



Autism Society
of NORTH CAROLINA

NORTH CAROLINA RESOURCE GUIDE

(revised 1/10)

The Autism Society of North Carolina
505 Oberlin Road, Suite 230
Raleigh, NC 27605
(919) 743-0204

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Autism Society of North Carolina.....	3
Getting a Diagnosis.....	5
Education.....	6
Therapy.....	10
ABA/VBA/Discrete Trial.....	10
Augmentative Communication.....	11
Biomedical Interventions.....	12
Floor Time (Greenspan Method).....	12
Music Therapy.....	13
Occupational Therapy.....	13
Recreational Therapy.....	13
RDI (Relationship Development Intervention).....	14
Social Stories/Social Skills.....	14
Speech Therapy.....	15
TEACCH (Structured Teaching).....	15
Residential.....	15
Health.....	16
Financial.....	17
Employment.....	19
Guardianship.....	19
Medicaid-Waiver/CAP/Social Security.....	20
Lending Libraries.....	20
Assistive Technology.....	21
Research.....	22
Legal.....	24
Child Care Information.....	26
Support Organizations and Resources.....	27

AUTISM SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA (ASNC)

505 Oberlin Road, Suite 230

Raleigh, NC 27605

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

Web site: www.autismsociety-nc.org

Founded in 1970 by a group of parents who were concerned about the lack of diagnostic and treatment services for their children, the Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC) has grown to become an organization that provides a variety of services for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families.

The primary focus of the organization has and continues to be advocacy for individuals and families, and ongoing education of the public about the needs of the autism community. Since Autism Spectrum Disorder is a lifelong disorder, the organization works with families, professionals, providers, and policy makers to ensure that needed services and options are available throughout the life-span of people on the spectrum. With regional community services and advocacy offices throughout the state, ASNC strives to meet the needs of the growing autism community in our state.

Advocacy

ASNC has Parent Advocates across the state, and a bi-lingual Hispanic Affairs Liaison. Parent 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 also advocates for people with autism on the Federal, State and local levels.

Bookstore

Web site: www.autismbookstore.com

The Autism Society of NC Bookstore was established in 1988 in response to parent requests for information on autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The bookstore has grown into the largest non-profit ASD-specific bookstore in the United States.

Camp Royall

The camp program was developed to provide a recreational and therapeutic camping experience for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and related communication disorders. In addition, we provide much-needed respite to families and training for those pursuing a career in human services. Camp has provided a place of employment for many adults with autism as well. Campers range in age from 4 years old to adult, and each week of camp is designated for a particular age group. The ASNC Camp Program makes every effort to serve all people with autism, regardless of the degree of disability.

The Autism Society of NC (continued)

Chapters and Support Groups

The Autism Society of North Carolina currently has close to 40 active Chapters across the state, 3 Affiliates and several support groups. To find a Chapter or Support Group, please visit our Web site.

Conferences and Events

ASNC has an annual conference and hosts and participates in a number of workshops and events throughout the year. Please see the Calendar on our Web site for further information.

Government Relations

Government Relations builds two-way relationships between ASNC and the community, and plays a vital role in linking our resources with the needs of the community. ASNC maintains a wide range of ties with the executive and legislative branches of state and federal government.

Services – State and Federally Funded Regional Services

ASNC is a provider of direct services such as home and community support, day support, residential support, personal care, respite, supported employment, individual caregiver training, education and specialized consultative services.

Direct services provided by ASNC are funded by: the Medicaid Waiver program/CAP, direct funds from the LME's budgeted financial resources (sometimes called special funds, IPRS, or waiting list money), contracts through a North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) grant, and service fees paid by the recipient of support.

Most of these services are accessed through your local mental health center or Local Management Entity (LME). The LME is your first stop when investigating and applying for funded services.

GETTING A DIAGNOSIS

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) refers to a group of developmental disabilities, including classic autism, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger's Syndrome—that affect a person's ability to understand what they see, hear, and otherwise sense. It is a brain disorder that impacts communication, social interaction, and behavior. Individuals with ASD typically have difficulty understanding verbal and nonverbal communication, and learning appropriate ways of relating to other people, objects, and events. No two people with ASD are the same. As its name implies, ASD is a spectrum disorder that affects individuals differently and with varying degrees of severity.

There are no medical tests for diagnosing autism. An accurate diagnosis must be based on observation of the individual's communication, behavior, and developmental levels. Sometimes behaviors associated with autism are shared by other disorders, so medical tests may be ordered to rule out or identify other possible causes of symptoms.

Getting a diagnosis for children up until 3 years of age

CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICE AGENCY (CDSA)

Together We Grow

North Carolina Early Intervention Services

Web site: 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.

Getting a diagnosis 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.

Getting a diagnosis 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. Your local chapter of the ASNC 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

Web site: 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.

EDUCATION

ASSOCIATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND DISABILITY (AHEAD)

704-947-7779

Web site: www.ahead.org

AHEAD is the premiere professional association committed to full participation of persons with disabilities in postsecondary education. AHEAD is actively involved in all facets of promoting full and equal participation by individuals with disabilities in higher education; and supporting the systems, institutions, professions, and professionals who attend to the fulfillment of this important mission.

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES

Web site: www.aucd.org

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is a membership organization that supports and promotes a national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs.

CADRE – Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education

541-686-5060

Web site: www.directionservice.org/cadre

CADRE, the National Center on Dispute Resolution, encourages the use of mediation and other collaborative strategies to resolve disagreements about special education and early intervention programs.

COLLEGE LEARNING EXPERIENCE (CLE)

Web site: www.experiencecle.com

College Living Experience (CLE) is a post-secondary program for students who require additional support with academic, social and independent living skills. CLE provides intensive assistance to students with varying abilities. Students with autism, Asperger's, learning disabilities, developmental delays and a host of other special needs receive the support they need to pursue post-secondary education and become independent adults. At CLE, students with special needs experience life in a college environment and receive instruction in three areas: independent living skills, academic skills and social skills so they can transition into adulthood.

COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

888-232-7733

Web site: 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.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE CENTER (ECAC)

1-800- 962-6817

Web site: 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.

FINANCIAL AID – FINAID.ORG

Web site: www.finaid.org/otheraid/disabled.phtml

Information on financial aid and scholarships for students with disabilities.

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HEATH RESOURCE CENTER

Web site: <http://www.heath.gwu.edu/>

The HEATH Resource Center is an online clearinghouse on postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities. The HEATH Resource Center Clearinghouse has information for students with disabilities on educational disability support services, policies, procedures, adaptations, accessing college or university campuses, career-technical schools, and other postsecondary training entities.

We have information on financial assistance, scholarships, and materials that help students with disabilities transition into college, university, career-technical schools, or other postsecondary programs.

HOMESCHOOLING

GIFTSNC, Inc.

919-851-8139

Web site: www.giftsnc.com

Yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GIFTSNC/>

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.

THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK, INC.

800-368-5437

Web site: 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.

N.C. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (DPI)

919-807-3969

Web site: 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.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS (OSEP)

202-245-7459

Web site: 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.

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.

SOUTHEAST JOURNEYS

Web site: www.aspergersboardingschools.com

Southeast Journeys, an experiential academic alternative for adolescents and young adults ages 13-20 with Asperger's Syndrome, High-Functioning Autism, and similar spectrum disorders. We focus on improving social awareness and interaction, independence, and academic self-motivation. In addition to specialized classroom time, our small learning groups (8:2) take part in wilderness and learning trips that immerse them in multi-sensory lessons in natural and cultural history, geography, and scientific exploration.

WRIGHTS LAW – SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW

Web site: 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

Web site: 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

Web site: 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

Web site: 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.

AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

DO TO LEARN

Email: do2learn@do2learn.com

Web site: www.dotolearn.com

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

NC ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT (NCATP)

919-850-2787

Web site: 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

PICTURE EXCHANGE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (PECS)

Web site: 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.

BIOMEDICAL INTERVENTIONS

AUTISM RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ARI)

DEFEAT AUTISM NOW (DAN)

1-866-366-3361

Web site: 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.

GENERATION RESCUE

1-877-98AUTISM

Web site: www.generationrescue.org

Jenny McCarthy and Jim Carrey's Autism Organization - Generation Rescue
Generation Rescue is an international movement of scientists and physicians researching the causes and treatments for autism, ADHD and chronic illness, while parent-volunteers mentor thousands of families in recovering their children.

FLOOR TIME (Greenspan Method)

Office: 301-657-2348

Web site: www.stanleygreenspan.com

Web site: 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.

MUSIC THERAPY

AMERICAN MUSIC THERAPY ASSOCIATION

301-589-3300

Web site: www.musictherapy.org

Music Therapy is an established healthcare profession that uses music to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals of all ages. Use this Web site to find a music therapist in your area.

THE CAROLINA CENTER FOR MUSIC THERAPY

919-323-0188

Web site: www.carolinacenter.org

The Carolina Center for Music Therapy, LLC, seeks to provide music therapy services of the highest quality to children and adults with special needs in the Triangle community.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY—SENSORY INTEGRATION

AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

301-652-2682

Web site: 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)

Web site: www.autismsociety-nc.org

Recreational groups and activities are available in several regions in NC. Please see the Web site for specific information on programs in your area.

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

RDI

Web site: www.rdiconnect.com

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.

SOCIAL STORIES/SOCIAL SKILLS

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

Web site: 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

Web site: 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.

SPEECH THERAPY

AMERICAN SPEECH-LANUGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION

800-498-2071

Web site: 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.

TEACCH – Structured Teaching

919-966-2174

Web site: 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.

RESIDENTIAL

A complete listing of group homes across the state may be obtained from your local mental health office or online at www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/reports.htm . Choose Mental Health Facility Listing by County. Homes are listed in alphabetical order under their county location. To learn more about the group homes on this list or to look for a vacancy, contact the Executive Director of the agency or the group home manager.

Funding for groups homes and supported living services is through your Local Management Entity (LME). To find your LME go to:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/MHDDSAS/lmedirectory.htm>

ARC OF NC – HOUSING DIVISION

Web site: http://www.arcnc.org/services/housing_development/index.shtml

The Housing Division of the ARC of NC has a housing resource guide that is designed to help people with developmental disabilities and their families navigate the housing system and find housing that meets their needs and fulfills their dreams. The guide is divided into eight main chapters and includes information on how to search for housing, rental options, home ownership, group living, fair housing and many other resources.

CENTER FOR HOUSING AND NEW COMMUNITY ECONOMICS

800-220-8770

Web site: <http://alliance.unh.edu/>

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

SOUTHEAST JOURNEYS

Web site: www.aspergersboardingschools.com

Southeast Journeys, an experiential academic alternative for adolescents and young adults ages 13-20 with Asperger's Syndrome, High-Functioning Autism, and similar spectrum disorders. We focus on improving social awareness and interaction, independence, and academic self-motivation. In addition to specialized classroom time, our small learning groups (8:2) take part in wilderness and learning trips that immerse them in multi-sensory lessons in natural and cultural history, geography, and scientific exploration.

HEALTH

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

US Department of Health and Human Services

Web site: www.hrsa.gov

Health care regardless of your ability to pay. Find federally-funded health centers care for you, even if you have no health insurance. You pay what you can afford, based on your income. Health centers provide well check-ups, treatment when you are sick, care when you are pregnant, immunizations and check-ups for children, dental, prescription and mental health care.

MANAGED CARE PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MCPA)

(866) 867-MCPA (6272)

(919) 733-MCPA (6272)

Web site: www.nchealthconsumer.org/MCPAhome.htm

Created as part of the NC Patient's Bill of Rights, the Managed Care Patient Assistance Program (or MCPA) provides education, advice, support and information for North Carolina health care consumers with health insurance issues. In addition to providing basic information about how your health insurance works, or helping you interpret your

Explanation of Benefits, we can provide direct assistance to consumers who want to appeal the denial of health care services by their health insurance company.

NEEDY MEDS

Web site: www.needymeds.com

Find help with the cost of medicine. Patient Assistance Programs are usually sponsored by pharmaceutical companies and provide free or discounted medicines to low-income, uninsured and under-insured people who meet the guidelines. Eligibility criteria are different for every program.

NC HEALTH CARE HELP

Web site: www.nchealthcarehelp.org

Find free and reduced cost healthcare services in your area.

NC HEALTH CHOICE FOR CHILDREN and HEALTH CHECK

Web site: www.nchealthystart.org/public/childhealth/index.htm

Health Check (Medicaid) and NC Health Choice for Children programs provide free or low cost health insurance to children and teens who qualify. Health Check (Medicaid) is North Carolina's Medicaid program for children. NC Health Choice is health insurance for children of working families who don't qualify for Health Check (Medicaid) but who may not be able to afford private insurance. The programs are funded by a combination of federal, state and county governments.

PARTNERSHIP FOR PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE

888-477-2669

Web site: www.pparx.org

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance helps qualifying patients without prescription drug coverage get the medicines they need for free or nearly free.

FINANCIAL

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Local chamber of commerce, Knights of Columbus, Sertoma, Lions Club, United Way 211 directory, Urban Ministries, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Food Banks, Lutheran Family Services, Catholic Diocese, and Angel Food.

FINANCIAL AID – FINAID.ORG

Web site: www.finaid.org/otheraid/disabled.phtml

Information on financial aid and scholarships for students with disabilities.

FIRST IN FAMILIES

919-251-8368

Web site: 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.

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HEATH RESOURCE CENTER

Web site: <http://www.heath.gwu.edu/>

The HEATH Resource Center is an online clearinghouse on postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities. The HEATH Resource Center Clearinghouse has information for students with disabilities on educational disability support services, policies, procedures, adaptations, accessing college or university campuses, career-technical schools, and other postsecondary training entities.

We have information on financial assistance, scholarships, and materials that help students with disabilities transition into college, university, career-technical schools, or other postsecondary programs.

LIFE PLAN TRUST

919-589-0017

888-301-0799

Web site: http://72.167.22.100/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.

SAFELINK

1-800-977-3768

Web site: www.safelinkwireless.com

SafeLink Wireless is a government supported program that provides a free cell phone and airtime each month for income-eligible customers.

EMPLOYMENT

NC DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES – STATE OFFICE

919-855-3500

1-800-689-9090

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

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

GUARDIANSHIP

LIFE PLAN TRUST

919-589-0017

888-301-0799

Web site: http://72.167.22.100/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.

NATIONAL GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION

877-326-5992

Web site: www.guardianship.org

The mission of NGA is to establish and promote a nationally recognized standard of excellence in guardianship.

NC GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION

919-266-9204

Web site: www.nc-guardian.org/contact.php

The NCGA is a private, nonprofit corporation. It trains and supports individuals who are court-appointed guardians for persons who lack the capacity to make sound personal and business decisions and who have no family members or friends to serve in that capacity.

MEDICAID WAIVER/CAP SOCIAL SECURITY

CAP MR/DD (The Medicaid-waiver program)

Web site: 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). To find your LME, go to: To find your LME go to: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/MHDDSAS/lmedirectory.htm>

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY AND SSI HOTLINE

800-772-1213

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

Web site: www.ssa.gov

Web site: 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.

LENDING LIBRARIES

INCLUDING BOOKS, TOYS, GAMES, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

NC ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT (NCATP)

919-850-2787

Web site: 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.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE CENTER (ECAC)

800-962-6817

Web site: <http://www.ecac-parentcenter.org>

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

TADPOLE (LENDING LIBRARY)

919-575-3093

Web site: 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

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE POST

Web site: www.ncexchangepost.org/home.php

The goal of the Assistive Technology Exchange Post is to put Assistive Technology Equipment that is not currently being used into the hands of someone who can benefit from it.

NC ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT (NCATP)

919-850-2787

Web site: 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

RESEARCH

AUTISM RESEARCH INSTITUTE/DAN!

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

Web site: 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

212-252-8584

Web site: 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.

INTERACTIVE AUTISM NETWORK

Web site: www.iancommunity.org

IAN, the Interactive Autism Network, was established in January 2006 at Kennedy Krieger Institute and is funded by a grant from Autism Speaks. IAN's goal is to facilitate research that will lead to advancements in understanding and treating autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). To accomplish this goal, we created the IAN Community and IAN Research. The IAN Community is an online environment designed to act as an inviting library and meeting place where everyone concerned with autism spectrum disorders can learn more about autism research. IAN Research is scientific study where individuals with ASDs, their families, and qualified researchers throughout the United States work together to understand autism spectrum disorders. IAN Research connects researchers to individuals with ASD and their families.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

800-370-2943

Web site: 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.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

866-615-6464

Web site: 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)

Web site: 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. In 2007, UNC-Chapel Hill received a \$10 million grant from NIH for autism research.

NORTH CAROLINA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

1004 Dresser Court

Suite 106

Raleigh, NC 27609

phone - 919/872-1005

Web site: www.ncpsychology.com

On-line referral list of psychologists, listed by county.

INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Web site: www.communityinclusion.org/

ICI offers training, clinical, and employment services, conducts research, and provides assistance to organizations to promote inclusion of people with disabilities in school, work, and community activities.

LEGAL

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Information Line

1-800-514-0301

Web site: 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.

DISABILITY RIGHTS NORTH CAROLINA

919-856-2195

Web site: www.disabilityrightsc.org

Disability Rights helps people across North Carolina gain access to services and opportunity through its advocacy and legal expertise. Disability Rights North Carolina is a private non profit organization. Designated by the Governor in 2007 to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and system change, DRNC is part of a national system of federally mandated independent disability agencies.

DUKE UNIVERSITY: CHILDREN'S EDUCATION LAW CLINIC

Jane Wettach, Director

1-888-600-7274

Web site: 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 AID OF NORTH CAROLINA

Advocates for Children's Services

919-226-0052

Web site: 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.

WRIGHTS LAW – SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW

Web site: 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.

CHILD CARE INFORMATION

CHILD CARE SERVICES ASSOCIATION

919-967-3272

Web site: 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

Web site: 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.

CARE.COM

Web site. www.care.com

Find childcare in your area. Special section on childcare for children with special needs.

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS & RESOURCES

AUTISM SOCIETY OF NC – LOCAL CHAPTERS

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

Web site: www.autismsociety-nc.org

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

AUTISM SOCIETY (National)

1-800-3 AUTISM

Web site: www.autism-society.org

The Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We do this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

AUTISM SPEAKS

212-252-8584

Web site: 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.

ARC OF NORTH CAROLINA

1-800-662-8706

Web site: 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.

ASPERGER SYNDROME EDUCATION NETWORK (ASPEN)

732-321-0880

Web site: 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 SERVICE DOGS OF AMERICA (ASDA)

Web site: www.autismservicedogsofamerica.com

ASDA is a non-profit, community based organization that provides uniquely trained service dogs to children living with autism and their families.

BEACH CENTER ON FAMILIES AND DISABILITIES

785-864-7600

Web site: 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.

CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE

800-572-2275, 866-224-3647

Web site: 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.

CAROLINA INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (CIDD)

Web site: www.cidd.unc.edu

The CIDD combines four nationally-recognized programs to provide a continuum of clinical services from complex, interdisciplinary evaluations on-site to more limited and selected clinical services and training in all 100 counties in North Carolina. The Institute brings together state-of-the-art research and clinical practice to ensure the best possible care for citizens of North Carolina.

CDL – Center for Development and Learning

Web site: www.cidd.unc.edu/About/CDL/

The CDL comprises of a group of university faculty and staff and affiliated state and community service partners who focus on services for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Our faculty consists of professionals in the disciplines of pediatrics, psychiatry, psychology, education, speech language pathology, audiology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nutrition, social work, public health, nursing, and dentistry.

Family Support Network

919-966-2841

Web site: www.fsnnc.org

Family Support Network at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities promotes and provides support for families with children who have special needs. FSN at CIDD provides technical assistance and facilitates the activities of local affiliated programs, maintains the Central Directory of Resources, and coordinates and conducts educational activities. It is affiliated with the Family Support Network of North Carolina, which serves thousands of families and service providers across North Carolina each year.

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC)

Web site: www.fpg.unc.edu/~ndrc/

The mission of the UNC Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC) is to support and promote multidisciplinary research and research training on the pathogenesis and treatment/prevention of neurodevelopmental disorders.

TEACCH

Web site: 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.

COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

888-232-7733

Web site: 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.

DISABILITY.GOV

Web site: www.disability.gov

Disability.gov is an award-winning federal Web site that contains disability-related resources on programs, services, laws and regulations to help people with disabilities lead full, independent lives.

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

919-783-8898 or 800-662-7119

Web site: 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.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE CENTER (ECAC)

1-800- 962-6817

Web site: 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.

FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

919-966-2841

Web site: www.fsnn.org

Family Support Network at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities promotes and provides support for families with children who have special needs. FSN at CIDD provides technical assistance and facilitates the activities of local affiliated

programs, maintains the Central Directory of Resources, and coordinates and conducts educational activities. It is affiliated with the Family Support Network of North Carolina, which serves thousands of families and service providers across North Carolina each year.

FAMILY VOICES

888-835-5669

Web site: <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.

FIRST IN FAMILIES

919-251-8368

Web site: 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.

INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY – University of New Hampshire

Web site: <http://iod.unh.edu/index.html>

The Institute on Disability/UCED (IOD) at the University of New Hampshire was established in 1987 to provide a coherent university-based focus for the improvement of knowledge, policies, and practices related to the lives of persons with disabilities and their families.

THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK, INC.

800-368-5437

Web site: 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.

LOCAL MANAGEMENT ENTITIES (LME)

Web site: www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/lmedirectory.htm

Local Management Entities (LMEs) are agencies of local government area authorities or county programs who are responsible for managing, coordinating, facilitating and monitoring the provision of mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services in the area served. LMEs manage the CAP Medicaid-Waiver Program. LME responsibilities include offering consumers 24/7/365 access to services, developing and overseeing providers, and handling consumer complaints and grievances.

MAAP

219-662-1311

Web site: 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.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

919-981-0740

888-881-0740

Web site: www.mha-nc.org/english/

A private, non-profit mental health advocacy organization. Their mission is to promote mental health, prevent mental disorders, and eliminate discrimination against people with mental disorders.

MURDOCH CENTER

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

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

Web site: 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).

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)

919-788-0801

800-451-9682

Web site: 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.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

202-272-2004

Web site: 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.

NICHCY

800-695-0285

Web site: www.nichcy.org

NICHCY stands for the *National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities*. We serve the nation as a central source of information on: disabilities in infants, toddlers, children, and youth, IDEA, which is the law authorizing special education, No Child Left Behind (as it relates to children with disabilities), and research-based information on effective educational practices.

NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (NECTAC)

919-962-2001

Web site: <http://www.nectac.org/default.asp>

NECTAC is the national early childhood technical assistance center supported by the U.S. Department of Education's [Office of Special Education Programs](#). NECTAC serves all 50 states and 10 jurisdictions with an array of services and supports to improve service systems and outcomes for infants, toddlers, and preschool aged children with special needs and their families.

NATIONAL FATHERS NETWORK (NFN)

425-653-4286

Web site: 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

Web site: www.nc-ddc.org

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, as well as other assistance and opportunities, which promote inclusive communities. The Participant Involvement Fund (PIF) was designed to help people with developmental disabilities, their family members, or their guardians by reimbursing some of the costs of going to events. Events are conferences, trainings, public forums, focus groups, committees, task forces, hearings and other similar non-recreational activities, which provide consumers resources and information they need to learn best practices, to make informed choices, to learn advocacy and/or to enhance their quality of life.

PACER CENTER

952-838-9000

Web site: www.pacer.org

The mission of PACER Center (**P**arent **A**dvocacy **C**oalition for **E**ducational **R**ights) is to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families, based on the concept of parents helping parents.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCLUSION (PFI)

919-962-7359

Web site: 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.

PAWS4PEOPLE

Web site: www.paws4people.org

The Mission of paws4people™ foundation is to enhance the lives of special and regular education students, seniors, and the seriously ill or disabled, by utilizing the "Special Powers" of canine companionship displayed by highly trained Assistance Dogs; including Service, Educational Assistance K-9s, Rehabilitative Assistance Dogs and Social Therapy dogs in specialized educational, private placements and therapeutic visitation programs.

PROJECT LIFESAVER

877-580-LIFE (5433)

Web site: www.projectlifesaver.org

The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism, and other related conditions or disorders. Citizens enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small LoJack® SafetyNet™ personal transmitter around the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized tracking signal. If an enrolled client goes missing, the caregiver notifies their local Project Lifesaver agency, and a trained emergency team responds to the wanderer's area.

SAFELINK

1-800-977-3768

Web site: www.safelinkwireless.com

SafeLink Wireless is a government supported program that provides a free cell phone and airtime each month for income-eligible customers.

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

919-966-2174

Web site: 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.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE HANDICAPS (TASH)

202-540-9020

Web site: 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.

WRIGHTS LAW – SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW

Web site: www.wrightslaw.com

In the “Yellow Pages” section on this Web site, 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.