

Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

www.childrensnational.org/CASD



Children's National: CASD CHAT



Meet Julia!

A sweet and curious 4-year-old with autism.

TUNE-IN MONDAY, APRIL 10

sesamestreet.org/autism

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Sesame Street Muppets Joined Researchers and Advocates on Capitol Hill to Discuss Early Results of Autism Initiative

On Tuesday, April 4, 2017, Sesame Street's newest neighbor, Julia, a Muppet who has autism, went to Capitol Hill to listen as researchers discussed preliminary findings from an impact study evaluating the Sesame Workshop initiative "Sesame Street and Autism: See Amazing in All Children." Acclaimed actress, author, and philanthropist Holly Robinson Peete, founder of the HollyRod Foundation, moderated the panel discussion.



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The Sesame Workshop initiative, launched in 2015, aims to reduce stigma and build understanding about autism spectrum disorders. In 2016, Sesame Workshop contracted Bruno Anthony, PhD, deputy director of the Georgetown Center for Child and Human Development, and his wife and research collaborator Laura Anthony, PhD, Associate Director of the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Children's National Health System, to conduct real-world testing of the initiative's online materials. These resources include videos, daily routine cards, and an eBook, written by Leslie Kimmelman, titled "We're Amazing, 1,2,3!", and can be accessed for free at www.sesamestreet.org/autism.

Preliminary findings from the study were presented and discussed during an expert panel session at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. An executive summary of the findings are now available at <http://autism.sesamestreet.org/what-weve-learned>

C-SPAN covered the event in its entirety. To watch, please visit here: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?426469-1/discussion-focuses-sesame-street-autism>

Check out photos from the event below:



(Clockwise from top left) Bruno Anthony, PhD, Abby Cadabby, Julia, and Laura Anthony, PhD; (top right) Sesame Workshop's David Cohen, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, D-TX, Bruno Anthony, PhD and Laura Anthony, PhD; (second on the right) Sesame Workshop's Louis Henry Mitchell and CASD's Community Outreach Coordinator, Yetta Myrick; (third on the right) Sesame Workshop's Jeanette Betancourt, EdD, Autistic Self Advocacy Network's Julia Bascom, Laura Anthony, PhD, and Actress, Author, and Philanthropist, Holly Robinson Peete; (bottom right) Georgetown and Children's Research Team: Alyssa Verbalis, PhD, Hillary Robertson, MPH, CHES, Yetta Myrick, Laura Anthony, PhD, Bruno Anthony, PhD, Sydney Seese and David Cohen; (bottom left) CASD Director, Lauren Kenworthy, PhD and Children's National President and CEO, Kurt Newman, MD speak with Congresswoman Nita Lowey, D-NY.

Calendar of Events

AJE Special Education Thursdays: Managing Medication with Dr. Dan Shapiro

Thursday, April 6th at 12:30pm

These 30 minute sessions are available online every other Thursday to give parents and professionals: information, education and a better understanding of DC special education issues in a "bite-size" format. For more information, please visit: <http://www.aje-dc.org/programs-3/special-education-thursdays/>

Kids in Action: Only Make Believe

The HSC Pediatric Center

Washington, DC

Friday, April 7th at 7pm

Join Kids in Action as they host Only Make Believe, a non-profit organization that creates and performs interactive theatre for children in hospitals and care facilities. Performances at The HSC Pediatric Center are designed for children with varying abilities. Only Make Believe allows participants to take a break from their everyday obstacles, express themselves in their own way, and "let loose" in a safe environment. Advance registration required. Email Robyn Winston-Cohen, CTRS at rwinston@hospsc.org or call 202-557-1851. For more information, please visit: <http://www.hshealth.org/medical-programs-therapy/services-programs/adaptive-sports>

AMC Sensory Friendly Films: The Boss Baby

AMC Theatres Nationwide

Saturday, April 8th at 10am

The program provides a special opportunity for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums dedicated to the program have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members are invited to get up and dance, walk, shout, or sing! For more information, please visit: www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films

My Way Matinee: Boss Baby

Regal Theatres Nationwide

Saturday, April 8th at 10:30am

The program is sensory friendly, with the sound lowered and lights brighter. For more information, please visit: <http://www.regmovies.com/MyWayMatinee>

Kids in Action: Friday Night Fever

The HSC Pediatric Center

Washington, DC

Friday, April 14th at 7pm

Join Kids in Action for Friday Night Fever, a chance for teens with disabilities to hang out with their peers. Designed for teens ages 11 and older, the program provides opportunities to participate in social events and make new friends. Activities vary month to month and include: teen dances, karaoke night, movies, game night, ice cream socials, various educational topics and more! Advance registration required. Email Robyn Winston-Cohen, CTRS at rwinston@hospsc.org or call 202-557-1851. For more information, please visit: <http://www.hshealth.org/medical-programs-therapy/services-programs/adaptive-sports>

AJE Special Education Thursdays: The Difference Between An IEP and 504 Plan with Maria Blaeuer

Thursday, April 20th at 12:30pm

These 30 minute sessions are available online every other Thursday to give parents and professionals: information, education and a better understanding of DC special education issues in a "bite-size" format. For more information, please visit: <http://www.aje-dc.org/programs-3/special-education-thursdays/>

AMC Sensory Friendly Films: Smurfs: The Lost Village

AMC Theatres Nationwide

Saturday, April 22th at 10am

The program provides a special opportunity for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums dedicated to the program have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members are invited to get up and dance, walk, shout, or sing! For more information, please

visit: www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films

Kids in Action: Movie Matinee

The HSC Pediatric Center

Washington, DC

Saturday, April 29th at 2pm

Join Kids in Action for a sensory friendly afternoon movie matinee. Enjoy treats while you watch a movie with friends! Advance registration required. Email Robyn Winston-Cohen, CTRS at rwinston@hospsc.org or call 202-557-1851. For more information, please visit: <http://www.hshealth.org/medical-programs-therapy/services-programs/adaptive-sports>

Call for Applications

Advocates in Disability Award (ADA)

Due: Wednesday, April 12th

Young leaders with a disability are encourage to apply for up to \$10,000 in funding! The Advocates in Disability Award (ADA) is a national awards program that seeks applications from young adults with a disability, between the ages of 14 and 26, who are dedicated to positively affecting the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. The program also supports an innovative project developed by the recipient to serve and empower individuals with disabilities. The ADA is a joint program of The HSC Foundation and the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation. The selected recipient is awarded \$3,000 in recognition of his or her disability advocacy and will receive up to an additional \$7,000 in funding for a project to benefit the disability community. Applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States at the time of application submission and recipient selection.

To apply, please go to <http://www.hshealth.org/ada>. Applications must be received by Wednesday, April 12, 2017 (by 5:00 p.m. EST).

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