

# Exceptional Children Information for Parents



**EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**  
NC Department of Public Instruction

May 18, 2022

## Spotlight on Autism Society of NC

The Autism Society of North Carolina improves the lives of individuals with autism, supports their families, and educates communities. Their vision is to be the trusted partner for all people with autism as they lead fulfilling lives. Their services and programs are tailored to the unique needs of individuals with autism. Autism Resource Specialists are often the first people parents talk to after their child is diagnosed. They help families connect with resources, keep their children safe, find services, and help resolve school issues. They also provide guidance on lifelong issues including employment, residential options, and planning for children's needs beyond parents' lives.

A new workshop starting May 19, entitled *Start Where They Are*, is a 6-part series led by the Autism Society of NC clinical team and a parent of an individual with autism. The workshop will emphasize finding the right starting point for your child as you address critical skills that lead to increased empowerment, independence, social connectedness, and health and safety. You do not need to attend all sessions in the series but are encouraged to do so.

- May 19: Understanding core features and perspectives of individuals with ASD: identifying big goals, finding the right starting point, and steps to get there
- May 26: Start where they are: Building engagement and social connection through play and reinforcement
- June 2: Start where they are: Promoting self-advocacy and communication in young children
- June 9: Start where they are: Promoting success in daily routines such as dressing, toothbrushing, toileting, and mealtime behaviors
- June 16: Start where they are: Heading off problem behaviors with positive support strategies
- June 23: Wrap up session: Identifying future directions for home implementation, connecting parents to additional resources and supports

Register for this series by completing [this form](#).

You can find other workshops conducted by the Autism Society by using the link of the right column of this newsletter.

You can find previous newsletters in the Parent Newsletter google folder at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ECParentNewsletters>

## Important Links

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [N.C. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
  - [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#)
- [N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)
  - [Lighting Our Way Forward \(Summary\)](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)
- [NCDPI-COVID-19 Responses & Resources](#)

## Upcoming Events

- Arc of the Triangle [Events](#)
- Autism Society [Workshops](#)
- Autism Speaks [Information Topics](#)
- CADRE [Parent Resources](#)
- ECAC [Events](#) & [Recorded Webinars](#)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness [Courses](#)
- NC Down Syndrome Alliance [Events](#)
- Special Olympics NC [Events](#)

OCALICONLINE 2022: November 15-18, 2022  
OCALICON is a premier autism, sensory disabilities, low-incidence disabilities, and assistive technology conference. This conference brings together a cross-section of professionals and parents who utilize a variety of products and services at home, work, and in the community. Sessions target a breadth of disabilities. Visit [OCALICONLINE](#) for more information and to register.

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