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Don't Miss It!

Sexual Safety Issues for People With ASD's

For those who missed the February 24th workshop, you can now view the presentation through a series of 4 videos. The workshop was presented by Marlene Driscoll, MA, LMFT, who has worked with people impacted by ASDs for over 20 years. Marlene is the Clinical Director at Autism Partnership. She discusses sexual matters that affect individuals with autism and their caregivers. Learn about common areas of difficulty, risk assessment, practices and guidelines related to sexual behavior.



Free Lifetime Pass to National Parks

Did you know that individuals with disabilities are entitled to a pass to our National Park system? An ACCESS PASS is a free, lifetime pass - available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability. It provides access to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by five Federal agencies.

If someone in your family qualifies due to a diagnosed permanent disability, you can go to a [participating location](#) and apply for it in person. Check if you will need a note from a physician or a proof that the individual is receiving SSDI income. You can also submit a completed [application](#), proof of residency, documentation of permanent disability, and a processing fee of \$10 to obtain a pass through the mail but that may take several weeks.

[Click here for more details about the Access Pass.](#)



Community Socials

Chapman Social 2016

The Grandparent Autism Network helped to co-host a Spring Social for Adults with Autism (ages 16 and up) and Their Caregivers at Chapman University on April 3, 2016. Close to 250 guests and volunteers enjoyed a cost-free afternoon filled with entertainment, activities, focus groups for caregivers and fun. During the last hour of every Social, guests meet at tables by interest groups and share contact information with each other. Socials are easy to sponsor in every community and you can learn more and download a [Social Tool Kit](#) from our Family Autism Network website.



[View the full gallery here.](#)

General Resources

How to Find Activities & Social Skills Resources

Most communities have resources for children with special needs. Some city Parks and Recreation Departments, Boys and Girls Clubs and Y's offer classes, outings and other inclusive social opportunities. Sports organizations like Special Olympics and Spirit League provide programs. Check for year-round and summer camp activities offered by churches, synagogues, and community centers.

Special Education departments in local school districts may have information about after school activities. Some Easter Seals and United Cerebral Palsy chapters may sponsor or know about additional resources. Philanthropic organizations, like the Friendship Circle, may also be available in your area. Inquire about and request inclusive programming at local kids' gyms, music and swim programs.

Your grandchild's physician and autism service providers may be also be helpful. Some ABA, speech and occupational therapists provide social skills classes, as well.

Attend autism presentations, training workshops and support group meetings to learn about new resources from other family members in the community. Always ask the people you contact if they know of additional resources. Typically, one referral will lead to another until you are successful in finding the information you need.

You will find additional resources on [Autism Speak's website here.](#)

Many Faces of Autism

A free course is available from the Autism Certification Center that informs you about the characteristics of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and dispels common misconceptions through the experiences and perspectives of individuals on the autism spectrum. You will find valuable insights and information in this 90-minute course. [Find out more.](#)



Technology Resources

Rewordify!

Rewordify is a powerful, free, online software that improves reading, learning, and teaching. This site can:

- Intelligently simplify English for faster comprehension
- Effectively teach words for building a better vocabulary
- Help improve learning outcomes

Rewordify.com's amazing features have helped millions of people read billions of words more easily. The site is free and child-safe. There's no software to install. Try the online demo and the first-time user guide. There is also a browser with hundreds of free books which can all be "Rewordified!"

Research Updates

New Grandmother Research Study

Researchers at Washington University in St. Louis are conducting a cross-

generational study of autistic traits, the "Mothers-and Grandmothers-to-be Study" in collaboration with the Interactive Autism Network at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

Grandmothers and grandmothers-to-be who have a biological child (of any age) with ASD are invited to join the study. The parent of your current or future grandchild(ren) should be a full sibling of your child with ASD.

The data gathered will help to identify which families are at highest risk for ASD being transmitted to the next generation.

Grandmothers are asked to complete Family History and Social Behavior Questionnaires.

Compensation. Grandmothers will receive a \$5 gift code for each survey they complete. Please click on this link when you are ready to start the survey: [MGM-2B Project \(SR1132\)](#) Questions? Please contact ResearchTeam@IANproject.org or 443-923-4140

eBay Donations

Donate to GAN's [Giving Works eBay Store](#)



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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**Networking together,
grandparents are a vital
resource for autism...
and each other!**