



Understanding Autism & Sensory Processing Challenges



Presenters:
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Joni and Friends

OUR VISION

“A world where every person with a disability finds hope, dignity, and their place in the body of Christ.”

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Joni Eareckson Tada


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FAMILY RETREAT

Week 1: June 18-22
Week 2: August 13-17
Week 3: August 20-24

Barbara C Harris Camp
Greenfield, NH

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Respite Care



FEARLESS
LIVING AS A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

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“Sometimes God allows what He hates to accomplish what He loves.”
- Joni Eareckson Tada






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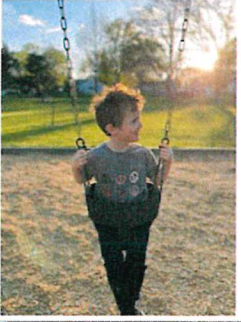
Real Families, Real Needs

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” ~ Colossians 3:23

- Caregiving epitomizes the heart of Jesus – He came to serve.
- Trust God with your needs.
- Take care of your own body.
- Ask for (and allow!) help from others; realize respite needs.
- Cultivate genuine friendships.
- Keep the caregiver and the care receiver on the same team.
- Battle burn out!
- Pray and stop to pray whenever life is overwhelming.




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AUTISM FACT

“If you’ve met one person with autism, you’ve met one person with autism.”




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UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

Our Definition:


“A neurodevelopmental condition of variable severity with lifelong effects that can be recognized from early childhood. It is characterized by difficulties with social interaction, communication and by restricted or repetitive patterns of thought and behavior.”



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AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

- 1 in 36 children has been diagnosed with ASD.
- ASD occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups.
- Parents who have a child with ASD have a 2 – 18% chance of having a second child who is also affected.
- Almost half (46%) of children identified with ASD have *average to above average* intellectual ability.
- 25% of children identified with ASD remain non-verbal for life.



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AUTISM FACTS – Comorbidity

“If you’ve met one person with Autism. . .”

- 70% of individuals with ASD have at least one additional disorder.
- 41% of individuals with ASD have two or more additional disorders.
- 75% have a Sensory Processing Disorder.
- 50% have Attention Deficit Disorder.
- 29% have Social Anxiety Disorder.
- 28% have Oppositional Defiant Disorder.
- 11% have Down Syndrome.



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Types of Autism – DSM 5

- ASD Level 3
- ASD Level 2
- ASD Level 1

- Social Communication Disorder (SCD)



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Autism Facts

Primary Symptoms

- Communication
- Social Difficulties
- Stereotyped Behaviors
- Abnormal Sensory Responses
- Present at Birth



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Supporting People with Autism Strategies: ATTENTION

- Use Visuals and Social Stories
- Use Schedule
- Understand Time Concepts
- Use Movement Breaks
- Use First-Then Strategy
- Prepare for Transitions



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Supporting Kids with Autism
Attention: VISUALS



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Supporting Kids with Autism
Attention: SCHEDULE



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Supporting Kids with Autism
Attention: TIMER



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Supporting Kids with Autism Strategies: COMMUNICATION

- Use concrete language
- Use repetitions
- Use gestures
- Use visuals
- Use scripts



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Supporting Kids with Autism Strategies: BEHAVIOR

- All Behavior is Communication
- 2 Types of Behavior:
 - Expected or Unexpected (based on social expectations)



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RESPONDING WITH COMPASSION: BEHAVIOR Strategies

- Explain Social Expectations
- Analyze Physical Environment
- Be Consistent, Predictable and Reliable
- Use Planned Behavior Reinforcement
- Support Sensory Needs




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SENSORY PROCESSING DISORDER

Our Definition:

Formerly referred to as sensory integration dysfunction, SPD is a condition in which the brain has trouble receiving and responding to information that comes in through the senses. In SPD, the nervous system has difficulty turning received messages into appropriate corresponding actions and behaviors.


➤ 5% - 16% of children experience symptoms of sensory processing disorder.



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SENSORY PROCESSING DISORDER


- **Sensory integration:**
 - 7 Senses: sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell, proprioception and vestibular.
- **How does sensory integration relate to learning?**
 - Senses are balanced/regulated allowing the child to learn.
 - Maintain optimum level of arousal.



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SENSORY SUPPORT









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SENSORY SUPPORT
(weighted blankets)



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SENSORY SUPPORT



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SENSORY SUPPORT




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“Children will flourish in an atmosphere that affirms that they are each a unique image bearer of God.”

~ Barbara J. Newman



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