

DEVELOPMENTAL
& BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS

NEWSLETTER



A bi-weekly newsletter for families of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) at Boston Medical Center during COVID-19 Social Distancing



Hello Autumn

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

- F. Scott Fitzgerald

Autism Waiver Opens Soon

It's that time of year! The DDS Autism Waiver is opening again.

The Autism Waiver provides 1:1 interventions and support services to children under the age of 9 who have an autism diagnosis. The child must be a Massachusetts resident and be eligible for Masshealth standard health insurance.

The one-page application can be sent in **BETWEEN Oct. 15th-Oct. 30th**. *Please note that mailings cannot be postmarked or emailed before or after the previous dates, or they will be discarded.*

To access the application (in multiple languages!) click here:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dds-autism-waiver-service-program-overview>

Applications can be sent by parents/caregivers to:
Department of Developmental Services Autism Division
Att. Autism Program Application Form
1000 Washington Street,
Boston, MA

OR emailed to AutismDivision@mass.gov

Create a Student Profile

Now that you're back into the swing of the school routine it can be helpful to take some time to develop a personal profile on your child to help teachers and staff get to know them like you do.

Create a 1-2 page "profile" which shares brief but important pieces of information about what your child likes and dislikes, their learning style, their strengths, and things they are working on. You can even ask your child if there are specific things they would like to share and invite them to decorate it!

See page 8 of our Back to School Guide for more information!

Shared with permission from Limitlessability.org

ELLIE STAFFORD
AGE 4
PRE - K

Teach me to swim and I will

VISION STATEMENT

We envision our daughter living a life of choice. We envision her having relationships she feels are valuable. We envision her expressing her feelings and her thoughts and that makes her feel confident. We envision our daughter living a happy and meaningful life surrounded by love and support.

STRENGTHS

- Visual learner
- LOVES to read!
- Knows ABC's
- Can count to 20!
- Social and kind
- Funny
- Friendly
- Loves to dance
- Loves her friends!
- Fast learner!

WHAT DOESN'T WORK

- Being rushed
- Sudden change in activity
- Negative talk
- Yelling
- Assuming I don't understand

WHAT WORKS FOR ME

- Praise
- Attention and feedback
- Praise for my achievements
- To learn for
- Being in my Abilify
- Positive reinforcement
- When we don't understand

WHAT I'M WORKING ON

- Talking in class
- Fine Motor Skills like Writing, Cutting Paper and Coloring
- Core Motor Skills like Running
- Conversational Speech

I LOVE: My friends, My friends with a Cup of Hot Chocolate, Fun, and my Mom!

SPaN Workshop

Don't miss the upcoming workshop hosted by The Special Needs Advocacy Network (SPaN), **"Why Didn't Somebody Tell Me This? Things Advocates & Families Should Know."** The goal of this workshop is to address questions you may have as a parent, caregiver, or advocate as you navigate the world of special education. Topics will include advocacy tips, unexpected occurrences at team meetings, lessons learned along the way, dos and don'ts of advocacy, and more! The experienced group of presenters include: Noreen Curran, Jennifer Maser, Lisa Nelson, Bill Peever, and Diane Willcutts. Participants will have an opportunity to submit questions beforehand. **Click [HERE](#) to register by October 4th.**



a few more details...

Friday, October 8th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Registration fee:

SPaN members: \$25.00

Non-members: \$40.00

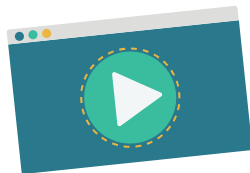
Resources



Boston Medical Center is here to support you during this difficult time. Check out our new resource spreadsheet, which has links to online learning, social stories, music/animal/fitness programs, live online classes and more. See the second tab for free meals and financial services throughout Massachusetts. This spreadsheet is available in multiple languages and will be continuously updated as new resources become available. Know of something to add?

Email us at
autismprogram@bmc.org
 with suggestions.

For past recordings of our webinar series: Caring for Kids with Autism and Developmental Differences, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCifYfJKUuSa8XztUcn-Anw>



Clinic

Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics clinicians are available by phone/Zoom for telehealth visits and consultations. Please call us at 617-414-4841 if you have any questions or are in need of support. To create a free zoom account, visit zoom.us/signup.



Our Clinicians

Marilyn Augustyn, MD
 Naomi Steiner, MD
 Arathi Reddy, DO
 Jodi Santosuosso, NP
 Rachel Amgott, NP
 Christina Lazdowsky, NP
 Mei Elansary, MD
 Alyssa King, PhD
 Christine McGivney, DO
 Jocelyn Kuhn PhD
 Audrey Christiansen, MD
 Sarah Canale, MD
 Britany Weissman, MD

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is brought to you by the Autism Program at Boston Medical Center, a family support program of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. We are committed to supporting any family of DBP during this time, regardless of diagnosis. Please don't hesitate to reach out, and follow us on social media for more tips and information!



BMC.org/autism
Autismprogram@bmc.org



The Autism Program at Boston Medical Center



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