

**Families for Effective Autism Treatment of Rhode Island**  
Proudly Presents Our Seventh Annual Conference  
For Parents, Educators & Professionals

# **AUTISM: SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE**



**April 30, 2010**  
**BUTLER HOSPITAL, PROVIDENCE, RI**

## Topics to Include

- ◆ Improving Play & Leisure skills in Children with Autism
- ◆ Evidence-Based Interventions Supporting Quality of Life for Adolescents & Adults with Autism

Families for Effective Autism Treatment of Rhode Island  
Telephone: (401) 886-5015  
Email: [featri@gmail.com](mailto:featri@gmail.com)

5 Crane Terrace Narragansett, RI 02882  
Fax: (401) 739-7384  
Web Site: [www.featri.org](http://www.featri.org)

Friday, APRIL 30

**8:00 – 9:00am Registration, Breakfast, Exhibitors & Welcome**

**9:00 – 10:15am Dr. Bridget Taylor**

**Improving Play & Leisure skills in Children with Autism**

The identification of age appropriate play & leisure activities for learners with autism can be quite challenging for parents & teachers. This is especially difficult as individuals with autism age & certain play activities are no longer age appropriate or socially valid. In addition, it may be challenging to teach age appropriate play & leisure activities given significant learning challenges and/or the persistence of repetitive/stereotypic behavior. As such, programming for play & leisure activities for learners with autism must begin early & often requires creativity & modification of activities to meet learner's skills & abilities. This presentation will provide an overview of a variety of play & leisure activities that can be adapted or modified for a learner with autism. Video-taped examples will illustrate a variety of different activities across the age span.

**10:15-10:30am Break, Visit Exhibitors**

**The Sensational Child** will be returning this year offering quality developmental toys & items used for sensory recreation and therapy. They will also have available a wide variety of autism literature & resources for sale. For more information, go to [www.sensationalchild.org](http://www.sensationalchild.org)

**10:30 – 11:45am Dr. Bridget Taylor Continued**

**Improving Play & Leisure skills in Children with Autism**

**11:45-12:30pm Lunch (Provided), Visit Exhibitors**

**12:30 – 1:45pm Dr. Peter Gerhardt**

**Evidence-Based Interventions Supporting Quality of Life for Adolescents & Adults with Autism**

The past decade has seen reports citing the dramatic increase in the prevalence of autism & related disorders (ASD) to the current 1 case per 110 individuals most recently identified by the Centers for Disease Control (2009). While the reasons behind this increase remain unclear what is clear is that there are greater numbers of individuals being diagnosed with ASD than ever before & subsequently, steadily growing numbers of adolescent & young adults on the autism spectrum. Subsequently, this increase in prevalence has created an increased demand for appropriate & effective services for adolescents & young adults with ASD. Unfortunately, the need for such services continues to far exceed the available resources leaving a generation of individuals with autism & their families in a programmatic, financial, & personal limbo. This presentation will provide an overview of effective transition programming, at any age, with the ultimate goal being a life of dignity, competence, & quality. To this end, an overview & practical suggestions for transition planning (inclusive of employment goals) will be presented along with issues related to community based instruction, employment social competence, sexuality & sexual safety, & quality of life concerns. Workshop objectives include identify the components of a comprehensive transition plan, differentiate between social survival & social competence of the applications of both, discuss the importance of direct, intensive instruction in adaptive behavior if community living is expected to be the outcome of an effective education, define the multiple constituent groups whose needs are to be met in the employment development process, & identify the three primary components of sexuality education.

**1:45-2:00pm Break, Visit Exhibitors**

**2:00-3:30pm Dr. Peter Gerhardt Continued**

**Evidence-Based Interventions Supporting Quality of Life for Adolescents & Adults with Autism**

**3:30-4:30pm Visit Exhibitors & Closing Remarks**

**“Ask the Professionals”**

Participate in an informal question and answer format with our speaker and invited guests. This is an excellent opportunity to ask the speaker in-depth questions about their topic or ask them to address other topics of interest.

# B I O G R A P H I E S

**Peter Gerhardt, Ph.D.** - *Dr. Peter Gerhardt* is president and chair of the Scientific Council for the Organization for Autism Research, a nonprofit organization dedicated to funding applied research and disseminating the relevant findings in support of learners with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families. Dr. Gerhardt has over 25 years experience utilizing the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis in support of adolescents and adults with an ASD in educational, employment, and community based settings. He is the author or co-author of articles and book chapters on the needs of adults with autism spectrum disorder, the school-to-work-transition process, assessment of social competence, and analysis and intervention of problematic behavior. He has presented nationally and internationally on these topics. Dr. Gerhardt received his doctorate from the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education. In 2007 Dr. Gerhardt was awarded the *John W. Jacobson Award for Significant Contributions to Effective Behavior Intervention* by the New York State Association for Behavior Analysis.

**Bridget A. Taylor, PsyD, BCBA** is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She holds a Doctorate of Psychology from Rutgers University and received her Masters degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Columbia University. Dr. Taylor has specialized in the education and treatment of children with autism for the past twenty years. In 1988, she co-founded the Alpine Learning Group, a highly regarded education and treatment center for children with autism in New Jersey. She currently serves as Executive Director. Dr. Taylor serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis and the journals Behavioral Interventions and Behavior Analysis in Practice. She is also a member of the Autism Advisory Group for the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies and a board member of the Association for Science in Autism Treatment. Dr. Taylor has authored research articles and book chapters related to autism and she is a regular presenter at national and international conferences.

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For more information, please contact us at (401) 886-5015 or [featri@gmail.com](mailto:featri@gmail.com).

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## **CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION:**

This program is co-provided with **Butler Hospital**. **Physicians:** Butler Hospital is accredited by the Rhode Island Medical Society to sponsor intrastate continuing medical education for physicians. This continuing education activity carries 6 hours of Category I credit. **Psychologists:** Application has been made for 6 contact hours for psychologists in compliance with Section 8.1 of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Licensing of Psychologists in Rhode Island. **Social Workers & Mental Health Counselors:** Application for 6 continuing education credits has been made to the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers CEU Collaborative. **Nurses:** Butler Hospital is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by Rhode Island State Nurse's Association, which is accredited as an approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This continuing education activity carries 6 Continuing Education Credits. **RI Department of Education:** Application has been made for 6 continuing education credits.



## **Families for Effective Autism Treatment of Rhode Island (FEAT/RI)**

is a 501 (c ) 3, non-profit, parent and professional driven organization, staffed by volunteers and fully funded through the generosity of caring supporters. FEAT/RI's mission is to disseminate accurate information regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and effective science-based treatment, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), and provide guidance, support, and advocacy for families of children with ASD. FEAT/RI assistance is available to FEAT/RI member and non-member families.

# REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

## BEFORE April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

### Check one:

- \$30 Parent of Child w/ Autism
- \$40 FEAT/RI Member TA/HBTS/PASSWorker/Student
- \$50 Non-Member TA/HBTS/PASSWorker/Student
- \$100 FEAT/RI Member Professional
- \$120 Non-Member Professional

## AFTER April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

### Check one:

- \$40 Parent of Child w/ Autism
- \$50 FEAT/RI Member/TA/HBTS/PASSWorker/Student
- \$60 Non-Member TA/HBTS/PASSWorker/Student
- \$120 FEAT/RI Member Professional
- \$140 Non-Member Professional

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check or purchase order payable to FEAT/RI.*

*\*Credit Card Payment is available ONLY online.*

### Age Group of Child(ren) Served (Check all that apply):

Preschool  Elementary  Middle School  High School

### Send Registration and payment to:

**FEAT/RI  
c/o Breta Combs  
5 Crane Terrace  
Narragansett, RI 02882**

**Cancellations** received in writing by **April 20<sup>th</sup> 2010**, will receive a refund minus an administrative fee of \$30. Cancellations received after this date will **not** be refunded. No-show registrations will **not** be refunded. FEAT/RI reserves the right to cancel the conference due to lack of registrations. In case of conference cancellation, FEAT/RI's liability is limited to the refund of the conference registration only. FEAT/RI reserves the right to alter this program without prior notice.

(\*Unless you have received a confirmation email or letter with a confirmation number, You are **not** registered. No phone or email registrations accepted). Credit Card registration available only online at [www.featri.org](http://www.featri.org)).

FEAT/RI would like to thank Butler Hospital for the use of Ray Hall for our seventh annual conference, *Autism: Sharing the Knowledge*.

For credit card payment visit [www.featri.org](http://www.featri.org)  
Credit Card Payment available only online.

The conference will be held at  
Butler Hospital, Ray Hall  
345 Blackstone Blvd  
Providence, RI