan our time, organize our tasks, and better understand what is expected of us. Teachers and parents can make use of environmental supports to help persons with autism become more independent (Quill, 1995). Schedules are one type of environmental support that can be used to present information to persons with autism. Schedules provide the following:

- Sequence of events
- Alert changes in routine
- Redirects the learner back to an activity
- Outlines expectations

There are many types of schedules, ranging from daily schedules to mini-schedules that break down an activity into parts. This article details the use of daily schedules.

A daily schedule gives individuals information about major events and activities of the day. Daily schedules can be printed, pictorial or a combination of the two. Daily schedules can be posted in the classroom or home, or carried in a notebook or clipboard.

One type of schedule is designed as a check-off system. The student should check off each activity as he completes it. By using this type of schedule, the student can predict the upcoming activities. The adults can alter the schedule by marking changes in events, thus alerting the student of any upcoming changes. By using a sheet of paper that has been laminated, and marking completed tasks with a grease pencil or dry erase marker, the student can use the schedule anywhere.

<input type="checkbox"/> Arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> Music
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily Oral Language	<input type="checkbox"/> Outside
<input type="checkbox"/> Math	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> Home
<input type="checkbox"/> Spelling	

The below schedule is an example of a stationary picture schedule posted in the classroom. This type of schedule was developed and used with a preschool student during a school-based consultation.



Schedule process is as follows:

- The child is prompted to check his schedule by the teacher or assistant
- He pulls off the picture representing the upcoming activity
- He takes the picture of the upcoming activity to that area of the classroom and matches it to a picture in that area.
- When the activity is complete, the child takes the picture of the completed activity, places it in the finished pocket and pulls off the picture representing the next activity.

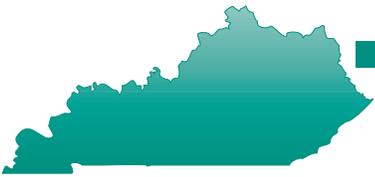
By using pictures velcroed to a strip, the teachers were able to alert the child of changes in his schedule when needed. This eased anxiety in the classroom for the child. Initially, the child required physical prompts to check his schedule. As time progressed, however, he was able to check his schedule independently and transition from one activity to another occurred with little difficulty. His teacher remarked, "I am using picture schedules with several of my students now. It helps keep them connected with what is going on in the real world."

Daily schedules may be used at home as well. These provide persons with autism information about upcoming events at home. As with school schedules, home schedules could be used with pictures or print, depending on the individual. A printed example of a home schedule could be:

<input type="checkbox"/> Homework	<input type="checkbox"/> Shower
<input type="checkbox"/> X-Box	<input type="checkbox"/> Read
<input type="checkbox"/> Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Bed
<input type="checkbox"/> TV	

The same schedule could be made with pictures to assist the emerging reader in predicting events at home. This could aid the individual in understanding the events that are coming up at home, making the routine predictable.

The primary function of daily schedules is to clarify the sequence of daily events. They specify where to go, what to do, and what comes next (Quill, 2000). They should be presented in the communication mode of the individual. Creators may use print, blackline pictures, color drawings, photographs or even concrete objects.



RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPING VISUAL SUPPORTS AND SCHEDULES

Do-Watch-Listen-Say: Social and Communication Intervention for Children With Autism, Kathleen Ann Quill. (Paul H Brookes Pub, 2000).

Teaching Children with Autism: Strategies to Enhance Communication and Socialization, Kathleen Ann Quill, ed. (Delmar, 1995).

Visual Strategies for Improving Communication: Practical Supports for School and Home, Linda A. Hodgdon. (Curke, 1995).

Different Roads to Learning (Time-Timers, PECS Products, Videos and Software), 1-800-853-1057, <http://www.difflearn.com>

Boardmaker is a graphics database containing over 3,000 Picture Communication Symbols. To order contact t Mayer-Johnson, Inc., 800-588-4548, www.mayer-johnson.com

Visual Schedule Systems, <http://www.setbc.org/projects/vss/default.html>.

Online information about how to develop and use visual schedules. Downloadable pdf files are also available at this site.

See it, Say it, Write it, <http://www.seeitsayitwriteit.com>. To provide educators (K-12) with simple innovative methods for creating adaptive materials (using familiar computer software, scanners, and digital cameras) which will enhance the writing skills for all students including diverse learners.

do2learn, www.dotolearn.com,. Products and software to develop schedules and visual supports with free examples of activities.

THE ENDEAVOR PROGRAM

Sue Daniel, Executive Director of Carriage House

The Endeavor Program is a collaborative effort between Carriage House and Families For Effective Autism Treatment of Louisville. The Endeavor Program is an opportunity for families to obtain more intensive services for their children with autism and other developmental delays. This program will enable the Carriage House Preschool to offer specialized services to elementary age children in addition to younger population already served. The Endeavor Program is structured to include both individual and group instruction, and the unique learning style of each child will be taken into consideration in order to maximize learning opportunities. While it is important to understand we are still finalizing the details of the program, we plan to offer services year round in order to help students maintain skills. Initially, enrollment options include either 2-day or 3-day weekly classes. In order for us to provide support for as many children as possible, students must attend the same schedule each week. As we continue to assess the needs of families and children in our community and further develop this program, additional days may be added.

The Endeavor Program is designed to help students acquire crucial skills through intense, direct, and individualized therapy. Acquired skills will then be embedded into regular classroom routines for practice opportunities. Our teaching approach will address the level of comfort for instruction for each child. In recognizing the importance of consistency across environments, we will extend every effort to ensure that the components of this program are not counter-productive to other therapies the students may be receiving outside The Endeavor Program. We will support those agencies involved in the delivery of other services. We look forward to collaborating with other providers and agencies in our community, and most importantly, with the families in our community.

Please feel free to contact us at 502.253.1293 if you have any questions or want additional information about The Endeavor Program.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Parent and Profession Autism Support Group in Powell County will host Kelly Shepperd on November 11, 2003 @ 4pm. Ms. Shepperd will be discussing toileting issues. The location is TBA. To register, contact Kay Marksberry at 859.498.4065. or kmarksberry@powell.k12.us.

Infant Toddler Conference hosted by Interdisciplinary Human Development Institute, University of Kentucky
November 17 and 18, 2003
Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY
To register, contact Betty McCann at the UK Early Childhood Office, 859.257.9116 or bmccann@uky.edu.
Dr. Burke and Sue Daniel will present on Promoting the Early Identification of Autism and an Overview of Effective Interventions for Young Children.

Kentucky Autism Training Center
Practical Strategies: A Workshop Series for Families
Sessions will be held in Danville and London

Transition

Jackie Marquette, Parent of an individual with autism and Richard Hudson,
Kentucky Autism Training Center
November 15, 2003, 10:30 am to 3:30, Farmer's National Bank, 304 West Main St, Danville, KY

Promoting Collaboration

Kentucky Department of Education and Protection and Advocacy
December 6, 2003, 10:30 am to 3:30, First Baptist Church, 804 W. 5th St, London, KY
December 13, 2003, 10:30 am to 3:30, Farmer's National Bank, 304 West Main St, Danville, KY
For more information, please contact Rebecca Grau at 502.852.7799 or rebecca.grau@louisville.edu

Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati is sponsoring
Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
November 13 and 14, 2003
Southwest Ohio SERRC in Cincinnati
For more information:
www.autismcincy.org/ASGctoSponsorPECSTraining2003.htm

Fall Conference for Exceptional Children

November 23 and 26, 2003
Galt House
Louisville, Kentucky
For more information: 502.564.4970

18th Annual Parent Professional Conference 2004
February 27 and 29, 2004
Clarion Hotel (formerly the Hurstbourne Hotel) Louisville, Kentucky
For more information, you should contact the Upper Cumberland Valley Cooperative Parent Resource Center at: 606.549.7000, ext. 34 or 44.

Advocates for Autism Awareness will host staff from Weisskopf Center for the Evaluation of Children, presenting on the Systematic Treatment of Autism Related Disorders (STAR) program.
November 14, 2003, from 7:00 pm to 9:00, 215 West Beall St., Bardstown, KY
For more information, please contact Charla Dewitt, 502.349.0214, or ChaDew7275@aol.com

Systematic Treatment of Autism and Related Disorders Program will offer a workshop series. All workshops will take place at the Weisskopf Center for the Evaluation of Children. The fee for each workshop is \$40 per family.

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)

Susan Burk, M.A., CCC-SLP
November 18, 2003, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Family Stresses and Supports

Marie Ruf, MSW
January 27, 2004, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Community Resources and Estate Planning

Barbara Trevor, MSW
February 24, 2004, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Eating and Nutrition Concerns

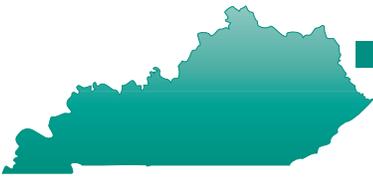
Jocelyn Warren, OTR/L and Eva Markham, Ed.D.
March 23, 2004, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Principles of Behavior Management

Eva Markham, Ed.D. and Valerie Crabtree, Ph.D.
April 26, 2004, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Reservations are based on payment. To reserve a space, please call Heather Willis at 502.852.3797

The ECU Autism and Related Differences Group 7th Annual Workshop on Autism, Aspergers, PDD-NOS and Touretts on March 19th (6pm to 8pm) and March 20th (9am to 4:30 pm) in Richmond, KY at Eastern Kentucky University.
For registration information, please call Rita Brockmeyer at 859-623-6074.



FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Kentucky Autism Training Center

Listed below are several categories of resources, if you would like to recommend a service, provider or program to other families, please provide contact information. KATC will follow-up with the individuals and organizations that you list before adding to our database: Health Care Providers: Pediatrician, Dentist, Optometrist, Psychologist, Dentist, etc.

Name
Telephone
E-mail

Name
Telephone
E-mail

Community Resources: Daycare, Barber, Care Takers, Consultants, Transportation, Day Programs, Library/Museum Programs and Respite, etc.

Name
Telephone
E-mail

Name
Telephone
E-mail

Leisure Activities: Clubs, Camping, Horseback Riding, Sports Related Activities, Gymnastics, Swimming, Arts Programs, etc.

Name
Telephone
E-mail

FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES RESOURCE DIRECTORY (CONTINUED)

Name
Telephone
E-mail

Therapy: Occupational Therapist, Speech Language Pathologist, Behavior, Family Therapy, Physical Therapy, Art Therapy, Aquatic and Therapeutic Horseback Riding, etc.

Name
Telephone
E-mail

Name
Telephone
E-mail

Resources for Adults with Autism: Leisure Activities, Work related activities and sites, Transportation, Adult Living, Group Homes, Supported Employment Agencies, Respite, Job Coaches, etc.

Name
Telephone
E-mail

Name
Telephone
E-mail

Feel free to attach additional pages

Please provide us with your name and means in which to contact you in the event we require clarification regarding this survey.

Name
Contact Information
County of residence

Thank you for providing information regarding your experience. Please return this completed form to the Kentucky Autism Training Center, 911 S. Brook St, Louisville, KY 40213 or by fax to 502.852.6821.