

# DEVELOPMENTAL & BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS NEWSLETTER

BOSTON  
MEDICAL  
CENTER

A monthly newsletter for families of  
Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) at Boston Medical Center

## What's happening?

As we gear up for a new academic year, we want to share the latest reminders about COVID safety. The CDC, "recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status." The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Department of Public Health (DPH) support the recommendation to wear masks indoors, "except students who cannot do so due to medical conditions or behavioral needs. Masks are not necessary outdoors and may be removed while eating indoors." Each district and school has COVID-19 procedures and protocols in place. Additionally, the COVID-19 vaccine is available at no cost for children over 12 years of age. Continue to wash hands, mask up and sanitize as we prepare for a wonderful school year!



### Program Spotlight

This month, we are highlighting **Bryce's Journey**, a nonprofit organization founded by Michelle R. Jenkins, whose son Bryce has Autism Spectrum Disorder. "The Mission of Bryce's Journey, Inc. is to provide free or low-cost support to low-income inner-city families of children with high functioning disabilities."

Bryce's Journey offers social skills opportunities for children with ASD and ADHD, as well as workshops and support groups for parents. All services offered are free or low-cost. To find out more information about how to receive support through this nonprofit organization, find Bryce's Journey on Facebook or check out their website here.



### 100,000 patients vaccinated!

Did you know BMC has provided COVID-19 vaccinations to over one-hundred-thousand patients across the six community vaccination sites? Children and adolescents over age 12 are eligible to receive the vaccine as well, and you can easily sign up for an appointment [HERE](#).



# SPARK CENTER (re)OPENING

The SPARK Center at Boston Medical Center is now (re-)open! SPARK has a long history of providing innovative, comprehensive care to children. SPARK is carrying on this legacy by now embedding several of Boston Medical Center's specialty pediatric services, including Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, within its Mattapan location. Its serene, private, welcoming location is ideal for those whom traveling to the main BMC campus may be difficult or challenging. If you are interested in learning more about our SPARK Center, please consult with your child's clinician.

***Did you know that our Developmental Behavioral clinicians are seeing patients virtually AND in-person at BMC? Please call 617-414-4841 if your child is due for a follow up!***



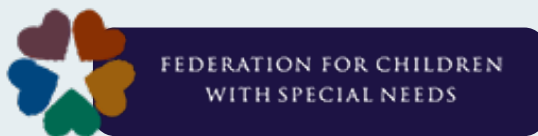
## Back to School... Advocacy



As your child returns to school, you may be thinking about how their special education services should be changed, expanded on, and implemented to address any new concerns or skill regression that you may have seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a great idea to have a conversation with your child's doctor, teacher, and/or individualized education plan (IEP) team chair to discuss goals and service needs. It may also be helpful to have an educational consultant or advocate help you navigate this. Check out the organizations below for additional support!



Parent Helpline:  
(617) 357-8431 ext. 3224  
[www.massadvocates.org/](http://www.massadvocates.org/)



Information Center:  
617 236-7210  
[www.fcsn.org/](http://www.fcsn.org/)



Intake Line:  
617-603-1700  
[www.gbls.org/](http://www.gbls.org/)

## 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](mailto: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 in-person appointments.

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](https://zoom.us/signup).





## Our Clinicians

Marilyn Augustyn, MD  
 Naomi Steiner, MD  
 Arathi Reddy, DO  
 Ana Carolina Sanchez, MD  
 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](https://BMC.org/autism)  
[Autismprogram@bmc.org](mailto:Autismprogram@bmc.org)

 The Autism Program at Boston Medical Center

 @BMCAutismProgram