

In this issue: >>>

Autism Acceptance Month

Parenting the 2nd Time

ACT Class

Medicaid Redetermination

Client of the Month

Support Group Schedule



(Grandparents Raising And Nurturing Dependents with Disabilities)

A program of:



NEWS

April 2023

Volume 18 Issue 4

Autism Acceptance Month

The first step to accepting Autism and people with Autism is understanding what Autism really is. Right now, there's a lot of stigma surrounding it. Autism is a neurological variation that effects between one and two percent of the population, and while each person with Autism is a unique individual, there are some common characteristics:

- Sensory processing variations like light sensitivity, or hearing sounds or feeling textures differently
- "Atypical" repetitive movement, also called "stimming" like hand flapping, vocalizing, or jumping (basically a form of fidgeting, not unlike tapping your toe or drumming a pencil)
- Difficulties with communication from more extreme cases of being non-verbal to more mild difficulties with nuance, idioms, and expressing feelings
- Differences in social interaction, such as delays to social stimulus, avoiding groups, or preferring "parallel interaction" like side-by-side play or watching a movie with someone.

It's important to note that Autism Spectrum Disorder is just that – a "spectrum" – every person experiences it differently and it presents in a multitude of ways. One of the most important ways to show Autism Acceptance is to be present and welcoming to people with Autism people and their families

Showing Acceptance

- Treat people with Autism with kindness and respect – remember, just because they may not speak doesn't mean they don't understand.
- Assume ability and intelligence when you're speaking with a person with Autism
- Make the first move – if you see a family at church, a school event, or a birthday party sitting by themselves (especially if they are new), ask to join them and make them feel welcome.
- Encourage friendship and set up play dates if a child is in the same grade as yours, or invite them to your child's birthday party (reach out to the parents specifically for any special arrangements to provide a safe, enjoyable experience)
- If a person appears to be having a difficult time or a meltdown, ask if you can help in some way (for example, if a parent is trying to help their child leave an uncomfortable situation, they may need help carrying belongings). For more information check out:

<https://bit.ly/ASD4isdd>



Why Grandparents Become Parents Again

Millions of older Americans are being forced by circumstance to raise their grandchildren. U.S. census data shows that 7.1 million American grandparents are living with their grandchildren under 18. Some 2.3 million of those grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren. About a third of grandchildren living with grandparents who are responsible for them are younger than 6. About half of the grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren are 60 and over, according to census data.

We see spikes whenever there is a crisis. Parental substance abuse. incarceration

and death of a parent are among the many reasons grandparents take in their grandkids. Two crises in particular have forced a spike in recent years. COVID is one. The other is the opioid epidemic.

Since most grandparents do not plan for child caregiving, financial stress often arises. According to Generations United, about 18 percent of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren live in poverty. A quarter of those grandparents have disabilities.

For full article check out:

<https://bit.ly/grandparentparent>

ACT Parenting Class

ACT Raising Safe Kids is an evidence-based curriculum from the American Psychological Association designed to provide caregivers of children 0 – 10 years old with a toolbox of skills to effectively deal with difficult behaviors and form strong, healthy, loving attachments with your relative children. In nine weekly, two-hour fun and interactive classes, you'll learn what children can do and understand at different ages, effective methods of discipline, how to resolve conflicts in positive ways and how to

reduce the influence of electronic media. Classes are held virtually on Thursdays from 10AM-12PM beginning April 20, 2023. The course is free, but pre-registration is **REQUIRED** so that we can mail the class materials to you. Deadline for registration is April 11th and classes begin April 20th. Register here: <https://bit.ly/ACTApr2023> or call our Program Assistant Shantell Thomas at 470-310-3458. \$100 grocery gift card will be awarded to those who attend all nine sessions (cannot have previously completed the course).

Hey.
Medicaid
redetermination
is coming soon.



On April 1, 2023, the state of Georgia will be verifying eligibility for all Medicaid or PeachCare for kids members. Update your contact information in GATEWAY or call [1-877-GA-DHS-GO](tel:1-877-GA-DHS-GO) (1-877-423-4746).

Client of the Month- Margaret Thompson

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

Ms. Thompson is a 73-year-old amazing great-grandmother raising her 6 great-grandchildren. She is our client of the month because she goes above and beyond to ensure her great-grandchildren are very well taken care of. She is a strong advocate for all of them to make sure they have access to all they need for their health, education, and community activities. Ms. Thompson is always very appreciative of the support she receives from her community. She enjoys letting her great-grandchildren be in the kitchen with her to assist with cooking. She tries to be present by attending activities they participate in. She is a very strong woman of faith. Her advice for others is “let Jesus be in control of your life, don’t take things for granted, and be patient”.



Favorite Quote: “Let Jesus stay first in your life”

SUPPORT GROUPS

Virtual Adult Support 10AM-12PM	4/4- Topic: Autism: Diagnosis, Signs and Symptoms Guest: Dr. Melissa Howard with JAMS Community Services	Google Meet: https://bit.ly/ISDDAdult Phone: 414-600-9528 PIN: 888 104 633#
DeKalb AM Adult Support 10:30 AM- 12:30PM	4/11- Support and Sharing RSVP: https://bit.ly/DeKalbAM or 470-310-3458	DeKalb County Library System: Covington Highway Branch RSVP: https://bit.ly/DeKalbAM Or 470-310-3458
Gwinnett AM Adult Support 11 AM-1PM (2 nd Wednesday)	4/12- Support and Sharing RSVP: https://bit.ly/GwinnettAM or 470-310-3458	Gwinnett Public Library System- Norcross Branch RSVP: https://bit.ly/GwinnettAM or 470-310-3458
Fulton PM Family Support 6PM-8PM	4/18- Support and Sharing RSVP: https://bit.ly/FultonPM or 470-310-3458 <i>A light dinner will be served 6:00pm – 6:30 pm</i>	Fulton Public Library System- Metropolitan Branch RSVP: 470-310-3458 or https://bit.ly/FultonPM
Fulton AM Adult Support 10:30 AM-12:30PM	4/25- Support and Sharing RSVP: https://bit.ly/FultonAM or 470-310-3458	Fulton Public Library System- Mechanicsville Branch RSVP: https://bit.ly/FultonAM or 470-310-3458



Funded in Part By:



Thompson Fund & Dyer Family
Fund of the Community
Foundation for Greater Atlanta



Murphy Family Foundation



Waterfall Foundation



Contact us:	<i>Rainie B. Jueschke, CFRE</i>	Executive Director	404-551-5258	rainiej@isdd-home.org
	<i>Thindiwia Meredith</i>	Program Director	470-310-3452	mereditht@isdd-home.org
	<i>Shantell Thomas</i>	Program Assistant	470-310-3458	shantellt@isdd-home.org
	<i>Sherri Feliccia</i>	Lead Case Manager	470-310-3459	sherrif@isdd-home.org
	<i>Laquena Craig</i>	Case Manager	470-798-3025	laquenac@isdd-home.org
	<i>Katrena James</i>	Case Manager	470-481-0121	katrenaj@isdd-home.org
	<i>Brittney Ferguson</i>	Case Manager	404-474-8645	brittneyf@isdd-home.org

Visit us on the Web: www.isdd-home.org

Like and Follow Us on Facebook: Projectgrandd and Isddhome

