

# CENTER FOR Autism Spectrum Disorders

[www.childrensnational.org/CASD](http://www.childrensnational.org/CASD)



Children's National.

## CASD CHAT E-Newsletter

### Celebrating Autism Acceptance Month

Dear CASD Family and Friends,

April is Autism Acceptance month! The name reflects a change from “Autism Awareness Month” as we move to not just acknowledge autistic individuals, but include them in our communities. This means not just opening the door for them, but encouraging and, if needed, helping them join in. We hope we have contributed to acceptance of individuals with autism by highlighting a public figure with autism in our monthly CHAT to reflect the diversity of the community. Another way to promote acceptance is to share programs which have supported the autistic community and have been helpful in highlighting the impact of individuals with autism in all aspects of society, such as ASAN, the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. We wanted to highlight a few local organizations and celebrations in today’s CASD CHAT to enhance community connections, which we hope you find helpful, and encourage everyone to participate in local autism community programs.



- [Montgomery County MD](#): Various agencies from across the county are “shining brighter together” on April 23 at a fun family-friendly event at Wheaton Regional Park! Participate in hands-on, sensory-friendly activities while learning more about autism and the variety of resources available in Montgomery County. Attendees will also have an opportunity to help paint our commUNITY Mural that will remain at the playground long after the event is over.
- [The Autism Society of Central Virginia](#) has kicked off their “Humans of the ASCV” campaign, inspired by Brandon Stanton’s “Humans of New York” to highlight the local autism community, spread awareness, and promote acceptance and change in the community. They invite everyone to participate and provide various resources including books for all ages, TV and film recommendations, and suggestions to support autistic individuals.
- The Baltimore County Public Schools Special Education Resource Center is hosting an online program on May 12: **“Ben Hartranft’s Journey: One Kind Person Can Change the World.”** Ben Hartranft is a self-advocate and motivational speaker, sharing how kindness and inclusion shaped his life and he hopes to move others from awareness to advocacy

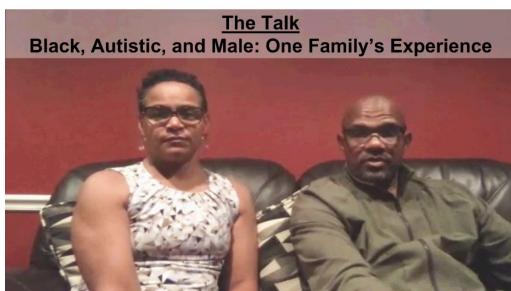
## Profiles Celebrating Neurodiversity

Clay Marzo was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, in December 2007; (Asperger Syndrome was one of a few diagnoses used for individuals with ASD prior to 2013). Like many autistic individuals, he was often misunderstood by others. He was known for being painfully honest. He has repetitive movements (rubbing his hands back and forth) and demonstrated an intense interest: surfing! His focus on surfing, paired with other gifts such as originality, contributed to his success including national surf championships. Mr. Marzo is expanding autism acceptance by sharing his story, both in a documentary and a book on his experiences as a surfer and Asperger Syndrome, and volunteer work with Surfers Healing, a non-profit organization from Malibu, California, which exposes autistic children to surfing at camps in the United States and Canada.

## The Talk— Black, Autistic, and Male: One Family's Experience

Click here for the  
video

We would like to share an interview with a family of a college-bound autistic young adult and an accompanying reflection by Tawara Goode, Director of the National Center for Cultural Competence and Director of the Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.



## 2021 Calendar of Events

We want to highlight *Ivymount School Resource Guide* which provides information on a wide range of resources in the community including **Summer Camps** (since it is that time of year to schedule) [www.ivymount.org/resourceguide2022](http://www.ivymount.org/resourceguide2022)

## **Free Parent Support Group**

**Where:** Virtual

**When:** every Monday at 1 PM EST

Dr. Dan Shapiro, friend of CASD, will be offering a free parent support group, every Monday at 1 PM EST. To register, [click here](#).

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Dr. Shapiro is offering new courses for parents of different age groups. To learn more about these courses, please visit his website:

<http://www.parentchildjourney.com/>

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Pathfinders for Autism (<https://pathfindersforautism.org/calendar/>) provides a list of programs for all ages including video group for spouses/partners of adults with Asperger's; Transitioning services and Job skills; Baby and Family Navigator programs, and new this month, Autism from the Autistic Perspective and free Pediatric Occupational Therapy Screening and more!

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### **NEW VIDEOS ADDED!**



The *Unstuck* author team has created short videos to help parents of children with executive functioning difficulties. Please click the playlists below to view the videos in both English and Spanish! We have added new videos to address feedback from parents. Please click on our playlist to view our new 3-part video series on "troubleshooting."

[Playlist of all videos](#)

[Recursos para padres](#)

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### **Last chance!**

Enrollment for the study below will be ending in April. Please email Jessica Smith, [jsmith9@childrensnational.org](mailto:jsmith9@childrensnational.org), or Laura Campos, [lcampos@childrensnational.org](mailto:lcampos@childrensnational.org) to get involved!

# Participants Needed



## Using MRI Technology to Study Executive Functioning

**About this study:** Georgetown University Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory and Children's National Hospital are studying executive function skills like attention, memory, and learning using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Using MRI technology, we expect to pinpoint the parts of the brain that are responsible for these cognitive functions and hope to determine the potential of using MRI as a tool to help clinicians personalize treatment.

### Who can be part of this research study?

Children ages 8-13 with executive functioning (EF) challenges may be eligible to participate.



### What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?

The results of this study may provide information that could help improve the accuracy and efficiency of future EF treatments. In addition, we will pay you for your time, provide free parking, and give you a picture of your child's brain.

### What will participants be asked to do?

If eligible, families will be invited to one visit at Georgetown University's Center for Functional and Molecular Imaging. Visits will be scheduled at a time convenient for participating families, including weekends.

During the visit, your child will receive behavioral testing and an MRI scan. While getting the scan, your child will complete computerized tasks that are first practiced outside of the scanner. Parents may be asked to participate in an interview and complete paper questionnaires over Zoom. COVID-19 precautions are being taken and are adjusted based on public health guidance.

### Contact Information

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# Participants Requested for a Research Study



## Autistic Transgender (or Nonbinary, Agender, Gender Fluid) Young Adults

### What are the goals of this study?

The Gender and Autism Program at Children's National Research Institute is studying the experiences and needs of autistic gender diverse young adults. John Strang, PsyD is the Primary Investigator for this research project.



### Who can be part of the research study:

Young adults (ages 18-35) who are autistic and gender diverse (transgender, gender nonbinary, agender, or gender fluid)

### What to expect:

The young adult will be asked to complete questionnaires online. We believe that the total study will take no longer than 2 hours. Participants will be compensated for their time.

### What are the benefits of participating?

The results of this study may provide information that could help us to know the priorities of autistic gender diverse young adults.

### Contact Information

If you have questions or would like to join the research study, please contact:

Lucy McClellan,  
Clinical Research Coordinator  
Gender Development Program  
Children's National Hospital  
Phone: 301-765-5573  
Email: [LMCCELLA3@childrensnational.org](mailto:LMCCELLA3@childrensnational.org)

Investigators at Children's National Center for Genetic Medicine Research, in collaboration with Invitae Corporation, are researching the genetic causes of human disease. If you or a family member have a known or uncertain genetic diagnosis or suspected genetic diagnosis, you may be eligible to participate in our research.



program. Please see the flyer to the left to learn more.

## Pediatric Mendelian Genomics Research Center

Study of Undiagnosed and  
Diagnosed Genetic Diseases.

Investigators at Children's National Center for Genetic Medicine Research, in collaboration with Invitae Corporation, are researching the genetic causes of human disease. If you or a family member have a known or uncertain genetic diagnosis or suspected genetic diagnosis, you may be eligible to participate in our research program.

If you are interested in learning more about our research program or are interested in participating, please submit a request for information here: <https://is.gd/PMGRCstudy> or email [PMGRC@childrensnational.org](mailto:PMGRC@childrensnational.org).



Hover over  
this QR code  
to complete  
an interest  
form for this  
study.

## PARENT/CAREGIVER INFORMATION SHEET

### *Comparative Effectiveness of EIBI and Adaptive ABA for Children with Autism*

**Principal Investigators:** Susan Hyman, M.D., Cynthia Anderson, Ph.D., BCBA-D,  
Eric Butter, Ph.D., Cynthia Johnson, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Zachary Warren, Ph.D.

This information sheet tells you about a research study being conducted at several different sites including the Cleveland Clinic, May Institute, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. The study is called *Comparative Effectiveness of EIBI and Adaptive ABA for Children with Autism*, and is for young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families.

#### **What is this study about?**

We are comparing two different interventions for young children with autism. The interventions are similar in many ways. Both:

- Use strategies that have been shown by research to help young children with autism learn skills (that are evidence based)
- Teach children how to better communicate and socialize
- Teach children important skills like self-help or how to not have problem behavior
- Can be modified to meet the needs of your child and your family

The interventions are different in a few ways, too:

- One intervention will have a therapist working with your child for about 20 hours per week. The other intervention has your child working with a therapist for less hours per week.
- In one intervention the therapist will work with your child on many different goals throughout the study. In the other more focused intervention, the therapist will begin by focusing on teaching your child ways to communicate better, and then may add goals to address other areas such as disruptive behaviors, sleep problems and repetitive behaviors.

#### **Next Steps**

If you want to learn more about this study, please let me know. You can let me know by filling out the form on the back and giving it back to your provider, who will give it to the research team. Instead if you prefer, you can complete this form online by scanning the QR code on the last page, and someone from the research team will contact you. You can also contact the research team directly at the phone and email listed on the next page. Writing your name on this form or contacting us will not mean that you are participating in the study, it will only mean that you are interested in learning more about the study.

It is important to know that this letter is not to tell you to join this study. It is your decision, and your participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to learn any more about the study you can just do nothing, or you can indicate "No" on the back of this form.

For more information or questions about this research, you may call Dr. Ryan Martin at (781) 364-7820, or email at [Rmartin@mayinstitute.org](mailto:Rmartin@mayinstitute.org).

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Page 1 of 2

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## 20+ free resources available to view anytime, anywhere!

Enjoy these information-packed free webinars on your own or make them a powerful group learning event with your colleagues, friends, and family members. Topics include:

- Working/learning in groups
- Face-to-face communication
- Social anxiety
- Executive functions
- Children's stress
- Self-regulation
- Individual webinars on 10 core Social Thinking Vocabulary

Hosted by Social Thinking.

## Community Resources & Events

### Advocacy Resources

[Autistic Self Advocacy Network-Navigating College: A Handbook on Self Advocacy](#)

## **Resources on Anti-Racism**

[Spectrum Support's Social Stories on Racism](#)

[ASAN's What is Police Violence?: A Plain Language Booklet](#)

[@TheMorganCruise Worksheets for Black Children](#)

## **COVID-19 Safety Resources**

[Behavioral Directions LLC's Safety Teaching Protocol](#)

## **COVID-19 National and Local Government Resources**

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[DC Department of Health](#)

[Maryland Department of Health](#)

[Virginia Department of Health](#)

[U.S Department of Education's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) Part C Dispute Resolution Procedures](#)

[U.S Department of Education's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) Part B Dispute Resolution Procedures](#)

Visit Children's National Hospital's COVID-19 Resources