



Autism Society of NORTH CAROLINA

RESOURCE GUIDE

(revised 10/8/07)

AUTISM SOCIETY OF NC (ASNC)

505 Oberlin Road, Suite 230

Raleigh, NC 27605

919-743-0204 or 1-800-442-2762 (NC only)

website: www.autismsociety-nc.org

The Autism Society of NC (ASNC) has Parent Advocates across the state, including a Bilingual (Spanish) Parent Advocate. Advocates are available to help you find resources and information, and to offer assistance with school issues, vocational, residential, mental health services and crisis intervention services. ASNC has an extensive bookstore, as well as a friendly staff that is available to answer questions. ASNC has information packets, summer camp programs, a newsletter, workshops and an annual conference.

THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA (ASA)

1-800-3 AUTISM

website: www.autism-society.org

ASA is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families and the professionals with whom they interact. The Society and its chapters share a common mission of providing information and education, and supporting research and advocating for programs and services for the autism community.

ARC OF NORTH CAROLINA

1-800-662-8706

website: www.arcnc.org

email: info@arcnc.org

The Arc of North Carolina is committed to securing for all people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work, and play.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE CENTER (ECAC)

1-800- 962-6817

website: www.ecac-parentcenter.org

ECAC's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) is funded through the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and has been providing services to North Carolina families of children with disabilities, their teachers and other professionals since 1983. Services provided include: parent-to-parent support, help with educational issues and IEP meetings, workshops and a free lending library.

NC ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT (NCATP)

919-850-2787

website: www.ncatp.org

The North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (NCATP) is a state and federally funded program that provides assistive technology services statewide to people of all ages and abilities. Assistive Technology (AT) is any type of equipment that helps people with disabilities or older individuals be more independent at home, school, work, leisure time, or in community life. Services provided include: device demonstration and a free device loan (try it before you buy it), and training and technical assistance.

TEACCH - Treatment and Education for Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children.

919-966-2174

website: www.teacch.com

TEACCH is an evidence-based service, training and research program for individuals of all ages and skill levels with autism spectrum disorders. TEACCH provides clinical services such as diagnostic evaluations, parent training and parent support groups, social play and recreation groups, individual counseling for higher-functioning clients, and supported employment. In addition, TEACCH conducts training nationally and internationally and provides consultation for teachers, residential care providers, and other professionals from a variety of disciplines. Research activities include psychological, educational, and biomedical studies. There are nine regional TEACCH centers around the state; most clinical services from these centers are free to citizens of North Carolina.

DIAGNOSIS & ASSESSMENT

CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICE AGENCY (CDSA)

Together We Grow

North Carolina Early Intervention Services

website: www.ncei.org (to locate the CDSA for your county)

A diagnostic clinic for children up until **3 years of age** offering individualized assessment by a team of professionals for early identification of developmental delay or disability at no charge to families. The CDSA serves as the lead agency in determining eligibility for the N.C. infant/toddler program, case management of services, treatment planning and authorization of services, developing and implementing individualized family service plans, monitoring service delivery, and assisting with the transition from the infant/toddler program when the child turns 3 years old. Early intervention treatment such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and community-based rehabilitation services are offered on a contract basis through a provider network.

For children ages 3-5

Contact Preschool Services in your county

Parents will be directed to the program that serves to assess and evaluate children for that county or school system.

For children from Kindergarten – 12th grade

Parents may contact their local school and make a request in writing to the Principal or Special Education Director of their school for an evaluation based upon suspicion of autism.

PRIVATE PSYCHOLOGISTS, PSYCHIATRISTS, DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICIANS AND NEUROLOGISTS are also able to diagnose autism. Some private health insurances will cover these costs, and some will not. Your local chapter of the Autism Society may have a parent support group where you can ask other parents for physician referrals.

TEACCH - Treatment and Education for Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children.

919-966-2174

website: www.teacch.com

TEACCH provides clinical services such as diagnostic evaluations, parent training and parent support groups, social play and recreation groups, individual counseling for higher-functioning clients, and supported employment. Most clinical services from the TEACCH centers are free to citizens of North Carolina

CHILD CARE INFORMATION

CHILD CARE SERVICES ASSOCIATION

919-967-3272

website: www.childcareservices.org

Child Care Services Association provides free referral services to families seeking childcare, technical assistance to child care businesses, and educational scholarships and salary supplements to child care professionals.

ARC OF NORTH CAROLINA

1-800-662-8706

website: www.arcnc.org

email: info@arcnc.org

The Arc of North Carolina is committed to securing for all people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work, and play. Some chapters may assist with child care.

OTHER RESOURCES:

- Visit your local Autism Society parent support group for childcare referrals.
- YMCA, local Parks and Recreation departments often have programs for children with special needs.
- Call your local college or university to find education or special education college students that might like to work with your child.

LEGAL

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Information Line

1-800-514-0301

website: www.ada.gov

The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, programs and services provided by state and local government. The ADA website provides information and technical assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act.

CAROLINA LEGAL ASSISTANCE

919-856-2195

website: www.cladisabilitylaw.org

CLA is a non-profit legal assistance program which practices exclusively in the field of disability law. CLA serves individuals with disabilities throughout the state. Our clients reside in the community with their families, in their own apartments, or in group homes and other settings, as well as in state institutions. Carolina Legal Assistance provides very specialized legal assistance. Our current priorities are cases with potential for systemic change and include: Special Education, Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation of people with disabilities, Denial of Medicaid Benefits, Alternative to Guardianship and Limited Guardianship.

DUKE UNIVERSITY: CHILDREN'S EDUCATION LAW CLINIC

Jane Wettach, Director

888-600-7274

www.law.duke.edu/childedlaw/index

A clinical education program of Duke University Law School, the Clinic is staffed by law students who represent clients under the supervision of attorneys on the Duke Law faculty. The Clinic focuses its work in the areas of special education, school discipline, and legal problems that affect a child's health and wellbeing. The Children's Law Clinic is a community law office that provides free legal advice, advocacy, and legal representation to low-income children. The law students in the Clinic advocate for children in the public schools when parents have been unable to obtain appropriate educational services for their children. In addition, the law students represent public school students facing suspension.

LEGAL (continued)

LEGAL AID OF NORTH CAROLINA

Advocates for Children's Services

919-226-0052

website: www.legalaidnc.org

The ACS project focuses specifically on providing free legal representation for children who are in need of medical, psychiatric, special education and foster care/adoption services to which they are entitled under state and federal law. ACS provides free legal counsel to disadvantaged young people who are suffering from educational failure, developmental delays, and/or adverse health caused by lack of implementation of governmental benefits assistance.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Office for Civil Rights, DC Office

U.S. Department of Education

202-786-0500

Email: ocr.dc@ed.gov

Complaints: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintprocess.html>.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance from the Department of Education (ED). Discrimination on the basis of disability is prohibited by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities, whether or not they receive federal financial assistance). These civil rights laws enforced by OCR extend to all state education agencies, elementary and secondary school systems, colleges and universities, vocational schools, proprietary schools, state vocational rehabilitation agencies, libraries, and museums that receive federal financial assistance from ED. Programs or activities that receive ED funds must provide aids, benefits, or services in a nondiscriminatory manner. Such aids, benefits, or services may include, but are not limited to: admissions, recruitment, financial aid, academic programs, student treatment and services, counseling and guidance, discipline, classroom assignment, grading, vocational education, recreation, physical education, athletics, housing, and employment.

LEGAL (continued)

REED MARTIN

304-598-3406

website: www.reedmartin.com

Reed Martin is an attorney who has concentrated on special education for over 30 years. He has books, publications, conferences, a website, and chat line, but he is not available for individual services.

WRIGHTS LAW – SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW

website: www.wrightslaw.com

Parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys use [Wrightslaw](http://www.wrightslaw.com) for accurate, reliable information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities.

THERAPY

ABA – Applied behavioral analysis

VBA – verbal behavior analysis

Discrete Trial

ABA generally assumes that appropriate behavior, including speech, academics, and life skills, can be taught using scientific principles. ABA assumes that children are more likely to repeat behaviors or responses that are rewarded or reinforced, and are less likely to continue behaviors that are not rewarded or reinforced. Eventually, the reinforcement is reduced so that the child can learn without constant rewards.

ABC of NC

336-251-1180

website: www.abcofnc.moonfruit.com

ABC of NC is a private, not-for-profit, research-based provider of educational services for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We are a licensed non-public school located in Winston Salem, NC. ABC of NC uses a variety of quality educational techniques within a caring environment to help children develop their full potential. ABC of NC teaches children with autism through such methods as: Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), applied behavior analysis (ABA), verbal behavior (VB), discrete trial teaching (DTT), natural environment teaching (NET)/play therapy, social skills groups/social stories, and fluency teaching. Our curriculum is based on the Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills (The ABLLS).

MARIPOSA SCHOOL for CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

919- 461-0600

website: www.mariposaschool.org

Mariposa is a private school and is not publicly funded. It is based on a model of instruction called Verbal Behavior which has a proven success record for children with autism. The staff includes specialists in the fields of speech and language, behavioral and educational therapies.

MEREDITH COLLEGE AUTISM PROGRAM

919-760-8080

website: www.meredith.edu/autism

Meredith College is an approved, accredited ABA center. The Meredith Autism Program (MAP) is a behaviorally based, early intervention program for preschool children with autism. The behavior modification principles and discrete trial teaching are used to help children reach their potential through the development of language skills, social skills, self-help skills, pre-academic skills, motor skills and play skills.

THERAPY (continued)

TEACCH – Structured Teaching

919-966-2174

website: www.teacch.com

Structured teaching is often less intensive than ABA in the preschool years. A TEACCH classroom is usually very structured, with separate defined areas for each task, such as individual work, group activities, and play. It is an organized, structured approach to modifying environments and activities with an emphasis on visual learning modalities.

AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

DO TO LEARN

Email: do2learn@do2learn.com

Website: www.dotolearn.com

Games, songs, communication cards, print resources and information for special needs.

NC ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT (NCATP)

919-850-2787

website: www.ncatp.org

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PICTURE EXCHANGE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (PECS)

website: www.pecs.com

PECS is an augmentative communication system developed to help individuals quickly acquire a functional means of communication. PECS is appropriate for individuals who do not use speech or who may speak with limited effectiveness: those who have articulation or motor planning difficulties, lack of initiative in communication, etc.

THERAPY (continued)

FLOOR TIME (Greenspan Method)

Office: 301-657-2348

website: www.stanleygreenspan.com

website: www.floortime.org

email: info@floortime.org

Floor Time or the Greenspan Method is a child-centered therapy targeting personal interactions to facilitate mastery of developmental skills. For example, the child may tap a toy car against the floor. During a “Floor Time” session, the parent may imitate the action, or put his car in the way of the child’s car, thereby bringing about an interaction. From there, the parent encourages the child to develop more complex play schemes and to incorporate language.

BIOMEDICAL INTERVENTIONS

AUTISM RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ARI)

DEFEAT AUTISM NOW (DAN)

1-866-366-3361

website: www.autism.com/ari/

ARI is primarily devoted to conducting research, and to disseminating the results of research, on the [triggers of autism](#) and on [methods of diagnosing and treating autism](#). We provide research-based information to parents and professionals around the world.

RDI

Relationship Development Intervention is a systematic intervention intended to help people with autism develop and maintain rewarding relationships. Rather than emphasizing only specific skills, RDI emphasizes the motivations and reasons why behind the use of individual skills.

RDI Program

www.rdiconnect.com

THERAPY (continued)

SOCIAL STORIES

Social stories were developed to help people with autism understand the subtle social rules of neurotypical culture and “theory of mind” deficits (the ability to take the perspective of another person). Goals of the program are to clarify social expectations for students with autism, address issues from the students’ perspective, redefine social misinterpretations, and provide a guide for conduct or self-management in specific social situations. Two well-known authors in this field are Carol Gray and Jed Baker.

Carol Gray

616-954-9747

website: www.thegraycenter.org

The Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding is an organization that works to improve social understanding on both sides of the social equation, helping individuals with ASD to communicate and interact more successfully with the people with whom they live and work.

Dr. Jed Baker

website: www.jedbaker.com

email: JandBBaker@aol.com

He is a behavioral consultant for several New Jersey School systems, where he provides social skills training for students with pervasive developmental disorders and learning disabilities. In addition, he writes, lectures, and provides training across the country on the topic of social skills training for individuals with Aspergers Syndrome and related Pervasive Developmental Disorders. He has recently published both a manual on social skills training for children with Asperger Syndrome and a social skill picture book to aid in social skills training.

The Social Skills Picture Book Teaching Play, Emotion, and Communication to Children with Autism

SPEECH THERAPY

AMERICAN SPEECH-LANUGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION

800-498-2071

website: www.asha.org

ASHA is the professional, scientific, and credentialing association for more than 127,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists.

THERAPY (continued)

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY—SENSORY INTEGRATION

AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
301-652-2682
website: www.aota.org

Occupational therapy focuses on enabling people to do the activities of daily life. AOTA educates the public and advances the profession by providing resources, setting standards, and serving as an advocate to improve health care.

RECREATIONAL THERAPY

AUTISM SOCIETY OF NC (ASNC)
505 Oberlin Road, Suite 230
Raleigh, NC 27605
919-743-0204 or 1-800-442-2762 (NC only)
website: www.autismsociety-nc.org

Through Community Leisure Resources, the recreation therapy coordinator serves as a liaison between individuals with an autism spectrum disorder/families/care providers and community recreation providers. This includes compiling a monthly schedule of area events, locating providers for specific leisure interests, and providing autism training to the community recreation program staff.

For more suggestions, we suggest that you contact the parent support group at your local chapter to find referrals.

LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENTS AND YMCA ORGANIZATIONS often provide programs for children with disabilities; contact the facility nearest you.

SUPPORTS & RESOURCES

ASPERGER SYNDROME EDUCATION NETWORK

732-321-0880

website: www.aspennj.org

This agency provides families and individuals whose lives are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders (Asperger Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS, High Functioning Autism), and Nonverbal Learning Disabilities: education about the issues surrounding the disorders, support in knowing that they are not alone, and in helping individuals with ASD's and NLD achieve their maximum potential, advocacy in areas of appropriate educational programs, medical research funding, adult issues and increased public awareness and understanding.

AUTISM SOCIETY OF NC – LOCAL CHAPTERS

919-743-0204 or 1-800-442-2762 (NC only)

website: www.autismsociety-nc.org

The Autism Society of NC has Chapters in many counties across North Carolina. To find a Chapter near you, please visit the website or call us. Chapters may have support meetings where you can connect with other families for information on local resources.

CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE

800-572-2275, 866-224-3647

website: www.caninecompanions.org

Canine Companions for Independence® is a national nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of children and adults with disabilities by providing highly-trained [assistance dogs](#) and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships.

CAP MR/DD (The Medicaid-waiver program)

<http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/cap-mrdd/index.htm>

The Community Alternatives Program for Persons with Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities (CAP-MR/DD) serves individuals who would otherwise require care in an intermediate care facility for people with the mental retardation/developmental disabilities (ICF/MR). It allows these individuals the opportunity to be served in the community instead of residing in an institutional or group home setting. The Local Management Entities are responsible for operation at the local level (usually the local Mental Health Center). The Autism Society of NC can help you locate your LME.

SUPPORTS & RESOURCES (continued)

FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

919-966-2841

Toll free: 800-852-0042

website: www.fsnnc.org

Family Support Network of North Carolina promotes and provides support for families with children who have special needs. Families are in a unique position to offer information and support to other families. Parent-to-Parent support is available through local, affiliated Family Support Network programs across the state and through the Central Directory of Resources. Family Support Network of North Carolina promotes and provides family support through its family support services; education and outreach activities; research and evaluation; and other projects. Visit the website to find a program near you.

FIRST IN FAMILIES

919-781-3616, ext. 223

website: www.fifnc.org

Local projects offer support to families who have a family member with a developmental disability or delay according to their needs. This may include recreational items, home furnishings or modifications, childcare or respite, or repairs to vehicles. Visit the website to find help in your area.

HOMESCHOOLING

GIFTSNC, Inc.

919-851-8139

website: www.giftsnc.com

GIFTSNC began as a place where parents in North Carolina who homeschool one or more children with physical, developmental, medical, communication or learning challenges could find other families with similar challenges. GIFTSNC, Inc is a non-profit organization whose goal is to support, empower, guide and educate families home schooling children with special needs through conferences, workshops and family-to-family support.

SUPPORTS & RESOURCES (continued)

LIFE PLAN TRUST

919-589-0017

888-301-0799

website: www.arcnc.org/services/life_plan_trust/

A Service Program of [The Arc of North Carolina](#), [NAMI North Carolina](#), the [Autism Society of North Carolina](#), and [Easter Seals UCP of North Carolina](#). A non-profit corporation that provides information on planning for the future for persons with disabilities.

MAAP

219-662-1311

website: www.maapservices.org

MAAP Services for Autism and Asperger Spectrum is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing information and advice to families of **M**ore advanced individuals with Autism, Asperger's syndrome, and **P**ervasive developmental disorder (PDD). Through its quarterly newsletter, *The MAAP*, the organization provides the opportunity for parents and professionals to network with others in similar circumstances and to learn about more advanced individuals within the autism spectrum.

MURDOCH CENTER

919-575-1000 (M-F, 8-5)

919-575-1550 (after 5pm, weekends and holidays)

website: www.murdochcenter.org

Murdoch Center in Butner, North Carolina is an ICF/MR-certified facility and one of North Carolina's four Regional Centers. Murdoch provides comprehensive residential care, 24-hour supports, which include activities, therapies, and habilitation for the people who live at the Center. The Center serves as the safety net for community programs by providing short-term, respite admissions when a program or family cannot manage the needs of the client. Murdoch also serves young adult males with developmental disability diagnoses and extreme behavior problems from the entire state in a specialized behavioral unit (BART), and provides statewide, specialized residential services to children who have Autism with accompanying severe behavioral challenges (PATH) and adolescents with developmental disabilities, mental health issues and behavioral challenges (STARS).

SUPPORTS & RESOURCES (continued)

NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (NECTAC)

919-962-2001

website: www.nectac.org/topics/autism/autism.asp

email: nectac@unc.edu

NECTAC is a program of the [FPG Child Development Institute](#) of the [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#), funded through the [Office of Special Education Programs](#), U.S. Department of Education. Many federal agencies, state lead agencies, state education agencies, and national organizations have developed information, guidelines and resources about autism, and NECTAC has gathered many for a topical Web page.

NATIONAL FATHERS NETWORK (NFN)

425-747-4004, ext. 4286

website: www.fathersnetwork.org

Advocates for and provides resources and support to all men who have children with disabilities

NC COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

919- 420-7901

800-357-6916

website: www.nc-ddc.org

To provide funds for people with disabilities, their families or guardians to participate in conferences, workshops, training events, committees, etc., ask for the *Participant Involvement Fund*. Funds are based on goals and priorities set by the Council. ***“This is not intended to fund workshops or conferences on any one treatment option.”*** Our mission is to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to culturally competent services and supports.

SUPPORTS & RESOURCES (continued)

NC DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES – STATE OFFICE

919-733-4534

website: www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/divinfo/dvr.htm

Works to help people with disabilities to find a job and keep a job.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY AND SSI HOTLINE

800-772-1213

919-790-2782 (Raleigh/Social Security Admin. Office)

website: www.ssa.gov

website: www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/text-understanding-ssi.htm

Provide information about eligibility of individuals with autism for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, Disabled Adult Child (DAC) benefits, and other benefits to which they may be legally entitled.

THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK, INC.

800-368-5437

website: www.kotb.com

The Kids on the Block (KOB) provides educational puppet programming that enlightens children about disability awareness, medical/educational differences, and social issues. By extensively researching and developing relevant and timely topics, KOB addresses a wide range of issues that affect today's children. KOB is committed to supplying communities around the world with programs that address children's questions, concerns, and needs. The type of education KOB programs provide will create positive attitudinal and behavioral change for present and future generations.

WRIGHTS LAW – SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW

website: www.wrightslaw.com

In the “Yellow Pages” section, you can find educational consultants, psychologists, educational diagnosticians, health care providers, academic therapists, tutors, speech language therapists, occupational therapists, coaches, advocates, and attorneys for children with disabilities on the Yellow Pages for Kids for your state. You will also find special education schools, learning centers, treatment programs, parent groups, respite care, community centers, grassroots organizations, and government programs for children with disabilities.

LENDING LIBRARIES

INCLUDING BOOKS, TOYS, GAMES, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

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919-850-2787

website: www.ncatp.org

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EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE CENTER (ECAC)

800-962-6817

website: <http://www.ecac-parentcenter.org>

Provides information center, referral, advocacy, parent to parent matching and a lending library.

TADPOLE (LENDING LIBRARY)

919-575-3093

website: www.tadpole.org

Generations-Tadpole lends and delivers low-tech assistive technology devices and toys FREE to families and professionals all across North Carolina. Anyone working with an individual with a disability is eligible to borrow items and to receive free shipping; borrowers can choose from items such as adapted toys, switches, multi-sensory toy items, early communication devices, off-the-shelf toys, and "big" books

DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS

ARC OF NORTH CAROLINA

1-800-662-8706

website: www.arcnc.org

email: info@arcnc.org

The Arc of North Carolina is committed to securing for all people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work, and play.

AUTISM RESEARCH INSTITUTE/DAN!

ARI's Autism Resource Call Center: 1-866-366-3361

website: www.autism.com

The Autism Research Institute (ARI), a non-profit organization, was established in 1967. ARI is primarily devoted to conducting research, and to disseminating the results of research, on the [triggers of autism](#) and on [methods of diagnosing and treating autism](#). We provide research-based information to parents and professionals around the world. DAN! is dedicated to educating parents and clinicians regarding biomedically-based research, appropriate testing and safe and effective interventions for autism.

AUTISM SPEAKS/CURE AUTISM NOW

212-252-8584

website: www.autismspeaks.org

This organization is dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder.

BEACH CENTER ON FAMILIES AND DISABILITIES

785-864-7600

website: www.beachcenter.org

The Beach Center actively involves families in planning, conducting and reviewing its research. They work in the areas of parent to parent support, fathers, friendships, empowerment, transition planning, family-centered service delivery, family support policy and abuse and neglect of children with disabilities.

DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

888-CEC-SPED

website: www.cec.sped.org

The 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. CEC 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.

EASTER SEALS / UCP OF NC (United Cerebral Palsy of NC)

919-783-8898 or 800-662-7119

website: www.nc.easterseals.com

Easter Seals UCP North Carolina creates opportunities, promotes individual choice and changes the lives of children and adults with disabilities by maximizing their individual potential for living, learning and working in their communities. Their programs include child and family services, financial aid for durable medical equipment, community support services and mental health services for children and adults.

FAMILY VOICES

888-835-5669

website: <http://www.familyvoices.org>

Family Voices is a national grassroots network of families and friends which advocates for health care services and provides information for families with children and youth with special health care needs.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)

919-788-0801

800-451-9682

website: www.naminc.org

NAMI is a grass-roots organization providing education, advocacy and support for children/adults with emotional, behavioral, and/or mental illness and their families.

DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

202-272-2004

website: www.ncd.gov

The National Council on Disability (NCD) is an independent federal agency making recommendations to the President and Congress to enhance the quality of life for all Americans with disabilities and their families.

NATIONAL HOME OF YOUR OWN ALLIANCE

800-220-8770

website: www.chance.unh.edu

Promotes opportunities for people with disabilities to own and control their own homes.

NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES (NICHCY)

800-695-0285 voice/tty

202-884-8441

website: www.nichcy.org

email: nichcy@aed.org

NICHCY serves as a central source of information on: disabilities in infants, toddlers, children, and youth, IDEA, No Child Left Behind (as it relates to children with disabilities), and research-based information on effective educational practices.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCLUSION (PFI)

919-962-7359

website: www.fpg.unc.edu/~pfi

A statewide technical assistance project with offices in the western, central, and eastern regions of North Carolina. PFI provides training and consultation to support the inclusion of young children with disabilities, ages birth through five, in all aspects of community life. PFI collaborates with state, regional, and local agencies to develop policy and program initiatives that facilitate full community inclusion of children with disabilities and their families.

DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

THE ASSOCIATION FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE HANDICAPS (TASH)

410-828-TASH

website: www.tash.org

TASH is an international membership association leading the way to inclusive communities through research, education, and advocacy. TASH members are people with disabilities, family members, fellow citizens, advocates, and professionals working together to create change and build capacity so that all people, no matter their perceived level of disability, are included in all aspects of society.

RESEARCH

AUTISM RESEARCH INSTITUTE/DAN!

ARI's Autism Resource Call Center: 1-866-366-3361

Website: www.autism.com

The Autism Research Institute (ARI), a non-profit organization, was established in 1967. ARI is primarily devoted to conducting research, and to disseminating the results of research, on the [triggers of autism](#) and on [methods of diagnosing and treating autism](#). We provide research-based information to parents and professionals around the world. DAN! is dedicated to educating parents and clinicians regarding biomedically-based research, appropriate testing and safe and effective interventions for autism.

AUTISM SPEAKS/CURE AUTISM NOW/ NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR AUTISM RESEARCH (NAAR)

212-252-8584

website: www.autismspeaks.org

This organization is dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

800-370-2943

website: www.nichd.nih.gov/autism

The NICHD, part of the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) within the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#), is one of several Institutes doing research into various aspects of autism, including its causes, prevalence, and treatments. The goal of this site is to provide easy access to the most current information about NICHD research projects, publications, news releases, and other activities related to autism and similar disorders.

RESEARCH (continued)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

866-615-6464

website: www.nimh.nih.gov

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is the largest scientific organization in the world dedicated to research focused on the understanding, treatment, and prevention of mental disorders and the promotion of mental health. The website provides information on many mental health topics including information on signs, symptoms and treatments.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND STROKE (NINDS)

website: www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/autism/autism.htm

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) conducts and supports research on brain and nervous system disorders. Created by the U.S. Congress in 1950, NINDS is one of the more than two dozen research institutes and centers that comprise the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH, located in Bethesda, Maryland, is an agency of the Public Health Service within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Most NINDS-funded research is conducted by extramural scientists in public and private institutions, such as universities, medical schools, and hospitals. NINDS intramural scientists, working in the Institute's laboratories, branches, and clinics, also conduct research in most of the major areas of neuroscience and on many of the most important and challenging neurological disorders. In 2007, UNC-Chapel Hill received a \$10 million grant from NIH for autism research.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS (OSEP)

202-205-5507

website: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts. The *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* authorizes [formula grants](#) to states, and [discretionary grants](#) to institutions of higher education and other non-profit organizations to support research, demonstrations, [technical assistance and dissemination](#), technology and personnel development and [parent-training and information centers](#).

N.C. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (DPI)

919-807-3969

website: www.ncpublicschools.org/ec/

The mission of the Exceptional Children Division is to assure that students with disabilities and those who are academically or intellectually gifted develop mentally, physically, emotionally, and vocationally through the provision of an appropriate individualized education in the least restrictive environment. DPI sets curriculum goals, establishes policies and procedures for the enforcement of IDEA at the state level, and provides mediators for parents and schools, among other duties.

ASSOCIATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND DISABILITY (AHEAD)

704-947-7779

website: www.ahead.org

AHEAD is the premiere professional association committed to full participation of persons with disabilities in postsecondary education. Since 1977 AHEAD has delivered quality training to higher education personnel through conferences, workshops, publications and consultation. AHEAD members represent a diverse network of professionals who actively address disability issues on their campuses and in the field of higher education.

SPECIAL EDUCATION (continued)

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Office for Civil Rights, DC Office

U.S. Department of Education

202-786-0500

email: ocr.dc@ed.gov

complaints: www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintprocess.html

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance from the Department of Education (ED). These civil rights laws enforced by OCR extend to all state education agencies, elementary and secondary school systems, colleges and universities, vocational schools, proprietary schools, state vocational rehabilitation agencies, libraries, and museums that receive federal financial assistance from ED.