

Autism....a part of our world, not a world apart

AUTISM BC

August 2000

• Volume 8

• Issue 4

At the Cross Roads

SPECIAL EDUCATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

For many observers, the year 2000 can be seen as a crossroads for Special Education in British Columbia as increasingly savage cuts in funding threaten the future of inclusive education. Parents are frustrated that the commitment to inclusion in the regular classroom for children with special needs often stops short of actual education – the physical presence of children with special needs in the classroom is seen as the goal, rather than the beginning of the process. ASBC's Acting Executive Director, Deborah Pugh, does a round-up of developments on the Special Education front in B.C.

Let's begin on a positive note. Teaching Students with Autism - A Resource Guide for Schools, a publication of the Ministry of Education - Special Programs Branch, is a wonderful contribution to the successful inclusion and education of children with autism spectrum disorders. During this first September of the new millennium, this guide should be considered the bible for any classroom team welcoming a child with an autism/PDD or Asperger Syndrome.

It contains excellent material on positive behaviour supports; roles and responsibilities of education professionals and parents; teaching techniques, including discrete trials; Social Stories; visual scheduling; task analysis; transition planning and Asperger Syndrome. One little known education resource mentioned is the Provincial Resource Program for Students with Autism which provides consultants to school teams across the province. (It should be emphasized that this is not a crisis service as too many school teams are either unaware of the PRP program or think that bringing these consultants in is an admission of crisis/failure.) Especially useful is the appendix to the guide which gives several examples of excellent Individual Education Plan formats with the stress on the specific responsibilities of team members for their implementation.

Also just published is A Review of Special Education in British Columbia, co-authored by Dr. Linda Siegel of UBC and Stewart Ladyman, Superintendent, Field Liason, Ministry of Education. This is the long awaited analysis of the strengths and deficits of BC's Special Education System. From the perspective of families who have children on the Autism Spectrum this review was better than expected, however, expectations were not very high! In truth, there are many excellent recommendations in this review but in essence it reflects a general unwillingness to take on the inequities in the power relationships that bedevil the education system.

An interesting 'heads-up' that the review does deliver to employers and unions including the BCTF and CUPE is recommendation #13:

"The Minister of Education should ask employer and employee organizations to identify clauses in existing collective agreements that might adversely affect students

Inside this Issue

ASBC News	3
Library	4
Info Sharing	5
Community Groups	6
Speak Out	7
Conferences & Meetings	8

The Autism BC Newsletter is published six times a year by the Autism Society of British Columbia

- continued on page 2

BOARD EXECUTIVE

Darleen Abbott : *President*
Susan Wieczorek : *Vice-President*
Doug Querns : *Treasurer*
Debra Milliken: *Secretary*

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Darleen Abbott	Dr. Jill Calder
Hugo Chan	Brian Davies
Jo DiTommaso	Shirley Ilic
Leah LaFlam	Deborah Milliken
Guy Murphy	Ann Nikon
Doug Querns	Susan Wieczorek
Lynn Woodworth	

STAFF

Accountant: Ted Kawamoto
Admin Assistant: Kelly Munro
Branch Coordinators:
Heather Borland & Karen Hovestad
Director of Development: Bonnie Harvey
Interim Executive Director: Deborah Pugh
Information Resource Worker: Vangi Wall
Librarian: Ana Wagner
Program Director: Deborah Pugh
Resource Workers:
Lee Ann Knight, Clair Schuman, Lori Wall
Steven Chung
Volunteer Coordinator: Sweetie Sanghera

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Susan Blockberger	Ron Blouin
Dr. Glen Davies	Sue Formosa
Jeff Groberman	Dr. Roberta Heaven
Jane Holland	Dr. Doug Lee
Arthur Lipetz	Dr. Paul Malette
Margot St.Onge	Dr. Pat Mirenda
Vi Woods	

Autism Society of BC
200-3550 Kingsway
Vancouver BC V5R 5L7
Phone: (604) 434-0880
Fax: (604) 434-0801
Toll-free: 1-888-437-0880
e-mail: autismbc@istar.ca
web site: <http://www.bbr.ca/autism>

Second Class Mail
Registration No. 8501
Postage Paid at
Vancouver, BC
Return Postage Guaranteed
ISSN# 1197-4524

Articles, opinions and events in this newsletter do not necessarily imply endorsement by the Autism Society of BC but are printed for information only.



Printed on environmentally friendly vegetable-based ink & recyclable paper containing 20% post-consumer waste

Education at a cross roads (cont from p.1)

with special needs or contravene the rights of such students under the School Act, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, or provincial human rights legislation, and to undertake steps to eliminate such clauses from future agreements.”

From a parental perspective, it would be a positive step to see it made clear by the Minister of Education that the rights of children to an appropriate education comes before the employment priorities of adults.

Part of the reason that parents feel that schools do not put the interests of children first is the difficulty of appealing a decision by a school board employee, beyond the level of the Board of Trustees that governs each school district. As the employers of school district personnel, it is a conflict of interest to expect school trustees to police themselves. Indeed, in several school districts, despite policy to the contrary, parents of children with special needs find it almost impossible even to have a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools. In these instances, there appears to be a belief that parents have no right to go beyond the principal responsible for special education.

In many of the briefs presented to the co-authors of the Review, including those by the Autism Society, the British Columbia Association for Community Living, and the Coalition for Special Education, there were concerns expressed at the inadequacies of the current appeals process. An independent body to review complaints against school boards, along the lines of the Police Complaint Commission, was suggested in order to set up a province wide set of standards. These suggestions were totally ignored by the review which recommended instead that “The Ministry of Education should make available on the ministry web site its guide to ensuring procedural fairness in appeals arising under Section 11 of the School Act.”

Resource workers at ASBC have often noted that it is families with the fewest resources who are most likely to have their children inappropriately served by the education system - is it reasonable to expect that they will be better served by putting the inadequate appeals procedure on the Web?

Parents have always driven change in the implementation of Special Education Policy, since we fought the exclusion and segregation of our children. Giving families a proper forum for their concerns would be a step forward, otherwise families will be driven to other venues to have their concerns addressed. These include the Human Rights Commission, the Ombudsman, the law courts, the media and the Supreme Court of Canada. None of these has been specifically designed to address education concerns. Yet all of them increasingly are being considered by parents who can achieve no satisfactory protection of their child's right to an appropriate education through the current appeals process.

In recognition that individual parents are finding it very difficult to address the systemic barriers for children with special needs within the B.C. education system, the Coalition for Special Education is requesting that parents who have concerns about their children being denied an appropriate education contact any of the organizations represented within the Coalition with their concerns. The Coalition is considering bringing well documented examples of discrimination against children with special needs to the Human Rights Commission. For more information, contact Clair Schuman at ASBC on our toll free number: 1-888-437-0880.

Both the Special Education Review and Teaching Students with Autism are available on the Ministry of Education Web site (www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed) and through the ASBC library.

From our mailbag:

Dear Editor:

While there is no known cure for autism, we all live with the hope that a cure will be found. However, we do know that the effects of autism can be substantially mitigated through early intervention.

Early intervention is the key to providing children with autism and their families with a better quality of life. Yet, throughout British Columbia waitlists continue to grow at an alarming rate and inadequate resources prevent families with autistic children from providing timely care.

We've watched as the provincial government spent almost \$500 million on fast ferries that don't work; \$73 million on plans for a convention centre in Vancouver that will never be built, \$700 million on subsidies for business. Those are badly misplaced priorities.

Families with special needs children do not have unreasonable expectations, in most cases they simply want support to look after their own child. Some families who currently receive assistance simply want the option to direct these dollars towards Lovaas therapy and other behavioural interventions for their child, yet the Province of British Columbia refuses to allow that option. Parents have a right to make that choice.

Families and children of autism deserve every opportunity to enjoy the best possible quality of life. It is time for all elected officials to place children at the top of the priority list, provide for early intervention, and let parents make their own decisions about appropriate care for their autistic children.

Sincerely,

GORDON CAMPBELL, MLA
Leader of the Official Opposition

Development Update

Director of Development

Please welcome Bonnie Harvey as our new Director of Development. She has worked for non-profit associations and corporate environments, where her main focus has been on internal communication, promotional and public relation strategies, for implementing fundraising and awareness programs. Please feel free to call Bonnie anytime at the office to discuss your fundraising or awareness ideas.

Volunteer Coordinator

Please welcome Sweetie Sanghera as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Sweetie has recently joined us from the Leukemia Research Fund of Canada and will be contacting everyone currently registered with our society for the Buddy Volunteer. If you haven't heard from our office regarding your buddy application, or if anyone is interested in being a buddy volunteer, please contact Sweetie at our office.

Summer Reimbursement Program

We have a record number of applicants for the summer program this year, totaling 132 applications. Due to the popularity of the program this year, we've reduced the amount that each applicant will receive and letters have been sent notifying applicants that they are eligible for reimbursement up to \$200. Please remember to send in your original receipts by September 15, 2000 to claim your reimbursement.

United Way Designated Donations

Although we are not a member agency of the United Way, it is possible for you to make a donation through payroll or your place of employment. For those of you who wish to donate through the United Way, please remember that you can designate all or part of your donation to the Autism Society of BC. For more information, please call Bonnie Harvey at the ASBC office.

Volunteers Needed!

Looking for something to do? We've got lots for you!

We are always on the look out for volunteers for our Buddy Volunteer Program. We will need additional help during October Awareness Month at different locations throughout the province – please contact our office or the local community group facilitator to see how you can be involved.

One of the most important roles for our volunteers is our Bingo night. Our Bingo night is once a month in the Vancouver area for a three to four hour shift in the evening. The funds from this one night enables us to run some of the programs essential to our members, such as resources for our library, information packages to families and professionals, our 30 community groups, advocacy services, workshops and seminars, to name a few. To volunteer for bingo, please call Sweetie at our office.

Prince George Branch Update

Prince George families are grateful for community support of our summer program. Our gratitude is extended to the Prince George Rotary Club, North Nechako Lion's Club and Elks Lodge #122. There is no greater reward than helping a child. Thank you.

The local parent support group held their 2nd annual garage sale fund-raiser on July 29th. Thank you to all who volunteered time or items for this event.

IODE Dewdney Helps Fund Parents

The Community Group in Ridge Meadows was fortunate to receive funding from the IODE Dewdney Chapter that allowed two parents to attend the Autism 2000 pre-conference and conference in Kamloops May 4, 5, and 6.

Nancy Aufspreg & Pam Feltis were both able to attend the conference thanks to the generosity of the IODE.

Summer Reading from our library!

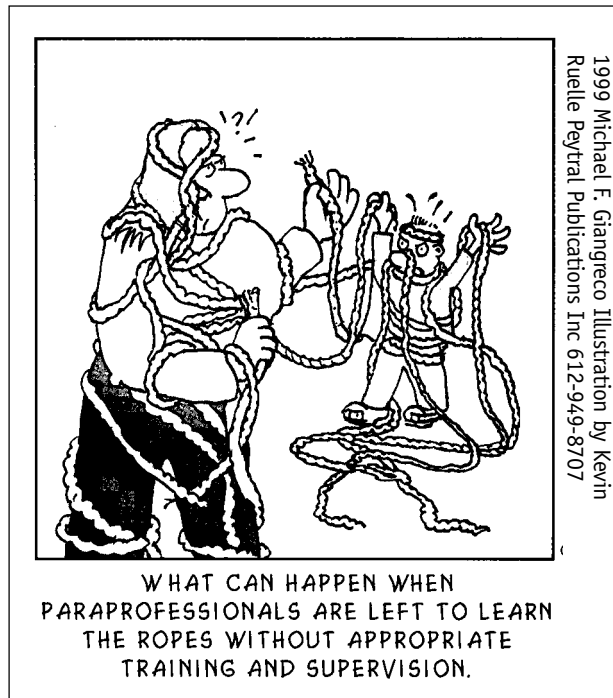
The last year has seen a bumper crop of new books and videos on autism related topics. This column is a new feature, designed to bring attention to some of the hot new releases available from the ASBC library. Members from outside the Lower Mainland can receive these books by mail.

Pervasive Developmental Disorders - Finding A Diagnosis and Getting Help (1999). Written by Mitzi Waltz, the mother of a son with Pervasive Developmental Disorder- Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) to meet the needs of families who have "yearned for a book that would cover the majority of children affected with PDDs: those diagnosed with PDD-NOS, atypical PDD, autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), or autistic tendencies." This is a well-written, clear and comprehensive introduction, useful for all parents wherever their child is on the spectrum. The references to web sites is particularly useful for keeping up with new research.

Asperger Syndrome and Difficult Moments (1999), by Brenda Smith Myles and John Southwick. The subtitle - Practical Solutions for Tantrums, Rage and Meltdowns, says it all! An excellent guide to the use of Functional Assessment of Behaviour and self management techniques. A synopsis of the use of Social Stories, Visual scheduling and the use of videos to teach social skills are just a few of the topics covered. At 100 well written pages, a must read for parents of more able children on the autism spectrum.

The Special Education TA in the Classroom by Terrance N. James (1999). This is an interesting, informative and at times irritating book. An insider's view of being a Teaching Assistant in British Columbia. It is useful to parents who are interested in a better understanding of the history of special education in British Columbia and how TAs fit into schools. The chapter on Relating to Parents is written very sensitively with regards to the need for confidentiality but raises the 'specter' of the parental desire to be involved in the selection of TAs as simply a control issue.

What's Next - Preparing the Student with Autism or Other Developmental Disabilities for Success in the Community by Carol Gray (1992) This is a book well worth looking at for parents whose children are approaching the age of 15-16, as it is never too early to start planning for the transition to adulthood! As is to be expected of any work by Carol Gray (the originator of Social Stories), this book is full of practical tips on how to find and keep appropriate job placements, and how to work with high school teams to make things happen. I particularly liked the tip to "Approach high school teachers one at a time, placement by placement", rather than insisting on a mass presentation.



1999 Michael F. Giangreco Illustration by Kevin Ruelle Peytral Publications Inc 612-949-8707

A Work in Progress: behavioural management strategies and a curriculum for intensive behavioural treatment of autism by Ron Leaf and John McEachin (1999) Parents of young children with autism interested in home based ABA programs are raving about this book. McEachin and Leaf are the co-heads of Autism Partnership, one of the more well known ABA service providers groups. An important book if you are considering an ABA program for your child. Is also a useful source of program ideas for any professional working with children on the autism spectrum.

The most amusing books in the ASBC library are without a doubt: **Ants in His Pants: Absurdities and Realities of Special Education**(1998) and **Flying by the Seat of Your Pants - More Absurdities and Realities of Special Education** (1999) written by Michael F. Giangreco, Illustrations by Kevin Ruelle. These bitter sweet collections have had ASBC staff crying with laughter. A must read.

Other new books worth reading:

- **Special Diets for Special Kids: understanding and implementing a gluten and casein free diet** by Lisa Lewis (1998).
- **Developing Leisure Time Skills for Persons with Autism - A practical approach for Home School and Community** by Phyllis Coyne (1999).

- **Asperger Syndrome: a practical guide for teachers** by Val Cumine; Julia Leach; Gill Stevenson (1999).

- **Solving Behavioural Problems in Autism: improving communication with visual strategies** by Linda Hodgson (1999).

VIDEOS

Thanks to a generous gift from Chris Spencer Foundation, the shelves of the ASBC library are groaning with a wonderful collection of videos aimed at adults and adolescents. Some of these skills are fairly advanced but well worth previewing. There are three series available:

1) The People Smart Series teaches the concepts of strangers, acquaintances and friends and how to make those distinctions when meeting new people. The program first models incorrect behaviour in

a very amusing way, then allows for a discussion period, and then models correct behaviour.

2) The LifeSmart Curriculum: DateSmart modules 1-6 teaches over 300 make or break skills the experts consider essential for successful transition to adulthood. The focus of this video series is on dating: how to say no, boundaries, avoiding trouble and understanding the opposite sex.

3) First Impressions Can Make a Difference: presentation skills to win respect and influence others for people with special needs with modules on Grooming, Dress and Attitude.

INFO SHARING

Research, government updates and other things we think you'd like to know!

Success Story!

Congratulations to **Giada Crosbie** for winning a gold medal in the North Shore International Figure Skating competition on March 10, 2000. Giada has autism and Sotos Syndrome and is an active member of the Cheam Skating Club. This year was Giada's first year with the BC Special Olympics – Chilliwack local and she was the only member of the club to enter the Special Olympics part of the skating competition. *Good work, Giada!*



Independent Housing Project for High Functioning Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Our twenty-five year old daughter has Aspergers and is ready for independent living. She loves horses and would like to live in a rural setting where she can look after her own horse. We are looking for like-minded families willing to work towards creating a self sustaining rural community for their adult family members. The project is primarily for high functioning, self mobile individuals who have the capacity to live independently within the guidelines and philosophy of any community.

If you wish more information about this independent housing project or want to become part of a working board of people or wish to contribute in any way please telephone Neil or Joanne MacDonald at (604) 985-0155 or Fax us at (604) 985-3001.

Paid Learning Opportunity

Cheerful 26 year old male adult requires part-time support to learn Visual Scheduling System, based on CBI Consultants model, for life skills and social / recreational skill training. The individual has Fragile X Syndrome and high-functioning autism. Contact: 990-4019

THANK YOU

The generous supporters who make our work possible

Individuals

Roy & Claudette Bailey
Elaine Baron
Joanne Bedggood
William Benjamin
Richard Best
Lesley Brager
Graeme & Barbara Brett
William Chalk
Kim Christianson
Teresa Cline
Melva D. D. Scott
John Davies
Joy & Stan Davies
Ken & Rose Marie Davies
Geri-Lee DeWit
Ken DeWit
Icel Dobell
Rona Drewell
Jill Edwards
Carolyn Ekman
Abdallah El-Sabbagh
Kenneth English
Patricia Farmer
Jefferey Foss
Alessandro & Rosina Franciosi

Deborah & William Gibson
Barbara Gidney
Mike Gill
Lynnda Grey
Aggie Gyongyosi-King
Elizabeth Hameer
Gwen Hennessy
Jo Ann Hildebrant
Holly Hodgson-Adams
Joyce & Paul Hollenberg
Debby Holness
Lisa Marie Hols
Barbarah Kisschowsky
Monica Kvan
So & Shok Lai
Yvonne & David Lam
Christine Lowe
George Lowery
Betty & Donald Mansell
Anne McCarthy
Wilma McGalasham
Earl McIntyre
Owen McIntyre
Sandra McIntyre
Laurel McLeod
Seiji & Mineko Minee

Judy Moffat
Mrs M. Carter
Mrs M. Carter
Stewart & Mary Murkin/
Westward Shipping
Christos' & Katina Pappas
Sizamme Parados
Val Parisotto
Debbie Price
Myrna & Anthony Reznick
Helen Richards
Peter Roaf
Isy Sharon Rogowski
Stan & Lydia Samuels
Terry Scharf
Doreen Scheer
Muriel Schroenfelder
Edith Sinclair
Bonnie St. Julien
Carolyn Stevens-Nedwidek
Keiko & Katsumi Suzuki
Diana & Alex Sy
Jeannine Tremblay
Jenny Tsou
Margot Tubman
Glenn Van Ooyer

Keith Wolfman
Carolyn Woodfine

In Memory of Sister Marcella

Santo Andolfatto
Cesare & Adriana Dalmonte
Guiseppe & Luigia Franciose
Adriana Lovera

Corporate donors

Can. 2 for 1 pizza
Canadian Progress Club -
Downtown
CBI Consultants
Donner Foundation
Hydrecs (designated)
Kahn Family Charitable
Foundation
PG North Nechako Lions Club
PG Rotary Club
Elks Lodge #122
Royal Canadian Legion
Royal Canadian Legion #008
Royal Canadian Legion #142
United Way
WCB Helping Hands

COMMUNITY GROUPS

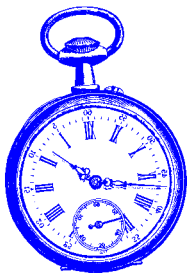
Groups you can join and what they are doing around BC!

Updates

Ahh Summer at Last! A time for change, thank you's and good byes to several of our facilitators. Heather McCracken on the North Shore, Stephanie James in New Westminster and Betty Bronson of the Asperger's Parents Group have all resigned and shall be sorely missed. We wish Betty best of luck as she goes back to school in pursuit of her nursing degree. Heather and Stephanie continue to volunteer for ASBC in different ways. Heather does wonderful presentations for our Buddy Training and Stephanie provides us vital office support when we have an information blitz.

We are fortunate to have Clair Schuman as the facilitator of the new ASBC Community Group in the TriCities Region which includes Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam and Port Moody. Clair has a vast amount of experience in education issues and is sharing her insight with us this summer in her temporary role as a resource worker in ASBC's Vancouver office.

If you are interested in setting up a Parent's Group in your community, please call Deborah Pugh at 434-0880.



**PLEASE TAKE THE
TIME TO RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL THE ASBC OFFICE AT
(604) 434-0880
OR TOLL-FREE AT
1-888-437-0880**

Lower Mainland:

DELTA
Stacey del Fabbro 604-940-2751
SOUTH LANGLEY
Elma Kozak 604-534-0207
NORTH LANGLEY
Kathryn Fischer 604-888-1354
MISSION & ABBOTSFORD
Virginia Renaud 604-820-2645
TRICITIES
Clair Schuman 604-939-5157
NORTH SHORE
ASBC Office 604-434-0880
RIDGE MEADOWS
Lee-Ann Knight 604-463-1202
RICHMOND
Trish Campbell 604-277-7232
SURREY
Tracey Chan 604-581-9467
VANCOUVER
Debbie Morin 604-327-9824
WHITE ROCK
Barbara West 604-535-4094
PARENTS OF ADULTS WITH AUTISM GROUP
Lori Wall 604-990-4019
ASPERGER SYNDROME GROUP
ASBC Office 604-434-0880
MANDARIN-SPEAKING
Carol Ywan 604-594-8986

Vancouver Island:

CAMPBELL RIVER
Judy Hollywood Bonnet . 250-923-5654
COURTENAY
Megan Phillips 250-897-1676
DUNCAN
Dot Douglas 250-748-3994
PORT ALBERNI
Karen Hovestad 250-714-0801
NANAIMO
Joy Becker 250-758-0271

Interior & Northern BC:

BULKLEY VALLEY
Jan Morrison-Hines 250-847-5740
WEST KOOTENAY
Dave & Sue Henke 250-367-6373
EAST KOOTENAY
Mike Fisher 250-427-9629
KAMLOOPS
Bob Walter 250-374-KIDS
CENTRAL OKANAGAN
Janice Harvey 250-768-9098
NORTH OKANAGAN
Cindy Methot 250-542-5213
Lorraine Donald 250-549-1281

Kitimat

Karen Jonkman 250-632-7947
Prince George
Heather Borland 250-963-7926
Prince Rupert
Larissa Goruk 250-624-5984
Peace River Region
Zita Cole 250-788-2989

ASBC's Online Community Group – run by Julie Robinson of Autism-Spectrum. Julie's email address is: julie@autism-spectrum.com . Their website is www.autism-spectrum.com

Other Groups Welcoming ASBC Members

Parent Groups for Special Needs (not specific to autism)

-This group is run by the Simon Fraser Society for Community Living-Coquitlam
Bev Rempel 604-525-9494

Parents Support Group for Families of Mentally Handicapped Adults Living at Home

Gwen Lee 604-321-6253
Janice Reithofer 604-438-1291

Parent Discussion Group focusing on ABA programs (Lower Mainland) run by F.E.A.T of B.C.-

Jean Lewis 604-925-4401
Judy Anderson 604-986-1975

Victoria Society for Children with Autism
Michael Yarr 250- 385-3862

Parents for Inclusive Education – Powell River

April Sweet 604-485-5885
Linda Leutz 604-485-5386

Parents of Children with Invisible Disabilities – Penticton

Brenda Morgan 250- 493-2171

Parents of Exceptional People Prayer & Support Group – Dawson Creek

Jennifer Van Spronsen ... (250)-782-8342

SPEAK OUT

“Parents tackle the impossible because there is no one more committed to their children than they are.”

Speak Out is a forum for our readers to share their own experiences with Autism.

Stacey del Fabbro is the facilitator for ASBC's Delta Community Group. Like many of our parent volunteers she is frustrated by the lack of action to address the needs of our children. The following is an excerpt from a speech she gave to a gathering in her community at the end of the school year.

As the mother of an autistic child I have been asked to put forward some thoughts on the needs for early intervention in B.C. My problem in doing so is that nothing has changed. I say that, not because I mean to put down the government initiatives, although between the lines, I guess I am doing that. I say that because, for the many years I have been fighting the issues, the same points have been raised time and time again. If I have heard them that many times then surely so have all of the people present here tonight.

Issues concerning the lack of services and ever lasting waitlists are not surprising. The fact that therapies deemed almost essential to autistic children (ex. Applied Behavioural Analysis) are covered in other provinces and the US isn't new to us. The stories of children who were waitlisted and therefore not diagnosed until passing the age where early intervention is crucial are all too frequent.

School officials state with pride that special needs services to school age children were not cut in their budget. For that I am grateful but let us not overlook the fact that this is a budget that has already been shrunk to the point that it can no longer perform the job for which it was intended. Atypical students are not receiving the fair and equitable education that has been so gallantly promised by the Ministry of Education.

Frankly, I'm tired. Tired of hearing my friends say yes. Yes, I will go to one more meeting. Yes, I'll make another presentation despite all of the previously unanswered questions. Yes. Count me in for that rally. I don't have anyone left to baby sit that long but I'll arrange something - somehow. Tired of hearing another bureaucrat tell me how great it is that I am and out here fighting and how I should write this person or join that group. At this point in my life, I am raising two boys under 6 years old, running a home based business, hand producing products to earn extra money to pay for therapies, I am facilitator for a group of parents with autistic children, serve as secretary to the Concerned Parents of school age children committee, and I am a director on the board of one of the finest child development centers in Canada, the Delta Association for Child Development. Oh yes and let me not forget the group I am supporting here tonight the Delta Parents Advisory Committee.

Parents tackle the impossible because there is no one more committed to their children than they are. People ask us all the time. Why do you waste your time? Why bother? No one ever listens, why waste your time? Stay home. Relax.

Well, I'd like to but my child is home and right now he's probably eating his shoes, no not chewing them, eating them. He does that whenever I'm not home. Likely, he is hitting someone because it's faster than trying to remember the correct social clues for the situation he is in. After bedtime might be more relaxing but autistic children are notorious for not staying in bed all night.

No. Home is not a relaxing place. It is, quite frankly, a nut house. So, as sad as it is, *This* is my social life. *This* is my respite. And listening to an ever present, always sympathetic government tell me time and time again how they would love to help but they don't have the money.....Well, I've heard that too many times too.

So truly, I haven't a presentation to make. The truth is none of us should be here tonight. We are all aware of the problems, the solutions, and the obstacles that stand in our way. Let's just get on with it.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Around BC & the World



**Autism Society of
British Columbia**

In cooperation with
UBC's PsychoEducational Research and
Training Centre presents:

Teaching Children with Autism: Key Strategies

Presented by *Kathleen Quill, Ph.D.*

Three core approaches
will be discussed:

Behavioural instruction
Social-communication enhancement
Visually-cued instruction

**Saturday, October 21, 2000
9:30 – 4:30**

Wesbrook Auditorium, UBC,
Vancouver BC

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY !

August 6, 2000 – Salem, Oregon

*First Step – Creating stronger family
relationships: Autism and Psychosocial
Issues & Social Development*
CONTACT: ASO, POB 13884, Salem, OR 97309
E-mail: aso@teleport.com

August 10-12, 2000 – Vancouver, BC

*Vancouver 2000 Third International
Canadian Angelman Syndrome Society
Conference*
CONTACT: Rob Bromley, 910 Kent Street,
New Westminster, BC V3L 2W6
Phone: (604) 521-5563
Fax: (604) 669-4535
e-mail: rob@forcefour.com

September 15, 16 & 17, 2000 – San Diego, CA

*DAN! 2000 Conference; Defeat Autism
Now!*
Town and Country Resort & Convention
Center
CONTACT: (619) 291-7131
E-mail: tamidan@nac.net

October 14-15, 2000 - Orlando Airport Hyatt – Orlando, Florida

*Orlando 2000: New biological directions in
Autism Research -- A Conference for
Professionals and Parents*
CONTACT: Phone: (877) 452-ORL2
Web site: www.autismconference.org
Email: www.autismconference@mindspring.com

November 8-10, 2000 – Toronto, ON

*Geneva Centre International Symposium on
Autism*
The Metro Toronto Convention Centre
255 Front Street West, Toronto, ON
CONTACT: Margaret Whelan,
Tel.: (416) 322-7877
Fax: (416) 322-5894
Web site: www.autism.net
Email: info@autism.net

OUR LIFELINE IS MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS! YOU CAN HELP!

- \$ 5.00 Person with Autism/
Asperger's
- \$ 5.00 Student/Low Income
- \$ 25.00 Family
- \$ 25.00 Professional Individual
- \$ 100.00 Corporation/Group
(School or Non-Profit)
- \$ 500.00 Life
- \$ _____ Donation (optional)
- \$ _____ Total enclosed

Method of payment Cheque Visa Mastercard Amex

Name on card

Card #

Exp. date

Signature

MAIL TO 200-3550 KINGSWAY BC V5R 5L7 OR FAX TO (604)434-0801

All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be issued for contributions of \$10.00 or more



Your donations allow us
to provide extra services
such as the Buddy
program and the summer
reimbursement program.

*This information is for our files
and is optional and strictly
confidential. It is designed to
help us better plan services for
our members. We do NOT sell
our membership list.*

Name

Company/Organization

Address

City/Prov

Postal Code

Phone: (res)

(bus)

Fax#

email:

Child's name

Date of birth

Name & age of siblings

Parent's Occupation or employer

Language(s) spoken/written at home