



Let ME  
spread the  
word on  
AUTISM

**AUTISM SOCIETY**  
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism  
Maine

# Maine Autism Connections

## Off to College

by Julie Farrell

Madison was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 18 months old, we were told she may never talk; the light in her eyes had gone out. With early intervention and the most incredible team.....let's look forward 16 years into the future as I watch her walk up to receive her high school diploma. Madi made it!!! But what's next, this is a new realm for all of us. She had applied and been accepted to college this was a scary new change not just for Madi but for us too. Madi, Raffé, and I had several meetings and tours of the campus before any academics began and the staff was so gracious and caring.

Central Maine Community College not only offered a summer program to ease Madi into the upcoming fall semester but also had a tutoring program where she could go if she was having difficulties with her academics. Madi was so stressed her first week of school and every day I would drop her off I would say 2 days 2 weeks 2 months....that's our go to when we begin a new routine, learn a new behavior, it will either take 2 days 2 weeks or 2 months. I told her this one was a two week one, lol. AND IT was!! After 2 weeks of dropping off my warrior she adapted to her class schedule, knew where to go and who to ask for help from. Some of her classmates were from her high school and helped guide her as well.

Madi has finished up her first year of college with grace, a better sense of self, and independence. She continually needs positive reinforcement and guidance through the process as well as transportation because she is deathly afraid to drive. We were very fortunate for the staff that were so caring and considerate and gaged to her needs. We also met some staff that did not care for her because of her disability and had to advocate for her strongly, unfortunately I don't think that will ever stop it was just sad to see it at the college level. It's sad to see at any level.

Madi has continued to be an active member in the teen monthly meeting provided by the Autism Society of Maine which has been a

constant factor of joy and excitement to her, she genuinely enjoys being part of that group. She also attends art therapy with a small group! Every summer we attend the family retreat weekend and she looks forward to that like most kids would to Disney, lol! A substantial part of Madi's life is these pieces...every day she continues to put together her puzzle and it's beautiful because she truly is a masterpiece.

Fall 2019



A quote from Helen Hoang, The Kiss Quotient

“This crusade to fix herself was ending right now. She wasn't broken. She saw and interacted with the world in a different way, but that was her. She could change her actions, change her words, change her appearance, but she couldn't change the root of herself. At her core, she would always be autistic. People called it a disorder, but it didn't feel like one. To her, it was simply the way she was.”



**Maine Autism Connections**  
*A publication of the*  
Autism Society of Maine

Nancy Ponzetti-Dyer, President  
Tiffany Rooney, Vice President  
Jon Youde, Treasurer  
Sherry Pike, Secretary  
Dick Farnsworth  
Katie Crowley  
Christina Nason      Kim Webber  
Brigid Rankowski      Joshua Nash  
Jennifer Brooking      Bobbi-Jo Boisvert

**Staff**

Cathy E. Dionne, *Executive Director*  
Tena Hinds,  
*Autism Information Specialist*  
*Coordinator*  
Susan Vincent,  
*Communications Director*  
Tara Perry, *Office Assistant*  
Betsy Mahoney,  
*Community Outreach Liaison*  
Maine Autism Connections is a  
quarterly publication of the  
Autism Society of Maine  
72B Main Street  
Winthrop, ME 04364  
Phone: 1-800-273-5200

*Graphic Designer:* Justine Bickford  
*Proofreader:* Tena Hinds  
*Contributing writers:* As bylined  
Send article ideas and suggestions for  
our newsletter to:  
asm@asmonline.org

*Statements made by various authors regarding treatment, products or services represent the views and opinions of solely those authors, and do not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by ASM.*

**AUTISM SOCIETY**  
*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*

Visit us online at: *Maine*  
<http://www.asmonline.org>

Stay up-to-date for  
Legislation issues, fund-  
raising events, volunteer  
opportunities, and  
upcoming happenings.



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Autism-Society-Of-Maine/107781499258293>



**President's Message**

School will soon begin or may have already started, instead of ABC's I have been thinking about Parents and ways they can help their children adjust to the new school year. Hopefully one or two ideas will be particularly helpful!



**Positive attitude**

How are you feeling about the new school year? Many families experience a mixture of fear and excitement. Will you pass along both to your child? Anxiety has a tendency to be contagious. The more we worry the more we find to worry about and unfortunately, the more anxiety 'in the air' the more likely children are to worry as well. If we label those butterflies in the tummy as excitement we can help children to adjust to the upcoming changes with a more positive outlook.

**Preparation**

What do you know about the new classroom, teachers, peers? Can you predict what snack and lunch will be on the first day? During the first week be sure that anyone working with your child has reviewed the IEP, don't assume it automatically moved with your child because continuity and communication are challenging for everyone, even in the best organizations.

**Peers**

Are there peers who will be supportive? The Autism Society has free pamphlets to download and print that can be helpful for educating peers. Take a look and see if any look good for your family.

**Pass along knowledge**

In addition to the peer education materials, the Autism Society has [resources](#) regarding transition in grade level through preparing for college. There are also blogs about specific topics at the Autism Society website. For teachers and educators there is a 12-page pamphlet that provides information about working with students on the autism spectrum. You can share the link with interested folks or print a copy for anyone willing to take a look, and then ask if it helped so you know if it makes sense to give it to other teachers or school staff in the future.

**We still have opportunities for helping with some of ASM priorities for 2019**

Adult Social Group - those who attend find it very welcoming and a nice way to socialize, so we are looking to spread the word to others who might enjoy getting together with peers for dinner and/or a variety of activities. We have an Autism Information Specialist helping out now and all ideas are considered.

Reading and commenting on proposed legislation via email (often with only 24 hours to respond) to help our legislative committee.

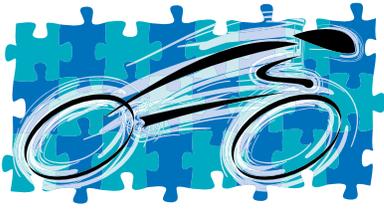
The Bicycle Ride for Autism is September 14<sup>th</sup>, and the Fall Autism Conference is November 4<sup>th</sup>.

We would love to have more members of ASM attend our annual meeting. It is a great time to catch up on all of our activities and provide input to staff and board members. This year we meet on Friday October 4<sup>th</sup>. There is a buffet supper, and no cost to attend, but we have to know if you are coming because there is limited seating and we do have to pay in advance so "first come first served." In past years we have been able to include everyone who expressed interest. Please contact the office and let us know if

*continued on page 5*

Editorial Notes: Maine Autism Connections and Autism Society of Maine programs and services are made possible by donations from people like you and funding from the Maine Department of Health & Human Services. We hope you will also visit us online at <http://www.asmonline.org>, where we have a great deal of information available about autism, programs, resources, news, a calendar of events, legislation and more.

## Annual Ride for Autism



### Ride for Autism



The 13th “Annual Ride For Autism” will be held on September 14th at the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust Building in Kennebunkport, Maine. This bike ride covers several miles along the coastline in Kennebunkport, including up to five beaches and world renowned scenic view areas. Staggered start times for the 50, 25, and 10 mile routes are well marked and offer an opportunity for everyone to finish together. After your ride enjoy a spectacular barbecue with

local craft beer, entertainment, and prizes for top fund raisers. if you raise \$100 your name will go into a drawing to win a brand new bike with a value of \$750.

Each route is relatively flat, offering opportunities to enjoy a casual ride, or you can “crank it up” for an individual challenge. Short rides of ten miles or less are very family friendly, or you can choose the Trail Ride at the Smith Preserve. Several trail heads are located within one mile of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust building.

This is one of a handful of fundraisers we do throughout the year. The proceeds of this event will go towards funding programs we offer throughout the state to help improve the lives of all individuals affected by autism. **Please help us reach our goal of raising \$30,000.00.** Every little bit helps!.

**Donate Now!**

**Online Registration is \$35 (closes on September 10)  
Onsite Registration is \$40 (T-shirts will be on a first come first serve basis the day of)**

[Click here](#) to register.

## ASM Annual Meeting & Banquet

### Annual Banquet and Awards Meeting

**Augusta Country Club  
19 Hammonds Grove, Western Ave.,  
Manchester, ME**

**October 4, 2019 - 6:00pm to 8:30pm**

ASM Board of Directors and Staff are pleased to invite members to our Annual Meeting on October 4th, at the beautiful Augusta Country Club in Manchester. Guest speaker information You will also be able to hear about the fundraising that has taken place over the last year and other events and activities ASM has sponsored.

An awards ceremony will acknowledge recipients in recognition of their involvement in making a difference in the lives of individuals with ASD. If you would like to submit a nomination, please write in 1,000 words or less why your nominee should be considered, and attach it to this form by September 10, 2019: Nomination Form

#### **Following are the categories of awards:**

**Professionals:** (not in the field of autism, but contributing to it): Any professional within their own field of expertise who contributes in any manner relative to individuals and/or families



affected by ASD.

Example: Media person who wrote series or article on autism, State Representative or Senator supporting autism related bill etc.

**Family Members or Persons with Autism:** Any individual with autism or a family member of an individual with autism who has contributed to the community to enhance the lives of individuals with autism.

Example: Promotes education or autism awareness to the local community, schools, or general public.

**Service Provider:**

Any professional practicing within the field that has devoted his/her service potential and opportunities to supporting, treating, and effectively providing services to individuals and families with ASD.

Example: Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Special Ed Teacher etc. In addition, we will welcome new Board Members as well as give appreciation to others that have also finished their terms.

**We have much to share and hope to see you there!**

## You can't make me: Proactive Strategies for Positive Behavioral Change

Keynote by: Dr. James Ball, Ed.D., BCBA-D

November 2, 2019 9:00-12:00 Keynote Speaker

On November 2, 2019, at the Black Bear Inn and Conference Center in Orono, ASM is holding a "Fall Conference for Autism", with a focus on Managing Behavioral and Social Challenges.

This conference is designed for parents and family members of children, or adults on the autism spectrum, as well as educators and other service providers. In addition to our keynote speaker, Jim Ball, there will be break-out sessions in the afternoon related to topics that assist in supporting the valued lives of individuals on the Autism Spectrum, (see descriptions below). There is no cost for attendees and hopefully everyone will leave with practical tools and strategies that can be implemented immediately in the home, school and/ or community.



**Dr. Jim Ball**, A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D), has been working in the private sector field of autism for 25+ years. In a variety of settings, he has provided educational, employment, and residential services to children and adults affected with autism. He is a featured author and is on the advisory board for the

Autism Asperger's Digest magazine. His 2008 triple Award Winning book, "Early Intervention & Autism: Real-Life Questions, Real-Life Answers" was released in February of 2008.

His keynote address will detail 7 evidence based strategies, described in his book, **Early Intervention: Real Life Questions; Real Life Answers**, that have been proven the most effective in teaching students and adults with an autism spectrum disorder. It will focus on teaching of specific skills, reducing challenging behaviors, and building an effective program. Because of the nature of this presentation, a question and answer period will be provided.

**8:00 Doors open for Registration**

**9-12:00 Keynote Speaker**

**12:00-1:00 Lunch 1:00-2:30 1st**

**Break out Session: Jim Ball/ Deborah Rooks- Ellis**

**2:45-4:15 2nd Break out session: Carrie Woodcock/ Adult Panel**

**There is no cost to attend this conference.**

### The Use Of Video Modeling For Learners With Autism:

**Jim Ball, key note speaker** will continue sharing his knowledge and expertise as he presents on how video modeling can be used to work with problematic behaviors. He will focus on teaching specific skills, enhancing motivation, and generalization training. A step by step demonstration will be presented using real life examples. Modifications will be explored that allow this particular program to be effective with students significantly challenged with autism, as well as those students with Aspergers Syndrome. Because of the nature of this presentation, a question and answer period will be provided.



### Sex and Sexuality:

**Deborah L. Rooks-Ellis, Ph.D.** is an assistant professor of special education in the School of Learning and Teaching at the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development and the director of the Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research. Deborah has 28 years of experience in special education. She has taught as a classroom teacher in Georgia, Maryland, and Maine. Deborah lives with her husband, Matt, and four children in Bangor, Maine.



**Sarah K. Howorth** is an assistant professor of special education in the School of Learning and Teaching, at the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development. She is a part of the Maine Autism Institute of Education and Research (MAIER), president of Maine State Council for Exceptional Children, and President-Elect of CEC's Innovations in Special Education Technology (ISET) division. Sarah is a board-certified behavior analyst and has 19 years of experience in special education. She has taught as a classroom teacher in Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, and Shanghai (China).

### **Workshop Description-**

During this workshop, participants will engage in conversation about sexuality and relationship education for people with autism and developmental disabilities. Sexuality is how we

*continued on page 5*

## Fall Autism Conference (continued from page 4)

feel about our bodies, our gender identity, our sexual orientation, and our thoughts, feelings and experiences about our sexual experiences. The need for sexuality and relationship education is often overlooked by professionals and even family members. Participants will be provided with strategies they can use to advocate for and participate in sexuality education decisions for their family members with autism. This is a critical but sensitive topic, and the hope is that this workshop will facilitate dialogue about how to talk to individuals about their sexuality and help them engage in healthy sexual behaviors.

### *Second Breakout Speakers 2:45-4:15*



#### **Supported Decision Making, An Alternative to Guardianship:**

**Carrie Woodcock** is the parent of a 12-year-old daughter with Down Syndrome and a 14-year-old son with Dyslexia and ADHD. She has been at Maine Parent Federation for 5 years and in the Executive Director capacity



for 2 years. Her passion and inspiration come from watching her children overcome obstacles and achieve success.

**Workshop Description** - Learn about the least restrictive options to full guardianship with a concentration on Supported Decision-Making. In this session, you will learn more about changes to the probate code, all available options when considering guardianship, how Supported Decision-Making can work within those options and on it's own, and what it means to be a supporter versus a decider.

**Adult Panel Discussion** will feature ASM's Executive Director, Cathy Dionne, as she facilitates a discussion with a panel of 4 Adults on the Autism Spectrum. Questions related to their lives, past and present, will be presented and their perspectives will be shared.

## Autism Information Specialist Training

*by Tena Hinds*

Do you have experience or knowledge regarding the IEP process, Maine Care and/or Adult services for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Do you enjoy working to help families in need of support to navigate these systems? If you answered yes to either of these questions, you might be interested in learning more about our Autism Information Specialist (AIS) program.

AIS are contracted as part-time consultants. The program will match you, as a trained consultant, with a family in need. We pay 20.00 an hour and reimburse travel at .44 cents a mile.

This is an opportunity for you to make a little money, fulfill a need, and set your own hours/ schedule.

We will be holding a 3 day training this winter. We do offer travel reimbursement for the training and lunch is provided.

You can [download the application](#) that is in writeable format to your computer, fill it out, and email to: [infospec@asmonline.org](mailto:infospec@asmonline.org) or mail to: Autism Society of Maine, 72 B Main St., Winthrop, ME 04364.

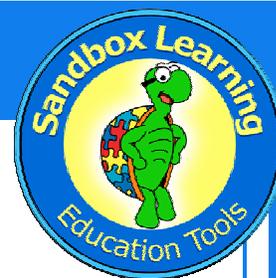
Contact ASM at 1-800-273-5200 with any questions.

## President's Message (continued from 2)

you can come.

Would you like to volunteer or participate in one of the events or as part of a short term action group? Call or let us know by sending an email [asm@asmonline.org](mailto:asm@asmonline.org)

Nancy Ponzetti-Dyer, President Board of Directors



## Strategies for Developing Classroom Friendships

Children spend a significant amount of time in the classroom which is a wonderful environment to build lasting friendships. This article includes strategies for helping children develop friendships with classmates.

**1. Activities** – Create situations where children collaborate and work together. Look at their interests and abilities and use paired or group activities to encourage interaction. Physical activities like team sports or throwing a ball and counting the number of times it remains in the air before being dropped are fun and require teamwork. Small group projects like creating a collage where children have assigned roles such as writer, picture locator, and materials cutter, help children focus on a task and interact to complete it. Depending on a child's age and ability, give them more or less structured directions. For older children, let them select different roles and problem solve how to complete the project as a way to learn collaboration and compromise.



From *Working Together*

**2. Direct Instruction** – Sometimes it is necessary to discuss and outline social skills clearly for children to understand them. Role plays and group discussions about meeting someone new, having a conversation, sharing, helping, and being a good sport can illustrate aspects of the skills children may overlook. Rehearse new scenarios, frequent interactions, or a past event to practice real-world situations. Start by clearly explaining the specific actions in the skill. For example, when practicing having a conversation discuss and practice greetings, responding to questions, asking questions, attending to the person, and saying good-bye. Have children role play a scene with the skill. Discuss possible things to say and do when having a conversation and how choices during a conversation affect the outcome of the interaction.

**3. Bridge Home and School** – Parents and teachers can work together to promote an interest in school friendships. Have children write a story about their classroom friends then ask parents to read and discuss the story at home. For younger children, include information about friends in notes home. Mention things like, "Alex played cars with Sarah in the sandbox." Encourage parents to ask about who the child played with or worked with at school.

**4. Activities Outside the Classroom** - Children often see classmates at community activities. Joining a new activity with a classmate is a way to encourage friendships outside of school and have the support of an existing friend at a new event. Whether playing on a baseball team or attending story time, participating with someone the child knows is a way for them to have additional common interests.

**5. Don't Pressure Children** – Teaching children the basics of being good to peers is important. Sometimes children develop close friendships this way, other times they will remain classmates. Do not force a friendship, but encourage children to share, say kind things, and be good to their classmates. Use children's interests to involve them in activities such as sports, clubs, or neighborhood get-togethers they enjoy, so they continue to participate and find friends with similar hobbies.

To receive a **free customizable children's book** on waiting, visit our website:

[www.sandbox-learning.com](http://www.sandbox-learning.com)

Copyright © 2008 by Sandbox Learning. All Rights Reserved.

# 2019 ASM Family Retreat

by Tara Perry

Another retreat has come and gone- this was definitely one for the books! How fitting that this year's theme was Super Heroes! With all the obstacles that were thrown our way, the parents, kids and respite all prevailed!! The heat this year was almost unbearable but the upgrade to air conditioned rooms was a huge relief. Despite the weather and hiccups that occurred, this was one of my favorite retreats to date. ASM hosted 18 families and 33 children this year! It was great to see the familiar faces and to meet a few new families as well.

Friday Night Family Night was again a big success as families settled in for the weekend. The outdoor movie was definitely a huge hit with those in attendance, as was the popcorn and cotton candy! Some families opted to hang out in the pool and who could blame them. (It was so hot!) Once again Friday night was spent with families spending time together having fun, and that's what it's all about.

Saturday's weather made outdoor activities slightly difficult but our amazing respite providers were able to keep the kids cool and hydrated while having a blast with all the activities! The kids enjoyed the bounce house, rock wall, bubbles, squirt guns, water games and of course the pool as well as making their own Superhero capes and necklaces during arts and craft time, all while the parents were busy with lectures, painting and enjoying some downtime! Stephan-Master of the Senses entertained all the families with his amazing tricks and illusions on Saturday night; some of us are still trying to wrap our heads around some of the things we saw!

Sunday was my least favorite day as we had to watch the families pack up and head back home for another year. It was so great to catch up with returning families and also to get to know the new families who attended, it is so hard to say goodbye but we hope to see everyone again year! The planning has already begun for next year!



by Tara Perry

## Camp Summit

Who doesn't love hanging out with friends and doing fun stuff every day? That's exactly what took place at Camp Summit this year! 8 kids and counselors joined Hattie, Angela and Joel for 2 weeks of amazing summer fun! I was able to attend camp again this year as a counselor, and I had a great time! We enjoyed theme days, field trips and tons of activities! I don't think I can choose what my favorite thing about camp was!

The weather was extremely warm during camp so anything that had to do with water was greatly appreciated by everyone! We made trips to the UMF pool, Webb Lake, played with water balloons and the sprinkler-anything to cool down. The campers loved Webb Lake, they swam together and even joined forces to assault Joel with squirt guns, and I am not sure who had more fun! The pool was also a hit and we were able to help Oakley celebrate his first trip ever to the deep end of the pool! This was a huge accomplishment and all the campers and counselors were cheering him on! Way to go Oak!

Our bowling/arcade trip was so much fun! The air hockey table was a favorite for a lot of campers. Sebastian thoroughly enjoyed his first time playing; his excitement when he scored a goal was phenomenal! Adam honed his skills at the claw machines again this year, winning enough candy to put all of camp into a diabetic coma! Thankfully, he did not eat it all at once.

We got a late start for our last field trip but that did not stop us from having the best time ever! The weather was perfect for our stroll through the wildlife park- most of the animals were awake and wandering around for all to see. The albino raccoon and the bears

seemed to be the campers' favorites along with the fish. I am kind of partial to the turtles and the Eagle myself, but all of the animals are wonderful to see!

When we stayed at camp there was still plenty to keep us all busy. Arts and crafts were a big hit this year; we had some very creative campers. I think Natalie made one of everything that was available to make, Brice thoroughly enjoyed creating necklaces for himself and some of the counselors and of course, his sister! Junior, Kole and Sebastian began a very long Monopoly game which was a treat to observe. The negotiations and deals would make any real estate mogul proud! As always, the blocks and car tracks were popular with all the campers. RJ has a knack for building some intricate tracks and bridges, maybe there will be some engineering or architecture in his future. Card games were a favorite of Rebecca who bounced between Old Maid and Uno throughout the duration of camp.

This was a really great year at Camp Summit; I don't think we could have asked for a better group of counselors. Randi, Barb, Francis, Joe, Leah, Derek, Adam and Evan (Jr. Counselors) you guys are great! We definitely made some great memories this summer! I am already looking forward to next year!



# ASM Summer Camps

The Finding the Pieces Camp in Biddeford welcomed children from York County for its third year in 2019! 10 children enrolled for summer fun with University of New England students. The camp was held at the Richard R. Martin Community Center, where the kids played games, completed obstacle courses, rode scooters, played 'store', and did arts and crafts. The campers also met farm animals at Smiling Hill Farm, and rode horses at Hearts and Horses. They bowled and swam in the Saco river at Rotary Park. The UNE Education Department also sponsored a sensory friendly movie showing for the campers, at least one of whom had never attended a movie at a theater before. The



UNE students were undergraduates from programs in Health, Wellness and Occupational Studies, Applied Exercise Science, and Medical Biology. These students plan to become occupational therapists, physical therapists, physician assistants, medical doctors. They connected the experience with their academic training and gained valuable skills they look forward to applying in their future careers. Both campers and counselors noted how much fun the camp was, with one camper stating she liked to come and "meet new friends", and another saying she was "surprised by all of the fun activities". By all accounts it was another successful year!



## Upcoming Events



### Annual Ride for Autism

September 14, 2019

Kennebunkport Conservation Trust  
Gravelly Brook Road, Kennebunkport

See page 3 for more information



### Fall Conference on Autism

November 2, 2019

Black Bear Inn and Conference Center  
4 Godfrey Drive  
Orono, Maine

See page 4 for details



### ASM's Annual Banquet and Awards Meeting

Augusta Country Club

19 Hammonds Grove, Western Ave.  
Manchester, ME

October 4, 2019- 6 -8:30PM

Seating is limited; Please call ASM to make your reservations: 1-800-273-5200

See ASM's [online calendar](#) for upcoming events, workshops and fundraisers that are happening around Maine. If you know of an event that we could post, please fill out an event [information form](#). You can even synch your Google calendar with ASM's!

[Event Submission Form](#)

## Teen Social Group

by Tara Perry



Summer is over and school has begun, that means the Teen Social Group will resume our monthly meetings! We finished up our year in June with a field trip to Roy's in Auburn for lunch and some mini golf. For many of our teens it was the first time playing, we all had a great time! After having July and August off, I am really looking forward to meeting with the group again. I can't wait to hear the "what have you done since we last met?" stories, and hear about the start of school. We have been brainstorming over the summer, coming up with new ideas to do during our meetings, I think we are going to have a great time! We will continue to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, I am looking forward to seeing everyone and hopefully some new faces as well. If you are interested in learning more about the teen group, or our Adult Social Group you can find more info [on our website](#) or by calling the office at 800-273-5200.

### Social Groups Needed

Have you ever thought of hosting or facilitating a social group? The Teen Social Group is such a great place for teens to meet new friends, practice and learn social skills all in a safe, nonjudgmental environment. There is such a great need for these groups for children of all ages, unfortunately, there are so few to fill the need. It doesn't take a whole lot of time and the benefits are incalculable. I wonder if

more people would be willing to facilitate a group if they knew more about what it consists of and how easy it is to be successful at it.

Rules are a must! There needs to be clear, set boundaries so everyone knows what is expected of them and what is considered unacceptable behavior during the group. Our teens were included in making the list of rules- after all, it is their group.

Activities- Most kids like to be kept busy so be sure to have a schedule of things to do during group. Our group lasts from 1.5 – 2 hrs. (Depending on the teens) and consists of a craft, a snack and 1 or 2 games. Our group enjoys Bingo and Trivia these can take up a bit of time, we also break into groups and play other games sometimes. Jenga and Sorry are other group favorites. While the teens are engaged in their craft or while there is some "awkward silence" we sometimes answer "would you rather" questions to encourage conversation.

That's it. That's all there is to it! I get to hang out with some amazing teens, get to know them and help them create friendships with other teens! It's a wonderful thing! Parents are present during the group but usual hang out in another room or area and talk amongst themselves. The social group benefits everyone! Sounds easy doesn't it? It is! Do you think you might be interested in starting a group in your area? I know that there are many kids out there looking for groups like these, the need for these groups are great throughout the state. If you think you might like to start a group but still have questions, give us a call, we will be more than happy to help get you started! [Click here](#) to see the criteria we require for our group.

Autism parent / caregiver support groups and social groups for youth and adults are listed on the ASM website as they come to our attention. If you have a group that you would like to be added to the [support group page](#), please fill out a [group information form](#).

## EMAIL - SOCIAL MEDIA - ONLINE GROUPS



ASM is has a vibrant Facebook Community including parents, professionals, individuals and anyone interested in autism. If you are not already a friend of our Facebook page, we welcome you to join us!



We have a great collection of videos and will be adding more throughout the year!



Sign up to get interesting news and updates delivered to your email inbox from ASM!



Searching for autism information on the web can be overwhelming. The ASM website has relevant autism information and resources for Maine Residents.



Follow us on Twitter as we 'tweet' about autism!



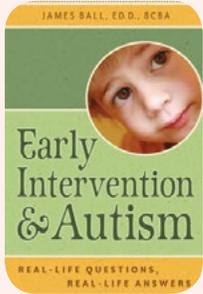
My Autism Team: A reputable and friendly place to connect with other parents in Maine.

# Welcome to the Autism Society of Maine Library!

[Visit the ASM Library](#)

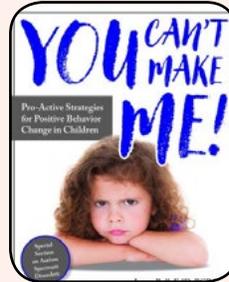
The Lending Library is a FREE resource for Maine residents. The collection can be viewed on the ASM website or you may request a printed list to be mailed to you. Stop by the office, or have material sent to you (we will include return shipping label) by calling 1-800-273-5200 or email: [library@asmonline.org](mailto:library@asmonline.org)

Dr. James Ball, Author of two books included below, is also ASM's Keynote Presenter for the Autism Fall Conference on November 2nd in Orono. See page 4



## **Early Intervention and Autism: Real-Life Questions, Real-Life Answers** by James Ball

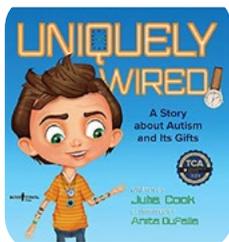
This book will guide you through your child's early years by providing sound advice based on over twenty years of experience. In an easy-to-read, question-answer format, Dr. Jim explains what makes your child tick, how to get the most out of early intervention services, and how to choose the most effective treatment options.



## **You Can't Make Me! Pro-Active Strategies for Positive Behavior Change in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders** by James Ball

A unique look at behavior through the child's perspective! Every parent has experienced behavior challenges with their children. This book applies a whole-person perspective toward behavior management that connects

across home, school, and community. It describes the functions of behavior from both the adult and child's perspective and offers simple, effective evidence-based strategies for creating behavior plans that work. Features: Behavior Plan template; Behavior, communication, & social skills strategies for each function of behavior.



## **Uniquely Wired: A Story About Autism and Its Gifts** by Julia Cook

Zak is obsessed with watches. Before that it was trains. He owns hundreds of watches and is quick to tell everyone everything about them. Zak also has autism, so he sometimes responds to the world around him in unconventional

ways. As Zak describes his point of view, young readers gain a better understanding of his behaviors and learn valuable lessons about patience, tolerance and understanding. Grades K-5.



## **The Golden Child** by Christian Mark

A story of a family whose journey through the mental health system begins in the 1950's adopting a child. When adolescence hits, behaviors begins and deteriorates to the point that the state has to step in. Years later, the family's son, now guardian, stumbles across

documents that open up questions of mismanagement by the state in the adoption of Anne. (Fiction)

## Donations

### **IN HONOR OF:**

Maddox Dionne  
By Steve Button

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Elizabeth Morrison Rice-  
From Nita White

### **DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIP** **EMPLOYEE MATCHES/GRANTS**

People's Choice Credit Union  
P&C Insurance  
Jessica Goodwin -Keep Collective  
Hammond Lumber Company  
Madison Elementary School  
Biddeford Savings Bank  
Mechanics Savings Bank  
Walmart- Scarborough  
Nancy Pinette

Wendy Derzawiec  
Maranacook Family Health Care  
Kennebunk Savings  
Northeast Credit Union  
Wonder Mountain Fun Park  
Brewer Eagles Club  
Walnut Grove Campground  
Marie Calvi  
Funtown/Splashtown USA  
Anita Colpitts  
Bull Run Striping



**Silicone Chew Necklaces**  
**Animals & Shapes- \$9.00**  
**Raindrops & Circles-\$8.00**

**Autism Society of Maine**  
 72 B Main St, Winthrop, ME  
 04364

Items can be seen and ordered from  
[ASM's online store](#)  
 or by calling 1-800-273-5200.

\*Includes gift box

**Add 5.5% Sales Tax**



**Folding Puzzle Tote**  
**\$16.00**



**Silver Ribbon**  
**\$10.00**



**Silver Puzzle**  
**\$10.00**



**Keychain**  
**\$6.00**



**Keychain**  
**\$5.00**



**Magnets**  
**Large \$5.00**



**Stretchy**  
**\$4.00**



**Wristband**  
**\$3.00**



**Lanyard**  
**\$6.00**



**Lapel Pin**  
**\$5.00**



**Window Clings**  
**\$6.00**



**Charm Bracelet**  
**1 Charm**  
**\$8.00**



**Glass Pendant**  
**Sm. \$10.00**  
**Lg. \$12.00**



**Glass Earrings**  
**\$15.00**



**Ribbon Earrings**  
**\$8.00**



**Owl Charm**  
**\$3.00**



**Autism Charm**  
**\$3.00**



**Colored Heart Charm**  
**\$3.00**



**Silver Beads**  
**\$1.00**



**Colored Beads**  
**\$1.00**