

# Parent to Parent

A Newsletter of the City of Salem Schools Parent Resource Center  
Providing Support to Parents with Children in Special Education

Patricia Macdonald, Coordinator

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Children First in Salem

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## Student Services Hires Autism Services Coordinator

Dr. Darryl Helems, Director of Student Services, announced that the City of Salem Schools has hired Ms. Kate Masincup, a board certified behavioral analyst (BCBA), to serve as Autism Services Coordinator. The school system is contracting with Commonwealth Autism Service to have Ms. Masincup work as an embedded employee in our school system. She is here three days a week for a two year period.

The embedded employee model allows the specialist to work inside the school system, getting to know the staff and services, thereby optimizing the ability to assess areas of strength and need. Ms. Masincup will assist the school system in developing an action plan for autism services and provide staff development. The assessment will be done through classroom observations and data gathered through a series of focus groups. The focus groups will be conducted using the same standard set of questions for each group and will take about an hour. Separate focus groups will be conducted for general education teachers, special education teachers, parents who have children on the autism spectrum, paraprofessionals, and related

service providers (therapists who provide speech, occupational, or physical therapy). The needs assessment should be completed before the end of December.

In addition, Ms. Masincup holds the credentials to supervise Salem staff who would like to earn their Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCABA) certification. The Commonwealth Autism Service has a collaboration with the University of Mary Washington to bring coursework to their contracted schools in behavioral analysis through their embedded staff.<sup>1</sup> Ms. Masincup will provide the clinical supervision hours required before Salem staff take the BCABA certification exam. When Ms. Masincup's two year tenure with Salem is complete, the goal is to have school staff that are trained in behavior analysis.

Although there is no single best treatment for all children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), well-planned, structured teaching of specific skills is important.<sup>2</sup> Offering training to teachers and staff will be a lasting benefit of Ms. Masincup's time with our school system. "My goal is to

work myself out of my job," Ms. Masincup explained during our interview.

Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a group of developmental disabilities that can cause social, communication and behavioral challenges. ASDs are "spectrum disorders." That means ASDs affect each person in different ways. People with ASDs share some similar symptoms, such as problems with social interaction. There are differences in the exact nature of the symptoms.

For more information on the autism services coordinator or behavioral analysis, please contact Dr. Darryl Helems, Director of Student Services (phone 389-0130, e-mail dhelems@salem.k12.va.us) at the School Board Office.

### References

- 1 Commonwealth Autism Service, 2008 Annual Report, [www.autismva.org](http://www.autismva.org)
- 2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Autism Spectrum Disorders, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/treatment.html>

*Pat Macdonald*



Kate Masincup, Autism Services Coordinator

### Parent Resource Center Web Site

Log onto the Parent Resource Center web site <http://salem.k12.va.us/salemdiv/parentresource/index.html> for details on our new lending library materials (listed on page 2) and to access past issues of our newsletter.

**Check Out Our New Additions  
to the Lending Library!**

Call, visit, or send an e-mail to the Parent Resource Center to borrow these great new materials.

**Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD):** ADHD - Living Without Brakes by Martin Kutscher

Attention, Girls! A Guide to Learn All About Your Ad/Hd (children's book, ages 8-13) by Patricia O. Quinn

The New Putting on the Brakes: Understanding and Taking Control of Your ADD or ADHD (children's book, ages 8-13) by Patricia O. Quinn and Judith M. Stern

School Success for Kids with ADHD by Stephan Silverman, Sue Jeweler, and Jacqueline Iseman

**Autism** 101 Games and Activities for Children With Autism, Asperger's and Sensory Processing Disorders by Tara Delaney

Eating for Autism: The 10-Step Nutrition Plan to Help Treat Your Child's Autism, Asperger's, or ADHD by Elizabeth Strickland

Girls Growing Up on the Autism Spectrum: What Parents and Professionals Should Know About the Pre-Teen and Teenage Years by Shana Nichols, with Gina Marie Moravcik and Samara Pulver Tetenbaum

Hygiene and Related Behaviors for Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders, A Fun Curriculum with a Focus on Social Understanding by Kelly J. Mahler

Real Life, Real Progress for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Strategies for Successful Generalization in Natural Environments edited by Christina Whalen

Seeing Is Believing: Video Self-Modeling for People with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities by Tom Buggey

Special-Needs Kids Eat Right: Strategies to Help Kids on the Autism Spectrum Focus, Learn, and Thrive by Judy Converse, MPH, RD, LD

**Learning Disabilities** The 6 Success Factors for Children with Learning Disabilities: Ready-To-Use Activities to Help Kids with LD Succeed in School and in Life by Frostig Center

The Don't-Give-Up Kid and Learning Disabilities by Jeanne Gehret (Children's book, age range 7 - 9)

**Other Disability Issues** Alphabet Kids - From ADD to Zellweger Syndrome: A Guide to Developmental, Neurobiological and Psychological Disorders for Parents and Professionals by Robbie Woliver

Fasten Your Seatbelt: A Crash Course on Down Syndrome for Brothers and Sisters by Brian Skotko and Sue Levin

How to Take the Grrrr Out of Anger (Children's Book, Reading Level 9 - 12) by Elizabeth Verdick and Marjorie Lisovskis

A Parent's Guide to Down Syndrome, Toward a Brighter Future by Siegfried Pueschel

Special Needs Trusts: Protect Your Child's Financial Future by Stephen Elias

**Parenting** Unplug Your Kids: A Parent's Guide to Raising Happy, Active and Well-Adjusted Children in the Digital Age by David Dutwin, PhD

**School** 50 Ways to Support Your Child's Special Education: From IEPs to Assorted Therapies, an Empowering Guide to Taking Action, Every Day by Terri Mauro

Getting Beyond Bullying and Exclusion, PreK-5: Empowering Children in Inclusive Classrooms by Ronald Mah

How Can My Kid Succeed in School? What Parents and Teachers Can Do to Conquer Learning Problems by Craig Pohlman

The Organized Student: Teaching Children the Skills for Success in School and Beyond by Donna Goldberg

**Parents, be sure to register for this FREE conference to be held at the Salem Civic Center on Wednesday, November 18, from 8:30 am to 3:45 pm.**

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM FOR BRIDGING THE GAP FAMILY FORUM**

**Pre-Register by November 11, 2009**

**Mail:** cut off this page and send to Bobby Cottrell, Roanoke Area Training Center, 210 First Street, Roanoke VA 24011

**Fax:** fax this page to 540-853-6383; cover sheet, attention: Bridging the Gap  
**Online:** log on to [www.fsrv.org](http://www.fsrv.org), click on "Bridging the Gap"

or

**Phone:** Call Bobby Cottrell, VISSTA Training Coordinator, at 540-853-6382

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check which Breakout Sessions you would like to attend:**

**MORNING SESSIONS** (select one)

- 1. A Change of Plan: helping clients achieve change through service planning, *Amanda Stanley, MS*
- 2. How to Talk So Schools Will Listen, *Irene Moore*
- 3. Doctors Wrapping to Coordinate Care, *Dr. Colleen Kraft & Dr. Felicity Adams*
- 4. Essential Elements of Doing Wraparound Right, Not Lite! Part I  
*Karl Dennis*
- 5. Coping Strategies for Parents, *Angie Leonard*

**AFTERNOON SESSIONS** (select one)

- 1. Establishing Trusts, Guardianship, How to Speak Legalese and More  
*Ann McGee Green*
- 2. Essential Elements of Doing Wraparound Right, Not Lite: Part II  
*Karl Dennis*
- 3. Positive Behavioral Interventions that Work, *Irene Moore*
- 4. Medicaid Waivers: what families need to know, *Dana Jackson*



Parent Resource Center

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Salem, VA 24153

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Coordinator Hours: Tuesday,  
Wednesday, Thursday  
8:30 to 11:50 AM

The Lending Library is open  
Monday to Friday  
8 AM to 5 PM

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SALEM, VA  
Permit No. 109



When: Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 8:30 am

Where: Salem Civic Center, 1001 Boulevard, Salem

Who Should Attend: Families and caregivers raising challenging children, including those with special needs, educators and community members who support vulnerable children

Fee: None! This conference is free.

Registration required: See form on page 3.

Inside this issue:

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- ★ New Lending Library Materials  
(page 2)
- ★ Registration Form for Bridging the Gap  
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