



The Journal of ASA Broward

Issue 58

December 2004

Happy Holidays!

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Experts Discuss Successful Inclusion

By Denise Crosnick

On Wednesday, November 17th Sonia Aleman and Elise Bedrossian gave an extremely informative presentation on successful inclusion. Ms. Aleman and Ms. Bedrossian are both very experienced with inclusion. They are both Autism Specialists in the Broward county school system.

The presentation began with an explanation of IDEA section 1412 which is least restrictive environment.

Next they explained what inclusion is and what it is not.

The continuum of services were listed as follows: general education without sup-

port, general education with support, general education with support in another location, special education and general education part time, and finally, special education full time.

The most important thing is collaboration. "Build a relationship with the school," says Ms. Aleman.

The first step in collaboration is the IEP meeting. Priority Educational Needs (PENs) are discussed. For example, how will the goals be worked? Will there be accommodations necessary? A post IEP team meeting should be arranged at the end of this meeting.

At the post IEP team meeting goals should be reviewed and adjusted if needed. Roles and

responsibilities should be discussed. For example designate someone to do material preparation and data collection.

At the end of this meeting, develop a follow-up timeline.

Also explained by both Aleman and Bedrossian were curricular adaptations. "Accommodations are changes to HOW students are instructed and assessed. Modifications are changes to WHAT students are expected to learn and demonstrate," according to Aleman and Bedrossian.

In closing there was a quote from Sir Winston Churchill, "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty".

Transition-Adult Support and Community Outreach Committee Update

Please join us for the next meeting on December 6th at 7pm at ARC of Sunrise. It will be a roundtable discussion with Dr. Herman Fishbein.

Dr. Herman Fishbein has been appointed Coordinator of Transition and Adult Services at CARD. We at ASA Broward are pleased to announce that Dr. Fishbein will also be supporting our Transition-Adult Task Force. He will be joining us at the next

meeting on December 6th.

Thanks to the grant from the Coral Springs Community Chest we will begin a program that will teach photography skills. A group from ARC Broward and a group from the Atlantic Vocational PASS program will be participating.

Thanks to Roz and Allen Bellman for obtaining the donation of disposable cameras. Thanks to Samy's Camera, a Los Angeles mail house for

the donation of thirty cameras! Twelve cameras are going to Atlantic Vocational PASS and twelve are going to an ARC group to start.

For future meeting information please visit our website at www.asabroward.org or request to be placed on a notification list through e-mail at info.asabroward.org. Please remember to give us your e-mail contact 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



Autism Awareness Car Magnets



See page 3 for details (under Fundraising)

Valerie Herskowitz Recognized for Service

By Debbie Abrams

Valerie Herskowitz, a Broward Autism Society member, was awarded a major national award recently, the Stevie Lifetime Achievement Award, for her work with autistic and special needs children. The statuette was presented to Herskowitz during The 2004 Stevie Award ceremony on Friday, October 22 in New York City.

Herskowitz was recognized for her 26 years of service to children with special needs and their families. She was honored for starting two innovative community programs, Mothers of Special Needs Individuals (MOSI) and the Family Club. MOSI hosts a regular



Valerie Herskowitz, pictured with Master of Ceremonies Bill Rancic, winner of "The Apprentice."

Mom's Night Out to provide a night off for mothers of special needs children. The Family Club has monthly get-togethers that enable families to feel comfortable socializing with their special needs children. Valerie is the Director of Dimensions Therapy Center in Davie and the parent of an autistic son.

Winners were announced on Friday, October 22 at a gala ceremony at the Marriott Marquis in New York City's Times Square. The masters of ceremonies were Bill Rancic, winner of the hit television show "The Apprentice" and Rhonda Schaffler, the New York Stock Exchange Senior Correspondent for CNNfn and CNN Business News.

CAMERAS NEEDED FOR ASA SPONSORED OUTREACH INITIATIVE



If you have any used cameras that you would like to donate for our photography training series (see front page story), please call 954-577-4141

FAU CARD Conducting Autism Research Project

By Denise Crosnick

Dr. Jack Scott of Florida Atlantic University CARD is conducting exciting research into reading comprehension and visual discrimination of Autistic and typically developing children in grades 2-6.

Specifically the reading comprehension component of the research seeks the rate at which children should be read to for optimal comprehension. Children will be asked to listen to stories at rates of 70, 110, 150 and 190 words per min-

ute. They will answer a series of comprehension questions. Dr. Scott and his team are using the Edwald and Shanker Informal Reading Inventory stories and questions.

The second part of the research is visual discrimination. "We are asking the children to examine three sets of two drawings that contain several differences. We ask the child to circle the differences they can spot in three minutes. Again we are doing this with children with Autism and typically developing children. My purpose here is to determine on simple, non-clinical measures the visual discrimination ability of children with Autism," according to Dr. Scott.

Participants must have Autism,

PDD-NOS or Aspergers. They must be in grade 2-6 or the equivalent if home schooled. Participants must be able to read to some degree but are not required to read at grade level. They will not be reading when they do the assessments but rather will be listening. The assessments take approximately 35-45 minutes at the Boca Raton campus and are completed in one session. The study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board at FAU.

Parents who are ready to have their children participate should contact Dr. Scott's assistant, Debra Leach at 561-297-1285 or dleach@fau.edu. Parents who have questions may contact Dr. Scott at jscott@adelphia.net.

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
E-mail Denise at deniseslist@yahoo.com to subscribe.

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

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 Autism Awareness Magnets	-----	\$5 each
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: info@asabroward.org**



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

ASA Broward Supports Walk Far For NAAR

By Denise Crosnick

ASA Broward participated in the NAAR walk on Sunday, November 7th at the Office Depot Corporate Headquarters in Delray Beach. Team ASA Broward had seven walkers who collected \$3,000 for NAAR. ASA Broward also had an informational table and distributed lots of written material.

The next NAAR walk is in Broward. Walk F.A.R. for NAAR will take place on Saturday, April 9, 2005 at 10am at Nova Southeastern University in Davie. Preparations for the walk will be discussed at a meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2004 at 7pm at Baudhuin Oral School in Davie. Your participation at this meeting will be greatly appreciated.

CARD Lecture Series

Grupos de Apoyo para Padres de Niños Autísticas
7 de Diciembre, 2004, 10:00am, Nova Southeast University
Satellite Office, 6100 Griffin Road, Third Floor, Davie
Organizador: Luis Grana, MS
Para registrarse llamar al: 954-262-7111

December 10, 9:30am-11:30am, Miami Children's Hospital,
Dan Marino Center,
2900 S. Commerce Parkway, Weston
Speaker: Brian Roselione, M.S., BCABA
Topic: "Toilet Training Children with Developmental Disabilities"
To Register call: 954-262-7111

We Invite You To Attend Our Next ASA Meeting

Biomedical Research / Updates

When: Wednesday, January 19, 2005 at 7:30pm

Speaker: Dr. David Berger

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 January 12th.