



# Connections

*for families touched by special needs*

## The Power of More Than One *by Korri Ward, Parent Consultant*

The power of more than one. Many parents and community leaders in Nevada have come together to improve the services for children with autism. The Autism Coalition of Nevada along with the Nevada Autism Task Force identified critical needs of people with autism living in Nevada.

They identified that 47% of children who receive Applied Behavior Analysis go on to lead Normal lives, yet health insurance does not cover this treatment. Evidenced-based ABA requires 30 to 40 hours a week of intensive intervention. Most families cannot afford this, so many children are left untreated or undertreated.



The insurance company's stand does not make sense, insurance pays for the treatment of other neurological conditions, like cerebral palsy. When children with cerebral palsy receive treatment their symptoms lessen

and their independence increases.

The same is true for individuals with autism, yet insurance companies deny paying for their treatment. There are four bills in Nevada's Legislature this session to improve the quality of service to people with autism and to facilitate access to evidenced based treatment:

- AB 162 will end the healthcare insurance discrimination for Nevadans with Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- AB 222 and SB 171 continue funding evidenced-based treatments through the Autism Self
- Directed program for children 18 months to 18 years old.
- BDR 1024 ensures that school district teachers and paraprofessionals working with children with autism receive appropriate preparation and training.

To find out more about autism in Nevada check out [www.aconv.org](http://www.aconv.org).

## Talk About Curing Autism *by Laurie Doran, Parent Consultant*

Talk About Curing Autism (TACA) provides information, resources, and support to families affected by autism. For families who have just received the autism diagnosis, TACA aims to speed up the cycle time from the autism diagnosis and receiving early intervention.

TACA helps to strengthen the autism community by connecting families and the professionals who can help them, allowing them

help people with autism be the best they can be.

TACA holds monthly meetings in many locations throughout the United States that feature educational speakers on important topics and allow family members to connect with one another and stay on top of the latest information in the autism world.

The Las Vegas TACA chapter meets the last Saturday of each month, from 2 to 4 p.m., at

the Nevada Energy Building, to share stories and information to Wengert Room, 6626 W. Sahara Avenue.

The Wengert Room is located inside the curved wall at the rear of the building. Parking is available at the rear of the building. Childcare is not available.



[www.tacanow.org](http://www.tacanow.org)

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# Ways to Connect

## Northern Nevada Region

## Southern Nevada Region



1st Wednesday of each month, 6-7pm  
**Epilepsy Support Group**

Renown South Meadows  
10085 Double R Blvd. Suite 325  
Reno, NV 89521  
**Contact:** Lisa Jonkey, BSN, RN  
775-982-7354  
[www.epilepsyfoundation.org](http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org)

2nd Thursday of each month, 7-8pm  
**The Head Injury Association of Northern Nevada Support Group**  
**Contact:** Joe Evans, President  
775-233-8528

April 11, 2009  
**Angel Kiss Foundation**  
**Reno Bighorns Night**  
775 323-7721 or  
775-284-2622  
[jsimpson@nbareno.com](mailto:jsimpson@nbareno.com)  
[www.angelkissfoundation.org/](http://www.angelkissfoundation.org/)



**Keaton Ralph Memorial Support Group Information and Annual all in for Childhood Cancer Keaton Rafael Memorial**  
For children with cancer and their families.  
**Contact:** Lizzie (327- 6275) or Julie (323-7721)  
[Reno@ChildCancer.org](mailto:Reno@ChildCancer.org)  
[www.childcancer.org](http://www.childcancer.org)

**Asperger's Support Group**  
**Contact:** Becky at 775-626-7762  
[virginia@wampi.org](mailto:virginia@wampi.org)  
[www.wampi.org/asgonn](http://www.wampi.org/asgonn)



**Special Needs Night**  
775-856-3226  
[www.jumpmanjump.com](http://www.jumpmanjump.com)

April 19  
4:00-6:00pm  
**CP Parent Network**  
**Call for location:** 775-832-6890  
[cparentnetwork@hotmail.com](mailto:cparentnetwork@hotmail.com)



April 5-7, 2009  
**"Living Our Own Dreams"  
People First of Nevada Self-Advocacy Conference**

Joe Crowley Student Union, UNR  
Melissa Westphal, Coordinator  
775-682-9053  
[Westphal@unr.edu](mailto:Westphal@unr.edu)  
[www.peoplefirstofnevada.org](http://www.peoplefirstofnevada.org)

**R.A.I.N. Reno Autism Information Network**  
775-324-5085  
[www.rainweb.org](http://www.rainweb.org)

April 25, 2009  
**March of Dimes  
March for Babies**  
7:30am  
Sparks Marina  
Victoria Crockett, Director  
[Vcrockett@marchofdimes.com](mailto:Vcrockett@marchofdimes.com)  
[www.marchofdimes.com/nevada](http://www.marchofdimes.com/nevada)

April 22, 2009  
**Crisis Lines Volunteer Training**  
Crisis Call Center  
**Contact:** Allison Edwards,  
775-784-8085  
[AllisonE@crisiscallcenter.org](mailto:AllisonE@crisiscallcenter.org)  
[www.crisiscallcenter.org](http://www.crisiscallcenter.org)

**City of Reno Parks and Recreation Programs for Individuals with Disabilities**  
[mcintyrea@cityofreno.com](mailto:mcintyrea@cityofreno.com)  
775-334-2262



Support for families grieving from personal loss.  
775-324-7723  
[info@solacetree.org](mailto:info@solacetree.org)

**Hidden Miracles Support Group  
Milagros Escondidos**  
Hispanic Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs  
Grupo Hispano para Padres de Niños con Necesidades Especiales  
1161 S Valley View  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
Norma Gomez 702-286-2838  
Sylvia Thomas 702-486-9824  
[milagrosescondidos@yahoo.com](mailto:milagrosescondidos@yahoo.com)



IEP Clinics  
Family Support Groups  
Is Your Child a Target of Bullying?  
Transition Trainings You Can Do It!  
Starting Early to Prepare for College  
Solving the Employment Puzzle  
Preparation for Post-High School Employment  
Rural Supports

**Nevada PEP**  
Statewide: 800-216-5188  
[pepinfo@nvpep.org](mailto:pepinfo@nvpep.org)  
[www.nvpep.org](http://www.nvpep.org)

April 29, 2009  
**Depression Bipolar Support Alliance of Southern Nevada**

"Automatic Negative Thoughts and How To Deal With Them".



A talk given by clinical psychologist Barbara Parry.  
3941 Copperhead Hills St.  
Las Vegas, NV 89129  
Office: 702-818-5634  
Cell : 702-234-9068  
Fax : 702-818-5834  
[www.dbsalliance.org](http://www.dbsalliance.org)

**Positive Supports for Children**  
Specific intervention to promote social, emotional and behavioral functioning.  
**Contact:** Christy Buckingham-Martin 702-367-0306  
[psforchildren@lvcoxmail.com](mailto:psforchildren@lvcoxmail.com)

**For more Ways to Connect go to:**  
[www.familytiesnv.org/calendar](http://www.familytiesnv.org/calendar)



#### Main Office

3100 Mill Street, Suite #117  
Reno, NV 89502

**Local phone:** 775-823-9500

**Fax:** 775-323-2205

#### Satellite Office

6830 W. Oquendo Road,  
Suite #100

Las Vegas, NV 89118

**Local phone:** 702-740-4200

**Fax:** 702-385-4586

**Toll-Free:** 866-326-8437

**Email:** [info@familytiesnv.org](mailto:info@familytiesnv.org)

**Web:** [www.familytiesnv.org](http://www.familytiesnv.org)

**Staff:** [www.familytiesnv.org/aboutus/staff](http://www.familytiesnv.org/aboutus/staff)

## BOOK CORNER

### Autism 24/7: A Family Guide to Learning at Home and in the Community

By *Andy Bondy, Ph.D.* & *Lori Frost, M.S., CCC/SLP*

In a reassuring, easy-to-read style, *Autism 24/7* encourages parents to pinpoint times when their child's behavior or lack of skills seems to interfere with family functioning. This step helps identify what to teach your child and what goals to set. Other issues related to "What to Teach" include:

- Motivational Strategies and Powerful Reinforcements: Using naturally occurring rewards and token systems
- Teaching Functional Communication Skills: The difference between imitation, responding, and initiating communication, as well as how to resolve different types of communication challenges
- Creating Opportunities for Learning: Determining the steps to teach a particular skill and a routine where you can incorporate teaching the desired skill

Details at

[www.woodbinehouse.com/main.asp\\_Q\\_product\\_id\\_E\\_978-1-890627-53-9\\_A.asp](http://www.woodbinehouse.com/main.asp_Q_product_id_E_978-1-890627-53-9_A.asp)

