



In This Issue

[Summer Travel](#) | [Online Activities to Share](#) | [Research Updates](#) |
[For Grandchildren Ages 16 and Older](#) | [eBay Donations](#)

Welcome to our new members!

GAN members are a vital resource for autism...and each other!

The Grandparent Autism Network is an all-volunteer, international nonprofit organization that supports grandparents of children with autism and their families. The rate of autism is rapidly increasing everywhere and we support grandparents who want to make life better for their families and increase autism resources in their communities.

We know that the best recommendations come from our members and we welcome your feedback and suggestions! Please email us at info@ganiinfo.org.

Summer Travel

Air Travel with Grandchildren

TSA PASSENGER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS are available to families who are traveling with people with special needs. Families that are concerned about the check point process or that need special accommodation can ask a TSA officer or supervisor for a Passenger Support Specialist who will provide on-the spot assistance.

A Passenger Support Specialist can be onsite when you need them by calling ahead of time at 1-855-787-2227. The TSA website has a kids' section with a cartoon video to help children understand the screening process at the airport. Check to see if the airport provides opportunities for families to rehearse the flight procedures prior to the traveling. If not, plan a visit there with your grandchild, before your departure, to lower possible anxiety.

For additional travel tips, go here
<http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/children-disabilities>

Car Travel with Grandchildren

Best Apps for Kids has put together [a list of apps](#) that will help keep the children engaged and entertained on long car rides.

Plan Ahead for Summer Trips

If you are planning for your grandchild's vacation visit, look for entertainment options for "special needs children." Children with autism do not like surprises and you can prepare them before they arrive for planned activities.

[Click here for the full article!](#)

Online Activities to Share

KidsKnowIt Network

[KidsKnowIt Network](#) has hundreds of activities, games, books, music, worksheets and more, on many subjects such as math, language arts, history, geology, astronomy, biology, spelling and many more!

Activity Village Online Puzzle Games

[Activity Village's Online Puzzle Games page](#) has lots of online puzzle games for children of all ages. They are great for a calming moment and to encourage the kids to think a little!

Research Updates

2015 International Meeting for Autism Research

The 2015 International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) was held May 13-16, 2015. It is an annual scientific meeting, convened each spring, to exchange and disseminate new scientific progress among ASD scientists and their trainees from around the world. The primary purpose of the conference is to stimulate more scientific progress in understanding autism and to provide an annual venue for researchers to share their findings and their resources. You can read about some of the significant research presented there [here](#).

Extreme Behavior May Be A Sign of Illness

The Interactive Autism Network at Kennedy Krieger Institute recently reported that some children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) may have medical, dental and behavioral problems due to an underlying medical problem that "could be as commonplace as constipation, tooth pain, or an ear infection." They caution that sometimes health care providers, teachers and parents are "too quick to attribute challenging behaviors to autism, when they might be symptoms of something else."

Assuming that behavior changes are caused by autism may actually mask a medical condition and limit a child's access to treatment. You can sign up to receive e-publications on their [website](#).

For Grandchildren Ages 16 and Older

Innovative New PACER Website Offers Important Resources on Transition and Employment for Youth with Disabilities and Their Parents

PACER's [National Parent Center on Transition and Employment](#) has launched its innovative new website to provide important information and resources to support families, youth, educators and employers as they help teens and young adults with disabilities reach their goals in adulthood. This state of the art website offers interactive learning opportunities, an extensive resource library, compelling videos and inspirational success stories, all presented in a parent-friendly way.

eBay Donations

Donate to GAN's eBay Site, [gan_charities!](#)



Grandparents have lots of "stuff" like collectibles, unused gifts and household goods, clothing, vintage jewelry and things in good condition that our families "do not want."

Your "stuff" can benefit other grandparents and families affected by autism. The Grandparent Autism Network welcomes donated goods.

You can drop off tax deductible items at Jay's Catering, 10581 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove, CA - or send them C/O GAN at 23785 El Toro Road, #103, Lake Forest, CA 92630 (USPS flat rate boxes may lower mailing costs!)

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and each other!

[Check out our Site!](#)

