

Midwest

AUTISM

Conference

**PUTTING the
PIECES
TOGETHER**

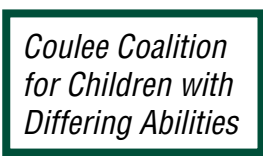
Oct. 18-20, 2009

Parent Event and Reception

Oct. 18, 2009

La Crosse Center - South Hall, La Crosse, Wis.

Sponsored by



**Who
Should
Attend:**

Teachers, adapted physical education teachers, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech pathologists, health care professionals, group home and rehabilitation staff, child care providers, university faculty who teach student teachers, counselors and others who work with autism.

**A presentation for parents will kick off the
conference Sunday evening.**

Location: Conference will be held at in the La Crosse Center, adjacent to the Radisson Hotel, 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, Wis.

**Hotel
Info:**

The Radisson Hotel is holding a block of rooms for this conference at a rate of \$70 single, \$100 double (rates do not include tax). Reservations need to be made no later than September 18, 2009 at which time any remaining rooms will be released to the public. Please call 608.784.6680 to make reservations.

Cost: **\$195** (includes opening reception, continental breakfasts, refreshment breaks, closing lunch and instructional materials)

Sunday evening only: \$15

(includes opening reception and keynote presentation)

Monday only: \$115

(includes continental breakfast, refreshment breaks and instructional materials; \$10 optional box lunch available)

Tuesday only: \$115

(includes continental breakfast, refreshment breaks, closing lunch and instructional materials)

Contact Information:

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PUTTING the PIECES TOGETHER

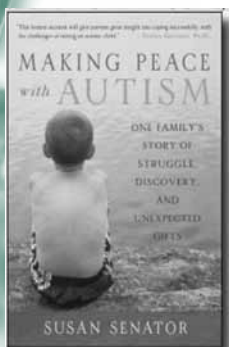
Join us as we explore the learning and loving strategies that unlock the potential of children and youth with autism spectrum disorders. Discover the best practices for educators, therapists, and families in school, home, and community environments. Learn the practical applications, encouraging trends, and the developing resources available those who work (and live) with autism. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend.

2009 Keynote speaker

Susan Senator, author/parent/advocate

Making Peace with Autism

www.susansenator.com



I LOVE THIS BOOK! This is a book that every parent and professional working with autistic children should own, read and reread, keep in the bedside nightstand. These children have such enormous potential in their own way. It is so refreshing to know that someone else sees it too."

—Margaret L. Bauman, Pediatric Neurologist, MassGeneral Hospital; Director, The Autism Research Foundation and LADDERS Clinic; Associate Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School.



Featured Speakers

Craig and Alyson Beytien are the parents of three teenage sons with autism. They have been married for 22 years and still like each other! Alyson is an autism consultant throughout the Midwest, and a frequent national/international presenter. Craig is a publishing consultant and a semi-professional magician. They are currently establishing an adult residential/vocational community in Iowa.



Susan Senator a writer, activist, and mother of 3 boys, including Nat who was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. A frequent speaker on issues of autism and parenting, her writing has been published in educational journals, magazines, and newspapers, including the New York Times and the Washington Post. In 2006, Susan was invited to a White House dinner to honor Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Special Olympics. Her book, *Making Peace with Autism*, challenges families and professionals to understand that “all happy families are not alike.” She is currently working on her second book.

Fred Kusch knows the importance of humor and balancing life with work – making him a highly sought business coach, keynote speaker, workshop and seminar presenter. As a professional educator, school administrator, and human resource director in a large health care system, Fred practiced and promoted a person-centered and compassionate leadership style. Today, Fred serves as president of JFK Associates, Inc., an international consulting firm. Using many stories and focusing on the person, Fred leads participants to laugh, cry and think as they adopt new perspectives on life, work, and relationships.



Sunday, October 18 — Special Event for Parents, Caregivers and Professionals

6–7 p.m. Opening Reception

7–8:30 p.m. **Getting it Together**

Craig and Alyson Beytten, Dubuque, Iowa

Maintaining a relationship can be difficult when a child is diagnosed with autism. The stress of diagnosis, creating treatment and educational plans, negotiating with systems, financial strains, parenting and communication differences, and basic sleep deprivation can impact and change the relationship between loving partners. Married for 22 years and parenting three teenage sons with autism, Craig and Alyson will share their insights, experiences, ideas for staying together, staying focused, and staying happy.

**This presentation is sponsored by the
Coulee Coalition for Children with Differing Abilities**

Monday, October 19

8-8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30-10 a.m. **Keynote Speaker: Susan Senator**

With honesty and warmth, Susan Senator shares her family's journey with autism. She says, "This diagnosis does not mean the end of the world, but it is the end of some things. It is also the beginning of a very long road. If you can accept that this person is different, but a person nonetheless, you are halfway there. For the rest of the way, you need a few great friends, a lot of information, and a sense of humor." Her book, *Making Peace with Autism*, has inspired and challenged families and professionals alike with its practical advice, grounded insights, and heartfelt conviction that a happy family life is possible despite the challenges and stress of autism.

10-10:30 a.m. Book-signing, exhibits and book sales

10:30-11:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Autism 101 – Overview and Refresher

Keith Braunreiter, BS, Catholic Charities, La Crosse, Wis.

This session is designed for people new to the field of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Facts and characteristics of the range of disorders will be shared. Participants will be introduced to the best practices employed by educators, therapists, and families who work with individuals on the Autism Spectrum.

Ziggurats and CAPS (repeated on Tuesday)

Karrie Zielke, BS, Case Manager, Chileda

Ziggurats is a tool used to find the underlying characteristics of an individual on the spectrum. Once the underlying characteristics are determined, educators, parents and care providers can create comprehensive interventions for the individual. The interventions are then put into a Comprehensive Autism Planning System (CAPS). The use of CAPS ensures that the intervention plan becomes a reality.



What to Expect from your Occupational Therapist

Christine R. Krueger, MASL, OTR

What is occupational therapy exactly? How is OT unique and what is realistic to expect? What should one ask and look for from occupational therapy? The value of occupational therapy to those with autism spectrum disorders may initially seem ambiguous and confusing. This session will seek to untangle the questions and clarify the role of OT, with an aim for quality care and communication between professionals and families.

Assistive Technology for Students with Autism: Communication, Academics and More! (repeated in afternoon)

Mary Wirkus, MS, CCC-SLP, Instructor/Speech-Language Pathologist, Disability Support Specialist Program, Western Technical College

This session will provide an overview of the newly revised Assistive Technology Manual for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, distributed by the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative. Communication considerations, environmental accommodations, and low and mid-tech augmentative communication strategies will also be shared. Participants will learn how to access the downloadable manual at no charge.

11:45 a.m.-
1 p.m.

Lunch on your own (Pre-ordered box lunch will be available)

1-2:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Introduction to Therapeutic Listening

Stephanie Andersen, OTR, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare and Chileda

This workshop will introduce participants to Therapeutic Listening and the basic guidelines of this approach. The benefits for Therapeutic Listening in treating sensory processing disorders will be discussed, as well as barriers to the treatment. Participants will have an opportunity to hear examples of Therapeutic Listening sessions.

What's Working - What's Next? Update from DPI

Brian Johnson, MS, Educational Consultant, Special Education Team, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Discuss the current "hot topics" for working with students on the autism spectrum from classroom and state educational policy vantage points. The initiatives and projects of DPI will be presented, as well as evidence-based practices that can help ensure student success. A look at the evaluation criteria of the updated Evaluation Guide will be included.

Local Camps Supporting Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Jon Zinniel - Director of Training - Chileda with Valerie Croissant, CTRS, Respite Camp Coordinator, Easter Seals Wisconsin; Carissa Miller, CTRS, Camp Director, Wisconsin Badger Camp; and Rande Gustafson - Executive Director Camp Winnebago

Camp experiences help children learn important life skills and develop self-confidence as individuals. This session features a panel from camp programs who will describe campers' experiences and program goals. Participants will have opportunities to ask questions.



My Child Received an ASD Diagnosis: What Now?

Steve Spoilde, MDiv, Parent

This session describes a family's journey from the initial recognition that "something is wrong" to obtaining a diagnosis, applying for intensive therapy services, and locating respite and support. The family's experience includes numerous therapies, including Floortime, ABA, TEACHH, auditory and speech therapies, OT, PT, social skills therapy, biomedical treatments, birth to three and horse therapy. Challenges, sources of support and the presence of hope are part of this story.

2:15-2:30 p.m. Break and Exhibits/Books

2:30-3:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

What's new in Madison and Washington: Legislative update for families and persons with ASD

Kirby Lentz, Ed.D., President/CEO of Chileda

Senator Dan Kapanke, State Senator from the 32nd District (Invited)

Review of state and federal legislation relating to autism spectrum disorders, current status of bills affecting education, health insurance and initiatives to support families, children and adults with ASD. A "what can I do" will also be presented.

"Sammy and I like to Wrestle!" Sibling Relationships: The Key to Inclusion

Kevin Flottmeyer, father of son with autism, teacher, Chileda

Take an insider's look at the sibling dynamic when impacted by autism. A father of a son with autism will share his observations along with testimonials from neuro-typical children who have a brother/sister with autism. This is an opportunity for educators and care providers to learn about the family relationship away from the classroom and therapy setting.

Preparing Students on the Spectrum for College

Karen A Fisher, MSW, MS, Center for Students with Disabilities, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Higher education is possible for students who have Aspergers or high functioning autism. This workshop provides educators, counselors, and parents with the tools and strategies that can help young people prepare for higher education. Learning time management skills, organizing course requirements and negotiating social interactions are keys to success for students on the spectrum. Fisher describes her work with college students and how she helps faculty, staff and campus security recognize and communicate with those on the spectrum.

Assistive Technology for Students with Autism: Communication, Academics and More! (repeated session)

Mary Wirkus, MS, CCC-SLP, Instructor/Speech-Language Pathologist, Disability Support Specialist Program, Western Technical College

An overview of the newly revised Assistive Technology Manual for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, distributed by the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative. Communication considerations, environmental accommodations, and low and mid-tech augmentative communication strategies will also be shared. Learn how to access the downloadable manual at no charge.

Tuesday, October 20

8-8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Let's Be Friends! Facilitating a Play Group for Young Children with Asperger Syndrome

Diane Hietpas, MSE, Director of Special Education, Chileda, La Crosse, Wis.

This session will describe the components of a social skills support group for young children with Asperger Syndrome. Lesson content and resources will be shared as well as steps that are taken to facilitate play among children with Asperger Syndrome.

Cranial Osteopathy for Kids

Nedira Haik, MD, Franciscan-Skemp Mayo Health System, Center for Health and Healing

The history and background of cranial osteopathy will be described in this workshop. The symptoms that respond cranial treatments will be discussed, as well as who makes the best candidates for this treatment. A typical evaluation and treatment will be outlined with a precautions and special consideration reviewed.

Strategies for Educators of Students with Asperger Syndrome & High Functioning Autism

Jody L. M. Walter, MS CCC-SLP / Speech-Language Pathologist, Franciscan Skemp Healthcare – La Crosse

Participants will be able to name characteristics of Asperger Syndrome (AS) and their impact on behavior; describe classroom accommodations that don't interfere with standard classroom routines; describe causes of anxiety for the student; list teacher management strategies for dealing with decreased academic and social performance, decreased attention to task, and potential increases in behavior problems.

Visual Supports in the Classroom - The TEACCH Approach

Bob Sanders, MA Ed, Special Education Teacher, Chileda Institute, La Crosse, Wis.

This presentation will highlight the TEACCH approach developed by the University of North Carolina. Ideas will be shared to help you establish physical structure, visual schedules and visual work systems that help students with autism succeed in the classroom and in life. Developing student independence will be stressed.

9:45-10 a.m. Break and Exhibits/Books

10-11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Zigurrats and CAPS (repeated session)

Karrie Zielke, BS, Case Manager, Chileda

Zigurrats is a tool used to find the underlying characteristics of an individual on the spectrum. Once the underlying characteristics are determined, educators, parents and care providers can create comprehensive interventions for the individual. The interventions are then put into a Comprehensive Autism Planning System (CAPS). The use of CAPS ensures that the intervention plan becomes a reality.

Creating Social Success for Asperger Youth

Monica Ryan-Rausch, MSW, LMSW, Clinical Program Coordinator, Asperger Program, Four Oaks, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

This workshop will highlight the development of an afterschool program that serves middle and high school students with Asperger's. The social skill lessons and program components will be described, as well as the teaching and recreational activities strategies used to enhance learning.

Autism: the Musical

*Shown with permission
from New Video,
902 Broadway,
New York, NY 10010*

Winner of two primetime Emmys, this film follows five Los Angeles children as they defy diagnosed expectations by writing, rehearsing and performing their own full-length musical. The film's director Tricia Regan captures the struggles and triumphs of their family lives, and celebrates the creative spirit enlivened through the "Miracle Project."



"One of the most candid, down-to-earth, organically inspirational documentaries you'll ever see...an unsentimental, simply photographed chronicle of the autism epidemic that doesn't try to show too much or conceal the rough places. Amazing... extraordinary...it will have audiences cheering long before the final act."

— *Boston Globe, 11/07*

11:30 a.m.-

Closing Lunch and Presentation

1:30 p.m.

Compassionate Caregiving

Fred Kusch, JFK Associates, La Crosse, Wis.

Caring is an every day/all day reality for parents, intimate partners, and professionals who live with and work with children with special needs. There is no doubt that compassionate care is given unconditionally and freely. To sustain that level of that compassionate care and be effective, care givers must first take care of themselves. Fred will challenge us to "look in more often, so you can look out more effectively and lovingly" and "love yourself better so you can do the very same for others."

1:45 p.m.

Departure for Chileada Tours

Participants are invited to tour the new grounds and facilities of Chileada, located 15 minutes from the conference site. Built in August 2006, Chileada provides an educational and residential setting well integrated into the neighborhood and larger community. Short tours begin at 2 p.m. and 2:45 pm. (*Map and carpooling assistance are provided*)

CEU Option:

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are being offered through the University of Wisconsin-Extension:

October 18	.15 CEUs (1.5 contact hours)
October 19	.55 CEUs (5.5 contact hours)
October 20	.45 CEUs (4.5 contact hours)

TOTAL conference 1.15 CEU's (11.5 hours)

UW-La Crosse is an approved sponsor with *The Wisconsin Registry* for Early Care and Education.

Graduate Credit Option:

UW-L is offering one graduate academic credit in conjunction with this conference.

SPE 796: Directed Studies: "Midwest Autism Conference"

Instructor: Carol Angell, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Special Education Program, Department of Educational Studies, UW-La Crosse

Credit: 1 graduate credit

Fees: Graduate Tuition www.uwlax.edu/cashiers
Credit students pay an additional fee of \$85 for the conference. This fee is paid through the conference registration process (see last page of booklet). Tuition payment is not included in this fee.

To enroll: To register and pay for this credit option, please contact Karen Hansen, Credit Coordinator, 608.785.6513 or hansen.kare@uwlax.edu

Requirements: Credit requirements will include, but are not limited to, full conference attendance and daily learning log.



About the sponsors:

Chileda is a residential and day school and treatment center for children located in La Crosse Wis. Established in 1977, Chileda is a recognized leader and resource for the Upper Midwest. Its service delivery model is integrative and comprehensive, based on behavior, sensory, and communication intervention for children and youth.

Coulee Coalition for Children with Differing Abilities emphasizes family involvement, identifies the unique challenges of children with special needs and promotes access to community resources and supports through collaboration and advocacy.

UW-La Crosse Continuing Education and Extension provides professional development opportunities and program services to western Wisconsin. Its programs include the Autism Spectrum Disorders Certificate offered for undergraduate/graduate credit or Continuing Education Units (CEUs). UW La Crosse is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists.



University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
1725 State St.
La Crosse, WI 54601

2009 Midwest Autism Conference
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UW-La Crosse is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and is in compliance with Title IX and Section 504.

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