NEXTSTEPS

A guide for families with children with autism spectrum disorders



This booklet outlines helpful information and statewide resources for Vermont families with children with autism spectrum disorders.

March 2011

Purpose of the guide

After the initial shock and sadness of receiving a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), the first questions that often arise are "Where do we go from here?" "What do we do next?"

The purpose of this Next Steps guide is to provide parents and others involved with families of children with ASD some basic information and resources for assistance. This will include a roadmap for locating assistance and a description of available services and resources. It should be helpful for parents, other family members, doctors, caregivers, service coordinators, therapists and educators.

Feel free to reprint and distribute this document. The latest version is available on-line http://www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddas-programs/programs-autism-default-page#publications

This document has been produced by Clare McFadden, Autism Specialist at the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living in conjunction with the Vermont Autism Task Force and other departments of Vermont State Government. It is adapted, with permission from the Autism Society of Wisconsin, from the Wisconsin Next Steps: a guide for families new to autism spectrum disorders. Printing has been made available with funding from the Vermont Departments of Health, Education and/or Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. For updates, additions or corrections, contact Clare McFadden at 241-2863 or clare.mcfadden@ahs.state.vt.us

What is an Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism is one of a group of diagnoses identified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-IV, TR, American Psychiatric Manual of Mental Disorders, 2000) as pervasive developmental disorders (PDD). Included in this group are autistic disorder, Rett's disorder (also known as Rett's syndrome), childhood disintegrative disorder, Asperger's disorder (also known as Asperger's syndrome), and pervasive developmental disorder, not otherwise specified (PDD.NOS). Because there are some overlapping symptoms across these disorders, autism, Asperger's and PDD.NOS are often referred to in the professional literature as autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Autism is a developmental disorder of neurobiological origin that can have life-long effects in the areas of social interaction and communication. Autism spectrum disorders vary in severity of symptoms, age of onset, and association with other disorders, such as intellectual disability, language disability, and epilepsy. The manifestation of autism varies across children and an individual child's lifetime. No two individuals with autism are alike, even if they have the same diagnosis. Autism affects approximately four times more boys than girls. Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) have been estimated to occur in 1 in 110 individuals (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009). The characteristic behaviors of ASD may or may not be apparent in infancy, but usually become obvious during early childhood (ages 2-6).

More information about pervasive developmental disorders is available in the American Academy of Pediatrics *Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders* which is included in the Vermont Child Development Clinic's Next Step packet or online from the Autism Society of America at www.autism-society.org.

What Causes ASD?

Autism is a neurological disorder whose cause remains unknown. It is likely that there is no single cause. Today, researchers believe that several genes, possibly in combination with environmental factors, may contribute to autism. Some studies of individuals with autism have identified differences in several regions of the brain. The amount of research being done has increased significantly in recent years in hopes of discovering the causes of ASD.

How Can ASD be Treated?

While no cure for ASD has been identified, continued research has led to better treatment and therapies. The primary interventions are educational. Research shows that up to half of children receiving intensive early intervention have made significant gains. Many children continue to show some symptoms in varying degrees throughout their lives and many require lifelong support and supervision. At this point research can not tell us which children will benefit from which type of intervention. No one intervention works for all children or even the same child across his/her lifespan.

Sorting through information regarding appropriate intervention can be daunting. Information is available on the internet, in books, from other parents and professionals. There is a lack of consensus in the field of autism regarding the most effective interventions. Some of the treatment approaches have research studies that support their effectiveness, while others do not. Parents should inform themselves regarding the range of available interventions. The Autism Society of America provides an overview of a range of interventions on their website at www.autism-society.org. The National Standards Project provides a comprehensive review of the research regarding treatment for children and adolescents with ASD. Information about the project and their 2009 be http://www.nationalautismcenter.org/about/national.php. The Vermont Autism Task Force has developed an online "toolkit" which describes various types of interventions and evaluates the current research available to support those interventions. This is available at www.AutismTaskForce.com. A discussion of interventions for young children with ASD is also available in the Vermont Interagency White Paper on Autism Spectrum Disorders which is available online at http://www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddaspublications/publications-autism/publications-autism-documents/dds-autism-whitepaper-march-2006. Additional information is available on some of the autism websites listed in the appendix.

Where do I find help in Vermont?

Parent and Family Support

Raising a child with an autism spectrum disorder can be a challenge. Many families cope very well on their own. Others benefit from a variety of formal and informal support systems. Some informal supports include relying on the family's social support network, such as friends, family, church, etc. Many families benefit from participation in parent support groups. These groups vary, but may provide emotional support, information regarding resources and interventions, empowerment, and a sense of community. Some groups are involved in advocacy. A list of support groups in Vermont is located in the appendix. New groups are forming, so if you do not see a group in your area, check the Vermont Family Network website at www.vermontfamilynetwork.org or call 1-800-800-4005.

Formal systems include family support organizations that can provide information, support and advocacy in a variety of areas including diagnosis and treatment options; referrals to resources such as support groups, programs and funding sources;

educational services; referrals to medical services, respite care, summer camps and recreation activities; assistance and information regarding transition planning (from Early Intervention services to school or to adult services); and parent training. Some family support organizations in Vermont include the following:

Vermont Family Network

600 Blair Park Road, Suite 240 Williston, VT 05495 1-800-800-4005/ 1-800-639-7170/ 1-802-764-5290 www.vermontfamilynetwork.org

Children with Special Health Needs

John Zampieri State Office Building 108 Cherry Street PO Box 70 Burlington, VT 05402 1-800-660-4427/ local #: 1-802-863-7338/ TDD: 1-802-863-7200 www.healthvermont.gov/family/cshn/clinic.aspx

Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

95 South Main Street
PO Box 507
Waterbury, VT 05676-0507
802-244-1955
1-800-639-6071 for families only
www.vffcmh.org

Additional supports and services are available from a variety of sources in Vermont. The majority of these are publicly funded through the state and federal government. These are described on the following pages.

Private Insurance and Medicaid

Some services can be paid for through private insurance or Medicaid insurance. Services such as speech, physical, and occupational therapy and mental health care may be covered by the family's private insurance or through Medicaid. There are generally limits to the type and amount of these services that can be covered by these sources, so check with the insurance provider in advance.

Medicaid

Medicaid insurance pays for medical services including some services that are unavailable through your private insurance. Children with ASD might use Medicaid to cover evaluations, speech, physical or occupational therapies, Children's Personal Care Services (described later), care coordination, psychological services, assistive devices or mental health services.

Medicaid is a jointly funded state and federal program for the payment of medical services for those who qualify. While some people are eligible for Medicaid based upon income, some children are eligible based on having a disability, regardless of family income. This eligibility option is known as Katie Beckett. Your social worker from the Child Development Clinic can help you apply. You can also apply directly through the local Department for Children and Families, Economic Services Division District Office. You can locate your local office and additional information by calling 1-800-287-0589 or at http://www.dcf.vermont.gov/esd/contact_us/district_offices. Applications are also available online at this website under health insurance. Vermont Family Network (listed on the previous page) also has a helpful guide entitled 6 Ways to Access Medicaid/EPSDT, which explains who is eligible, what services are available and how to apply for Medicaid. This is available at http://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/6WaysAccess.pdf

SSI

SSI stands for Supplemental Security Income. It is a monthly payment from the Social Security Administration to people with limited income and resources who are over 65 years old, blind or disabled. While there are income limits, there is a good chance that a child with a disability would qualify. You can apply for SSI at your local Social Security Administration office. Appointments for any office may be made by calling the national toll free number 1-800-772-1213/ TDD 1-800-328-0778 or calling the local SSA office. In Vermont, offices are located in Burlington, 802-951-6753, Montpelier, 802-223-3476 and Rutland 802-775-0893. Additional information on SSI is available online at www.ssa.gov or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

SSI payments can be spent for the benefit of the child for items such as food, clothing, shelter, medical care and personal comfort items. Once these needs are met, funds can be spent on things like life insurance, home accessibility modifications or medical equipment.

Personal Care Services: ages 0-21

Children, under age 21, with a significant disability or health condition that affects care giving needs and/or the development of self-care skills can receive personal care services. A child must have Medicaid insurance to receive this service. Personal Care Services provide individual assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, eating, etc. in a person's home or community. Families can use these services flexibly when they are needed. Families can have services provided by an agency, in some areas of the state, or they can hire their own workers to provide this service.

The Personal Care Services program is piloting an option which increases the flexibility in allowable uses of funding through the service. Under the Children's Creative Connection (C3) option, Personal Care Services recipients can access an array of services and goods related to the child's indicated special care needs.

The C3 option, which is available to 150 children, started in the summer of 2008 and is expected to run for approximately 12 to 18-months. Following the pilot stage, this option may be expanded statewide.

To apply for Personal Care Services, contact the local home health agency, Professional Nurses Services, the local developmental services agency, the local Part C/Early Intervention program or your social worker at Children with Special Health Needs to arrange for an initial assessment. See the list of Personal Care Services evaluators in the appendix.

Additional information is available online at http://www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddas-programs/programs-cpcs-default-page. For general information, contact the Children's Personal Care Program at 888-268-4860. TTY: 866-410-5781, option 1, then enter 36255.

Children's Integrated Services Part C/Early Intervention Services: Birth to Age 3

Part C/Early Intervention Program, a program within Children's Integrated Services (formally known as the Family Infant and Toddler Program), provides early intervention services for infants and toddlers, birth to three, who have a medical condition that may result in a developmental delay or who are experiencing or are at risk for a developmental delay(s). The purpose of the Part C/Early Intervention program is to support and promote a child's development and to prepare a child to be ready to learn from school and to learn from life. The program is available throughout Vermont at no cost to families.

After a multidisciplinary evaluation, children who are eligible receive services which are based upon assessed needs of the child and are written into the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Early intervention strategies and services are designed with the family to meet the identified needs of their child. They may include audiology, assistive technology, family training, home visits, medical evaluations for diagnostic purposes, nursing, nutrition, transportation, service coordination, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling or psychological services, social work, speech/language therapy, specialized instruction or vision services.

You can call (800) 870-6758 for information on the Children's Integrated Services (CIS), Early Intervention Program statewide and for referrals to regional host agencies that carry out the CIS /Early Intervention Services. You may also contact: State Program Director, Terri Edgerton, at 802-241-3622 or Kathy Boulanger, at (802) 241-3602.

To make a referral or self-refer, you can either call the 800 number above or your regional host agency or speak with the regional CIS intake coordinator. The numbers of the early intervention host agencies are listed in the appendix and online at: http://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/pdf/cdd/dev/CIS contacts.pdf Additional information is available at: http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/cis/IDEA Part C early intervention

Special Education: 6-21 year olds

Special Education Regulations require that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education (FAPE)...designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for employment and independent living. Children, age 6-21 who have a diagnosed disability or an assessed developmental delay that negatively impacts their ability to learn from the general education program, are eligible for special education and related services. The disability must result in an adverse effect on the child's educational performance in one or more of the basic skill areas and the child must be in need of special education services to benefit from his or her educational program. Services may be provided in a regular classroom, special classroom in regular school or in special schools depending upon the needs of the student.

Special education services include specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. Related services mean transportation and such developmental, corrective and other supportive services as are required to assist a child to benefit from special education. Related services include audiology services, interpreting services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, including therapeutic recreation, counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling, orientation services and medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes. Related services also include school health services, school nurse services, social work services in school and parent counseling and training. Based upon the needs of a child, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed.

Parents and guardians can request an assessment to determine if their child is eligible for special education and related services through their local school. A school district, the Vermont Department of Education or other state agency may also initiate a request for an initial evaluation to determine eligibility.

Parents should learn about special education regulations and their rights. These are available from your local school or on-line at the Department of Education. See Department of Education website http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_sped.html for special education regulations. The Department of Education can also answer questions about special education on their technical assistance line at 828-5114.

Assistance with understanding special education and with advocating for your child's education is available through Vermont Family Network listed above under Parent and Family Support.

Essential Early Education: 3 through 5.11 years old

Essential Early Education (EEE) is Vermont's early childhood special education for children ages 3 through 5 years old. Federal special education law, the Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act 2004, indicates that a child, ages three through five years of age who demonstrates a significant developmental delay in one or more of the following areas: receptive and/or expressive communication; adaptive development; social or emotional development; physical development including gross or fine motor skills; cognitive skills or the child has a medical condition which may result in significant delays by the child's sixth birthday and the child is in need of special education, is entitled to these services. Once a child is determined eligible for special education, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed by the IEP team according to the child's unique needs. Early childhood special education and related services may be provided across a variety of settings i.e., public preschool classroom, Head Start or community-based childcare setting, and/or in the child's home. The goal for young children with disabilities is to ensure a free and appropriate public education within high quality inclusive early childhood settings/environments.

For more information about EEE services within your community, contact the EEE coordinator at your local school.

For additional information, see the Department of Education website at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_earlyed/essential_early.html. Or contact Kate Rogers, EEE Consultant at 828-5115.

Section 504 Plans

Some children with disabilities do not meet the eligibility criteria for special education, because their disability is not negatively impacting their ability to learn from the general education program. These children may be eligible for a 504 plan.

504 plans refer to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which protects people with disabilities from discrimination in any program or activity receiving federal funding. Students with disabilities that substantially limit a major life activity such as learning, working, hearing, speaking, etc. may require an individual accommodation plan or specific services to ensure access to education and school sponsored activities.

The Section 504 Guide is available on-line at the Department of Education at http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_sped/laws/educ_sped_laws_504_guide.pdf

or upon request at Department of Education, 120 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501. There is also a fact sheet available at http://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/F13-WhatYouNeedtoKnowAboutSection504.pdf

Transition from school to adulthood, age 16-adulthood

For the student with ASD, transition from high school to adult life happens best with early planning and the active participation of the student, family, and all involved providers. With an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in school, transition services are required for students 16 and older. After graduation or departure from high school, there are no guaranteed adult support services in Vermont. There are eligibility requirements and some services are prioritized for those with the most significant needs. As a result, the high school years are a critical time for developing talents, skills, tools and services necessary for "having a life".

The transition plan within the IEP provides this roadmap, addressing four key areas: postsecondary education and training, community employment, independent living and community participation. There are many transition resources and sample IEP transition plans located on Vermont's Secondary Transition Online Resource Center at http://www.uvm.edu/~cdci/tripscy/?Page=TransPlanRes.html&SM=TnsSubmenu.html. Another resource to be familiar with is the transition learning community at http://tlcworkshops.pbworks.com/w/page/11558529/FrontPage . There are several person centered transition planning tools to assist with plan design such as MAPS (McGill Action Planning System, PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) and COACH (Choosing Outcomes and Accommodations for Children)that are used as a resource by many high schools in Vermont. The Autism Society of America website http://www.autism-society.org/living-with-autism/lifespan/adulthood/transitions.html offers helpful guidance, resources, and links for transition planning issues that are somewhat unique to ASD. For high schools in Vermont, the student's first transition plan is to be done at age 16. Schools must provide reasonable and appropriate access to transition planning prior to graduation for special education students. Specific transition goals can then be addressed in the student's IEP as well as by the student, family or other providers. In some cases, the student and their team may consider continuing the high school experience up to age 22. The transition plan identifies the other agencies involved and the responsibilities they have in the transition planning process. A fact sheet on Transition can be found at: http://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/wpcontent/uploads/2010/12/Transition-to-adulthood.pdf

Young adulthood is a time of big changes in many areas of life. Change can be difficult for many individuals with ASD. One young adult described it as "the best of times and the worst of times." Some adults with ASD can navigate adult living with natural support from friends and family. Each individual's situation is unique. There are a range of possible adult services for adults with ASD available from a variety of agencies such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Developmental Services or Community Mental Health Agencies. These are described on the following pages.

An important guideline: Involve the young adult in the planning and decision making about his/her life. This may require a tailored approach, for example, allowing extra time and assistance to process and prepare responses. There are also peer self-advocacy groups growing throughout Vermont that give students and families support and connection with others who are thinking about similar issues. A list of self-advocacy groups is listed in the appendix. There are also parent support groups in various

communities in VT that are focused on issues related to transition age youth and adults (age 17 and up) with developmental disabilities. These are listed at http://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/i-need-help-with/health/families-together-groups/ or contact Vermont Family Network.

Developmental Disability Services, (some limited services for children under 18, more comprehensive services for adults)

<u>Purpose of Service</u>: To provide support to individuals with developmental disabilities to live, work and participate as citizens in their local communities.

Who is eligible: Person with a developmental disability defined as having 1) a diagnosis of mental retardation OR a pervasive developmental disorder including Autistic Disorder, Rett's Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Asperger's Disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorder, NOS AND 2) significant deficits in daily functioning AND 3) onset of the disability prior to age 18.

Types of services available: Under the Home and Community-based Services (HCBS) funding mechanism, services include service coordination, employment support, home support, respite, clinical intervention and crisis support. Funding for these services is prioritized to those most in need based upon the Developmental Disability Services State System of Care Plan. These services are primarily available to adults. New HCBS funding for children under 18 is currently available to children in state custody or children at risk of admission to a psychiatric hospital or nursing home. Services are individually tailored depending on assessed needs. These services are provided by private developmental service agencies or can be self or family managed.

For those who do not qualify to receive comprehensive services through the HCBS option, Developmental Disability Services options include crisis services, Flexible Family Funding, care coordination, respite and referral. Crisis services are available 24 hours a day for anyone experiencing a crisis. Flexible Family Funding is money available to eligible families with a family member with a developmental disability living at home. An amount up to \$1,000 per year may be used at the discretion of the family towards goods or services that are in the person's/family's best interest. Developmental Disability Designated Agencies may also provide care coordination for children and young adults up to age 22 to assist families to access and coordinate needed educational, social, medical or other services. Developmental Services agencies can also direct people to other resources or supports available in their community.

Public guardianship is available for adults over 18 with developmental disabilities. Public guardians assist and empower people under guardianship in making decisions and taking actions in critical life areas. For information regarding obtaining a public guardian, go to http://www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddas-units/units-opg/opg-default or call 802-241-2663. For a handbook on guardianship:http://www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddas-policies/policies-guardianship-documents/guardians-handbook-2010

For more detailed information about Developmental Services, go to http://www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddas-programs/programs-dds/programs-dds-default-page

<u>How to apply for services</u>: Contact the Designated Developmental Service Agency for the area where the person lives. For a list of Designated Agencies, go to http://dail.vermont.gov/dail-programs/dail-programs-providers/dail-providers-list-dds or see the attached list in the appendix.

Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Services, age 0-22

<u>Purpose of the service:</u> The mission of this system is to assure timely delivery of effective prevention, early intervention, and mental health treatment and supports through a family-centered system of care for all children and families in Vermont.

Who is eligible: a child or youth, ages birth to 22, who has diagnosed mental health disorder.

Types of services available: The Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health treatment system is organized around five core capacity services that are available separately or in combination for a youth and their family, depending on their desires and needs. The five core capacities are: 1) immediate crisis response, 2) clinic based treatment, 3) outreach treatment, 4) family support, and 5) prevention, screening, referral and community consultation. Within these capacities, children and their families can access specific services like assessments, group, individual or family therapy, medication services, service coordination, skills training and social support, respite, family education, training, and consultation. In addition, intensive out-of-home supports may be available for those children with acute mental health needs who also receive Medicaid. These supports could include emergency placements, therapeutic foster placements, intensive residential services and inpatient hospital services (some of these supports may also be available to children with private insurance). Funding for out-of-home resources are limited and children with the highest level of need are prioritized.

Mental health direct services are provided by private, non-profit service providers called Designated Agencies (DA) located throughout the state. The Department of Mental Health designates one DA in each geographic region of the state as responsible for ensuring that needed services are available. For more detailed information regarding Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Services, go to http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/cafu or call the Department of Mental Health at 1-888-212-4677, 1-802-241-2601 or TTY 1-800-253-0191.

<u>How to apply for services:</u> People apply for services at the Designated Agency in their area. See the attached list in the appendix or find the list online at http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/DAlist

Adult Mental Health Services, age 18 and above

<u>Purpose of service:</u> To provide access to effective prevention, early intervention and mental health treatment and supports as needed for people to live, work, learn and participate fully in their communities.

Who is eligible: people with a wide range of emotional, behavioral and other mental health problems. Not all programs have the same eligibility criteria or services available. The intake coordinator works with people to agree on what their needs and strengths are, what services are available to them, and what they need to do to apply for services. Types of services available: Depending upon the program they are eligible for, people may receive evaluation, individual, family or group therapy, medication prescription and monitoring, service coordination, community supports, help in finding and keeping a job, help in finding and keeping a place to live, getting an education, education to help individuals understand their mental illness, help in getting life goals met, emergency or crisis services, social and recovery skills, consumer and family support programs, substance abuse services and hospitalization when needed.

How to apply for services: People apply for services at the Designated Community Mental Health Center in their area. See the attached list in the appendix or find the list online at http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/DAlist

<u>For more information:</u> go to http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/adult or call the Department of Mental Health at 1-888-212-4677, 1-802-241-2601 or TTY 1-800-253-0191.

Vocational Rehabilitation, transition age youth to adulthood

<u>Purpose of service:</u> "VocRehabVermont" is a section of state government. Its job is to help people with disabilities to prepare themselves for work, find a job, or maintain current employment.

Eligibility: Any person in Vermont may be eligible who:

- Has a disability that is a barrier to working.
- Requires the services of VR to become or remain employed.
- * For high school students with disabilities, VR is available to help with transition planning.

Types of services available: VocRehab Vermont promotes employment for people with disabilities through advocacy, partnerships with employers and providers, and services to individuals. Individuals direct the development of their career goals and plans with the assistance of skilled vocational counselors. Services and supports include vocational assessments, training/education, vocational counseling and guidance, referrals to community partners, job-related equipment, job placement, on-the-job support, and more. Services and available funding are highly individualized to the needs and employment goals of each person. People who are already employed can ask VR to help them to maintain employment.

For transition age youth, VocRehab has a team of transition counselors available. They meet with students, who have IEP or 504 plans, in high schools throughout Vermont to assist with planning for life post high school. Youth and/or their families may also request to meet their counselor at the local VocRehab office. For youth who are still in school, transition counselors are available to help with such needs as career exploration, discussions about education and training choices, or planning for transition. They bring resources and information about benefits counseling, assistive technology, and community resources. For youth, no longer in high school, transition counselors can assist with job search (resume writing, interviewing skills, career planning), supporting success in employment (coaching, work needs, transportation solutions, job accommodations, etc.) and help with training and education after high school (finding a good school program, assistance with arranging college students services, funding for associated costs).

<u>How to apply</u>: Contact your local Vocational Rehabilitation office. Listings for local offices are available by phone or on the VR website.

<u>Contact information:</u> Call VR at 866-879-6757/ 802-241-2186 or TTY: 802-241-1455 or http://vocrehab.vermont.gov/

The website also includes information about other special programs such as: benefits counseling, traumatic brain injury, deaf and hard of hearing, SSA Ticket to Work, and others.

Agency of Human Services

The Vermont Agency of Human Services provides other services in addition to those listed above. The range of services for individuals and families include accessing child care, child support, protection from child abuse, employment services, economic support for families in need and others. Information regarding what is available is located on the agency's website at http://humanservices.vermont.gov/ or by calling 802-241-2244. This website includes a web-based tool called the Screen Door to help Vermonters find out what services might be available to meet their specific needs. Information and referral to specific services in Vermont can also be obtained by calling Vermont 211. Just dial 2-1-1 to speak to an information specialist. Information is also available at their website at www.vermont211.org

The Future

Much has been learned about autism spectrum disorders in the last fifteen years and research continues to advance our knowledge. Now, with appropriate treatment, many children with ASD grow to become active, participating members of their communities. People with ASD can learn to compensate for and cope with their differences, often quite well. While each individual is unique and it is hard to predict the future for an individual child, it may help to know that:

- Children with ASD are learning in regular education classrooms with and from their peers.
- Students with ASD continue their education beyond high school and some graduate from college.

- Adults with ASD, even those with significant challenges, are capable of holding jobs in the community.
- In Vermont, the vast majority of people with ASD live in home and community settings, not institutions.
- People with ASD receive assistance and support in the natural settings of daily life (at school, on the job and in their homes.)
- People with ASD are becoming self-advocates. Self-advocacy is well supported in Vermont, promoting opportunities for peer support and having self-advocates voices heard in their personal lives and in the public arena.
- Increasingly, people with ASD are attending and/or speaking at conferences and workshops on autism.
- People with ASD are providing valuable insight in the challenges of this disability by publishing articles and books and by appearing on television specials about their lives and their disabilities.

In conclusion, as difficult as the diagnosis of autism can be for your family, remember that with proper resources, support and education, people with ASD can cope and prosper.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Vermont Resources

Division of Disability and Aging Services

103 South Main Street, Weeks Bldg Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 Clare McFadden, Autism Specialist 802-241-2863 clare.mcfadden@ahs.state.vt.us

Department of Education

120 State Street Montpelier, VT 05620-2501 Claire Bruno, Autism Consultant 802-828-5116 claire.bruno@state.vt.us

Children with Special Health Needs

John Zampieri State Office Building
108 Cherry Street
PO Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402
1-800-660-4427/ local #: 1-802-863-7338/ TDD: 1-802-863-7200
www.healthvermont.gov/family/cshn/clinic.aspx

Vermont Family Network

600 Blair Park Road, Suite 240 Williston, VT 05495 1-800-800-4005/ 1-800-639-7170/ 1-802-764-5290 www.vermontfamilynetwork.org

Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

95 South Main Street PO Box 507 Waterbury, VT 05676-0507 802-244-1955 1-800-639-6071 for families only www.vffcmh.org

Vermont Autism Task Force Website

www.AutismTaskForce.com

National Resources

Autism Society of America

7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 300 Bethesda, MD 20814-3067 1-800-328-8476/1-310-657-0881 www.autism-society.org

See list of additional websites in appendix.

Appendix
Support Groups for Parents of Children with ASD

Name of the	Area Served	Contact	How to Contact
	Alea Selveu		now to contact
Support Group		Person	
Approaching Autism with Advocacy, Recovery &	Washington, Orange, Caledonia,	Claudia Pringles	802-229-2526 Cpringles@AAware.org
Education	Orleans, &		
(AAWARE)	Essex Counties Vermont & New	Kirsten	000 440 0044
ARCH of the Upper Valley	Hampshire	Murphy	603-448-6311 603-443-0652 <u>Kirsten.murphy23@gmail.com</u> http://www.archoftheuppervalley.info/index.html
Autism Society of New Hampshire	New Hampshire		603-679-2424 Info@nhautism.com
Autism Support Daily	All Counties in Vermont	Laurie Mumley	802-985-8773 www.autismsupportdaily.com
Chittenden Families Together For families who have a transitional age youth or adult with developmental disabilities	Chittenden County	Jan Hancock	1-800-800-4005 ext.215 Jan.hancock@vtfn.org
Exceptional Parents of Exceptional Children (EPEC) Autism Support and Advocacy Group	Rutland	Jon Gilbert Heidi Wener	802-779-3024 802-345-5006 rutlandepec@yahoo.com www.rutlandepec.blogspot.com
Franklin/Grand Isle Families Together For families who have a transitional age youth or adult with developmental disabilities	Franklin/Grand Isle	Betty Morse	1-800-800-4005 ext.201 Betty.morse@vtfn.org
Mom's Night Out Support Group	Franklin/Grand Isle	Betty Morse	1-800-800-4005 ext.201 Betty.morse@vtfn.org
Northeast Kingdom Families Together For families who have a transitional age youth or adult with developmental disabilities	Northeast Kingdom	Vermont Family Network	1-800-800-4005
Parent of Children with Special Needs Support Group and <i>The Social</i> Club (group for children	Saint Johnsbury area	Jean Metevier	802-748-3400 x 2 www.itihealth.org
Parents Supporting Our Children	Bennington	Wendy & Dave Ballou	802-447-5716 www.asdvt.org

Shadows of the Moon	Franklin/Grand Isle and surrounding counties and Canadian Townships	Laura Weber	802-849-2817 mlaweber@surfglobal.net
Windham Families Together For families who have a transitional age youth or adult with developmental disabilities	Windham	Barbara Lee	802-257-4853 bklmd@sover.net
Windsor Families Together For families who have a transitional age youth or adult with developmental disabilities	Windsor	Erin O'Hearne	802-296-7175 malemo@aol.com

Personal Care Services Evaluators/Providers

Addison County

Community Associates (802) 388-4021 Addison County Home Health & Hospice (802) 388-7259

Bennington County

United Counseling Services (802) 442-5491 VNA & Hospice of Southwestern VT Health Care (802) 442-5502

Caledonia County

Northeast Kingdom Human Services (802) 748-3181 Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice (802) 748-8116

Chittenden County

HowardCenter, Developmental Services (802) 488-6500 VNA of Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties (802) 658- 1900

Please note, local agencies vary in their availability to provide PCS assessments and/or services

Franklin County

Northwest Counseling & Support Services (802) 524-6561 Franklin County Home Health Agency (802) 527-7531

Lamoille County

Lamoille Community Connections (802) 888-6627 Lamoille County Home Health Agency (802) 888-4651 Sterling Area Services (802) 888-7602

Orange County

Upper Valley Services (802) 728-4476 VNA/VNH (800) 575-5162

Orleans County

Northeast Kingdom Human Services (802) 748-3181 Orleans, Essex VNA & Hospice (802) 334-5213

Rutland County

Community Access Program (802) 775-0828 Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association (802) 775-0568

Washington County

Washington County Mental Health (802) 479-2502 Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice (802) 223-1878

Windham and Windsor Counties

Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (802) 254-7500 ext. 1247 VNA/VNH (800) 575-5162

Statewide

Professional Nurses Services (800) 446-8773

Part C/Early Intervention Programs (see next list in appendix)

Autism Support Daily

Maintains a database of potential Personal Care Attendants throughout Vermont, accessible to parents only. Join the group at www.AutismSupportDaily.com

www.RewardingWork.org/vt

A statewide online registry of for direct care workers interested in working with individuals who need assistance. Families can search for potential personal care workers here.

Part C/ Early Intervention Host Agencies

ADDISON REGION

Sue Bloomer

Addison County Parent Child Center

CIS/Part C Early Intervention

Box 646 802-388-1437 or 1-800-639-1577

Middlebury, VT 05753 Fax: (802) 388-1590

BENNINGTON REGION

Sheila Boni

Southwest Vermont Medical Center

CIS/Part C Early Intervention

100 Hospital Drive East 802-447-2768 or 1-800-750-6975

Bennington, VT 05201 Fax: (802) 442-8331 - Attention Box 29

CALEDONIA REGION

Michelle Tarryk

Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc.

1 Main St.

Newport, VT 05855

CIS/Part C Early Intervention Program 802-748-6609, 802-748-0213 NEKLS 1-800-299-6609, Fax: (802) 751-8071

364 Railroad St, Suite 2 General #748-5624 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 802-334-3030

CHITTENDEN REGION

Marie Fetterhoff

Vermont Family Network

CIS/Part C Early Intervention Program 802-876-5315 VFN

600 Blair Park Road, Suite 240 802-764-5294 CIS-EI or 1-800-870-6758

Williston, Vermont 05495 Fax: (802) 876-6291

FRANKLIN/GRAND ISLE REGION

Danielle Lindley

Family Center of Northwestern Vermont CIS/Part C Early Intervention Program

130 Fisher Pond Rd. 802-524-6554 or 1-800-427-6574

St. Albans, VT 05478 Fax: 802-527-8167

LAMOILLE REGION

Scott Johnson

Lamoille Family Center CIS/Part C Early Intervention

480 Cady's Falls Road 802-888-5229 or 1-800-639-1932

Morrisville, VT 05661-9222 Fax: (802) 888-5392

ORANGE/WINDSOR REGION

Elaine Guenet/Anne Marie Darsney

The Family Place

CIS/Part C Early Intervention

319 US Rte 5 South 802-649-3268 or 1-800-639-0039

Norwich, VT 05055 Fax: (802) 649-3270

ORLEANS/ESSEX REGION

Michelle Tarryk

Northeast Kingdom Learning Services

CIS/Part C Early Intervention

55 Main St. Unit 1 802-766-9244 or 1-800-253-6621

Derby, VT 05829 Fax: (802) 766-5448

RUTLAND REGION

Caprice Hover

Rutland County Parent Child Center

CIS/Part C Early Intervention

61 Pleasant St. 802-775-9711or 1-800-974-2034

Rutland, VT 05701 Fax: (802) 775-5473

WASHINGTON REGION

Lee Lauber

The Family Center of Washington County

CIS/Part C Early Intervention

383 Sherwood Drive 802-262-3292 or 1-800-270-4231

Montpelier, VT 05602 Fax: (802) 262-6071

WINDHAM REGION

Chloe Learey

Winston Prouty Center

CIS/Part C Early Intervention 802-258-2414 or 1-800-281-7852

20 Winston Prouty Way Fax: (802) 258-2413

Brattleboro, VT 05301

WINDSOR SOUTH REGION

Betty Kinsman/Sherry Hatt

Springfield Area Parent Child Center

CIS/Part C Early Intervention

2 Main Street 802-886-5242 or 1-800-808-4442

North Springfield, VT 05150 Fax: (802) 886-2007

Self Advocacy Groups (for adults with developmental disabilities)

(these groups may change, if you receive no answer, contact Green Mountain Self-Advocates at (800)-564-9990.)

Group	Contact Person(s)	Contact Information	Locale
Advocates for Action	Debra Savery	802-886-4567 x2708	Springfield
Bennington Peer Support	Melanie Brunina	(802) 442-5491	Bennington
Burlington Self-Advocacy Club	Julia Kimbell	(802) 488-6500	Burlington
Champlain Voices	lan Jones	(802) 655-0511	Colchester
Connections of Peer Support (COPS) of White River Junction	Karen Daley-Regan	(802) 886-1833	White River Junction
Green Mountain Self Advocates	Karen Topper	(800)-564-9990	Vermont
Friends Helping Friends	Wendy Higgins	(802) 479-2502	Barre
Getting Acquainted	Patti Mack	(802) 888-5026	Morrisville
Next Step of St. Albans	Syd Boyd	(802) 524-6561	St. Albans
Our Drop In Center	Francine Heywood	(802) 334-8378	Newport
Rutland High School Self-Advocates	Carolyn Ravenna	(802) 770-1205	Rutland
Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered of Rutland (ARC)	Lisa Lynch	(802) 775-1370	Rutland
Self-Advocates Meeting (SAMS) of Springfield	Abby Carl Meghan Nelligan	(802) 886-1833	Springfield
Strong Advocate Voices & You (SAVY)	Gina Brown	(802) 888-7602	Morrisville
Speak Up Addison County	Mary Lafountain	(802) 388-8239	Middlebury
Vermont Choices	Heather O'Rourke	(802) 748-3181	St. Johnsbury

Vermont Developmental Services Providers

(CCS) CHAMPLAIN COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

512 Troy Ave., Suite 1 Exec. Director: Kelley Homiller

Colchester, VT 05446 County: Chittenden

Phone: 655-0511 FAX: 655-5207

(CAP) COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM OF RUTLAND COUNTY

PO Box 222, 78 South Main Street Director: Gloria Quinn Rutland, VT 05701 County: Rutland

Phone: 775-0828 FAX: 747-7692

(CA) COMMUNITY ASSOCIATES

109 Catamount Park Director: Greg Mairs Middlebury, VT 05753 County: Addison

Phone: 388-4021 FAX: 388-1868

(CDS) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

50 Granview Drive Director: Juliet Martin Barre, VT 05641 County: Washington

Phone: 479-2502 FAX: 479-4056

(FF) FAMILIES FIRST

PO Box 939, Wilmington, VT 05363 Director: Julie Cunningham

Phone: 464-9633 FAX: 464-3173 Counties: Windham and Bennington

(HCRS) HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION SERVICES OF SOUTHEASTERN VT

49 School Street, Hartford, VT 05047 Director: Josh Compton

Phone: 295-3031 FAX: 295-0820 Counties: Windsor and Windham

Regional Offices:

51 Fairview Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301 390 River Street, Springfield, VT 05156

Phone: 257-5537 FAX: 257-5769 Phone: 886-4565 FAX: 886-4580

1 Hospital Court, Suite 410, 14 River Street, Windsor, VT 05089 Bellows Falls, VT 05101 Phone: 674-2539 FAX: 674-5419

Phone: 463-3947 FAX: 463-3961

(HC) HOWARDCENTER, INC.

102 South Winooski Ave. Director: Marie Zura Burlington, VT 05401-3832 County: Chittenden

Phone: 488-6500 FAX: 860-2360

(LCMH) LAMOILLE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

72 Harrel Street Director: Jennifer Stratton

Morrisville, VT 05661 County: Lamoille

Phone: 888-6627 FAX: 888-6393

(LSI) LINCOLN STREET INCORPORATED

374 River Street Executive Director: Cheryl Thrall

Springfield, VT 05156 County: Windsor

Phone: 886-1833 FAX: 886-1835

(NCSS) NORTHWESTERN COUNSELING AND SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.

107 Fisher Pond Road Director: Jean Danis Gilmond St. Albans, VT 05478 Counties: Franklin and Grand Isle

Phone 524-6554 FAX: 527-7801 375 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

FAX: 524-0578

(NKHS) NORTHEAST KINGDOM HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

PO Box 724, 154 Duchess Street Director: Dixie McFarland

Newport, VT 05855 Counties: Caledonia, Orleans and Essex

Phone: 334-7310 FAX: 334-7455

Regional Office:

PO Box 368, 2225 Portland Street

St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Phone: 748-3181 FAX: 748-0704

(SCC) SPECIALIZED COMMUNITY CARE

PO Box 578, 3627 RT 7 South Executive Director: Ray Hathaway East Middlebury, VT 05740 Counties: Addison and Rutland

Phone: 388-6388 FAX: 388-6704

(SAS) STERLING AREA SERVICES, INC.

109 Professional Drive Executive Director: Kevin O'Riordan Morrisville, VT 05661 County: Lamoille and Washington

Phone: 888-7602 FAX: 888-1182

(T-II) TRANSITION II, INC.

346 Shelburne Road Executive Director: Kara Artus

Burlington, VT 05401 County: Statewide

Phone: 846-7007 FAX: 846-7282

(UCS) UNITED COUNSELING SERVICES, INC.

PO Box 588, 100 Ledge Hill Drive Director: Kathy Hamilton County: Bennington

Phone: 442-5491 FAX: 442-1707

(UVS) UPPER VALLEY SERVICES, INC.

267 Waits River Road Executive Director: William Ashe Bradford, VT 05033 Counties: Orange and Washington

Phone: 222-9235 FAX: 222-5864

Regional Offices:

12 Prince Street, Randolph, VT 05060 PO Box 719, Moretown, VT 05660 Phone: 728-4476 FAX: 728-6741 Phone: 496-7830 FAX: 496-7833

Children and Adult Mental Health Service Providers

If you need help right now, go to the http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/help.

Clara Martin Center

http://www.claramartin.org/

11 Main Street, PO Box G Randolph, VT 05060 Phone: (802) 728-4466

FAX: (802) 728-4197

1483 Lower Plain Road, PO Box 278

Bradford, Vermont 05033

Phone: (802) 222-4477 FAX: (802) 222-3242

Counseling Service of Addison County

http://www.csac-vt.org/

89 Main Street

Middlebury, VT 05753 Phone: (802) 388-6751 FAX: (802) 388-3108

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont

http://www.hcrs.org/

390 River Street

Springfield, VT 05156 Phone: (802) 886-4500

HowardCenter for Human Services

http://www.howardcenter.org/

300 Flynn Avenue (adult)

Burlington, VT 05401

Phone: (802) 660-3678 FAX: (802) 865-6117

1138 Pine Street (Children's Services)

Burlington, VT 05401

Phone: (802) 488-6600 /TTY: (802) 488-6001

FAX: (802) 488-6901

Lamoille Community Connections

72 Harrel Street

Morrisville, VT 05661

Phone: (802) 888-5026 /FAX: (802) 888-6393

Northeastern Family Institute (children's only)

30 Airport Road

South Burlington, VT 05403

(802)658-0040

Northeast Kingdom Human Services

http://www.nkhs.net/

PO Box 724

154 Duchess Street

Newport, VT 05855-0724 Phone: (802) 334-6744

FAX: (802) 334-7455

PO Box 368

2225 Portland Street

St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 Phone: (802) 748-3181

FAX: (802) 748-0704

Northwestern Counseling and Support Services

http://www.ncssinc.org/

107 Fisher Pond Road

St. Albans, VT 05478

Phone: (802) 524-6554

FAX: (802) 527-7801 (General) FAX: (802) 524-3894 (Confidential)

Rutland Mental Health Services, Inc.

http://www.rmhsccn.org/

PO Box 222

Rutland, VT 05701

Phone: (802) 747-7697 FAX: (802) 775-3307

United Counseling Service, Inc.

http://www.ucsvt.org/

1 Ledge Hill Drive

PO Box 588

Bennington, VT 05201

Phone: (802) 442-5491 FAX: (802) 442-3363

Washington County Mental Health Services, Inc.

http://www.wcmhs.org/

PO Box 647

Montpelier, VT 05601-0647

Phone: (802) 229-0591 FAX: (802) 223-8623

Autism Spectrum Disorders Websites

www.autism-society.org

Autism Society of America

Information regarding: overview of autism, diagnosis, treatment options, education, guidance about making intervention/treatment decisions, ASA advocacy efforts, newsletter, latest news on autism issues, local chapters of ASA, resources, state-by-state local resources.

www.nationalautismcenter.org

National Autism Center

Information about autism and Asperger's, links to resources. Includes the 2009 *National Standard Project Report*, which is a comprehensive review of the research on interventions for children up to age 22 with ASD. Also includes *Evidence-based Practice and Autism in the Schools*, a guide to interventions for students with ASD.

www.aane.org

Asperger's Association of New England

General information regarding Asperger's Syndrome, resources, books, support and social groups, upcoming trainings and events, local chapters, articles, newsletter, legislative advocacy, adult services and programs.

www.AutismSupportDaily.com

Autism Support Daily

Vermont family support organization providing online message board for parents and professionals, live support group meetings, family oriented recreational activities, financial assistance and information.

www.asatonline.org

The Association for Science in Autism Treatment (ASAT)

General info about autism, description of treatment options and evidence base to support them, info about scientific approach to evaluating treatment, suggested readings.

www.researchautism.org

Organization for Autism Research (OAR)

Raises funds for applied research in autism. Describes studies funded, research grant opportunities, general info about autism, diagnosis, intervention, family support, guides to research, transition to adulthood, and educator's guides to autism and Asperger's, forums, suggested readings, links to other websites, events, newsletter, conferences.

http://info.med.yale.edu/chldstdy/autism/index.html

Yale Developmental Disabilities Clinic

Info about the clinic, research studies, general info about autism and Asperger's, *Guidelines for Assessment, Diagnosis, Treatment & Intervention in Asperger's*, Resources, books.

www.autcom.org

Autism National Committee

Autism advocacy group dedicated to social justice for all citizens with autism. Position statements, advocacy, newsletter, links to other websites, articles, commentary by people with autism, interventions, discussions of various supports, etc.

www.maapservices.org

More advanced individuals with Autism, Asperger's syndrome and Pervasive developmental disorder. Information and advice about autism, Asperger's and related developmental disorders, newsletter, articles, state resources, links to research.

www.autismweb.com

A parent's guide to the diagnosis, treatment and education of children with autism, Pervasive Developmental Disorder and related disorders. Includes information about definitions of diagnoses, warning signs, education, diet, recommended readings, latest news, conferences and how to find resources within local communities.

www.iidc.indiana.edu/irca/

Indiana Resource Center for Autism

Information about autism spectrum disorders, free training modules for families and professionals, publications available for purchase, database of articles, book chapters, videos, etc, newsletter, research conducted by the center, Indiana resources. Good example of a state autism resource center.

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/index.htm

Autism Information Center at National Centers on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities.

Information about prevalence of autism spectrum disorders, symptoms, causes, treatment, vaccines and ASD, research efforts of Center for Disease control, resources for parents and researchers, free informational materials to enhance identification.

www.autismspeaks.org

Autism Speaks

Organization to fund autism research, increase awareness and legislative advocacy. Information about autism, legislative activities, public awareness campaign, autism in the news, resources, services for adults, insurance reform efforts, etc.

www.nectac.org/topics/autism/autism.asp

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

Resources for young children with ASD, information on early identification, state guidance, initiatives and legislation, elements of effective programs, prevalence, personnel preparation, federal resources, evidence-based practices and family support.

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

National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders Review of evidence-based practices for children and youth with ASD, free Autism Internet Modules (AIM) for families and professionals on evidence-based practices for individuals with ASD and on early identification and diagnosis of ASD, Foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorders Online Course.

http://www.nichcy.org/Pages/Home.aspx

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities

General information about ASD, resources to assist with understanding research, links to many other useful websites, resources, research, helpful organizations, resources about education of students with ASD, books.

www.jkp.com

Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Offers of long list of books related to autism for families and teachers.

http://www.aapcpublishing.net/

Autism Asperger Publishing Company

A wide range of material on ASD. Lists of books available to purchase from their bookstore, events, links, resources and newsletter.

www.fhautism.com

Future Horizons

Publishers of many books on ASD. Books available to purchase, conferences, info on ASD, newsletter links to other websites.

www.nap.edu/catalog/10017.html

National Academy Press

Educating Children with Autism. This book is available to read for free online or can be ordered at this website. This book, put out by the National Research Council in 2001 examines the research underlying educational practices, programs and strategies for children with ASD birth to 8 years old. Identifies recommendations for early intervention for young children with ASD.

www.pecs.com

Picture Exchange Communication Systems, Pyramid Educational Consultants. Information about PECS, training workshops, products, etc.

www.teacch.com

Division TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children).

Information about autism, guide to services in North Carolina, review of TEACCH model, training resources, publications, research, TEACCH materials, etc.

www.thegraycenter.org

The Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding

Information and resources about Carol Gray's Social Stories, information about ASD, books and resources, articles, workshops and conferences.

www.tonyattwood.com.au

Website of Tony Attwood, Asperger's Syndrome expert Books and articles by Tony Attwood, presentation schedule.

www.rdiconnect.com

Relationship Development Intervention website.

Description of RDI program, training workshops, online store for RDI products, newsletter, research foundation, research summaries.

www.floortime.org

The Floortime Foundation.

Information and resources about Developmental, Individual Difference, Relationship-based Therapy (DIR/Floortime) intervention model developed by Stanley Greenspan and Serena Wieder. Information for parents and professionals, conferences, on-line course in DIR, local DIR clinicians, etc.

www.scerts.com

SCERTS (Social-Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Supports) intervention model.

Overview of SCERTS model developed by Barry Prizant and others. Resources, research articles.

www.education.ucsb.edu/autism

University of California Santa Barbara Koegel Autism Center

Information about Pivotal Response Training developed by Lynn and Robert Koegel. Training manuals, books, conferences, workshops, research, grants.

www.lovaas.com

Lovaas Institute

Information about the Lovaas model of intervention, services available, books, research articles, links, local clinics, training and consultation.

www.card.ufl.edu/visual.htm

Center for Autism and Related Disorders, University of Florida

Resources for developing visual supports, such as picture schedules, choice boards, etc.

http://www.socialthinking.com/

Social Thinking, Michelle Garcia Winner

Includes an overview of social thinking, books and products, workshops, internships.

http://www.gwu.edu/~iri/pdf/32-nd-IRI-2007-Final-03-09-2007.pdf

Institute on Rehabilitation Issues

Rehabilitation of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. A guide for assisting individuals through the transition process from school to adult living. Includes guidance on supporting people in college and in becoming employed.

www.practicalautismresources.com

Practical Autism Resources by VT autism consultants

Resources for using structured teaching approach, including resources for developing visual supports, picture schedules, choice boards, academic learning activities, etc.

www.do2learn.com

Resources for games, songs, communication cards, print resources and information. Some resources are to purchase, but there are also many free downloadable items that can be used to make visual supports such as calendars, pictures, schedules, etc.