



The Journal of ASA Broward

Issue 56

October 2004

ASA Broward Kicks Off A New Academic Year

By Denise Crosnick

Wednesday, September 22nd was the first ASA Broward meeting of the academic year. Brian Roselione of CARD, and a member of the ASA Broward board, gave an informative presentation on Behavioral Intervention Programs (BIP) as used within the Broward county school system.

A BIP addresses behaviors. If a child does "X" you will respond with "Y". Simply put, "It's a bag of tricks", according to Mr. Roselione.

A parent should request a formal BIP if behaviors interfere with a majority of the school day.

The first phase of the BIP is the assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to answer the question, "Why does a student do what he or she does?". The first step of the process is a parent interview, which is crucial, according to Mr. Roselione. The parent(s) will be asked to complete a written packet or an oral interview. Questions pertain to, but are not limited to: sleep routines, illnesses,

medications, births, deaths and/or divorce in the family. All of these things can affect behavior.

Next is data collection. This part of the BIP may be completed by the teacher, ESE Specialist or, more commonly, the Autism Coach. An outside person may be called in to collect data, but this is not the preferred method.

The type of data collected and analyzed is referred to as Antecedent Behavior and Consequences (ABC). "Functions" are the so called triggers of a behavior. Surprising things may serve as functions. Examples include: uncomfortable room temperature, other children in the room, an un-preferred color, smell or activity of the classroom, etc.

The most difficult behavior to control is self-stimulatory. If a child is not stimulated, they will look to stimulate themselves. For example, talking to self, hand flapping, etc.

Next analyzed are consequences. What is the behavior getting them? What are the results of that behavior? For

example, do they get to avoid an un-preferred activity as a result of screaming? Obviously if this is the case, the consequence must be changed and then consistently followed.

Extension bursts occur. In other words, the behavior may become worse before it gets better as a result of the consequence. Still, it is imperative that there is consistency in consequences.

Mr. Roselione says that "fair pair" goals must be written. For every behavior you eliminate you must replace it with another. For example, decrease screaming by encouraging hand-raising instead. Another example is to decrease food-throwing, replace with use of utensils.

After three weeks the case is reviewed. At that time adjustments to goals and/or consequences are done if necessary. A parent should be involved with the process and request copies of the data. It is a parent's right to obtain any part of the BIP.

The meeting was adjourned and Mr. Roselione was kind enough to stay and answer individual questions.

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Come be part of ASA Broward's Transition/Adult Task Force Support Group
The Miami Herald has recently praised us for our efforts in special needs job placement!

Our next meeting is "Establish Specific Goals"

Monday, October 18th at 7pm at the ARC, 10250 NW 53 Street, Bldg. 2, Room 235, Sunrise, FL (Between Nob Hill and Hiatus Roads). Call (954) 577-4141 for additional information.

**12th Annual CARD Conference
Orlando, Florida
January 13-16, 2005**

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Steve Gutstein, Dr. Bryan King, Dr. Richard Villa, Soma Mukhopadhyay.

For more information please contact: Judy at 407-737-2566 ext. 19

Become Involved!

Join the Autism Society of America Broward Chapter



See back page for details

Hurricane Preparedness: Focus On Autism

By Denise Crosnick

General information on hurricane preparation is readily available through the media. However, specific information regarding the Autistic population is lacking. This article contains valuable information that can be used in private homes from local professionals who are responsible for Autistic clients in group homes. The clients' ages range from nine years and up.

Emotional support ideas:

Have a "hurricane drill", according to Karen Linford, Coordinator of Community Living. Her clients go to the building they will be staying in during the storm. They spend several hours there and eat "hurricane food". This also gives the staff a chance to make sure everything is in place.

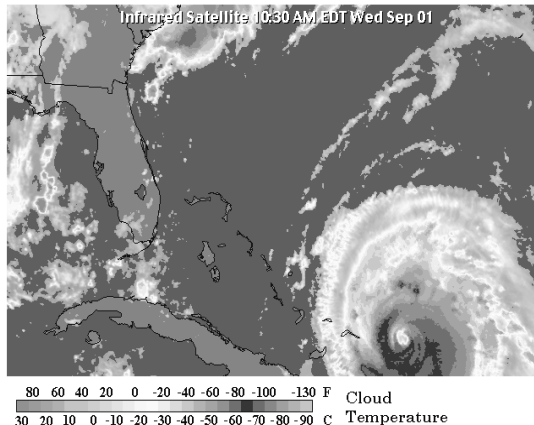
At home you could try going to your "safe room", use flashlights, have a snack and perhaps read a social story, watch a battery-powered television, or play a game.

Eileen Roth, of Transition-Adult Support and Community Outreach, suggests having lots of preferred activities (i.e. games, books) and preferred, non-perishable snacks on hand to keep them occupied.

Alex Dominguez, BCBA, makes certain hurricane preparations on the building (i.e. shutters, plywood) are gradual and early as possible so the clients have a chance to get used to the change. Maintaining routine as much as possible is crucial. Mr. Dominguez also notes that

funding for hurricane preparations for group homes are insufficient. He also suggests that groups such as ASA and other advocacy groups should advocate for a specialized shelter. "Spacing and having the opportunity to do gross motor type activities is of crucial importance. Providers and the local district cannot really do too much, you need to go to your politicians to make this happen."

Physical Needs Preparation— food and drink suggestions: Dried fruits, canned fruits, granola bars, canned vegetables, canned meats, canned pasta dishes and bottled water are used in the group homes. Cereal with milk homogenized at ultra high temperature (available at supermarkets) is a good choice for breakfast. *Par-malat* brand comes in half-pint containers that do not have to be refrigerated unless the container has been opened. Regular, 2% reduced fat, lactose free and chocolate are among the varieties available. Nutritional Supplement drinks should also be kept on hand for picky eaters. They come in single serving cans and are available at supermarkets and drug stores. Pudding and gelatin not requiring refrigeration are good snacks.



Elaine Turner, President of Hatikvah Group Home, creates a "slumber party" atmosphere. Everyone sleeps in the same room. This provides a calm, comforting environment.

Another good idea is to scan internet book retailers for social stories on hurricanes. They begin at pre-school age with books that promote a safe, secure feeling. Some are taken from favorite cartoons such as *Clifford* and *The Magic School Bus*. There is also a book that has an audio-cassette to accompany it. Other books for older children explain the science and history of hurricanes.

All of the above professionals stress the importance of staying inside during the storm to their clients.

A website suggested by Elaine Turner, www.hurricanepreparedness.com has links to interesting retailers who sell meals that are self-heating, and non-perishable for two years that have been used by our military. There is also a retailer that sells first aid kits and medical supplies.

Finally, our website located at www.asabroward.org has all of the local hurricane information you need. This includes links to Broward County Schools for school closures and The Red Cross booklet titled, "Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities". Within the booklet are check-lists.

If you have any additional ideas you would like to share on our website, please e-mail them to dcrosnick@asabroward.org.

Spectrum Therapy Services is welcoming you to visit our new state of the art pediatric facility specializing in sensory integration.

We offer the following programs:

Occupational Therapy:

✓ *Interactive Metronome* ✓ *Therapeutic Listening*

Physical Therapy

Speech Therapy

**We are opening an Early Intervention Group,
"Early Skills for Little Wills"
for children between 24 to 36 months**

**Our therapists treat children with different conditions
such as:**

- Neuromuscular Dysfunction
- Orthopedic Problems
- Sensory Integration Dysfunction
- Developmental Delays
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Genetic Disorders
- Language Delays/Disorders
- Oral-Motor Deficits
- Pervasive Developmental Disorders
- Asperger's Disorder
- Articulation Disorders
- Phonological Delays/Disorders
- Learning Disabilities

Our facility is located in Cooper City, Florida, in Broward County. If you have any questions, please call the clinic for more information at **(954) 499-1125**.

We Invite You To Attend Our Next ASA Meeting

Relationship Development (RDI)

When: Wednesday, October 20, 2004 at 7:30pm

Speaker: Katherine Vega, et al

Where: ARC Broward, 10250 NW 53rd Street, Building #2, Sunrise (One block south of Commercial between Nob Hill and Hiatus Road)

Our meetings are open to all that are interested in autism. Refreshments will be served.

Child care is available by reservation only. Please call 954-577-4141 by October 13th.

**Broward Chapter
Autism Society of
America Presents...**

**Autumn
Fashion Show
and
Fund Raiser**

Stein Mart

Countryside Shoppe's
5800 S. Flamingo Road
Cooper City

October 17, 2004
6:30pm—8:30pm
\$10.00 Donation

**OUR
KIDS ARE
MODELING!!**

If you are not able to join us at this fund-raising event,
and would like to give a donation, we thank you on
behalf of all those with Autism for caring.

Please Print...

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of People Attending @ \$10 each: _____

Total Amount Paid: _____

For further information. Call (954) 577-4141 or email
info@asabroward.org

autism society
of america, broward chapter

Donations to be mailed to:
Broward Autism Society
P.O. Box 450476
Sunrise, FL 33345
No Later Than Oct. 3rd

Advertisements

ADVERTISE WITH US—our newsletter is circulated to over 350 people, families and/or professionals throughout the community. Advertising space is available as follows:

- business card size-----\$25
- ¼ page-----\$50
- ½ page-----\$75
- full page-----\$150

Membership

Please check your address label for expiration date. If applicable, please send your membership dues to our PO Box address. Don't forget to make any necessary changes.

Thank you for your support!

Due to budget constraints, we will not be able to send you a newsletter if your dues are not current.

Thank You!

Special "thank you" to GRACA for meeting each month to assemble and label newsletters for distribution.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE ADULTS FROM THE ARC ADULT TRAINING PROGRAM for volunteering their time and effort as well. Your tireless contribution is greatly appreciated!

ASA Broward especially thanks chapter member Denise Karp for maintaining a free informational list serve for all persons interested in Autism. IT'S YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR AUTISM RELATED INFO IN SOUTH FLORIDA

Recreational Activities

The Broward Autism Foundation is pleased to be able to offer for chapter members partial scholarships for selectively sponsored recreational programs. Please contact the following for additional information:

Tag Gymnastics Alicia Murphy (954)943-8659

Incredible Ice (ice skating) Carol DiMauro (954)962-0901

Project Stable Horseback Riding Eileen Roth (954)474-5333

In Memory...

ASA Broward would like to express condolences to Fran Barrett on the loss of her mother. We would also like to thank those who made donations in her memory.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for assisting in set up and clean up duties for our monthly meetings. Please contact our Hospitality Chairperson, Judi Steinberg at (954)577-4141 if interested.

Support Groups

SPEC (Support for Parents of Exceptional Children)

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month (7:00) at the Dan Marino Center in Weston, Florida. For more details please contact Laura House at (954)893-5553.

GRACA (Grandparents and relatives of Autistic Children and Adults)

Please contact Roz Bellman for meeting dates and times at (954)720-5683.

CARD (Center for Autism and Related Disabilities)

Please contact the CARD center directly at (800)9-AUTISM and register to be on their mailing list. CARD hosts many informative workshops and conferences, addressing a variety of issues and needs.

ACE (Autism Committee for ESE)

This school advisory meeting is held the third Wednesday of every month (9:00a.m.) at the Baudhuin School in Davie. Call Stacey Hoaglund for more details at (954)252-8764.

South Florida Fragile X Resource Group

Please contact Randy Green for meeting dates and times at (954)433-5413.

Adult Transition Group

Please contact Eileen Roth for meeting dates and times at (954)474-5333.

Fundraising

The Broward Chapter of the Autism Society has a variety of NEW gift items available to help in our fundraising efforts:

- NEW logo EMBROIDERED T-shirts-----\$12 each
- NEW Autism Remembrance "Brie" Bears-----\$10 each
- Puzzle pins-----\$10 each
- Angel cards (Qty 10)-----\$16 pack

Also, don't forget that donation cards are available for "In Memory Of" and "In Honor Of".

All gift items can be purchased at the monthly chapter meetings or by calling the ASA office @ (954) 577-4141.

Membership—ASA Broward Chapter (Please Print) This amount includes local, state and national dues

Individual \$50.00 Family \$60.00 Full-time Student \$35.00 (copy of current registration as evidence of full-time status)

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Parent Professional Occupation _____ F/T Student Location _____

Relative or Friend of: Child's Name _____

Residence: Home Group Home _____ Other _____

School, Job or Workshop Name _____ Grade _____

Are you willing to be part of our referral and Information Network? (yes/no) _____ On a committee (yes/no) _____

Do you give ASA Broward Chapter permission to put your name on the U of M CARD Center mailing list (yes/no) _____

Other comments or suggestions? _____

Please send your check made payable to Broward Chapter / Autism Society. PO Box 450476, Sunrise, Florida 33345

Public Notice: The Broward Autism Foundation and the Autism Society are publicly supported organizations under the IRS Section 501(c)(3). A copy of the exemption, determination letter and tax returns are available for public inspection at our home office with advance notice.

BROWARD AUTISM FOUNDATION AND PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 496, FL STATUTES "A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES, BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE 1-800-HELP FLA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."

REGISTRATION # sc-07923. 100% OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE RECEIVED BY THE BROWARD AUTISM FOUNDATION.



Join ASA

Autism Society of America
Broward Chapter

**PO Box 450476
Sunrise, FL 33345
Phone: 954-577-4141
E-Mail: ASABroward@aol.com**



We're on the Web!
www.asabroward.org