

DEVELOPMENTAL  
& BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS

# NEWSLETTER



A monthly newsletter for families of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) at Boston Medical Center during COVID-19 Social Distancing

## 50th Issue!!

This is our 50th Issue-thank you for following along! To celebrate, we've packed this issue full of fantastic resources and we've introduced our safety tip of the month!

### ADHD Awareness Month!

October is Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) awareness month! We wanted to highlight a great resource to connect with. Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) is an organization offering support and information for adults, children, educators, and professionals. Check out their website [HERE](#) for resources and further information!

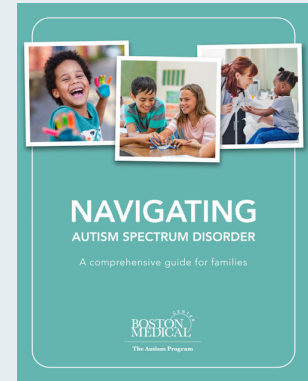
### Wings for Autism!

The Charles River Center will be hosting a Wings for Autism event at Logan Airport on November 5. This free event will allow children and families to familiarize themselves with the airport and travel procedures including entering the airport, the check-in process, security screening, boarding the plane, preparing for takeoff, and exiting the plane. You can find more information on their website including how to register and a video on what to expect. Check out their website [HERE!](#)



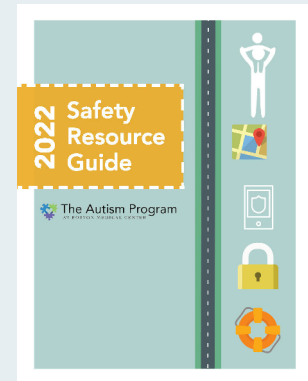
## Navigating ASD

We recently completed a new resource for families called: Navigating Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Comprehensive Guide for Families. In the guide, we include information to help understand ASD, work through some myths and facts, provide information on various services, therapies, and community resources, as well as provide some basic information on promoting skills. You can access the guide [HERE!](#)



## Safety Guide

With everyone back in school and new routines established – we want to be sure to bring attention to our Safety Guide. This guide highlights many resources including tracking devices, medical identification, community safety, bolting/wandering, water safety, etc. Going forward we will be highlighting a Safety Tip of the Month in each issue! Stay tuned for many great resources and check out our Safety Guide [HERE!](#)



### Safety Tip of the Month!



Falls are the leading cause of injury under the age of 5, but all children/young adults with autism are at risk for falling. The Boston Public Health Commission has a program called the “Window Falls Prevention” program. This program makes window guards affordable to families in Boston but they are also available to support families outside of Boston. The window guards are removable and have an emergency-release mechanism. It is recommended that window guards are installed for families living on the 2nd story or above and have a family member at risk for falling from a window. Some additional safety tips to help prevent falling:

- \* A child can fall out of a window with as little as 2 inches of clearance.
- \* Don't substitute window guards for screens. Screens are meant to keep bugs out, not children in.
- \* Lock all unopened doors and windows.
- \* Open windows from the top instead of the bottom.

You can learn more about the Window Falls Prevention program by contacting Boston Building Resources at (617)-442-2262 or accessing their website [HERE!](#)

If you have any safety concerns for your child, please schedule an appointment with your child's DBP provider to discuss available resources.

# DDS Autism Waiver Open Enrollment



## What's Happening?

It's that time of year again, where the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Autism Waiver Service Program (AWP) will be accepting applications! The Autism Division at DDS runs the Autism Waiver Program that provides "Expanded Habilitation" and Education (intensive in-home services and supports) as well as related support services such as community integration activities and respite.

Services are provided by trained clinical staff and are available for a total of three years. At the end of three years, the child may access supplemental services that meet the child's needs and help with the transition out of the intensive Autism Waiver Program until the child's 9th birthday.

## Who Can Apply?

- Child must have a confirmed Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis, subject to verification by DDS
- Child is between ages 0-8 years old and has not reached his/her 9th birthday
- Child is a resident of Massachusetts
- Child meets the level of care required for services in an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with an Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) as assessed by DDS
- The family chooses to have the child receive services in the home and community
- The child must be able to be safely served in the community
- The child must have a legally responsible representative able to direct the services and supports of the Waiver
- The child must be found by the MassHealth agency to be eligible for MassHealth Standard coverage, based on family income
- For families who have not yet applied for MassHealth, this must be done at the time of the filing of the Waiver Program Request Form
- Child has a Social Security Number

### Translations

Autism Waiver Program Open Request Application 2020 Translations are offered in multiple languages such as Arabic, Burmese, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese-Cantonese, Chinese-Mandarin, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Nepali, and Somali. Translation and interpretation are available free of charge to all participants.

### Time Frame

Email/mail Open Request Applications must have a postmark or date stamp between **October 14, 2022** and **October 31, 2022**. Applications received outside of this designated time period will be discarded. Click **HERE** for additional information!

### Apply At:

Send by mail:  
Autism Division of DDS  
Att. Autism Waiver Program  
Open Interest Form  
500 Harrison Ave.  
Boston, MA  
02118

Send by email:  
AutismDivision@state.ma.us

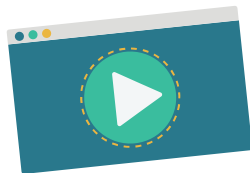
## Resources



Boston Medical Center is here to support you during this difficult time. Check out our new resource spreadsheet, which has links to online learning, social stories, music/animal/fitness programs, live online classes and more. See the second tab for free meals and financial services throughout Massachusetts. This spreadsheet is available in multiple languages and will be continuously updated as new resources become available. Know of something to add?

Email us at  
[autismprogram@bmc.org](mailto:autismprogram@bmc.org)  
 with suggestions.

For past recordings of our webinar series: Caring for Kids with Autism and Developmental Differences, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCifYfJKUuSa8XzytUcn-Anw>



## Clinic

Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics clinicians are available by phone/Zoom for telehealth visits and consultations. Please call us at 617-414-4841 if you have any questions or are in need of support. To create a free zoom account, visit [zoom.us/signup](https://zoom.us/signup).



## Our Clinicians

Marilyn Augustyn, MD  
 Naomi Steiner, MD  
 Arathi Reddy, DO  
 Jodi Santosuosso, NP  
 Rachel Amgott, NP  
 Christina Lazdowsky, NP  
 Mei Elensary, MD  
 Alyssa King, PhD  
 Jocelyn Kuhn PhD  
 Audrey Christiansen, MD  
 Sarah Canale, MD  
 Britany Weissman, M  
 Maryellen Killion, NP

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is brought to you by the Autism Program at Boston Medical Center, a family support program of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. We are committed to supporting any family of DBP during this time, regardless of diagnosis. Please don't hesitate to reach out, and follow us on social media for more tips and information! To unsubscribe please reply with the word "stop"



[BMC.org/autism](https://BMC.org/autism)  
[Autismprogram@bmc.org](mailto:Autismprogram@bmc.org)



The Autism Program at Boston Medical Center



@BMCAutismProgram