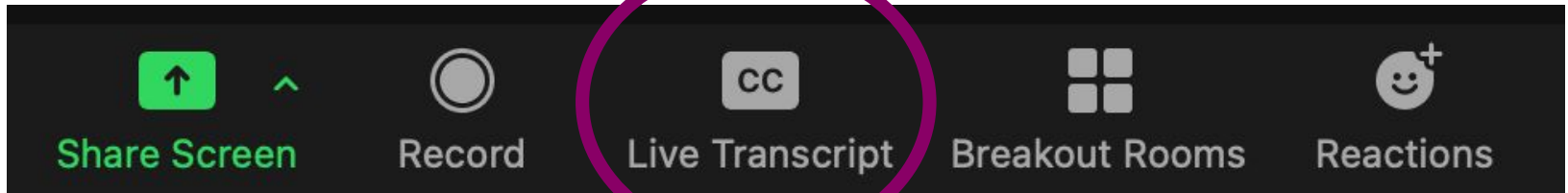


CLOSED CAPTIONING

Click on **CC icon** to enable captioning



Honesty Lunch & *Learn*

National Autism Acceptance Month
Supporting students, families, and educators

Featuring:



Welcome!

Dr. Christina Collins

she/her

Executive Director

Honesty for Ohio Education

ccollins@honestyforohioeducation.org



We Are

Coalition

Nonpartisan, Statewide, Diverse Stakeholders

Pillars

Educate • Advocate • Build Community

Priorities

Statehouse • State Board of Ed • Schools

Resources

News, Info, Events, Programs, Organizing



Agenda

State of Education in Ohio

National Autism Acceptance Month with Autism Society Central Ohio

Q&A

Coming Up...

Resources

State of Education

Statehouse Updates

Next Sessions: Senate & House on Wednesday, April 10

Priorities

- **HB 183 - Bathroom ban** : Committee hearing for amendment & VOTE on Wed, April 10, 10:30am
- **Gender Affirming Care Rules**: Public hearing with testimony on Mon, April 15, 1pm
- HB 8 - Don't Say Gay, Don't Say Trans censorship, forced outing of LGBTQ+ students
- SB 83 - Higher Education Destruction Act

New Bills

- HB 445 - Requires religious release policies for school districts
- HB 468 - Requires approval policies for "patriotic" groups presenting to students
- HB 462 - Creates the Student Choice Grant Program
- HB 463 - Enacts the My Child-My Chart Act
- HB 470 - Requires Department of Education audits of assessment spending

More on [Legislation Tracker](#)

TAKE ACTION

VOTE NO on HB 183

Tell legislators to flush discriminatory bathroom bans down the drain!

**House Higher Education Committee Hearing
Possible amendment and VOTE!**

Wednesday, April 10, 10:30am, Rm 17

TAKE ACTION [HERE](#)

SAY NO!

Ohio House Bill 183

Flush dangerous, discriminatory bathroom bans down the drain!

TAKE ACTION
honestyforohioeducation.org

TRANS ALLIES FOR OHIO

TRANS OHIO

Honesty for Ohio Education

TAKE ACTION

Testimony Needed

Protect gender affirming care for students!

Public Hearing

Monday, April 15, 1:30pm

Senate Finance Room, Ohio Statehouse

Written and in-person testimony needed for ODH & OMHAS proposed rules regulating gender affirming care for youth

Prepare Testimony [HERE](#)

Public Hearing Alert
ODH & OMHAS Rules

HEALTHCARE UNDER ATTACK!
Trans Youth Restrictions (on top of HB 68)
Government Data Collection
on ALL transgender patients*
*includes **ADULTS**

JOIN US!
speak out

TRANS OHIO.ORG
Educate. Advocate. Support. Empower.
transohio.org

TRANS ALLIES FOW
transalliesohio.org

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR Hearing)
MONDAY April 15, 2024
@ 1:30 pm - Senate Finance Room
Ohio Statehouse

www.jcarr.state.oh.us/meetings/meeting-agendas

SBOE & DEW



State Board of Education

Next Meeting: Tues, April 9, 9am

March Summary

- Testimony opposing license fee increases
- Budget updates on deficit, licensing fees
- Admin rules: licensure for grade bands, temp substitute teacher, computer science
- Policy and Procedure Manual Committee

Dept of Education & Workforce

Next Meeting: Thurs, May 9, 9am

March Summary

- Literacy implementation updates, staffing, professional development, instructional materials
- Admin rules under consideration [HERE](#)

Meetings held at DEW Building, 25 S Front St, Columbus

Watch LIVE & archived meetings on [The Ohio Channel](#)

Autism Acceptance Month:

Supporting Students, Families, and Educators



Honesty Welcomes



Kathi Machle
Member, Former ED
Autism Society Central Ohio



Laura Baird
President
Autism Society Central Ohio



Ginny Bryan
Operations Manager
Autism Society Central Ohio



**Autism
Society**
Central Ohio

www.autismcentralohio.org
info@autismcentralohio.org
614-284-6323

The connection is you!



Supporting the Autistic Community 2024

Tips for Helping to Meet the Challenges of ASD

Presented by Ginny Bryan, Laura Baird and Kathi Machle





Our Goal

- A successful experience for someone with Autism starts with accepting, understanding and addressing the challenges of their disability.
- Our goal is to create a world where everyone in the Autism community is connected to the support and opportunities they need when they need them.

Support

Autism Society Central Ohio has been serving our region for over 30 years. We began with a monthly newsletter and support meeting for parents and caregivers. In 2023, we offered 11 monthly support groups, including three for adults on the spectrum, one for teens and one for the Spanish-speaking community.



Information and Referral

If we don't know the answer,
we do our best to find it.

info@autismcentralohio.org



Education

Recent Presentations:

- Potty Training
- Picky Eating
- Estate Planning & Guardianship
- Women's Health Care
- Medicaid Waivers
- What Comes After Diagnosis?
- Augmentative Communication



Advocacy

- Individual advocacy such as attending IEP meetings.
- ASCO weighs in on Local, State and Federal initiatives affecting our community such as the Communication Disability Law.
- ASCO collaborates with other disability agencies

Community Inclusion

ASCO designs events to allow our families to experience community institutions and events in a "no judgment" zone. The aim is to provide a level of comfort and the opportunity to learn the skills to participate in the community at large.







Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder. It can result from a brain abnormality and most likely has some genetic cause or predisposition. Some have proposed a connection to vaccines, heavy metals and environmental toxins, but the scientific studies to date do not support this, although Autism is linked to encephalitis (brain damage) and viral infections.
- It affects about 1 in 36 children, more boys than girls.
- Nearly 50% of people with Autism have average or above-average IQ's, but are locked in by their disability.
- The experience of Autism is different for everyone. "If you've met one person with Autism, you've met one person with Autism." Dr. Stephen Shore.

What is it like to be Autistic?

- “Trapped in a body that didn’t work right and not being able to let people know. . . .”

Wretches &

Jabberers

- “When I was growing up, speaking was so frustrating. I could see the words in my brain, but then I realized that making my mouth move [was needed to] get those letters to come alive, they died as soon as they were born. What made me feel angry was to know that I knew exactly what I was to say and my brain was retreating in defeat.”

Jamie Burke

- The goal of Autism Society Central Ohio is to make the world an easier place for people with autism by helping those with ASD to navigate the world as they find it and educating others to change that world.

Kathi Machle





What does Autism look like?

- Difficulties with Communication
- Sensory Processing Differences
- Differences in Social Interaction
- Repetitive or Restrictive Behavior
- Difficulty with Change and Transitions

Autism Spectrum

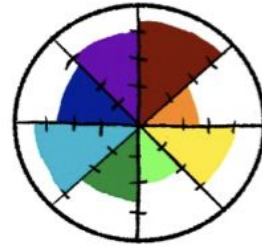
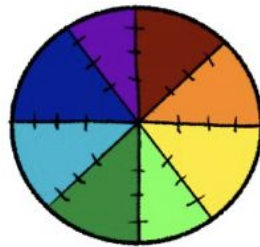
The Autism spectrum is **not** linear



less autistic

very autistic

The Autism Spectrum looks more like:



- Social skills
- fixations
- routines
- sensory issues
- stimming
- perception
- executive func.
- other

→ Terms like "high functioning" and "low functioning" are harmful and are not used anymore

Autism - sketches

Communication Challenges

- Speech Delay or Regression (Only half develop functional language)
- Repetitive Speech (“Disney Speak”)
- Receptive Language Deficits
- Echolalia
- Abnormal rhythm, stress or intonation (prosody)
- Literal interpretation of language
- Avoid eye contact; rarely point and may have abnormal pre-verbal development



Sensory Processing

- We receive and perceive sensory input through our eyes, ears, nose, mouth, skin and movement. Everyone responds to sensory input differently.
- People with autism spectrum disorder process that information differently.
- This leads to problems with daily function, social and family relationships, behavioral challenges, difficulty in regulating emotions, and interference with self-esteem and learning.

The Sensory Systems

- Visual
- Auditory
- Gustatory (Taste)
- Olfactory (Smell)
- Tactile (Touch)
- Vestibular
- Proprioception
- Interoception



One can help by observing their responses to sensory input, assuming there may be a sensory cause for behaviors, modifying the environment to accommodate sensory issues and collaborating with the occupational therapist to create and provide an appropriate sensory diet.

Difficulties with Sensory Processing



- Individuals with ASD can be overstimulated by sensory input or understimulated.
- As with everything else, it depends on the person AND this can change over time.

Sensory Overload Video



Behavior

- Fixation on certain activities or topics-- light switches, doors, spinning, placing things in a specific order.
- Visual or Auditory stimming
- Physical stimming
- Poorly developed play
- Self-injury
- Resistance to Change/Difficulty with Transitions



Social Challenges



Autism Seldom Walks Alone: Common Related Conditions



- Sleep
- Diet
- Seizures
- Gastro-Intestinal Issues
- Genetic and Metabolic Problems
- Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorder
- Depression or Anxiety
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder



Anxiety
Disorders



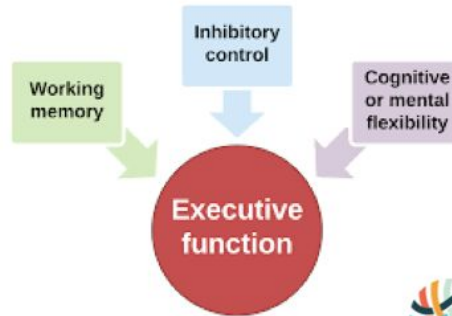
Challenge 1: More than Academics



Graphic "https://www.freepik.com/photos/girl">Girl photo created by master1305

- Unless some of the underlying Autism issues are dealt with, a person may not be able to function effectively.
- Managing sensory, communication, social and anxiety issues (and teaching self-regulation) is an essential part of supporting someone with ASD.

Stress and Anxiety Can Impair Executive Function and Learning



Anxiety



- Those with ASD have a higher incidence of anxiety than the general population.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has likely increased anxiety for EVERYONE.

Social Skills

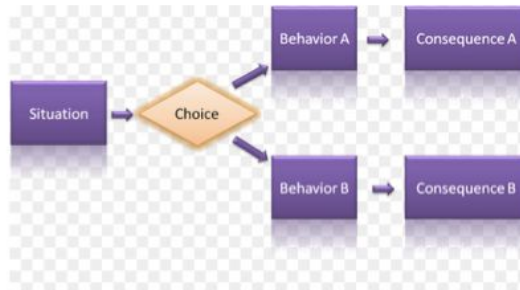


- Social Skills are “socially acceptable **learned** behaviors that enable a person to interact with others in ways that elicit positive responses and assist the person in avoiding negative responses.”

-- Elliott, Racine & Busse, 1995, *Best Practices in School Psychology* (3rd ed., pp. 1009-1020). Washington DC: NASP.

Behavior is Communication

- Figure out what is being communicated and act accordingly. What happened before the behavior? Is there a pattern? Can we change it?
- Focus should be on understanding reason for behavior and changing behavior, rather than punishment. A replacement behavior must be taught.
- A Functional Behavior Assessment and Plan may help.



**I stim for me
I stim for you
I stim because
I'm me, that's who.**

**I like to move
I like to pace
I sometimes flap
Around my place.**

Joy of Autism

**To stim is cool
I should be free
To stim a lot
It's part of me.**



Stimming
serves a
purpose.

Emotional Regulation



- Understanding and managing emotions can be challenging for those with ASD. They may require help to recognize how they are feeling, to match their emotions to an event and to calm themselves down when upset or anxious.
- Reaction to an event or transition may seem disproportionate. They may not know what an appropriate behavioral response to an emotion might be or, if known, be able to implement it.
- Learn the signs of individual's emotional dysregulation (tension, rocking, vocalizing, fidgeting, swearing, "shutting down", yelling, etc.). These are not intentional misbehaviors, but are indications of emotional distress.

- Lay the foundation for emotional regulation when the child is not upset. Work on calming strategies, like deep breathing, regularly when he/she is not upset.
- Teach them to identify their emotions and what reaction is appropriate to a situation when they are NOT upset.
- The Incredible Five-Point Scale, anxiety curve or a stress thermometer can be useful to provide a visual depiction.
- If you can identify early signs of emotional dysregulation, you can implement strategies to distract and calm (heavy work, time out, deep pressure, music, preferred task, etc.). Once the person has reached “melt down”, you can only make sure they are safe, separate from peers and emotionally disengage until the tantrum is over and they have had a chance to recover.

Autism Strategies in Action

- OCALI's Autism Strategies in Action is a free on-line training program available to residents of Ohio. You can find it at <https://autismcertificationcenter.org/>

Social Stories

- Sometimes a person with ASD simply does not know what behavior is expected of them. You can write a social story (or use pictures if they cannot read) to teach them what they should do.
- Resources: <https://www.pbisworld.com/tier-2/social-stories/> or <https://www.andnextcomesl.com/2017/03/list-of-social-skills-to-teach-kids.html>

When people say the word, "BUFFALO" I should not get mad.

This animal is an American Bison.
It is also called a Buffalo.



There is a city called
Buffalo, New York.



These chicken wings are called
"Buffalo Wild Wings." YUM!

Eamon goes to the University of Colorado.
Their football team is called
"The Colorado Buffalos".



People can say "BUFFALO" and mean an animal, a city a food or a team. I should not get mad when people say "buffalo". I should never hit or push or hurt people who say "buffalo". I can always use my words to tell someone I don't like what they are saying to me, or walk away and ask a grown up for help.

Challenge #2

Disparity in Diagnosis

- Black and Hispanic children are less likely to be diagnosed with Autism. This is, in part, due to lack of access to healthcare, but also due to racial bias. Many are diagnosed with conduct disorders rather than Autism.
- Autism presents differently in females and they tend to be diagnosed later. Nearly 80% of women are undiagnosed as of the age of 18.

Challenge #3

Fear

- “Odd” behaviors may engender fear.
- Link between Autism and Transgender – Autistic people are more likely to be gender diverse (studies show 5 to 11% of gender diverse also have Autism diagnosis).

Challenge #4

Implementation of IDEA

- Delay in evaluation on basis of “Response to Intervention”
- One size fits all IEPs – particularly for transition.
- Failure to follow IEP or 504 plan
- Disciplinary actions without consideration of role of disability or effectiveness of discipline

Downloadable Resources

- The Incredible 5-Point Scale
www.5pointscale.com
- Anger Map and Other Visuals sheffkids.co.uk
- Practical Autism Resources
www.practicalautismresources.com/printables
- www.OCALI.org
- www.autism-society.org
- www.autismclassroomresources.com
- www.everydayspeech.com



CONTACT US!

We are here to help!

614-284-6323

info@autismcentralohio.org

www.autismcentralohio.org



Let's Talk!

Coming Up...

Coming Up...

Watch State meetings on
The Ohio Channel

Statehouse

- Sessions: Wednesday, April 10 – Senate at 1:30 & House at 2pm
- Hearings: Tuesday & Wednesday, April 9 & 10

State Board of Education: Monthly Meeting

- Tuesday, April 9, 9am - 25 S. Front St, Columbus

Department of Education & Workforce: Bi-Monthly Meeting

- Thurs, May 9, 9 am - 25 S. Front St, Columbus (Tentative)

Events & Programs

Check out [Honesty Event Page!](#)

Find more at [Honesty Events](#)

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Tell legislators to flush discriminatory bathroom bans down the drain!

**House Higher Education Committee Hearing
Possible amendment and VOTE!**

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Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR Hearing)
MONDAY April 15, 2024
@ 1:30 pm - Senate Finance Room
Ohio Statehouse

www.jcarr.state.oh.us/meetings/meeting-agendas

Join the TEAM!

Honesty Teams!

Connect with students, educators, administrators, local leaders, groups, organizations in your community to protect honest education in YOUR schools!

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 25, 7pm

More at [Honesty Teams](#)



Stay Connected

- JOIN** the Honesty Mailing List
- FOLLOW** @Honesty4OhioEd
- ATTEND** Events & Programs
- SHARE** Alerts, Newsletter, Info
- INVITE** Us to Your Community/Org



Resources

Honesty for Ohio Education

- Mailing List [HERE](#)
- Website [HERE](#)
- Social Media: [FB](#) ● [Instagram](#) ● [Twitter](#)
- Legislation Tracker [HERE](#) | Flyer [HERE](#)
- Honesty Teams [HERE](#)

State of Education

- Track Actions Across US [K-12](#) | [CRT](#) | [HE](#)
- Roots of Critical Race Theory Campaign [HERE](#)
- Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping [HERE](#)

Statehouse

- Honesty Legislation Tracker [HERE](#)
- Ohio Legislature Site [HERE](#)

State Board of Education

- Each Child Our Future Strategic Plan [HERE](#)
- Whole Child Framework [HERE](#)
- Education Resources [HERE](#)
- Anti-LGBTQ+ Resolution [HERE](#)
- Anti-Racism and Equity Resolution [HERE](#)
- Gerrymandering SBOE Districts [HERE](#)

Local Schools

- Finding Unity and Common Ground [HERE](#)
- ACLU Ohio Student Rights Handbook [HERE](#)

Thank You

