

DEVELOPMENTAL
& BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS

NEWSLETTER



The Autism Program

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

What's Happening?

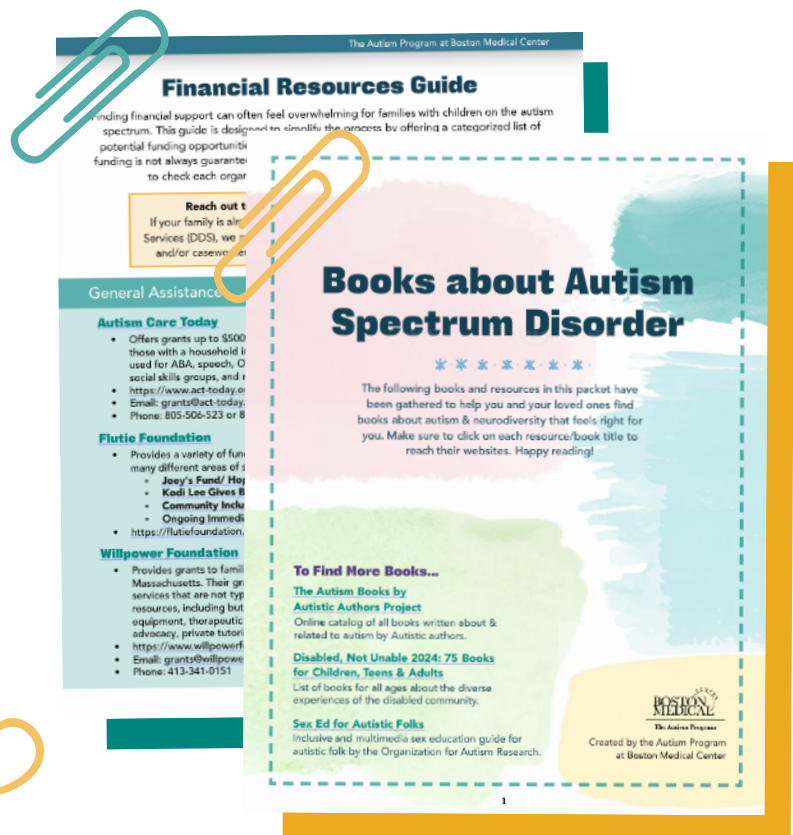
Happy October!

With red and yellow leaves, shorter days (but colder mornings), and perhaps a growing preference to warmer things, it is clear that Fall is now in full swing. October is a special month of ADHD, AAC, Breast Cancer awareness and more, which gives us the opportunity to celebrate and learn about others in our various communities. And last but not least, Halloween also sits at the end of this month, eagerly waiting for all the spooky fun and sweetness. The Autism Program wishes everyone a cozy & happy October!



2 NEW RESOURCES!

The Autism Program has created two new resources for families! The **Financial Resources Guide** goes over 23 funding/scholarship opportunities for autistic individuals and the **Books about ASD Guide** provides 20 book recommendations & resources for where to find more reading. Both guides are now available for families and providers to use freely. Feel free to contact us at autismprogram@bmc.org to request a hard copy!



Upcoming Events

Série de Workshops do Novo Formulário IEP

Introdução ao Novo Formulário de IEP 7 de outubro de 2024 das 18h às 19h30

Revise e compreenda o novo formulário do IEP e entenda por que foram feitas alterações no formulário.



Parent/Professional Advocacy League (PPAL) is hosting a virtual workshop for parents and family members of children with emotional, behavioral, or mental health needs. This training will cover understanding special education laws, how to identify concerns, communication strategies for the school, evaluations related mental health, support plans, accommodations & modifications, transition planning, and more!

Registration is required.

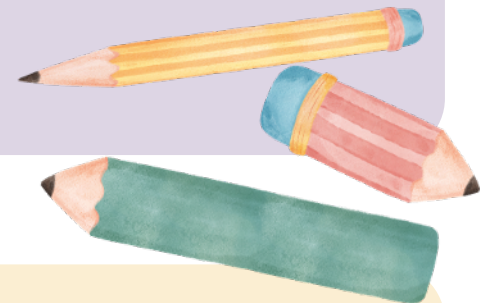
Elaborando Preocupações Eficazes de Alunos/Pais

28 de outubro de 2024, das 18h às 19h30

As Preocupações do Aluno/Pais são uma oportunidade para que suas opiniões sejam incluídas e abordadas no IEP. Os pais e alunos deve redigir cuidadosamente suas preocupações por escrito em preparação para a reunião do IEP. Vamos dar uma olhada em algumas das etapas envolvidas.

The Mental Health IEP: Virtual Workshop

- **When?** Thursday, October 10th
- **What time?** 6 to 8pm
- **Interested?** Click **here** to register in advance and receive the zoom link!



Preparing Your Child with ASD for Medical Procedures: Webinar

- **When?** Wednesday, October 16th
- **What time?** 6:30 to 7:30pm
- **Topics discussed?** Common barriers to medical care, practical strategies to prepare for medical procedures, new Blood Draw Toolkit at the Lurie Center for Autism
- **Interested?** Click **here** to register in advance!

The Lurie Center for Autism invites you to a virtual presentation and discussion on how to prepare your loved one with ASD for medical procedures! Speakers are Jill Pineda, PhD, and Stefanie Barnard, RN, MSN.
Registration is required.

Remember to click the event title for more information & registration!

Upcoming Events

Sensory-friendly Vaccine Clinic

VaxAbilities is hosting a **disability-friendly vaccination clinic in Cambridge!** There will be extra staff to provide skilled support for people with disabilities and/or sensory support needs. Both people with and without disabilities can get vaccinated, including the whole family (ages 5+) or staff that may come supporting someone with a disability! Registration is encouraged, although walk-ins will be welcomed as long as capacity allows.

- **Where?** Cambridge Reservoir Church
- **When?** October 23rd, 3:30 to 6:30pm
- **What vaccines are available?** COVID and Flu vaccines (choice of shot or nasal spray available for Flu vaccines only)
- **Specific support needs?** Fill out **this** survey!



Join Boston Ability center for a webinar designed for parents & caregivers! The Hand in Hand Approach to Parenting provides parents with concrete tools for raising resilient, emotionally intelligent children through playful and meaningful parent-child connections, while simultaneously supporting parents through the challenging work of parenting. This webinar will empower parents and caregivers with strategies to prevent and respond to big emotions. **Registration is required.**

Managing Big Feelings: Parenting Webinar

- **When?** Thursday, October 24th
- **What time?** 7 to 8pm
- **Interested?** Click **here** to register in advance! Please note, there is a \$20 registration fee for this event.



Wings for Autism

Everybody does better with a little practice beforehand. This free event provides children with autism and their families an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the airport setting and its often-times confusing travel procedures. Your child will be able to experience entering the airport, the check-in process, security screening, boarding the plane, preparing for takeoff, exiting the plane, and more! **Registration is required.**

- **Where?** Boston Logan Airport
- **When?** November 2nd

Remember to click the event title for more information & registration!

DDS Autism Waiver Program Open Enrollment



It's that time of year again! The Autism Waiver Program, run by the Autism Division of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), **is open for application only between October 18th and November 1st**. If selected, this program can provide **"Expanded Habilitation", Education** (intensive in-home therapy services and supports) services, as well as with **other related support** for your family. This can include **community activities, family training, and respite**. This program will be able to provide services for **up to three years**.

Who Can Apply?

- Child must have a **confirmed Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis**
- Child is **between ages 0-9** and has not reached their 10th birthday
- Child is a **resident of Massachusetts**
- Child meets the level of care required for services in an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with an Intellectual Disability as assessed by DDS
- The child must be found by the MassHealth agency to be **eligible for MassHealth Standard coverage** (based on family income). **For families who have not yet applied for MassHealth, this must be done at the time of the filing of the Waiver Program Request Form*
- Child has a **Social Security Number**
- The family chooses to have the child receive services in the home & community and the child must be able to be safely served in the community
- The child must have a legally responsible representative able to direct the services and supports of the Waiver

How Can I Apply?

1. Print out the application and fill it out. Applications are available in 13 languages, including *English, Arabic, Brazilian & European Portuguese, Cape Verdean & Haitian Creole, French, Nepali, Somali, Spanish, Traditional Chinese, Turkish, and Vietnamese*. **Scan the QR code to the right** to find applications in all languages (scroll to "Open Request Application")!



Program Website

2. Between October 18th and November 1st, submit the completed application by mail or e-mail. The Autism Division will discard submissions outside of this time frame!

- **Mail to: Department of Developmental Services
Autism Division
Attn: Children's Autism Waiver Program Open Request
1000 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02118**
- **E-mail to: AutismDivision@state.ma.us**

Need any help filling out the application? Reach out to your local Autism Support Center!



DDS Autism Waiver Open Enrollment



Additional Information



English



Arabic



Brazilian Portuguese



Cape Verdean Creole



Haitian Creole



Spanish



Traditional Chinese



Vietnamese

Applications



English



Arabic



Brazilian Portuguese



Cape Verdean Creole



Haitian Creole



Spanish



Traditional Chinese



Vietnamese

Resources



The Autism Program is continuing to support families in many ways both inside and outside of Boston Medical Center. Check out our website to learn more about the services, supports and programs we offer including our Autism Friendly Hospital Initiative, Teens Engaged as Mentors (TEAM) program, and our training offerings. We also have a huge resource library where you can access free information on a variety of topics such as safety, behavioral support, transition to adulthood, insurance and more!

<https://www.bmc.org/pediatrics-autism-program>

Do you have an idea for a future newsletter? Email us at.

autismprogram@bmc.org

with suggestions.

Clinic

Our clinicians are available for developmental evaluations, assessments and follow up. To connect with the clinical team, please call 617-414-4841 and follow the prompts for Developmental Pediatrics.

Our Clinicians

Marilyn Augustyn, MD

Arathi Reddy, DO

Rachel Amgott, NP

Christina Lazdowsky, NP

Mei Elansary, MD

Audrey Christiansen, MD

Sarah Canale, MD

Mary Ellen Killion, NP

Arielle Spellun, MD

Bridget Poznanski, PhD

Rachel Vuolo, MD

Selcen YarogluKazanci, 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! **To unsubscribe, please reply by email with the word "stop!"**



[BMC.org/autism](https://www.bmc.org/autism)
Autismprogram@bmc.org



The Autism Program at Boston Medical Center



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