



March 2023



BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS resource center NEWS

Issue #4

What's been happening?

We are just one month away from Autism Acceptance Month! Be sure to come and visit us at the Statesboro Farmer's Market on April 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. We will have information to share and giveaways.

We are still in need of gift items for our prize baskets for the Autism Awareness Poster Contest. If you can help please email info@behavioral-pediatrics.org to arrange for pick up of items.



Who we are!

The Behavioral Pediatrics Resource Center is a non-profit organization started in 2018 by Michelle Zeanah, MD. The goal of the Resource Center 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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

behavioral-pediatrics.org



www.facebook.com/BPRC.Statesboro

Sharon Shares

I know a child who, when he was young, would line up all his toys in straight lines. Then, he would lie on his side and continue to adjust the toys until the line was perfect. Even as he played with his *Hot Wheels* and *Matchbox* cars, he would line them up and then take the front car, put it in the back, give the cars a nudge, and then straighten out the line. I always thought it was a unique way to play, but, kids are kids.

Fast forward a few years. The child is older. He is highly intelligent and obsessed with rollercoasters. He builds them with *Legos*, watches rollercoaster videos online, draws them, and talks about them continually.

Sadly, he doesn't get to share his enthusiasm for rollercoasters with many of the kids at school. Most of the kids don't want to be around him because all he does is talk about rollercoasters.

If I knew then what I know now, I could have done a better job teaching his classmates to accept all that this child is. Awareness and Acceptance are essential!

Project Updates

Autism Awareness Training

Our training is spreading across the state. Both public and private foster care providers and their case managers have been participating in video training on Autism Awareness and many have already participated in question and answer sessions facilitated by our training staff.

Data collected from the participants was shared and one respondent commented, *"I enjoyed learning how to recognize and understand that each Autism person is unique and the reasoning to the Autism Spectrum of each person."*

We are proud of our training staff and the work the resource center is doing to bring awareness.

American Academy of Pediatrics CATCH Grant

Last month we had an exciting opportunity to talk with representatives from the Juvenile Justice system including a few probation officers, a judge, and the assistant Deputy Commissioner at DJJ. With the help of these dedicated individuals, we are now able to reach out to probation officers across the state to help them in their field while working with children with autism.

A curriculum is currently being written that will support the training and the hope is to get our training Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified to help the attendees receive continuing education training credit.

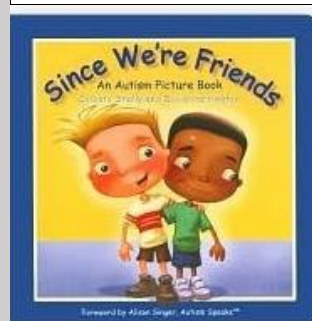
What's Next?



April is AUTISM Acceptance Month!

Our poster contest will be launched soon to public, private, and home schools in our area. We are so excited to have an opportunity to reach out to our local students and get them involved in learning more about autism and how to help kids with autism feel included.

Books We Love!



Since We're Friends: An Autism Picture Book
Celeste Shally (Author)
David Harrington (Illustrator)

This is a sweet story about a boy named Matt who has autism and his friend from across the street. The two friends play sports, swim and have fun being together. Matt's friend is so understanding of Matt's autism and helps him in many situations.

The story is available as a read aloud on You Tube.

<https://youtu.be/afbr-kW-IN4>