

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM AND OTHER DISABILITIES

PACER

<http://www.pacer.org/>

PACER Center is a **parent training and information center** for families of children and youth with all disabilities from birth to young adults. Located in Minneapolis, it serves families across the nation, as well as those in Minnesota. Parents can find publications, workshops, and other resources to help make decisions about education, vocational training, employment, and other services for their children with disabilities. PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center provides resources designed to benefit all students, including those with disabilities.

Social Security Administration –Ticket to Work

<http://www.chooseworkttw.net/index.html>

Ticket to Work connects you with free employment services to help you decide if working is right for you, prepare for work, find a job or maintain success while you are working. If you choose to participate, you will receive services such as career counseling, vocational rehabilitation, and job placement and training from authorized Ticket to Work service providers, such as Employment Networks (EN) or your state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency.

Employment Tool Kit

http://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/docs/employment_tool_kit.pdf

Autism Speaks would like to help you with your employment search by giving you tools and tips while you look for a job. As an adult on the autism spectrum, you have strengths and abilities that employers are just beginning to understand. Therefore, we have written this guide to help you research, find and keep employment in the current, competitive labor market. The Autism Speaks Employment Tool Kit is the culmination of a process that began with the Autism Speaks Employment Think Tank in June 2012, which captured the current state of employment for adults with autism.

From that Think Tank we collected advice, stories, best practice data, tips and resources that we are happy to share with you.

Connecting to Success

<https://ici.umn.edu/ementoring/>

Connecting to Success is an electronic mentoring program, begun in 1999, designed to promote successful transition of youth with disabilities to adult life. Electronic mentoring, also called e-mentoring, uses a combination of e-mail and face-to-face meetings to facilitate mentoring relationships between young people and caring adults.

Disability Benefits 101

<http://www.mn.db101.org/>

Disability Benefits 101 gives you tools and information on health coverage, benefits, and employment. You can plan ahead and learn how work and benefits go together

Disability Linkage Line

<http://www.mcil-mn.org/programs/disability-linkage-line>

The Disability Linkage Line is an information and referral service for people with disabilities, which was launched in 2004 by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. It provides service to the entire state from four locations, Metro, Rochester, Bemidji and Baxter.

The Disability Linkage Line can be reached statewide by calling toll-free, 1-866-333-2466. An Option Counselor will be available during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) to provide one-to-one assistance to help people learn about their options and connect with the supports and services they choose.

There is no wrong call to the Disability Linkage Line. Inquiries include requests for information and referrals on disability benefits programs, home modifications, assistive technology, personal assistance services, transition services, accessible housing, employment, social activities and disability rights.

For people who prefer looking for resources over the Internet, the Disability Linkage Line is a partner in the statewide resource database found at Minnesotahelp.info

The Disability Linkage Line providers are The Metropolitan Center for Independent Living and the Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living. Both work in collaboration with Senior LinkAge Line®, a specialty information and assistance service for seniors and the Veteran Linkage Line® to assist military veterans and their families. They also work with other local information and referral agencies to enhance effective and consistent delivery of disability-related information and assistance services.

For additional information please contact the Disability Linkage Line at 1-866-333-2466.

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition--Creating Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities to Achieve Successful Futures

<http://www.ncset.org/>

The National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) coordinates national resources, offers technical assistance, and disseminates information related to secondary education and transition for youth with disabilities in order to create opportunities for youth to achieve successful futures. NCSET is headquartered at the [Institute on Community Integration](#) in the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development.

Resource Library at Benton Stearns Education District

** Contact main office at 320-252-8427 for a complete listing.

Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM)

<http://www.ausm.org/>

Established in 1971, the Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to education, support and advocacy designed to enhance the lives of those affected by autism from birth through retirement. AuSM members throughout the state of Minnesota and the upper Midwest include families, educators, caregivers, and professionals who support individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Autism Research Institute|

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

Rates of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis in children are rapidly increasing to epidemic proportions, and are expected to continue to rise. Families and communities struggle to understand, and to cope with this

challenge. While causes of ASD remain unclear, recent scientific advances challenge the traditional view of autism as an untreatable disease—as one that is “genetically hard-wired.” These developments support the position that Autism Research Institute (ARI) has always maintained: Autism Is Treatable. Established in 1967 by psychologist and renowned father of modern autism research Dr. Bernard Rimland, ARI continues to pioneer in research, outreach, and cooperative efforts with other organizations worldwide. ARI advocates for the rights of people with ASD, and operates without funding from special-interest groups.

Autism Speaks

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/>

Autism Speaks was founded in February 2005 by Bob and Suzanne Wright, grandparents of a child with autism. Their longtime friend Bernie Marcus donated \$25 million to help financially launch the organization. Since then, Autism Speaks has grown into the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder

<http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/>

Since 2007, the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder (NPDC) has worked to develop free professional resources for teachers, therapists, and technical assistance providers who work with individuals with ASD. Resources include detailed information on how to plan, implement, and monitor specific evidence-based practices.

National Autism Center at May Institute

<http://www.nationalautismcenter.org/>

The National Autism Center is May Institute’s Center for the Promotion of Evidence-based Practice. It is a nonprofit organization dedicated to disseminating evidence-based information about the treatment of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), promoting best practices, and offering comprehensive and reliable resources for families, practitioners, and communities.

In 2009, the National Autism Center completed an unprecedented multi-year project — the National Standards Project — to establish a set of standards for effective, research-validated educational and behavioral interventions for children on the spectrum. These standards identify treatments that effectively target the core symptoms of ASD. The resulting National Standards Report is the most comprehensive analysis available to date about treatments for children and adolescents with ASD.

The Watson Institute

<https://www.thewatsoninstitute.org/>

The Watson Institute educates children and youth with special needs, including autism spectrum disorders, neurological impairments, or serious emotional challenges, and trains the professionals and pre-professionals who serve those children.

My Infinitec

<http://www.myinfinitec.org/>

Infinitec, which stands for infinite potential through technology, is the technology program of UCP of Greater Chicago. The mission of Infinitec is to advance independence and promote inclusive opportunities for children and adults through technology. We are a member-based organization currently supporting school districts in

Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania.

Infinitec offers four pillars of service:

- Training and Education includes face-to-face and distance learning for professional development.
- Information Services consists of extensive web and hard copy resources. An additional innovative resource is InfiniTEXT, an online, accessible instructional materials collection which provides access to over 11,000 digital text files for qualified K-12 students with print disabilities.
- Access to Expertise includes access to highly experienced technical assistance staff.
- Equipment Services includes discount purchase programs and a lending library of equipment for the state of Illinois.

The Center on Secondary Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

<http://csesa.fpg.unc.edu/resources/understanding-autism-professional-development-curriculum>

The Center on Secondary Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (CSESA) is excited to announce the availability of its newest resource, the Understanding Autism Professional Development Curriculum. Created in collaboration with the Organization for Autism Research (OAR), this comprehensive professional development tool is designed to provide middle and high school teachers with the knowledge and evidence-based strategies needed to support their students with autism in the general education classroom.

The resources can be used to support various forms of professional development – large group, such as staff meetings or in-services, small teams, such as professional learning communities and department meetings, self-study, and/or one-on-one coaching. The materials include two 75-minute training presentations, to be used together or separately, with video clips, participant handouts, activity worksheets, and facilitator notes.

Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)

<http://www.ocali.org/>

Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) serves families, educators, and professionals working with students with autism and low-incidence disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, and traumatic brain injuries.

Based on a respect for individuals with autism and low incidence disabilities and our belief in their right, need, and desire to achieve their full potential, OCALI's mission is to build state- and system-wide capacity to improve their outcomes through leadership, training and professional development, technical assistance, collaboration, and technology.

Further, we believe that families, as well as professionals, play a critical role in promoting the highest possible achievement of each child. To that end, we see connection and partnership with families as vital to the success of each individual at school and in the community.

edWeb.net

<https://www.edweb.net>

edWeb.net is a highly-acclaimed professional social and learning network that has become a vibrant online community for exceptional educators, decision-makers, and influencers who are on the leading edge of innovation in education.

edWeb members are teachers, faculty, administrators, and librarians at K12 and post-secondary institutions. edWeb is a place where educators who are looking for ways to improve teaching and learning can gather and share information and ideas with peers and thought leaders in the industry.

Any educator can use edWeb for free to create a personal learning network or professional learning community to make it easier to collaborate, share ideas, and move forward faster with new ideas and initiatives, particularly those that leverage technology to accelerate improvement.

Devereaux Center for Resilient Children

<http://www.centerforresilientchildren.org/home/informational-webinars/>

The mission of the Devereux Center for Resilient Children (DCRC) is to promote social and emotional development, foster resilience, and build skills for school and life success in children birth through school-age, as well as to promote the resilience of the adults who care for them.

Comprised of education, mental health, and research professionals, the DCRC team develops strength-based assessment and strategy resources supported by some of the best and most thorough developmental research in the fields of social and emotional development and resilience. DCRC makes these resources available to early care and education professionals, teachers, after-school program staff, mental health professionals and parents in their efforts to enhance children's social and emotional well-being.

The National Implementation Research Network's Active Implementation Hub

<http://implementation.fpg.unc.edu/>

The AI Hub is developed and maintained by the State Implementation and Scaling-up of Evidence-based Practices Center (SISEP) and the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's FPG Child Development Institute.

BrainFacts.org

<http://www.brainfacts.org/diseases-disorders/childhood-disorders/articles/2011/autism-the-pervasive-developmental-disorder/>

BrainFacts.org is an authoritative source of information about the brain and nervous system for the public. The brain is the most complex biological structure in the known universe. It is a topic rich with exciting new discoveries, continuing profound unknowns, and critical implications for individuals, families, and societies.

The Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) of the US Dept. of Health and Human Services

http://iacc.hhs.gov/news/news_updates/2012/news_2011_summary_of_advances.shtml

The Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) was originally established under the Children's Health Act of 2000 ([Public Law 106-310](#), PDF – 546 KB). The committee was reauthorized and chartered as a federal advisory committee under the Combating Autism Act of 2006 ([Public Law 109-416](#), PDF – 49 KB) and was reauthorized again in 2011 under the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011 ([Public Law 112-32](#), PDF – 119 KB).

Friends Like You, Friends Like Me

<http://www.friendslikeyoufriendslikeme.org>

Friends Like You. Friends Like Me" is community-outreach initiative designed to educate children about autism spectrum disorder and provide tools to facilitate friendships among children.

The program encourages recognition of children's similarities, reinforces the common desire to be accepted and have friends, demystifies autism in an age-appropriate manner, and promotes inclusion, respect, and friendship between children of all abilities.

Program staff have created a film that illustrates ways to work with children to educate them about children who are on the autism spectrum. School administrators, students, and professionals share ideas and strategies to facilitate positive peer relationships and friendship development. The film offers strategies and resources to encourage interactions and friendships in school environments as well as in the general community. In addition they have developed free, downloadable materials that can assist you in your efforts. The film is designed to be used in a variety of settings (e.g., schools, recreational programs, sports teams) and can easily be adapted.

RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM AND FAMILIES

autism NOW --The National Autism Resource & Information Center

<http://autismnow.org/>

Autism NOW: The National Autism Resource and Information Center will be a dynamic and interactive, highly visible and effective central point of quality resources and information for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities, their families, and other targeted key stakeholders.

A Resource Directory for Families with Children and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorders

<http://www.arcmidstate.org/docs/ASD-Directory-version-Sept-2013.pdf>

Arc Midstate

<http://www.arcmidstate.org/>

As one of 700 chapters across the nation, Arc Midstate is a nonprofit membership organization offering advocacy, resources and connections to individuals with developmental disabilities such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, Fragile X, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and their families, as well as educators and providers.

St Cloud Metro Area Opportunities for Young People with Disabilities

- Connect Up- Area-wide Options for Children & Teens
- Volunteering and Service Learning
- United Way of Central Minnesota Volunteer Central (All ages)
- Mentors and Role Models
- Support and Advocacy for Independent Living (SAIL)/ Catholic Charities (Ages 6 – 21)
- Work/Career and College Readiness
- Minnesota Workforce Center – St. Cloud (Ages 14 – 21)
- Mosaic Summer Bridge Program (Ages 18+)
- Quality Out-of-School Time Activities
- ARISE/A Recreational Inclusion Support Endeavor Birth – Age 21 with any type of disability)
- Minnesota Wing Civil Air Patrol (Ages 12 -21)
- Support and Advocacy for Independent Living (SAIL)/ Catholic Charities (Ages 16 – 21)
- Great River Regional Library System classes and clubs

