

Autism Society of America's Greater Philadelphia Chapter

With support from PECO Energy and
Hinkle, Fingles & Prior, Attorneys at Law
Presents

A FREE Four Part Autism Lecture Series

Each lecture will take place from 7-9 PM
Freedom Hall ~ Upper Merion Township Building
175 West Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia PA

April 9 Ira M. Fingles, Esq.
Guardianship & Estate Planning: What Families Need to Know as they Plan for the Future

Many parents of children with autism are concerned about the future of their child. Proper planning can allay those fears and help ensure a more secure future. Mr. Fingles will discuss the role of wills and estate planning, as well as the importance of a well-structured special needs trusts. He will describe the types of guardianship available in Pennsylvania, how to select a guardian, and how proper planning can help ensure a smooth transition of surrogate decision-making.

Ira M. Fingles, Esq. is a partner at Hinkle, Fingles and Prior, a multi-state law firm that specializes in disability law. Since 1992, Ira has been providing legal assistance in a variety of areas, including special education, adult services an estate planning. He writes and lectures on a variety of topics in disability law. He serves on the board of directors of the Autism Society of America, Greater Philadelphia Chapter. He holds a JD from Temple University

April 24 Mary Jane Weiss, Ph.D.
Strategies for Successful Inclusion: Social and Academic Considerations

More students with autism spectrum disorders are spending more time in inclusive educational environments, affording them more opportunities for socialization and full integration with their peers. Meeting the diverse needs of these students, however, can be a challenge. Dr. Weiss will review how the attentional, learning, and communication challenges of students can be accommodated in regular education classrooms, and how strategic supports can facilitate learner coping and independence. She will also discuss how communication between home and school can be fostered, how progress can be measured, and how team members can work productively together to achieve goals for students.

Mary Jane Weiss, Ph.D is an Associate Research Professor at Rutgers University, and the Director of Research and Training at the Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center at Rutgers University. Her clinical and research interests include defining best practice ABA techniques, and in maximizing family members' expertise and adaptation. She serves on the Scientific Council of the Organization for Autism Research and on the Board of the NJ Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community She has written numerous articles and four books on autism.

May 6 Jed Baker, Ph.D.

No More Meltdowns: Managing and Preventing Meltdowns through Social Skills

Students on the autism spectrum often present with difficulty regulating their feelings and interacting socially. Dr. Baker will describe how to handle meltdowns when they occur, and how to design effective behavior plans to prevent these moments and reduce frustration and anxiety. He will also discuss his new book: *No More Meltdowns: Positive Strategies for Dealing with and Preventing Out-of-Control Behavior*

Jed Baker, Ph.D. is the director of the Social Skills Training Project, a private organization serving individuals with autism and social communication problems and works closely with several other New Jersey school systems on as a consultant on social skills programs. He lectures frequently on the topic of social skills training and is an award winning author of four books on social skills training. Recently, ABC news and Nightline featured his work to reduce bullying and increase peer acceptance of students with autism spectrum disorders in the schools. He is on the professional advisory board of ASPEN (an information network for parents of children with Aspergers Syndrome).

May 12 Jean Ruttenberg

“The Profile Book;” An Effective Tool to Communicate Assessment Information for Intervention

The link between quality assessment information and intervention strategies is vital, but often missing for children and adults with autism spectrum disorders. Ms. Ruttenberg will describe the Profile Assessment Book, a tool she developed to capture and collect vital information about a person with autism from a variety sources, and put that information in a positive, personal voice. Designed for children and adults who are not able to communicate their own needs and preferences through verbal language, The Profile Book ‘translates’ behavior into words, helping parents, staff and others gain a better understanding of how the individual experiences the world around them. This information – and perspective- can be used to inform and shape effective, individualized intervention strategies.

Jean Ruttenberg is the Executive Director of The Center for Autism where she provides strategic leadership and advances the organization’s mission of improving the quality of life for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. She provides consultation and training services to children, adults and families affected by autism, school districts and county programs throughout the Delaware Valley. She serves on the board of directors of the Autism Society of America, Greater Philadelphia Chapter. She holds Master’s degrees in Special Education and in Education/Elementary Counseling, and is certified as a Special Education Supervisor, Principal and Family Therapist.

Seating is limited.

Reservations are suggested but not required.

To register, please call 610-358-5256 or e-mail: puzzleribbon@comcast.net

For directions, go to <http://www.umtownship.org/>