

When you love someone with autism,
you'll move heaven and earth....

We're here to help.



7th Annual Autism Conference
Richmond, Virginia
March 12, 13 and 14, 2008



2201 West Broad Street, Suite 107
Richmond, VA 23220

Phone: 804-355-0300

Toll Free 800-649-8481

Fax: 804-355-0932

Email: information@autismva.org

Website: www.autismva.org

Transition: Heading for the Bright Lights



**7th Annual
Autism Conference
March 12, 13 and 14, 2008**

Crowne Plaza Richmond West
Richmond, VA

Registration Brochure

The mission of Commonwealth Autism Service is to provide leadership in the implementation of a statewide system of services to maximize the potential and quality of life of each Virginian with autism across the lifespan.



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Advisory Council and the staff of Commonwealth Autism Service, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to our 7th Annual Autism Conference – *Transition: Heading for the Bright Lights*.

As you are well aware, transition continues to be a very important issue in autism and we are endeavoring to bring focused attention to it at this year's event through a wide array of topics and speakers.

We are pleased to be joined by our nationally and internationally recognized keynote speakers, Dr. Bridget Taylor and Dr. Paul Wehman, who will share their considerable expertise and perspectives during their keynote and workshop presentations.

We have altered our format to include a final day keynote at the end of the conference – a panel of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder sharing firsthand experiences. This is always a very valuable and moving experience for our attendees and we wanted to feature it as a capstone event that everyone could attend.

In this past year autism has stayed front and center on the local, national and international front. Autism for Virginia state government is clearly a priority and we are in the midst of deciding on a state home for autism. With the generous participation of our many partners, we are endeavoring to do our part to accomplish our mission—to *provide leadership in the implementation of a statewide system of services to maximize the potential and quality of life of each Virginian with autism across the lifespan*.

I want to thank you for your past support of our work and this conference. We are confident that you will find it both valuable and inspirational.

I look forward to saying hello to each of you over the duration of the conference.

John A. Toscano, MSW, MBA
President & CEO

You are cordially invited to a
Networking Reception

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

*Join the Commonwealth Autism Service staff in the Sapphire Grill for small group discussions on a selection of topics, information sharing, and networking. A Cash Bar and light hors d'oeuvres will be available. Please indicate your interest in attending by checking the appropriate box on the registration form.
We hope to see you there!*



Registration for March 12, 13 and 14, 2008

1. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. _____
School/ Program/ Company (if applicable) _____
**Please use your school, program, or company (not your home) mailing address if registration is covered by that organization.*
Street / P.O. Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ County _____ E-mail address: _____

Special Dietary Needs/Accommodations _____

2. **Workshop Selections** Check (✓) your first choice for each session. (this is for planning purposes only)

Wednesday, 10:45-12:05

1. ___ Leisure
2. ___ The New AAP Guidelines

Wednesday, 1:05-2:25

3. ___ Sexuality
4. ___ Treatment Options

Wednesday, 2:40- 4:00

5. ___ Sensory Integration
6. ___ Autism Competencies

Thursday, 10:45-12:05

7. ___ Transition IEPs
8. ___ Social Skills

Thursday, 1:05-2:25

9. ___ Transition Workbook
10. ___ Ziggurat Overview

Thursday, 2:40- 4:00

11. ___ ABCs of Transition
12. ___ Challenging Behaviors

Friday, 9:10-10:30

13. ___ Adults with Asperger Syndrome
14. ___ Overview of MR/DD Waivers

Friday, 10:45-12:05

15. ___ Bullying
16. ___ Storytelling

Friday, 1:15- 2:30 Governor's Ballroom
A Panel Discussion
"In Their Own Words"

3. **2008 Annual Conference Registration Fees** (Fees include attendance, continental breakfast, lunch, snack breaks, and all registration materials.)

Please circle your registration level.

Full 3-day Conference	Full 3-day Conference	Individual Day Registration			Individual Day Registration		
		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
On or Before February 8, 2008	After February 8, 2008	On or before February 8, 2008			After February 8, 2008		
BEST DEAL! \$250	\$325	\$100 each day			\$125 each day		

Payment may be made by Cash, Check, VISA, MasterCard or Purchase Order.

Please make checks payable to Commonwealth Autism Service and mail to:

Conference Registration, Commonwealth Autism Service, 2201 West Broad Street, Suite 107, Richmond, VA 23220.

Purchase Orders must accompany registration information.

Registration Fees

Conference Registration \$ _____

I am unable to attend, but please accept my tax-deductible contribution (Commonwealth Autism Service is a 501(3)c organization.) _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please Charge my: VISA or MasterCard. Card number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature: _____

I am interested in attending the Networking Reception on March 12, 2008. _____ YES _____ NO



Registration Instructions

Step 1: Provide registration information. Please use one form per person. Print neatly in blue or black.

Step 2: Select a breakout session for each time slot for each day you will be attending.

Step 3: Determine your conference fee.

Payments must be *received* by the dates indicated to qualify for that rate. Registration must be paid in full to attend the conference.

Full 3-day Conference On or Before February 8, 2008	Full 3-day Conference After February 8, 2008	Individual Day Registration (Each Day) On or before February 8, 2008	Individual Day Registration (Each Day) After February 8, 2008
BEST DEAL! \$250	\$325	\$100 each day	\$125 each day

Step 4: Determine your method of payment.

Payment Options: Cash, Check, Visa, MasterCard, School Purchase Order
Payment must be received with your registration form.

Make Checks Payable to: Commonwealth Autism Service
(Federal Identification Number: 54-1927904) - US Funds Only

Mail Registration Form and Payment to: Commonwealth Autism Service
2201 West Broad Street, Suite 107
Richmond, VA 23220

Fax Registration Form (Credit Card and Purchase Order Only) to 804-355-0932.

Your cooperation and understanding of the following is greatly appreciated.

Payment Terms: All registrations must be paid in full prior to the conference. To qualify for early registration discounts, all payments (**including payment for purchase orders**) must be received by February 8, 2008. After February 8, 2008, regular registration rates apply. Absolutely NO REFUNDS after February 26, 2008. Substitutions are always allowed. **Pre-Registration Required - SORRY NO WALK-INS!**

Purchase Orders: If paying by purchase order we MUST have a copy of the signed purchase order at the time of registration. If you pay by purchase order and DO NOT cancel by February 26, 2008, you are still responsible for payment.

Individuals and Families with Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver (DD Waiver)

Please contact your support coordinator if you wish to attend this conference through your Medicaid Waiver to ensure that you have Family Caregiver Training on your Consumer Service Plan.

DD Waiver Families will be held responsible for private payment to Commonwealth Autism Service if they do not give 2 weeks advance notice of their inability to attend the conference. Families must have a valid credit card on file for registration to be accepted.

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Registration Begins at 8:00 a.m.

Keynote and Announcements Start at 9:00 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Bridget A. Taylor, Psy.D., BCBA

Increasing Independence for Maximum Success

With the advance of Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention, children with autism can learn many skills never thought possible. Some children with autism can learn to talk, play with toys, socialize with their peers and become active functional participants in their families and communities. The goal of any intervention program, however, is to help individuals with autism perform these responses without immediate supervision and direct prompts from adults. This presentation will review specific skills that enhance the independent functioning of individuals with autism across a range of curriculum areas and will highlight behaviorally-based teaching strategies to achieve maximum independence. Videotaped case presentations will illustrate procedures and skills to target.

Bridget A. Taylor is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She holds a Doctorate of Psychology from Rutgers University, and received her Masters degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Columbia University. Dr. Taylor has specialized in the education and treatment of children with autism for the past twenty years. In 1988 she co-founded the Alpine Learning Group, a well regarded education and treatment center for children with autism in New Jersey. She currently serves as Executive Director. Dr. Taylor serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and the journals *Behavioral Interventions* and *Behavior Analysis in Practice*. She is also a member of the Autism Advisory Group for the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies. Dr. Taylor has authored research articles and book chapters related to autism and she is a regular presenter at national and international conferences.

1) 10:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

Improving Leisure Skills in the Home, School & Community
Bridget A. Taylor, Psy.D., BCBA

The identification of age-appropriate play and leisure activities for learners with autism can be quite challenging for parents and teachers. This is especially difficult as individuals with autism age and certain play activities such as "puzzles" are no longer socially valid. In addition, it may be challenging to teach age appropriate play and leisure activities given significant learning challenges and/or the persistence of repetitive/stereotypical behavior. As such, programming for play and leisure activities for learners with autism often requires creativity and modification of activities to meet learners' skills and abilities. This presentation will provide an overview of a variety of play and leisure activities that can be adapted or modified for a learner with autism. Videotaped examples will illustrate a variety of different activities across the age span.

2) 10:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

The New AAP Guidelines for Autism Screening
Colleen Kraft, M.D.

This session will examine two new clinical reports from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which will help pediatricians recognize autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) earlier and guide families to effective interventions, ultimately improving the lives of children with ASDs and their families. These reports are contained in the new guidelines, "AUTISM: Caring for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Resource Toolkit for Clinicians" and include screening and surveillance tools, guideline summary charts, management checklists, developmental checklists, developmental growth charts, early intervention referral forms and tools, sample letters to insurance companies and family handouts. A discussion of these reports and the development of parent-professional partnerships for children with autism will be highlighted.

3) 1:05 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.

Sexuality Instruction for Young People with Autism
Megan Atthowe, MSN, APRN, BC, BCABA

This presentation will explore sexuality instruction for young people with autism, particularly those individuals with limited language. "Sexuality" will be defined as including gender awareness, personal boundaries, privacy and modesty, physical changes and self-care, sexual expression, and personal health and safety. The position asserted will be that we as care providers do a disservice to our students if we do *not* teach them key competencies in sexuality. Existing literature and resources in this area of instruction and specific skills that should be taught will be reviewed. Examples of instructional materials and video clips of instructional techniques will be provided to illustrate the concepts discussed.

4) 1:05 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.

Evaluating Treatment Options
Christine Berman, M.S., BCBA

The number of advertised treatments for individuals with autism is increasing. With so many options, it can be difficult to distinguish between treatments that have evidence to support their effectiveness and those that may not only be ineffective but dangerous. Professionals and caregivers deciding what treatment options to pursue must decide how to allocate valuable resources such as time and money, and misinformation regarding treatment efficacy can lead to these resources being wasted. The purpose of this session is to provide information regarding evidence-based practices and review national initiatives underway to provide "consumers" with accurate information regarding treatment options. Participants will also be provided with tools and resources to evaluate the efficacy of treatment components in both home and educational environments.

5) 2:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sensory Processing Deficits: Understanding the Impact on Behavior and Learning for Children on the Spectrum
Angela Macri, OTR/L, SI Certified, RYT/Therapist

This presentation discusses what sensory processing is and how related deficits often manifest with this population. Understanding the impacts on behavior and learning is crucial to fostering optimal learning and development as well as emotional and behavioral stability. This informative discussion is intended to help provide a further understanding into the world of autism.

6) 2:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Autism Competencies
Patricia Hawkins, Ed.D. and Rachel Reynolds, MA, CCC-SLP, BCABA, MT-BC

The Virginia Autism Council has developed a road map to guide personnel development for individuals who support people with autism. This presentation will give an overview of the competencies, including the process involved in the development and practical applications for their use, and further information about the activities of the Autism Council.

Thursday, March 13, 2008
Registration Begins at 8:00 a.m.
Keynote and Announcements Start at 9:00 a.m.
Keynote Speaker: Paul Wehman, Ph.D.
Transition from School to Adulthood:
Growing Up with Autism

Thursday's keynote address will focus on the major issues that young people with autism spectrum disorders face growing up. These issues include developing personal responsibility, social competence, vocational competence, and self-determination. The focus is on building successful young people who can adjust to community and work life.

Dr. Paul Wehman is Professor of Physical Medicine with joint appointment in the Department of Special Education at Virginia Commonwealth University and Director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workplace Supports. Dr. Wehman helped to develop supported employment at VCU in the early 1980s and has published over 200 articles and authored or edited more than 37 books on the subject. He was a recipient of the Kennedy Foundation Award in Mental Retardation in 1990 and was a member of the President's Committee on Employment for Persons with Disabilities in 1992. Dr. Wehman was recognized as one of the 50 most influential special educators of the millenium by the *Remedial and Special Education* journal in December 2000 and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*. Dr. Wehman received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

7) 10:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

Transition IEPs and Implementation
Paul Wehman, Ph.D.

The purpose of this session will be to discuss the key aspects of an effective transition program. Sample Transition IEPs will be presented along with case studies. The importance of community-based training, high relevance curriculum, and connections to business will be presented as well.

9) 1:05 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.

Taking a Giant Step: Life in the Real World
Dottie Narodny, Transition/Adult Services Specialist,
Certified Work Incentives Specialist

What's in the *Commonwealth Autism Service Transition Helpbook for Families of Youth and Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum in Virginia?* Topics include: Adulthood and Legal Competence, Person-Centered Planning, Social Security Administration Work Incentives, Supports in the Home and Community, and many others. Understanding the change in funding streams to support individuals as they exit special education programs and the importance of starting early to plan for the rest of your child's life are the keys to future success. Interactive discussion will be offered to answer YOUR questions about planning for the future.

11) 2:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The ABCs of Secondary Transition
Marianne Moore, VDOE & Joan O'Brien, Kathe Wittig,
and Renee Bullano from VDOE's T/TAC at VCU

This breakout session will cover information that students, parents, school personnel and service providers should know about the transition process. Speakers will provide information beginning with age-appropriate transition assessments, developing a transition IEP, and writing the summary of performance. Legal issues and recommended practices will also be covered during the session, with time for questions from the audience.

8) 10:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

Social Skills Strategies
Maureen Conroy, Ph.D.

This session will present information on the importance of building social competence in individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Information related to characteristics of social competence and strategies for assessing and teaching social competence will be discussed.

10) 1:05 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.

Karen Berlin, VDOE T/TAC at GMU
Ziggurat: A Comprehensive Approach to
Instructional Planning for Students with Autism
Spectrum Disorders

This session will present a brief overview of a comprehensive intervention planning tool for students that fully addresses the underlying characteristics of autism spectrum disorders. Related strategies for sensory/biological, reinforcement, structure and visual/tactile supports, task demand and skill interventions will be discussed.

12) 2:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Michele Kissinger, M.S., BCABA
Interventions for Dealing with Challenging Behaviors

Impairment in communication skills is a core deficit for many individuals with autism. It is not uncommon for individuals with autism to use problem behavior as a form of communication. Therefore, successful intervention strategies must focus on increasing the individual's communicative abilities. This session will examine intervention strategies that address communicative abilities of individuals displaying challenging behaviors.



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Conference Accommodations



Crowne Plaza Richmond West is holding a block of rooms for this conference at a special rate of **\$89.00 per night**.

For Reservations call:
1-877-227-6963 or 804-285-9951 or register online at www.crowneplaza.com/richmondva (Conference Code: VCA)

Reservations by attendees must be received by the hotel on or before

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

in order to receive this special rate.

You must make your own reservations.
After 2/19/08 standard hotel rates will apply.
 Hotel room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes (currently 13% per room per night) in effect at the time of check-in. Hotel check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and check-out time is 12:00 p.m.

Southern hospitality and stylish accommodations await you at the **Crowne Plaza Richmond West** conveniently located at the I-64 and I-95 interchange. We are the perfect location for the business traveler or the vacationing family. For business travelers, you are close enough to downtown for your meetings; in the evenings you can relax in the suburbs of the West End. Vacationing families are able to enjoy the many historical sites of Richmond, museums, shopping, or enjoy our indoor pool with a tropical feel of live plants and unique artwork.

Our spacious guest rooms and suites have the amenities travelers have come to expect. All guest rooms feature the Crowne Plaza Sleep Advantage Package, which includes plush white bedding and a complimentary amenity bag to ensure you get a good night's rest.

The Crowne Plaza Richmond West is "The Place to Meet" in the West End. With over 9,000 square feet of meeting space, we're the perfect location for your next conference, meeting, banquet, or special event.

Whether you are traveling for business or pleasure, our welcoming and professional staff at the Crowne Plaza Richmond West will make you feel right at home with exceptional service throughout your stay.

Please visit www.crowneplaza.com for more details on amenities and local attractions.

I-64 & West Broad Street
6531 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 285-9951 Phone
(804) 288-1252 Fax

DIRECTIONS

From Interstate 95 North or South

- Take Exit 79 onto I-64 West (Do not take Bypass I-295)
- Take Exit 183B, Broad Street East
- Follow 250 E. Broad Street
- Stay in the right lane
- Crowne Plaza Richmond West will be ¼ mile on the right

From Interstate 64 East

- Take Exit 183B, Broad Street East
- Stay in the right lane
- Crowne Plaza Richmond West will be ¼ mile on your right

From I-64 West or Richmond International Airport

- Take I-95 North back to I-64 West
- Take I-64 West to Exit 183B, Broad Street East
- Follow 250 E. Broad Street
- Stay in the right lane
- Crowne Plaza Richmond West will be ¼ mile on your right

Complimentary Parking for all Guests

Area Airport Information

Richmond International (RIC)

Distance: 15 MI / 24.14 KM W
 Taxi Fee: \$20.00 (USD)
 Time by taxi: 20 minutes

Area Train/Subway Information

Amtrak Train Station

Train Station Name: Amtrak Train Station, Staples Mill Road, Richmond
 Train Station Distance 3 MI / 4.83 KM W
 Taxi Fee \$15.00 (USD)

Groome Transportation
 Richmond Shared Ride Shuttle Service :

For Reservations
Please call 804-222-7222 or 800-552-7911

Groome Transportation provides professional uniformed service in *ten minutes or less* from Richmond International Airport at affordable rates. Whether shared ride or individual car, Groome Transportation provides 24-hour service from your home, office or hotel.

In the case of an unexpected cancellation, Commonwealth Autism Service reserves the right to make substitutions for speakers. All efforts will be made to ensure that breakout topics remain constant.

Friday, March 14, 2008
Registration Begins at 8:00 a.m.
Announcements Start at 9:00 a.m.

13) 9:10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Adults with Asperger Syndrome-What We Know
Gena Barnhill, Ph.D.

An overview of the current research findings concerning adult outcomes for individuals with Asperger Syndrome will be explored. Employment issues, comorbid mental and physical health conditions, neurological issues, possible problems with the legal system, research on mortality rates and treatment will be overviewed and intertwined with the presenter's experiences as a parent of an adult son with Asperger Syndrome.

14) 9:10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Overview of MR and DD Waivers
Terry Smith, MBA and Yvonne Goodman, RN

This session will present an overview of "all things long-term" at the Department of Medical Assistance Services including the integration of acute and long-term care, the Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly, Systems Transformation Grant Activities and updates on *Money Follows the Person* -- a program designed to move persons from institutional to home-and-community-based systems. Special emphasis will include an in-depth review and updates on the Medicaid Developmental Disabilities and Mental Retardation Waivers.

15) 10:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

It's Not Enough to Just Teach, "If You Are Nice To Others, Then They Will be Nice To You."
Gena Barnhill, Ph.D.

This presentation will explore a pervasive problem in our schools today - bullying. The focus will be on how individuals on the autism spectrum are more susceptible to being bullied because of their weaknesses in the areas of communication and social skills, and how we can intervene to assist them and prevent bullying. Insights written from individuals with an ASD who have shared their experiences as targets of bullying will be discussed.

16) 10:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

Storytelling: Then & Now... How to Wow!
Sharon Teabo, Ed.D.

This presentation will provide a historical overview of storytelling, standards, available technologies (no tech, low tech, high tech), instructional strategies for working with students with autism, and examples of digital stories in a variety of formats. The presentation will conclude with digital story examples from students and a link to resources for digital storytelling.

Governor's Ballroom 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

A Panel Discussion "In Their Own Words"

A group of individuals with autism spectrum disorders will explain to the audience how they see the world. There will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

Governor's Ballroom 2:30 p.m.

Closing Announcements and Raffle Drawings

The opinions or positions of the presenters at this Conference do not necessarily represent or constitute any official position by Commonwealth Autism Service. Commonwealth Autism Service recognizes the complexity of autism and the uniqueness of each person with the disability and encourages parents to investigate appropriate options for their child. At this time there is no cure for autism and investigators are actively seeking the cause as well as effective practices.



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Exhibitor Opportunities

For each exhibitor, one 6-foot table with standard pipe and drape is provided. Exhibitors will be listed as a sponsor in the conference program. **Full three-day conference registration is included for one representative.** Additional representative fees cover only the cost of breakfasts and lunches during the conference days. If additional representatives would like to attend full conference proceedings, they must register at the full conference rate. **Please contact Becky Boswell at 804-355-0300 for information about exhibitor opportunities.**

Advertising

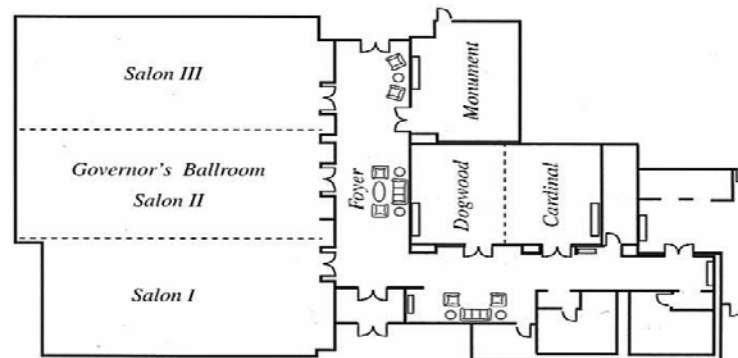
Material collating and many print advertising options are available at the 2008 Annual Autism Conference. For rates or more information, please contact Becky Boswell at 804-355-0300.

Conference Sponsorships

Each level of sponsorship includes advertising opportunities for your organization. Some sponsorship levels include registration. If you would like more information or to register as an Annual Conference Sponsor, **contact Becky Boswell at 804-355-0300.**

**We do accept donations
for daily raffles prizes.**

**Call and let us know how you can help support our
7th Annual Autism Conference -
*Transition: Heading for the Bright Lights***



Vendors and Exhibitors will be located in the Cardinal, Dogwood and Monument Rooms. Incentives will be given for conference registrants to visit the vendor rooms.

Take Advantage of the Information Board!!!

**Share Your Information and
Ask Questions of Other Participants!**

Commonwealth Autism Service will sponsor an information table where registrants may post questions, suggestions, and notes to other participants. We hope this proves to be a helpful tool in sharing resources and information.