



SPECIAL EDUCATION QUARTERLY NEWS

By Tracie Ostrander, OTR/L

Winter 2023

Lauri McCoy,
Director of Special
Education

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

These past few months have been a whirlwind! I hope everyone had a wonderful Winter Break! You may not know, but I have also been serving as the Interim Elementary Principal. So, I have had the opportunity to see your children in a different situation than normal, and it has been a pleasure to see them. Your children add so much life to our buildings, even when they struggle. During the winter months, children all the way up to high school can get "stir crazy." Just a reminder to provide fun activities and opportunities to be outside even though it is cold. I am sending you all wishes of joy, fun, and love in the New Year.

FRIENDSGIVING



Students in first and second grades came together for a hall-wide Friendsgiving! Each class prepared a dish to pass. Tables lined the halls and students mingled with their peers!

HANDS ON LEARNING

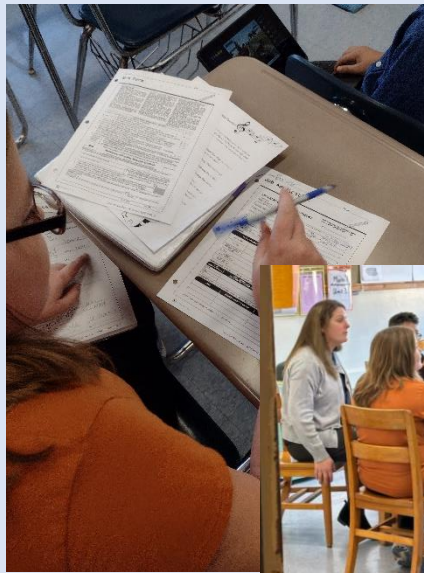
Students in High School Science have been learning about various types of maps, contour lines, and landforms. Students chose a landform, researched it, created a presentation and are currently in the process of building a model. They then presented all their information to their classmates.



LEARNING LIFE SKILLS

Middle schoolers working with Ms. Gottshall are working through a simulation that has the students pretend they have graduated and walks them through the process of being on their own. So far, they have learned how to fill out a checking account application, a saving account application, how to fill out checks, deposit slips and transfer slips. They are now learning the process of finding and getting a job. They had to look for a job in the classifieds the program supplied, call to set up an interview (Ms. Megivern kindly answered their calls for us!), dressed up for their interview, and then went on to the interview in Ms. Megivern's room with her and her resource room students in there.

The students were all very excited to use the phone and go on their interviews! They all got job applications to fill out, and their very own W4 forms. Next up, they will work on looking for their first apartment!



DECEMBER FUN IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The Pre-Kindergarten through second grade classes come to the O.T. Room 1-2 times a cycle. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to build their fine motor skills, problem solve, and become independent thinkers! December was a busy month! The students participated in holiday themed centers and crafts with LOTS of glitter! The first graders made peppermint bark to bring home to their families!



Distance Learning Opportunities for Professionals and Parents

- ◆ *A Training for Mental Health Professionals: An Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders and Co-Existing Anxiety*
- ◆ *Addressing the Core Deficits of ASD in the Classroom: Supporting the Understanding and Development of Peer Relationships*
- ◆ *Behavior Contracts: A Powerful Tool to Assist Students with ASD in Reaching Their Goals*
- ◆ *Bullying and Autism Spectrum Disorders*
- ◆ *Encouraging and Shaping Desired Pro-Social Behavior in Students with ASD*
- ◆ *Executive Functioning Strategies to Keep Individuals with ASD Organized and On-Target*
- ◆ *Learning Better Ways to Cope: Teaching Individuals with ASD Skills to Replace Challenging Behaviors*
- ◆ *Promoting Cognitive Flexibility in Students with Autism*
- ◆ *Promoting Success and Independence in Individuals with Mild to Moderate ASD: The Role of Adaptive Skills and How to Address Them in Your Daily Practice*
- ◆ *Replacing Challenging Behaviors and Improving Quality of Life with Functional Communication Training*
- ◆ *Strategies to Motivate Individuals with ASD in the Classroom and at Home*
- ◆ *Supporting Students with ASD: Mindfulness in the Classroom*
- ◆ *Using Power Cards and Behavior Mapping to Support Pro-Social Behavior*
- ◆ *Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Brief Overview - Paraprofessional Series Session 1*
- ◆ *Thinking Differently: Keys to Understanding Students with ASD - Paraprofessional Series Session 2*
- ◆ *Helping Students with ASD Overcome Challenging Behavior - Paraprofessional Series Session 3*
- ◆ *Creating Visual and Environmental Classroom Supports for Students with ASD - Paraprofessional Series Session 4*
- ◆ *Role of the Paraprofessional - Paraprofessional Series Session 5*

Register online: www.albany.edu/autism/distance-education

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. However, these trainings are offered at **NO COST** through grant funding from the New York State Education Department. Please visit our website below for more information.

Continuing education credits available for a \$5 fee; please see website for further details



ALIVE WITH AUTISM



DR. JAMES BALL

EDD, BCBA-D

TUESDAY

30
JANUARY

9AM-3PM

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
BINGHAMTON, NY

FREE Conference provided by **ALIVE WITH AUTISM** and the **Binghamton University Regional Center for ASD**.

TOPICS

- ✓ You Can't Make Me
- Enhancing Social Skills throughout the Educational Years to Adulthood
- ✓ The Use of Video Modeling for Learners with Autism

CTLE Credit

- ✓ Credit available for \$5 - to be paid on the day of the conference

To Sign Up Go to:

<https://forms.gle/4oh1SBhrsqcX1svY7>

Or Scan the QR Code



Let's Play! A Comprehensive, Evidenced-Based Program for Parents of Infants and Toddlers Diagnosed With Autism Spectrum Disorder

An Early Start Denver Model-Based *Virtual* Group Program for Parents of Infants and Toddlers

Program Eligibility Requirements

Participants must:

- Be parent/caregiver of a 12-47 month old infant or toddler
- The infant or toddler must be:
 - a) Diagnosed with ASD
 - b) At genetic risk for ASD
- Be motivated to learn skills for promoting infant/toddler development
- Be able to participate in all training sessions
- Participate in 12 weeks of program provided once per week (starting end of January, day of the week TBD)
- Be willing to complete pre/post assessments

An
Early Start
for Your Child
with Autism

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities is now offering a group for parents of infants/toddlers diagnosed with ASD

An Early Start Denver Model-based *virtual* group program is being offered at no cost through the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University at Albany. This group program provides parents with training and tools to promote their very young children's social and communicative development. The program includes small-group instruction to help parents learn real-world skills that will help them interact with their infants/toddlers in a way that has been shown to elicit social and communicative behaviors. Participants are asked to complete pre/post assessments in order for us to evaluate the effectiveness of this program.

If interested in being a part of this program, please complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RX3ZLLP>

For more information

Contact: Erica Davis or Dan Magin
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1535 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203




CENTER FOR AUTISM
AND RELATED DISABILITIES
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
State University of New York

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

HELPING HOUSEHOLDS CONNECT

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

The Affordable Connectivity Program provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for broadband service
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider if the household contributes more than \$10 but less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?



A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Participates in the Free and reduced-Price School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program
- Participates in one of these assistance programs:
 - SNAP
 - Medicaid
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - WIC
 - Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits
 - or Lifeline;
- Participates in one of these assistance programs and lives on Qualifying Tribal lands:
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
 - Tribal TANF
 - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
 - Tribal Head Start (income based)



Check out [fcc.gov/ACP](https://www.fcc.gov/ACP) for a Consumer FAQ and other program resources.

TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

Step 1: Go to AffordableConnectivity.gov to submit an application or print out a mail-in application.

Step 2: Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete. Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.



Call 877-384-2575 or find more information about the Affordable Connectivity Program at:

FCC.GOV/ACP

