

Tulsa Public Schools
Division of Teaching and Learning
Department of Special Education and Student Services

To: Principals

From: C.C. Canfield, Coordinator of Speech-Language Pathologists

Through: Taylor L. Young, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services

Date: September 29, 2006

Re: Autism Spectrum Disorders Activities

The Department of Special Education and Student Services is sponsoring a variety of activities to support families, regular education teachers, and special education teachers regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders.

We offer a free monthly parent support group for parents with children with Asperger's Syndrome. The support group meets on the **first Thursday of each month at Kendall-Whittier elementary school from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** There are separate classes for elementary students and secondary students with Asperger's Syndrome to work on social skills, while parents are able to learn more about their child's disability and various techniques to help them grow and develop socially. This is open to all community families with students with Asperger's Syndrome. There is child care available for **typically developing siblings**.

On the **second Thursday of each month from 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**, the Department of Special Education and Student Services is offering an informational meeting addressing challenging behaviors and social skill development trainings for regular and special education teachers. These classes are called "Autism 101" and are held at Fulton Learning Academy. These informational meetings are designed to help teachers address difficult behaviors in the classroom setting.

Dr. Jed Baker will be presenting a workshop on October 10th at Fulton Learning Academy from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The topic to be discussed is "*Social Skills Training and Positive Behavioral Supports for Students with Autism, Asperger's and other Social-Communication Problems*". Jed Baker, Ph.D., is the director of the Social Skills Training Project, a private organization serving individuals with autism and social communication problems. He is a behavioral consultant for several New Jersey School systems, and directs the social skills training programs for Millburn Public Schools. He is on the professional advisory board of ASPEN (an information network for parents of children with Asperger's Syndrome). In addition, he writes, lectures, and provides training internationally on the topic of social skills training for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. He has written numerous articles and published both a best selling manual and social skill picture book on social skills training for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Two additional books have been released on social skills training for the transition from high school to adult life.

If you would like more information about upcoming monthly speakers or one of the support groups addressing autism and Asperger's Syndrome, please call me at 746-6191 or e-mail me and I would be happy to share information.