Autism: Current Practice Resources for Physical Therapists

Professional Organizations

Autism Society
www.autism-society.org/about-us/
The Autism Society is the nation’s leading grassroots autism organization with a network of 150 chapters in almost every state, many of which sponsor their own group meetings, programs and events. As a member, opportunities exist for pediatric allied health professionals to present at the National Conference.

Allied Health Professional Associations

Each professional association provides resources related to autism on a member and a nonmember basis.

American Physical Therapy Association
www.apta.org

American Occupational Therapy Association
www.aota.org

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
www.asha.org

Websites

US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Effective Health Care Program
http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports
Search for autism research summaries, reviews, and reports.

Autism After 16
www.autismafter16.com
This site provides information and analysis of adult autism issues. It addresses core issues of concern, such as transition, employment, housing, finances, health, community, and the arts, with in-depth articles and links to resources.

Autism Speaks
www.autismspeaks.org
The purpose of this organization is to provide support in a multimedia format for families and researchers. Resources include up-to-date news, advocacy resources, family support, educational resources, and a venue for fundraising.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
www.cdc.gov/actearly
This website provides essential autism information to share with parents and health professionals about current recommended practices endorsed by the CDC. A unique early identification webpage lists free resources for health professionals, parents, and early educators.

Delaware Department of Education Autism Handbook of Transition
www.autismhandbook.org/index.php/Web_Resources
The goal of this wiki is to assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families by providing access to the most current and comprehensive information on the transition to adulthood.
First Signs
www.firstsigns.org
This website promotes screening and increased early identification of young children with autism and other developmental delays. The resources cover a range of issues, from monitoring development to screening and referral to sharing concerns about the child.

IDEA Partnership Collections, ASD Collection
www.ideapartnership.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1493
Sets of materials and resources reviewed and approved by the US Department of Education and the Office of Special Education Programs for accuracy and quality content. Resources were developed and shared as a means of supporting all stakeholders (educators, families, agencies, etc).

Institute for Community Inclusion: Promoting Inclusion of People With Disabilities
www.communityinclusion.org
Resources include the following publication:

Interactive Autism Network
www.ianproject.org
The website is an interactive online project of Kennedy Krieger. The purpose is to link the autism community and researchers.

Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee
http://iacc.hhs.gov/events/
A federal advisory committee (federal officials and public members) coordinating efforts within the US Department of Health and Human Services concerning ASD. IACC meetings are open to the public and include presentations and discussions on a variety of topics, including activities and projects of the IACC, recent advances in science and autism policy issues. Archived transcripts, materials, slides, and video casts are posted on the meetings and events page.

National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD)
www.ncpad.org/315/1931/Autism--and--Considerations--in--Recreation--and--Physical--Activity--Settings
The NCHPAD Autism and Considerations in Recreational and Physical Activity Settings page includes articles and brief video clips of activities.

National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2)
www.nlts2.org
This website is funded by the US Department of Education. Experiences of a national sample of students who were 13 to 16 years of age in 2000 as they moved from secondary school into adult roles are documented. Resources include a wide range of important topics such as: high school coursework, extracurricular activities, academic performance, post-secondary education and training, employment, independent living, and community participation.

National Professional Development Center on ASD
http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/content/briefs
Evidence-based practice briefs have been developed for 24 identified evidence-based practices.

National Standards Report
www.nationalautismcenter.org/nsp/reports.php
A broad range of applied treatments and the level of scientific evidence available for each are identified. Registration required for free access to the report.

National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center
http://dev.nsttac.org/
This technical assistance website funded by the US Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs provides a variety of resources related to evidence-based practices to improve academic success and functional outcomes.

PALAESTRA
www.palaestra.com
Palaestra is a quarterly publication that focuses on sports, physical education, and recreation for those with disabilities. The benefits of physical activity and basic instructional guidelines specific to children with autism are discussed in this article: “Use of physical activity to improve behavior in children with autism.”
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)
www.ocali.org
OCALI sponsors a national conference on autism, assistive technology, and low-incidence disabilities. The event also includes a National Autism Leadership Summit, a Universal Design for Learning Summit, and a University Summit.

Pediatric Therapy Network/University of Southern California
www.pediatrictherapynetwork.org/research/ot610.cfm
The University of Southern California offers a 3-month intensive training program in sensory integration held at Pediatric Therapy Network in Torrance, California. The training provides small-group, graduate-level instruction in the theory and intervention strategies of Ayres Sensory Integration®. In addition, this program includes the certification needed to administer and interpret the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests (SIPT).

Sensory Integration Certification Program
The University of Southern California Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, together with Western Psychological Services, presents this training program in sensory integration consisting of four 5-day courses.

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Spiral Foundation/Occupational Therapy Associates
http://www.thespiralfoundation.org/
The Sensory Processing Institute for Research and Learning (SPIRAL) Foundation is a research and education nonprofit organization that specializes in helping families, children, and adults with sensory processing disorder (SPD) and related diagnoses lead more productive and enjoyable lives through advancing knowledge of sensory integration theory, assessment, and intervention for SPD. Numerous webinars, lectures, and intensive mentorships are offered throughout the year.

Internet Resources

APTA Learning Center
http://learningcenter.apta.org/
Courses available to members and nonmembers.

Assessing Sensory Integration Dysfunction
Authors: Anita C. Bundy, ScD, OTR, FAOTA; Shelly J. Lane, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Elizabeth A. Murray, MEd, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Sharon A. Cermak, EdD, OTR, FAOTA; Gretchen Dahl Reeves, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Sensory Modulation
Authors: Anita C. Bundy, ScD, OTR, FAOTA; Shelly J. Lane, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Elizabeth A. Murray, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Pediatrics: A Primer for Physical Therapists on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)—Part I and Part II
Authors: Ana Carolina Mieres, MSPT, PhD; Russell S. Kirby, PhD, MS, FACE

Autism Internet Modules (AIM)
www.autismininternetmodules.org/user_about.php
This series of online learning modules includes information on assessment and identification of ASD, recognizing and understanding behaviors and characteristics, transition to adulthood, employment, and numerous evidence-based practices and interventions.

Autism Now
www.pbs.org/newshour/news/autism
This 6-part series on autism was sponsored by the Autism Society and PBS in April 2011.

National Leadership Autism Conference
www.tvworldwide.com/events/autism/120531/default.cfm
Autism Through the Lifespan: For Families, Educators & Professionals. Webcast archives are available (register and login) for this conference held July 12-13, 2012.

Penn State National Autism Conference
www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/autism/
Archived video sessions of previous conference presentations are available for viewing.
Publications


