



FEAT-Houston

Families for Effective
Autism Treatment

May 2010

News

3946 Glade Valley Drive, Kingwood, Texas 77339

281-361-3328

www.feathouston.org

FEAT-Houston Meeting

Promoting play and social skills in children with autism ages 3-6

(The preschool, kindergarten and PPCD years)

Thursday, May 13

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Depelchin Children's Center-Room F
4950 Memorial Dr., Houston**

Presenter: Rachel Halpern, M.Ed., BCBA

One of the characteristics of children with autism spectrum disorders is impairments in social interaction. Historically, this deficit has often been neglected both by educators and parents. With the push for inclusion and mainstreaming, however, both educators and parents have realized that teaching play and social skills to children with autism spectrum disorders is just as important as teaching academics. By the end of this presentation, participants will gain an understanding of developmentally appropriate practices for children ages 3-6, specific skills that should be a focus at this age and behavioral strategies to teach play and social skills,

Rachel Halpern, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, specializes in working with children who have autism spectrum disorders as well as their families. Rachel is a native Houstonian, returning from Austin where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Texas along with a Master of Education focusing on autism and developmental disabilities.

Currently, she works at DePelchin Children's Center as the Program Coordinator for Autism Services. Before DePelchin, she worked at The Arbor School as a Lead Teacher and Behavior Manager of the school's autism program. Rachel has been working directly with children with autism and their families in both the school and home setting for the past six years.

FEAT-Houston meetings are free. We regret we are unable to provide childcare.

Community Outreach Workshop

ABA for Families: Creating a Reinforcing Home Life

(Includes Childcare)

Free! Refundable deposit required.

Presented by
Including Kids, Inc.

10 a.m. - 12 noon

Saturday, May 22nd

5364 FM 1960 East, Humble, TX 77346

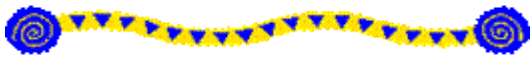
Sponsored in partnership with FEAT-Houston

Understanding how to reinforce and what motivates the people in your family will create a more supportive home environment. The daily stress of life doesn't have to control your family! In fact, ABA is not just for children on the autism spectrum. Learn how your family can work as a supportive and fun team. This workshop will also address common struggles faced by siblings and parents of children with autism. **Parents, teachers and other professionals are welcome to attend.** For families, it includes childcare, an interaction group for children with autism, plus a sibling support group so that parents can attend the workshop session while their children are supervised.

Registration Deadline: May 15th. Although the workshops are free, there is a fully refundable deposit to assure that registrants attend.

Obtain a registration form at: www.includingkids.org. Additional information is available from InKids at 281-852-0501 or inkidsoutreach@earthlink.net.

Including Kids, Inc. is an ABA school for children with autism providing a day program, outreach, after-school and other services in Humble, Texas.



FEAT-Houston 2010 Calendar of Events

FEAT-Houston Meetings are held at various locations throughout Houston. For more information on any event, send an email to feathouston@yahoo.com.

May 13: FEAT-Houston Meeting, Rachel Halpern,
M. Ed., BCBA, Social Skills

May 17: FEAT-Houston Clear Lake, Jennifer Fritz,
Ph.D., BCBA-D, Severe Behavior

June 17: FEAT- Ft. Bend (Sugar Land), Issues in
Insurance Reimbursement

June 21: FEAT-Houston Clear Lake
Token Boards: Make & Take
Christie Enzinna, M. Ed., BCBA

July 8: FEAT-Houston Meeting

July 31: **ABCs of ABA Workshop**, Registration
form in this newsletter.

Aug. 19: FEAT- Ft. Bend (Sugar Land)

Sep. 9: FEAT-Houston Meeting

Sep. 25: **123s of ABA** - Reinforcement

Oct. 16: **123s of ABA** - Maximizing Cooperative
Behavior

Oct. 14: FEAT- Ft. Bend (Sugar Land)

Nov. 11: FEAT-Houston Meeting

Nov. 13: **123s of ABA** - Teaching & Changing
Behavior of Adolescents and Adults

View our online calendar for details and updates under
"Events" - www.feathouston.org



FEAT-Houston Clear Lake Meeting

Severe Behavior Problems: Functional Analysis & Intervention

Jennifer Fritz, Ph.D. BCBA-D

**Assistant Professor of Behavior Analysis
University of Houston – Clear Lake**

**Monday, May 17
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
United Way of the Bay Area
1300 Bay Area Blvd. Building A**

Moderate to severe behavior problems are often associated with autism. Determining why an individual is displaying behavior issues is essential to developing successful interventions. Dr. Fritz will review the steps in developing accurate descriptions of problem behaviors and analyzing events that precede and follow them that changes can be made to better support positive behavior in individuals with autism.

Jennifer Fritz, Ph.D., is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst who earned her bachelor's and doctorate degrees in Psychology at the University of Florida. She served as a Clinical Specialist at The Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, MD. Fritz has published and presented extensively on functional analysis and interventions for behavior issues and stereotypy in autism, working with Dr. Brian Iwata, a seminal leader in the field of functional analysis of behavior.

To learn more about FEAT-Houston's Clear Lake Chapter contact Jen Fetter at 713-392-9258 or email feathouston@yahoo.com.

Thank you!



FEAT-Houston appreciates the support of everyone who pledged on behalf of our organization to the Houston Golf Association's Shell Houston Open Birdies for Charity fundraising campaign. The tournament players shot 1,528 birdies (one under par at a hole) at the Wednesday Pro-Am and four days of tournament play March 31-April 4. FEAT-Houston will receive \$4,062 when all of its pledges are collected.

July Workshop

The ABCs of ABA Essential Skills

The ABCs of ABA is an excellent starting point for parents, therapists, teachers, case workers, family and friends as well as a great opportunity to review the basic principles involved in teaching new skills and creating and maintaining positive learning behavior in children and adults with autism. It is especially useful for parents and schools facing the need to provide introductory training when hiring and training staff to work with individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities.

This workshop is available for Texas Education Agency Continuing Professional Education Credits (CPE hours).

Saturday, July 31, 2010

University of Houston, Central Campus

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration: 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch provided.

Presented by Dr. Gerald Harris, Executive Director of the Texas Young Autism Project and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D), the ABCs of ABA will feature lecture, video, and hands-on modeling. Discounts are available for early registration and seating is limited.

A registration form for this workshop, with fees and deadlines, is included in this newsletter.

For additional information: feathouston@yahoo.com

FEAT-Houston Email List

If you would like to receive a link to this newsletter by email or announcements of meetings, workshops, trainings or other items of interest to people who support children, teens and adults with autism, sign up for the FEAT-Houston email list at our website at www.feathouston.org or send your email request to feathouston@yahoo.com.

FEAT-Houston Ft. Bend Meeting

Issues in Obtaining Insurance Reimbursement for ABA Services

Thursday, June 17

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**Sugar Creek Baptist Church, Adult Chapel
13333 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land**

Presenter: Panel of Provider Representatives

Changes in Texas' insurance laws and Health and Human Services regulations have made reimbursement for intensive applied behavior analysis services more widely available to families with specific coverages and/or Medicaid waiver program services, such as Home & Community-Based services. Private site-based providers in Houston are reporting solid successes in obtaining coverage for students in their programs. Nevertheless, obtaining coverage can be a paperwork challenge and may not be available to everyone with an employer-sponsored insurance plan. A panel of professionals and parents who have negotiated the insurance maze will address some of the issues involved in obtaining coverage at the June 17th FEAT-Houston Ft. Bend meeting.

Directions: From Houston take 59 South past the Sam Houston Tollway to Sugar Creek/Dairy Ashford exit; make a U-turn under the SW Fwy. Get back on feeder heading NE & church will be on the right, before Bill Heard Chevrolet. From Richmond/Rosenberg take 59 N past HWY 6 and exit Sugar Creek/Dairy Ashford. Stay on feeder, church will be on right, before Bill Heard Chevrolet. The meeting will be held in the Adult Chapel. It is the building on the Northwest corner of the church campus, parking faces Bill Heard Chevrolet.

FEAT-Ft. Bend meetings are free. We regret we are unable to provide childcare.

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) annual convention, May 28-June 1, The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio. Rarely held in Texas, this internationally-renowned ABA event offers both autism and developmental disabilities tracks that offer a wealth of research-based information for behavior analysts, teachers and parents of children with autism. There is even a Parent Professional Partnership Special Interest Group (PPSIG.org) to help everyone get the most out of this conference! www.abai.org

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Region 17 Autism Conference, June 8 & 9, 2010, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, Lubbock. Features Dr. Vince Carbone, BCBA. Parents of individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder may register for free by contacting Annie Padilla at 806-281-5873 or apadilla@esc17.net.

The ARC of Greater Houston, Special Ed 101 trainings monthly, 11 am – 1 pm. Next training: May 12, RSVP 3 days in advance. 713-957-1600. ksnead@thearcofgreaterhouston.com, 3737 Dacoma, Suite E (off 610 near 290). For additional speakers and trainings, including workshops in Spanish, visit: <http://www.thearcofgreaterhouston.com>

Research Projects

Free Couples Therapy Research Project for Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. University of Houston Clear Lake is conducting research therapy with parents of children diagnosed with autism. Twelve treatment sessions are provided for both partners, and childcare is available. Interested participants may contact the research team at 281-283-3304 or UHCLCouplesResearch@gmail.com. The email address and telephone number are confidential and only accessed by authorized research assistants.

Medication Study - Investigators at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston are conducting a 12-week placebo-controlled research study of children ages 3-8 years old to access the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication designed to treat the behavioral symptoms in children with autism. Risks and benefits will be discussed with research participants and their parent prior to enrolling in the study being conducted by Deborah A. Pearson, Ph.D. and Nidal Moukaddam, M.D. For information call: 713-500-2591 or email Rosleen.Mansour@uth.tmc.edu or visit the website at <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/chdriRB>

League City Preschool Seeks Peer Models for Summertime

The Reason for Hope, a site-based ABA program for children with autism is registering peer models for its summer preschool program consisting of two- and four-day-a-week summer sessions. Class size is limited. The school offers a Christian-based curriculum with the opportunity to positively impact the lives of children with autism spectrum disorders. For additional information, call 832.632.2177 or info@thereasonforhope.com.

Military Families Accessing ABA Under EFMP Program

Because military families often make frequent moves and are not easily connected to disability resources in the local community, the military offers the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) that can assist in obtaining needed therapy for children with an Autism Spectrum Diagnosis. Access to needed treatment can include ABA therapy.



Steps to take to start the ABA Therapy process include:

1. Sign up for the EFMP program by going to the HealthNet Federal Services website's EFMP page at: <https://www.hnfs.net/common/faq/EFMP%20Description.htm>
2. Obtain a prescription from your doctor for ABA therapy.
3. Fax the prescription to your Insurance Case Manager.

In Texas (except El Paso), families in the military covered by Tricare may find out more about Tricare ECHO's (Extended Care Health Option) Enhanced Access to Autism Services Demonstration project and authorizations for ABA therapy by calling **1-800-447-8808**.

Below is a list of websites that address the military and Autism.

[Frequently Asked Questions About The ECHO Program](https://www.hnfs.net/common/caremanagement/ECHO+FAQs.htm)

<https://www.hnfs.net/common/caremanagement/ECHO+FAQs.htm>

Site addresses all your ECHO questions.

[MilitaryHOMEFRONT](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/portal/page/mhf/MHF/MHF_HOME_1?section_id=20.40.500.570.0.0.0.0)

http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/portal/page/mhf/MHF/MHF_HOME_1?section_id=20.40.500.570.0.0.0.0

A great description of EFMP in all the military branches as well as the needed enrollment forms.

Stomp Project (www.stompproject.org) Specialized Training of Military Parents is a federally funded list-serve that connects like-minded military parents for the sharing of information.

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One Source

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/home.aspx?MRole=&Branch=&Component=>

An educational and informational website for military members and their families.

Department of Defense Special Needs Parent Toolkit

http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/portal/page/mhf/MHF/MHF_DETAIL_1?section_id=20.40.500.570.0.0.0.0&content_id=218947

Surfing the Net: Autism Links

University of Houston-Clear Lake Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities provides the PowerPoint, PDF and video of its recent Speaker Series presentations online at:

http://prtl.uhcl.edu/portal/page/portal/HSR/HOME/CENTERS_INSTITUTES/Autism%20and%20Developmental%20Disabilities/Speaker_Series

Topics include: "Toilet Training and Life Skills," "Increasing Compliance," "Understanding and Managing Problem Behavior," and "Increasing Compliance."

Texas Statewide Leadership for Autism – Educational Resources hosted by Texas Education Agency Reg. 13

<http://www.txautism.net/index.html>

FEAT- Houston Board of Directors 2010

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Ask Your Friends and Family to Donate by Shopping!

It's easy to donate to FEAT-Houston's scholarship and programming activities by shopping at Kroger and Randalls. What's more...your friends and family can help too! Just ask them to **bring the bar code included in this newsletter** to the Kroger cashier and have the cashier scan it to enroll in the Neighbor to Neighbor program. (You have to re-enroll each year, so if you haven't done so since July, be sure to sign up yourself!) Once you enroll, you can scan your regular Kroger *Plus* card (or input your phone number) every time you shop, and FEAT gets credit!

FEAT recently received a \$680 donation from Kroger based on our percentage of total donations the past year. **Please make FEAT-Houston the designated charity of your choice** then pass the letter along to friends and relatives and encourage them to do the same. **Your support of FEAT-Houston in this way is much appreciated!**

If you are a **Randalls, Safeway or Albertson's** shopper (or even if you have relatives in other parts of the country that shop at these stores), be sure to check with the cashier or customer service desk to designate FEAT (Charity #2510) as your designated charity partner.

To Enroll in Kroger's Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program:

Present the **barcode** below to your cashier upon checkout. After they have scanned your KrogerPlus Card you will be enrolled for the current year of the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program. Every time you shop at Kroger and use your enrolled KrogerPlus Card, Kroger will contribute a percentage of your eligible purchases to the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation fund. Once a card is scanned with the barcode, it will be active for the remainder of the program year.

FAMILIES FOR EFFECTIVE AUTISM TREATMENT
HOUSTON



Kroger cashier: Please scan customer's KrogerPlus Card at the beginning of the order, and then scan the above barcode. The customer's KrogerPlus Card is now enrolled in the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program.

Would you like to support FEAT-Houston? Your contributions assist FEAT-Houston in its mission to provide information about applied behavior analysis (ABA) and to promote ABA treatment resources in the Greater Houston area. Send donations to: FEAT-Houston, 1120 Medical Plaza Dr., Suite 100, The Woodlands, TX 77380.

Proactive Summer Safety

Addressing Elopement Issues

The summer months often bring changing schedules, changing caregiver relationships and times of less-structured programming for individuals with autism, which can “open the door” to running away or walking away unsupervised from a caregiver. “Elopement” is fairly common in children or adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and is cause for concern for parents and caregivers because it can put the child or adult with a disability who may have no real sense of danger into dangerous or awkward situations.



With the high incidence of reports of children with autism wandering into harm's way, we've compiled some guidelines as well as links to ABA research and programming for elopement and some general links to articles on safety and products that can assist with identification and tracking of children and adults who tend to wander.

Guidelines

The website below was written by a special education attorney who has experience with several children with elopement issues. The only thing he doesn't mention is putting elopement in the IEP.

http://specialedlaw.blogs.com/home/2005/11/on_october_14_2.html

He recommends:

- 1) A written plan on how to deal with elopement, with assigned roles for the staff, prevention (for example visuals for the child) and "fire drills" for dealing with a crisis that comes up despite prevention.
- 2) Risk analysis -- what aspects of the schedule and surroundings increase the risk of elopement? i.e. transitions between rooms, located near a busy street, etc.
- 3) Equipment -- teachers and other staff must be able to communicate with each other quickly in a crisis. Walkie-talkies are essential.
- 4) Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plan -- this is the most important step. Why does the child elope and what can you do to teach him to stay put and get his needs met in a safer, more appropriate way?

Research Articles

Treatment of elopement in individuals with developmental disabilities: A systematic review, *Research in Developmental Disabilities, Volume 30, Issue 4, July-August 2009, Pages 670-681*. Russell Lang, Mandy Rispoli, Wendy Machalicek, Pamela J. White, Soyeon Kang, Nigel Pierce, Austin Mulloy, Tina Fragale, Mark O'Reilly, Jeff Sigafoos and Giulio Lancioni **The Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712, USA. ruslang@mail.utexas.edu**

Functional Analysis and Treatment of Elopement, *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, Volume 30, Number 4, Winter 1997, Pages 653-672*. Cathleen C. Piazza, Gregory P. Hanley, Lynn G. Bowman, John M. Ruyter, Steven E. Lindauer, and Deborah M. Saiontz, Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Findings of a study of three children discussed in terms of application of functional analysis to elopement, use of reinforce assessments to identify potential reinforcers and assessment-based treatments for elopement.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1284082/pdf/9433790.pdf>

General safety articles:

<http://www.okautism.org/ofca/faqs/safety-solutions/> - frequently asked questions, from Oklahoma Family Center for Autism.

<http://www.nationalautismassociation.org/safetytoolkit.php> - an overview of safety concerns and how to prevent them.

<http://policeandautism.cjb.net/avoiding.html> - "Avoiding Unfortunate Situations" by autism Dad and police training expert Dennis Debault.

<http://www.autismriskmanagement.com/> - browse around at Dennis Debault's website.

Child-find, I.D. and safety products:

Medic Alert <http://www.medicalert.org/autism> (ASA Program)

Pathfinders for Autism has an excellent article on its website, written by the Metro Crisis Coordination Program in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, with an overview of safety products for autism, including a section on elopement. Products include locks, alarms, wrist alarms, ID bracelets, fences and surveillance cameras.
<http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/articleItem.aspx?id=10>

Road ID www.roadid.com – Cool Velcro ID bracelets, shoe tags, etc. with interactive website option.



FEAT-Houston Presents

The ABCs of ABA - Essential Skills

Presented by: Gerald Harris, Ph.D., BCBA –D, Executive Director, Texas Young Autism Project

Date: **Saturday, July 31, 2010**

Time: **9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Registration: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

Location: **University of Houston Central Campus, Heyne Building, H-Building 534, Room 135**

This workshop is an introduction to the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). It is an excellent starting point for parents, therapists, teachers, case workers, family and friends and an opportunity to review the basic principles involved in teaching new skills and creating and maintaining positive learning behavior in children and adults with autism. It is especially useful for parents and schools facing the need to provide introductory training when hiring and training staff to work with individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. Workshops are open to anyone with a desire to learn more about ABA. No prior experience is necessary. Lecture, video, and handouts may be used. **Space is limited! Box lunch will be provided but no child care is available. TEA Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits available.**

Registration and Fees: Register by July 21, 2010 to save!

Individual	\$50.00 (\$40 if before 7/21)	Student	\$25.00 (with documentation)
Married Couple	\$75.00 (\$65 if before 7/21)		
Groups of 5 or more	\$35/attendee (deduct \$10 per group if before 7/21)		

There are a limited number of scholarships/reduced rates available for families in financial hardship or for teachers/program staff working with those who have autism/pdd. Email ejbgoudeau@aol.com to inquire.

Please send check made out to **FEAT-Houston** to:

Ellen Goudeau
4610 Trail Lake Dr.
Houston, TX 77045

Confirmation of receipt of payment will be sent by e-mail. Send questions to: ejbgoudeau@aol.com

Directions: Take I-45 South (if coming from downtown area) to Cullen Exit. Turn right on Cullen. Before you get to Wheeler, the Heyne Building is the last building on the left. Turn left into the front of the building and the parking lot is immediately on the right, entrance 13. Parking lot gate should be up to allow free entrance for those attending the workshop. Follow the signs inside the building. Map available at http://www.uh.edu/campus_map/buildings/H.html

ABCs of ABA – July 31, 2010

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Total attending _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Parent ___ Teacher ___ Therapist ___ Other? _____

Names of others attending:

Mail to: Ellen Goudeau, 4610 Trail Lake Dr. Houston, TX 77045

Families for Effective Autism Treatment
FEAT – Houston

1120 Medical Plaza Dr., Suite 100
The Woodlands, TX 77380

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How Do I Access ABA?

Do your homework...

Start by viewing “[Making Sense of Autism Treatment Research](http://www.feathouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/Green-Autism-Tutorial-ABA-copy.pdf)” (PowerPoint, Green, 2003) <http://www.feathouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/Green-Autism-Tutorial-ABA-copy.pdf> or reading “[Evaluating Claims About Treatments for Autism](http://www.feathouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/evaluating_claims.pdf)” http://www.feathouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/evaluating_claims.pdf

Before hiring a professional...

Read the [Consumer Guidelines](http://abainternational.org/Special_Interests/AutGuidelines.pdf) (http://abainternational.org/Special_Interests/AutGuidelines.pdf). Also check the [certificant registry](http://www.bacb.com/registry/zip.php) (<http://www.bacb.com/registry/zip.php>) to verify that a potential ABA consultant is a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA) or board certified assistant behavior analyst (BCaBA).

Seek out training for yourself...

Training can help you become a therapist for your own child, and it can help you become a more educated consumer. FEAT-Houston is proud to sponsor low-cost, high-quality ABA workshops. Please see our calendar at www.feathouston.org for upcoming training opportunities. Please check our newsletter for announcements about training opportunities that might be offered through local ABA providers.