



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

Dear Parent:

Welcome to our community of families with autism living in Howard County.

The Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) is here to help by providing you with support, fellowship and resources. We call the more than 850 Howard County Public School Students (HCPSS) with autism “our family” and actively advocate on their behalf. Please take advantage of all we have to offer you and other families!

As your child enters school, we would like to offer a few tips to help you navigate the system. We know it can be overwhelming at first, but remember we are here to help.

To Do:

1. Visit and bookmark our Special Education News Center: specialed.howard-autism.org This website is packed with information specific to special education in Howard County and the State of Maryland.
2. Check out the many resources and local support meetings available through HCAS! Connect via the HCAS home page at www.howard-autism.org.
3. Visit Pathfinders for Autism: www.pathfindersforautism.org. This website includes a highly recommended “Autism by Age” section as well as a searchable database of resources and services by zip code. They are also a terrific resource for information about insurance providers and coverage.
4. Read the “100 Day Kit” by Autism Speaks: www.autismspeaks.org.
5. Visit the HCPSS Family Support and Resource Center. For more information contact Ann Scholz at ann_scholz@hcpss.org or Lisa Richer lisa_richer@hcpss.org. Or call 410-313-7161.
6. Contact HCPSS’ Office of Early Intervention for information about the Collaborative Funding Agreement which provides limited reimbursement to families who have established in-home Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) programs for the students from birth to kindergarten. Call 410-313-7017 or 410-313-7161.
7. Register your child on the Maryland Autism Waiver list, right away. Call Maryland State Department of Education at 410-767-1446.
8. Register your child with the Developmental Disabilities Administration: www.dda.dhmh.maryland.gov. Start at the “How to Apply” tab.

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9. Register your address in the Howard County Police and Fire and Rescue Department's 911 Address Flagging program. This provides first responders with key information specific to your child in the event of an emergency. Download the form from: www.howard-autism.org/resources-services/911-address-flags/.
10. Are you a military family? Check out "Operation Autism" and the many resources listed at <https://www.operationautismonline.org/>.
11. Parents Place of Maryland offers a variety of programs and services that support families of children with disabilities and special health care needs at <https://www.ppmd.org>
12. HCAS will keep you apprised about many resources, but you might want to investigate the following additional valuable resources:
 - a. Low Intensity Support Services (LISS): <http://dda.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/liss.apx>
 - b. The Arc of Howard County: www.archoward.org or 410-730-0638
 - c. Special Olympics of Howard County: www.somdhc.org or 410-740-0500
 - d. Attend a meeting of Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee (SECAC): secacchair@gmail.com
 - e. Get educated on the Maryland autism insurance law. See Pathfinders for Autism, under Resources.
 - f. Contact your insurance provider to review your insurance policy with regard to autism services.

Please feel free to contact our office if we may be of service to you and your family.

Warm regards, Howard County Autism Society

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