



# BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS resource center News

## WHO WE ARE!

The Behavioral Pediatrics Resource Center is a non-profit charity started in 2018 by Michelle Zeanah, MD. The goal of the BPRC is to try to improve resource availability and opportunities for education. We focus on children with autism spectrum disorder, ADHD and/or anxiety in rural Georgia.

## AUTISM AWARENESS

### Resource Center UPDATES

We have been very busy at the Behavioral Pediatric Resource Center over the last few months. In July, the BPRC welcomed a new project manager, Sharon Draeger. Sharon is a retired educator with a master's degree in Business Administration and in Educational Leadership. Over the 31 years that she spent in the educational setting, she found both joy and love in working with children that were special needs. She says she is happy to be a part of the vision of the BPRC.

We continue our work with Georgia Southern University students. From interns to project development, we are grateful to have the support of the College of Public Health and the students that are assisting the Resource Center as volunteers.

## PROJECTS WE ARE WORKING ON!

### AUTISM AWARENESS TRAINING

Over the last few months, the Resource Center has been training Foster Parents and Case Managers in the Department of Family and Children Services region 12. We have trained over 60 DFCS Case Managers and over 100 Foster Parents and will be reaching more as we have 6 more trainings scheduled for both. Autism Awareness is the theme of the training and we have received positive feedback from both Foster Parents and Case Managers. As we finish our region, we will begin sharing our training with the other 13 regions in the state. Our "rollout" of trainings will begin in January 2023. We are excited to be able to share this important training across the state.

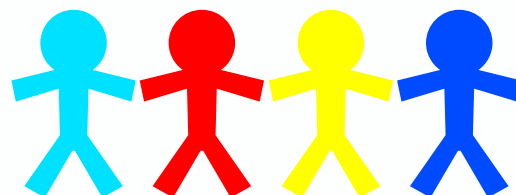
Our goal is to continue creating more training opportunities about working with children with Autism to Foster Parents and Case Managers beyond the grant funding timeline.

### American Academy of Pediatrics CATCH Grant

Earlier this year the Resource Center was awarded The Community Access To Child Health (CATCH) program grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The grant was written to bring an awareness of Autism to the Department of Juvenile Justice throughout the state.

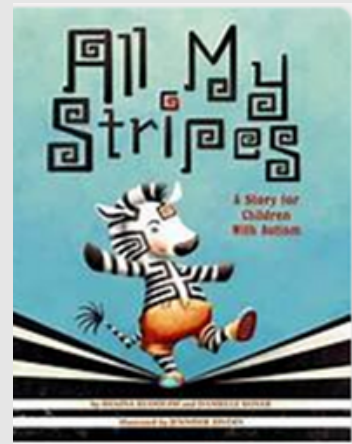
The presentation that will be delivered to probation officers should be completed by the end of 2022 and trainings beginning in 2023.

Our hope is that the trainings are useful to the DJJ and the program will continue beyond the life of the grant funding.



# Books We Love!

Each month we hope to share one of our favorite book titles that focus on Autism, ADHD or Anxiety. This month we are sharing one of our favorite children's books, *All My Stripes: A Story for Children With Autism* by Shaina Rudolph and Danielle Royer. Illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin. It is a story about how a young zebra accepts how he and his classmates are wonderfully different! The book is a Gold Medal Mom's Choice Award winner and includes a reading guide and information on ASD. Be sure to check it out!



## What's Next?

### Books for Classrooms

The Resource Center has started a list of books for children that focus on Autism, ADHD and Anxiety. Our hope is to have some of these titles in classrooms throughout our county. Ways to make this happen have been discussed at our BPRC board meetings. We hope to make this wish a reality!

### Getting Ready for April

April is **Autism Awareness Month**. We have already begun preparations for a contest that will include all schools throughout our county. We look forward to seeing our children embrace Autism through their research and creativity.

### Continuing the Vision

The next steps to help better understand Autism are already in the works. We are constantly looking into ways to continue bringing this important topic to our community. Ideas for new trainings and ways to bring those trainings to all is an ongoing effort.

## Visit us!




Visit our website at **behavioral-pediatrics.org**

We are adding new tabs and information all the time! It's a great place to find resources you may need!



Check out our Facebook page at Behavioral Pediatrics Resource Center | Facebook

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