



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

Providing Support
Promoting Awareness
Advocating for Change

Perspectives

HCAS Newsletter

Summer 2017

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Outdoor Adventurers



Families took part in the HCAS Hiking Club's hour-long hike along the trails of the McKeldin area at Patapsco Valley State Park on June 24. Hikers enjoyed meeting friends, exploring the rocky terrain, and hiking to the rapids. A July hike will be scheduled soon.

Low Intensity Support Services (LISS)

If you're looking for funding for summer camp, respite care, and more, LISS may be an option for your family. [LISS](#) is designed to improve an individual or family's quality of life, increase or maintain independence, and help individuals with disabilities participate in their communities. LISS grants eligible applicants up to \$2000.00 for identified services and items to support identified needs. The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) distributes LISS funding twice during each fiscal year (July 1 - June 30), in two rounds.

EVENTS

JULY 8

["Despicable Me 3" Sensory Friendly Movie](#)

JULY 9

[Summer Pool Party for Members](#)

JULY 13

[Asperger's Support Group](#)

JULY 22

["Spiderman: Homecoming" Sensory Friendly Movie](#)

AUG 2

[CCBC Registration Fair](#)

AUG 8

["The Emoji Movie" Sensory Friendly Movie](#)

Our General Support and Transition & Adulthood Groups will not meet in July and August. Our Asperger's Support Group will not meet in August.

One Step Closer... Autism Walk & 5K Run

Saturday, October 7, 2017
Centennial Park

year (July 1- June 30), in two rounds.

Maria Hoffman, assistant manager of LISS from [Penn-Mar Human Services](#), spoke at the HCAS June general support group meeting. She gave a thorough overview of LISS, how the process works, who is eligible, and what it does and does not support. [View her presentation online](#) for more information and instructions on how to apply. She provides examples of how the application would be completed to cover specific qualifying expenses.

The first round of LISS applications for fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018) must be submitted by mail or in person by June 30. Random selection for round one occurs July 15. Applications for round two will be accepted July 1 - Oct. 30. Applicants are informed by mail whether they have been selected.

Transition Planning Tips for Parents

Katie Collins-Ihrke, executive director of [Accessible Resources for Independence \(ARI\)](#), spoke to HCAS parents on June 14. ARI is committed to providing a wide array of services to assist people with disabilities to live independently, pursue meaningful goals, and have the same opportunities and choices as all persons. In addition to transition guidelines and options, she shared several parent tips:

- Talk to your child about their interests and preferences with their current activities.
- Get your child involved in pre-employment services. Youth who participate in work-based learning while still in school have better employment outcomes as adults.
- Presume competence and have high expectations. High parental expectations are an evidenced-based predictor of post-school success for students with disabilities.
- Don't be afraid of failure. There is something to be said about the Dignity of Risk.
- Explore all options that are available to your child with your child. Be informed and make informed choices.
- True community integration starts with you. The more people in the community get to know your child, the more they will be linked within their community. Being a part of a community is important to us all. Remember, life is not lived in a program.

View her [presentation online](#) for more information.

An Ocean of Creation



[Start Building Your Team Today](#)

News and Resources from the **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS CENTER**

[Top Five Questions to Ask an OT](#)
Occupational therapists bring a unique perspective to enhancing your child's participation in school, self-care, and other daily routines. Find out how an OT can best support your child.

[Strategies to Handle Anxiety During the Summer Months](#)
Learn how to identify and anticipate what triggers your child's stress in order to help them self-regulate during changes in routine, weather, and predictability.

[Ten Things to Do Before School Starts](#)
Reviewing your child's IEP or 504 Plan, developing organizational skills, and communicating with teachers over the summer months can set up your child for a successful school year.

Do you have questions about special education services and rights?

We are here to help. Call 410-290-3466 or email AskusSpEdquestions@howard-autism.org.

IN MY OWN WORDS

A column for individuals on the spectrum to publish their reviews and views

[Jack Loazer, 18, reviews "Wonder Woman" and "Kong: Skull Island" movies.](#)

Creation, a sculpture in human form, during a workshop lead by [ManneqART](#) artist Lilou Altman and founder Lee Anderson.

The piece was modeled and photographed at the June 25 ManneqART Mania event in Savage Mill and will appear in the 2018 ManneqART calendar in the organization's museum in Laurel, MD.



Howard County Autism Society

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