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**NEWS**

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## What is Neurodiversity?

Neurodiversity is a term (and a movement) predicated on the idea that autism and other developmental or learning conditions are differences to be embraced rather than diseases to be cured. The neurodiversity movement primarily centers around autism but encompasses other conditions as well. It is not without controversy, because families on the severe end of the spectrum often struggle for support and treatment, and worry that a non-medical model could discourage both therapeutics and research on the underlying genetics of the condition.

Neurodiversity is the idea that variation in brain function exists across the population. Differences such as autism and ADHD have existed throughout human history and are not due to faulty neural circuitry. Rather than viewing them as such, neurodiversity embraces autism as a different way of thinking and behaving.

### What are the benefits of thinking differently?

Differences in thinking have helped humanity progress in science and art throughout history. When everyone thinks about a problem the same way, someone with autism might approach it differently and identify the solution.

The fixation with patterns, systems, and routine characteristic of autism can be valuable in the workplace. People with high functioning autism may be excellent in positions of software testing or quality control, for example.

### Why is neurodiversity controversial?

Tension exists in the autism community around neurodiversity, propelled by the diverse nature of autism itself. Proponents of neurodiversity, often high functioning adults with autism, argue that individuals with autism should be embraced for who they are. Treating the condition as a disease, and training children to suppress their authentic selves, is wrong and dehumanizing.

For more information check out: <https://bit.ly/ISDDdiversity> From Neurodiversity and the Benefits of Autism, Reviewed by Psychology Today Staff



# Spring Break Ideas

Free First Saturday at Dunwoody  
Nature Center  
Dunwoody- FREE  
Saturday, April 5, 2025

Spring to Life Family Festival at  
Oakland Cemetery  
Downtown- FREE  
Saturday, April 5, 2025

Spring Festival on Ponce  
Midtown- FREE  
April 5 & 6, 2025

Ben & Jerry's Free Cone Day  
Inman Park & Dunwoody- FREE  
Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Atlanta Dogwood Festival  
Midtown- FREE  
April 11-13, 2025

UPS Second Sunday at the High  
Midtown- FREE  
Sunday, April 13, 2025



For more information:  
<https://bit.ly/PGSpring2025>

## 123 Magic In Home



Dr. Thomas W. Phelan, a clinical psychologist with decades of experience, breaks the complex job of parenting down into 3 simple steps. 1-2-3 Magic focuses on calm, non-verbal communication and signaling to help your child regulate their emotions and respond more appropriately to the situation. It is appropriate to use with kids ages two to twelve, applies to neurotypical kids as well as kids with ADHD, learning disabilities, and other challenges. **Complete the course and receive a \$100 gift card.**

**4- two hour in-home sessions**  
**Schedule with your case manager**

## Peer Leadership Committee

Are you interested in helping your peers along their journey as a Kinship family? Do you have resources you would like to share? Are you great at planning and helping others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please consider joining our Peer Leadership Committee. For more information, contact Thindiwia Bellamy (470) 310-3452

# Client of the Month- Brenda Pitts

Each month we select a Project GRANDD caregiver to highlight so we can get to know each other.

At 64, Ms. Brenda Pitts has embraced the role of caregiver with strength and love, raising her three grandchildren—11-year-old Kasey, 4-year-old Kimora, and 2-year-old Kylie. Whether it's watching them jump on the trampoline, taking bike rides, or cooling off at the water park on a warm day, she finds joy in seeing them laugh and play. A passionate cook, Ms. Pitts is known for her delicious seafood dishes, especially her famous crab salad. When she's not in the kitchen, you'll find her tuning into Gordon Ramsay's cooking shows. A member of Project GRANDD for the past five years, Ms. Pitts understands the challenges and rewards of raising relative children. Her advice to fellow caregivers? "Stay true to yourself and the kids. Listen to them, be honest, and real. When times get tough and you feel overwhelmed, take a deep breath, step back for a moment, and remind yourself—you CAN do this."



## SUPPORT GROUPS

A light dinner will be served from 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm during family meetings.

<b>AM Virtual Adult Support</b> <b>10 AM-12 PM</b>	<b>4/1- School Discipline &amp; Advocating for Your Children</b> Guest: Tanesse Brown, Program Mgr.- GA Appleseed <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/ISDDadult">https://bit.ly/ISDDadult</a> Phone: 256-581-5048, PIN: 611 544 546#	<i>Google Meet:</i> <a href="https://bit.ly/ISDDadult">https://bit.ly/ISDDadult</a> Phone: 256-581-5048 PIN: 611 544 546#
<b>DeKalb AM Adult Support</b> <b>10:30 AM- 12:30 PM</b>	<b>4/8- Heart Health</b> Guest: Emma Feinberg-Oak Street Health <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/DeKalbAM">https://bit.ly/DeKalbAM</a> or 470-310-3458	<i>ISDD Office:</i> 2302 Parklake Dr. Ste. 175 Atlanta <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/DeKalbAM">https://bit.ly/DeKalbAM</a> or 470-310-3458
<b>PM Virtual Adult Support</b> <b>6 PM-8 PM</b>	<b>4/17- Financial Literacy</b> Guest: Orvetta Moore-Primerica <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/ISDDadult">https://bit.ly/ISDDadult</a> Phone: 256-581-5048, PIN: 611 544 546#	<i>Google Meet:</i> <a href="https://bit.ly/ISDDadult">https://bit.ly/ISDDadult</a> Phone: 256-581-5048 PIN: 611 544 546#
<b>Fulton PM Family Support</b> <b>6 PM-8 PM</b>	<b>4/15- Support &amp; Sharing</b> Guest: N/A <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/FultonPM">https://bit.ly/FultonPM</a> or 470-310-3458	<i>Fulton Public Library:</i> 1332 Metropolitan Parkway, Atlanta <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/FultonPM">https://bit.ly/FultonPM</a> or 470-310-3458
<b>Rockdale AM Adult Support</b> <b>9AM-11AM</b>	<b>4/21-Support &amp; Sharing</b> Guest: N/A <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/PGRockdale">https://bit.ly/PGRockdale</a> or 470-310-3458	<i>Olivia Haydel Senior Center:</i> 1240 Dogwood Drive <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/PGRockdale">https://bit.ly/PGRockdale</a> or 470-310-3458



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