



*Providing
information and
support to those
living with Autism
Spectrum Disorder
and those who work
with or love
someone with ASD.*

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Questions or comments?
E-mail us at
liz@deaknet.com .

Happy New Year and Welcome (Back)!

I've been receiving regular emails from subscribers wondering where their E-News copies have gone to. In actual fact, we've been having a hiatus since July of 2003.

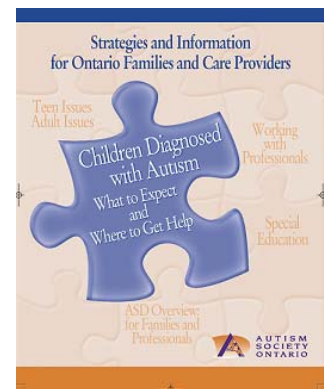
I was lucky enough to be hired as a Regional Support Leader for Autism Society Ontario (ASO) in 2002. My job was to provide one: one support and workshops to parents and professionals, something I've been doing in a volunteer capacity for years. I also had the great privilege of putting together ASO's 2nd manual "Children Diagnosed with Autism; What to Expect and Where to Get Help".

In the interest of not burning out, I had to put some of my volunteer 'jobs' on hold, and the E-News was one of them; but now we are BACK baby! I can't promise how often issues will come out but I am very lucky to have our assistant managers, Kim, Sue and Diana to help me get this copy out.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Sincerely

Liz



[ASO Manual "Children Diagnosed with ASD" can be found by following this link](#)

My Hair-Raising Experience on a Wait List
By Kim C., Assistant Manager, BBB Autism Support Network

My son was placed on the waiting list for government-funded IBI (ABA) in 2001. When I found out that the waiting list was extremely long, we contracted a private agency to deliver IBI and did what we could to cut expenses. One of the



things I did was to stop getting my short hair cut. After a while, a friend joked that growing my hair was like a silent protest – a concept I embraced.

As my hair grew, people began to notice. I was able to speak to many people in my everyday life about autism, how it affects my son, and what the government is (and isn't) doing for autistic people in our province. People had no idea that the government was not fulfilling their promise to help our children. They were all shocked and disgusted to hear about the waiting list. My

hair became an incredibly effective advocacy tool.

After almost 3 years, my son miraculously made it off the waiting list. When I got my hair cut a few months later, I donated the 16" ponytail to the Cancer Society for wigs. I was able to raise awareness through attention from the local media.

I had no idea how effective my story would become in raising awareness. Although I normally avoid the spotlight, I realized the opportunity I had and knew I had to step up. I strongly encourage other parents to do the same.

We've had many enquiries about our logo and mascot. Back by popular demand, here is the inspirational tale.

BBB Autism Support Network
www.bbbautism.com

Why a Bee?

Author Unknown

Once upon a time the animals had a school. They had four subjects: running, climbing, flying, and swimming-and all animals took all subjects.



The duck was good at swimming, better than the teachers in fact. He made passing grades in running and flying, but he was almost hopeless in climbing. So they made him drop swimming to practice more climbing. Soon he was only average in swimming. But average is OK, and nobody worried much about it except the duck.



The eagle was considered a troublemaker. In his climbing class he beat everybody to the top of the tree, but he had his own way of getting there, which was against the rules. He always had to stay after school and write, Cheating is wrong 500 times. This kept him from soaring, which he loved. But schoolwork comes first.

The bear flunked because they said he was lazy, especially in winter. His best time was summer, but school wasn't open then.

The penguin never went to school because he couldn't leave home, and they wouldn't start a school out where he lived.

The zebra played hooky -a lot. The ponies made fun of his stripes, and that made him very sad.

The kangaroo started out at the top of the running class, but got discouraged trying to run on all fours like the other kids.

The fish quit school because he was bored. To him all four subjects were the same, but nobody understood that.



They had never been a fish.

The squirrel got A's in climbing, but his flying teacher made him start from the ground up instead of the treetop down. His legs got so sore from practicing takeoffs that he began getting C's and D's in running.

But the bee was the biggest problem of all, so the teacher sent him to Dr. Owl for testing. Dr. Owl said that the bee's wings were just too small for flying and besides they were in the wrong place. But the bee never saw Dr. Owl's report, so he just went ahead and flew anyway.

I think I know a bee or two don't you?

Am I Doing Enough?

By Liz C., Manager, BBB Autism Support Network



With the myriad of therapies out there, coupled with the emphasis on early intervention, it is no wonder we are all in a panic!

Basically, we are asked to evaluate many, many therapies (and most of us do not have the

credentials, resources, time or funds to do this), determine which best suit our child, and then flawlessly execute them in what probably amounts to 2 years (When you take into consideration wait-lists, funding and the time it takes to actually receive a diagnosis, etc).

...And we are supposed to achieve optimal results, basically change our children's' lives, all in this short period of time.

So we mortgage and re-mortgage our homes, quit our jobs. We worry about our marriages and neurotypical (NT) kids, but totally devote our lives to our autistic kids. Totally without (monetary) pay.

I wonder how many executives work with those types of goals, under that type of pressure for that type of pay?

In terms of therapies, if you are happy with the results, there is no need to change what you are doing. If one component of your therapy isn't working, change or alter it. Customize it to make it motivating and fun! Be sure your child is getting enjoyment out of it too.

It is important to note that our kids do not stop learning at age five or six or even sixty-six. Parents constantly report to us huge gains made by children over the early intervention age. It is imperative never to give up trying to get your child what he or she needs to be happy and as independent as possible.

There is no one therapy that will be the answer to everything. Time and research has proven that the child who receives a good combination of therapies that are tailored to his/her needs does the best. It is also vitally important to generalize skills learned into every day life.

Together, we can move mountains!

Good luck!

Contact Information

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Web Links

BBB support:

http://www.bbbautism.com/support_contents.htm

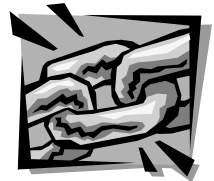
ASO: <http://www.autismsociety.on.ca/>

ASO York: http://www.bbbautism.com/york_contents.htm

E-News archives: http://www.bbbautism.com/news_arch.htm

BBB Parent Guides: http://www.bbbautism.com/bbb_guides_contents.htm

Be sure to check out our online support community at www.msn.com (search 'autism')



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