1. AUTISM: What is it?

- Autism is a neurological and developmental syndrome that is found in 1 in 68 people in every country in the world in every type of family.

- Autism is different in each person, but most people with Autism have differences in their speech, social skills and behavioral that affects some areas of their development.

- Autism is NOT caused by something a parent did or by vaccines. Research is underway; but there is no proven cause for Autism so far. Parents should be very cautious of things they read on the Internet and review them with experts.

- Autism is different in each person. It has different levels and affects a person through their whole life. There are many therapies that have been scientifically proven to help people with Autism reach success, however, there is no known cure at this time.

- Children with the best outcomes have supports from the community, their school and, MOST IMPORTANTLY, their family - all working and learning together.

Here are some videos that you might find helpful in understanding Autism.

Kennedy-Krieger Institute: This video shows what young children look like with Autism compared to children who do not have Autism.

You Tube
“Real Movies for Real Families” You Tube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVtUXrRRBohcQahB_Ft6uA


“Autismo Para Familias Latinas” (Autism for Latino Families) is in both English and Spanish

“Autism for African American Families, Parts 1 and 2”

Many helpful short videos for families about Autism.
2. AUTISM: What To Do Next?

- Every child’s diagnosis of Autism is different. At different times, children and families may need different supports.
- Some people may want to get a second opinion.
- Some people may want to talk with others or who know how this feels.
- Some people may want to get more information.
- Children with Autism will need both Educational AND Behavioral services:

For FREE EDUCATIONAL support information call: CONNECT at 1800-692-7288

For BEHAVIORAL supports call your insurance company:
- If you have Medical Assistance call CBH at 1-888-545-2600
- If you have private insurance, call to the number on the back of your insurance card to find out about Behavioral Supports for Autism.
- Children in Pennsylvania diagnosed with Autism can get Medical Assistance as a secondary insurance. See www.pcy.org or call 215-563-5848 (Spanish spoken).
- “The A-List” has a guide to Philadelphia behavior programs, find it at: www.elwyn.org/programs/seeds/

If you live in Philadelphia, to find out what your next steps might be, call or check out:

- PEAL Center: Warmline: 866-950-1040 (Spanish spoken) www.pealcenter.org/
- Elwyn Parent Partners 215-222-4181 (any language)

To find out what you can do at home check out:

- Real Look Autism http://www.reallookautism.com/other-videos/
- Autism Speaks Toolkits on every topic: from toilet training, haircuts, IEPs and ABA therapy
3. AUTISM: Help and Information

- Keeping informed about community supports, events and trainings is the best way for families to help their children. There is something for every one.

- Family members (including siblings) need accurate information and support. Perhaps you can designate a helpful family member or friend to be your child’s community outreach contact if you are too busy! They don’t even have to live in Philadelphia to help you out!

- As your child grows, the information you and your family need will also change.

- Find a community connection that works for you: phone, social media, on-line or in person. Exciting things are happening in Philadelphia every day for people with Autism, stay informed!

HERE ARE SOME PLACES TO CHECK OUT:

- Autism Society of America/Greater Philadelphia Chapter ASA [www.asaphilly.org](http://www.asaphilly.org), Email list-serve, phone support, activities, events, advice and information

- PhillyAutism [www.phillyautism.webs.com](http://www.phillyautism.webs.com), fun community events for families, support and information groups, phone support

- Spin [Autism Center of Excellence 1-855-ASD-PACE](http://www.autismpaceconnection.org), “PACE Caregiver Connection” Caregiver groups for everyone, sibling groups, events and trainings, information

- Child Guidance Resource Center Autism Center of Excellence 267-713-4100 Caregiver Group, Family trainings about resources and services

- Autism Sharing and Parenting [http://www.autismsharingandparenting.org/index.html](http://www.autismsharingandparenting.org/index.html) Local non-profit parent advocacy, support, information and training group List serve, Facebook

- PhillyAutism Project [www.paautism.org](http://www.paautism.org) Resources, events, trainings and a map of Philadelphia Support Groups