RESOURCES

Check out our Website at www.tillinc.org!
You can find this monthly newsletter at www.tillinc.org/services/autism-support-center

The Autism Insurance Resource Center (AIRC) at UMass Medical School assists with issues related to accessing insurance coverage for autism treatment. For more information, visit: www.massairc.org or call 774-455-4056. Hours are Mon-Fri, 8:30 am-5 pm.

Massachusetts Autism Commission’s Resource Guides for families on Turning Three, School-Aged Youth 3-14 with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and Transition-Aged Youth and Young Adults with ASD ages 14-22 are available in several languages by visiting: www.mass.gov/autism-resources-for-families

TILL’S AUTISM SUPPORT GROUPS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Dorchester Neighborhood Group
at Grove Hall Library
2nd Thursday of the Month
41 Geneva Avenue, Dorchester
Light dinner and childcare available
Register with Nichole at: nicholebarros70@gmail.com
Guest Speaker Simone Dufesne, Transition Specialist, will share some great resources surrounding Transition to adulthood (Turning 18, Post-Secondary Considerations, Guardianship, ETC).

Vietnamese Neighborhood Group
Third Tuesday of the month
Dorchester House, 6-8 pm
1353 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester
Contact vongtaychameviet@gmail.com to register

East Boston Neighborhood Group
Samuel Adams School (Sept-June)
165 Webster Street, Rm. 9, East Boston. Register with Jill at: jfabbrucci@bostonpublicschools.org

Somalian Neighborhood Group
Primarily for Somali Families
Marcus Garvey Gardens
44 John Eliot Square, Roxbury
Contact Asha Abdullahi at: asha.abdullahi35@gmail.com

Caring Heart Neighborhood Group in Somerville
Primarily for Haitian Creole Speaking Families
First Saturday of the month 2-4pm.
St. Ann School, 50 Thurston Street Somerville, MA 02145. Contact Louise Dominique at: 978-335-0183 or ldoninique@ymail.com

TILL NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

Please be advised!
TILL’s Snow Policy for Neighborhood Group Meetings during the months of February-April will follow the Boston Public Schools’ Cancellation Schedule. If the facilitator or group is not listed, please contact Martine Pierre for more information.

Thank you to all of our families who participated in our February Vacation Week events. All who attended had great fun. We look forward to seeing you all again soon!

TILL Autism Support Center www.tillinc.org autism.support@tillinc.org 781-302-4835
**TILL ASC Events**

TILL's Autism Support Center & ETC Cafe invite you to: Cookie Time at ETC Café
Join us to decorate *St. Patrick’s Day Cookies* at our ETC cafe kitchen 1300 Hyde Park Ave. in Hyde Park*
**Saturday, March 14, 2020. Cost $5 per child.**
**Limit 2 children per family.**
11:00 am- Ages 5-10
12:00 pm- Ages 11-15
1:00 pm- Ages 16 & up
Class is limited to 10 participants. RSVP by Friday 3/6/2020 to autism.services@tillinc.org

**More March Happenings**

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, *Beyond the Spectrum (BTS) Art Class.* *Saturday, March 7, 2020 10:30 am–12:00 pm for ages 8-12. Cost is $9.00 per student and includes materials and Museum admission. Register at artfulhealing@mta.org.*

Women’s Social Event – Movie Night at AANE, Friday, March 20, 2020, 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Free. This event is part of the Women’s Social Events series, which offers monthly social activities in varied locations. For this event, the group will meet at the AANE office (51 Water Street, Watertown) to watch a movie and have a short discussion of the movie afterward. Refreshments provided. Please register by Thursday, March 19, 2020 to: events@aane.org or call 617-393-3824 x32
**Note:** AANE Adult Services are intended for post-high school adults only.

**Boston Children’s Museum Morningstar Access** offers children with special or medical needs the opportunity to enjoy the museum in an uncrowded environment at a reduced admission. Saturday March 21, 2020 from 6 pm to 8 pm - *Evening Edition!* For more information, visit: [www.BostonChildrensMuseum.org/Morningstar](http://www.BostonChildrensMuseum.org/Morningstar)

**Richard J. Murphy School in Dorchester, March 26, 2020.** Hosted by the Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SPEDPAC). Boston SPED PAC provides voice and support for parents of children with special needs.
* All parents are welcome and encouraged to participate.
* To request a specific oral or sign language translator/interpreter available at the meetings – Please notify the SPEDPAC three business days in advance.
* Childcare is available & dinner will be served.

For more information, visit [www.bostonspedpac.org](http://www.bostonspedpac.org) or contact email@bostonspedpac.org or call 617-297-7335

**Save the Date in April!**

The Revere SEPAC is planning their 3rd Annual Walk for Autism. It is Saturday, April 4th, from 11am-1p at the Revere High School fieldhouse.

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**Autism Awareness Day at Fenway Park, Boston, April 4, 2020.** The Red Sox Autism Awareness Day extends a special welcome to individuals and families affected by autism across New England. New this year: all fans who order tickets through this special offer will receive a Red Sox Puzzle Pattern hat. In addition, select fans with tickets for this Autism Awareness Day will be selected for participation in pre-game ceremonies. **Fees apply, ticket purchase required.** For Groups of 20 or more, call 617-226-6790. [www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/promotions/themes/autism-awareness](http://www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/promotions/themes/autism-awareness)

**Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts (AFAM) presents Autism Advocacy Day** at the State House on Tuesday 4/7/2020. Contact your State Legislator to make an appointment and to let them know how important services and supports are for your loved one(s) with autism.

**April School Vacation Week**

Stay tuned for details about events in our April newsletter.

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**Research Opportunities**

From time to time, we share research and other opportunities available in the Greater Boston Area. The sharing of this information is in no way an endorsement or request for participation; we are simply sharing information that may be of interest to our families.

**Potential opportunity for families of children with ASD - Researchers at Penn State are conducting a study to investigate the effect of a communication app on early language for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).** They are seeking children and parents who would like to participate. If you are interested, or if you have questions, please contact the head of the research study, Emily Laubscher, at EXL189@psu.edu to discuss the study further.

**Attention parents and siblings! Boston University is developing a new program to help adult siblings of individuals on the autism spectrum work with their families to plan for the future. BU is looking for adult siblings to help develop this new program. Some participants will view online materials and other participants will have 6 or 7 internet-based individual meetings. Siblings must be age 18 or older. The adult on the autism spectrum must live in Massachusetts and be age 22 or older. Participants will complete questionnaires three times and review online information or have online meetings. Participate at a time and place convenient to you. Participants will receive up to $75 for participating. For more information please contact forward@bu.edu or call 617-358-1633.**
Boston University is developing a new program to help adult siblings of individuals on the autism spectrum work with their families to plan for the future. We are looking for adult siblings to help us develop this new program. Some participants will view online materials and other participants will have 6 or 7 internet-based individual meetings.

- **Who?** Adult siblings ages 18 and older
- **What?** (1) Complete questionnaires three times (2) Review online information or have online meetings.
- **How long?** 7 months
- **When?** At a time convenient for you
- **Where?** At a convenient location, such as home or work
- **Cost?** There is no cost if you participate. You will be compensated for your participation in the study. Participants will receive up to $75 for participating.

- **For more information please contact**

  forward@bu.edu

  617-358-1633
Boston University is doing a research study to develop a new program to help adult siblings of individuals on the autism spectrum to plan for the future. We are looking for adult siblings to help us develop this new program. Some participants will have 6 or 7 internet-based individual meetings with a program facilitator and other participants will view online materials.

If you are interested in hearing more about the study, please fill out the form below.

By filling out this form, I agree to let a member of the research team at Boston University contact me with more information about the study.

Name: ______________________ Email Address: ________________________________

Phone Number: __________________ Alternate Phone Number:_____________________

Preferred method of communication: ________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Please return completed forms via email to forward@bu.edu or via fax at 617-353-9609

If you have questions, please contact:

Kristin A. Long, PhD
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Psychological & Brain Sciences
Boston University
KALong@bu.edu
(617) 358-4296

Melissa Getz
Project Manager
Boston University
forward@bu.edu
617.353.2703
TILL’s Autism Support Center and ETC Cafe invites you to:

Cookie Time at ETC!

Join us to decorate St. Patrick’s Day cookies at our ETC cafe kitchen in Hyde Park*

Take home your creation and our special recipes so you can make your own cookies at home.

*ETC Food Service, Cafe and Gift Shop, an affiliate of TILL, offers vocational training in food and retail services for people with learning differences.

Saturday, March 14, 2020

This family-friendly event is offered by TILL’s Autism Support Center for kids, teens and young adults, ages 5-22, with autism. All participants must be accompanied by an adult. Siblings in the same age group are welcome to register and attend; limit of 2 children per family. Classes limited to 10 participants. RSVP by March 6th.

Where: ETC Cafe and Gifts—1300 Hyde Park Avenue, Hyde Park

Class Times
11:00—Ages 5-10
12:00—Ages 11-15
1:00—Ages 16 and Up

Cost: $5 per child.

All participants must register—no walk-ins.

To register, contact Martine Pierre at autism.services@tillinc.org or call 781-302-4835.
Liability/Risks Waiver:
Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risks and Waiver of Claims for Minors

Child’s Name: ____________________________________________________________

Class Attending: _______________________________________________________

Date/Time of Class_____________________________________________________

Child’s Date of Birth _______ Age _____ School or Troop (optional)__________ Grade_____

Address ______________________________________ City___________ Zip _________

Child Allergies __________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name _________________________________________________________

Cell Phone_________________________ Email Address________________________________

Please read carefully before signing. This document includes a release of liability and waiver of certain legal rights. You must fill out a form for each child attending a class.

STUDENTS
All participants are required to act in a responsible manner when engaging in ETC classes, or present at events. Students will be expected to meet class standards including not limited to: being courteous; respecting ETC property and the personal property of others; and following clean-up procedures associated with the class. ETC reserves the right to dismiss students whose behavior is disruptive to the class proceedings or potentially harmful to themselves or other students. No refund will be offered for violation of the aforementioned standards or policies.
PARENTS/GUARDIANS

All participants must be accompanied by a Parent/Guardian or designee. If the responsible person accompanying the minor is not a Parent/Guardian, authorization by the consenting parent/guardian is required.

I, ______________________________, authorize ______________________________, to accompany ______________________________, at this class/event at ETC Café and Gifts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS

I understand there are numerous inherent risks associated with participating in any cooking activities, including but not limited to using sharp knives, operating hot stove, boiling water, hot oil, oven, and operating kitchen equipment. I give permission for my child to participate in all cooking activities, including those described above. I acknowledge and assume the risks involved in these cooking activities and for any damage, illness and injuries resulting from such risks. I am not aware of any limitations or restrictions on my or my child’s ability to participate safely in these activities except as disclosed by me in writing to ETC Café and Gifts.

RELEASE, WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

By signing this form, I hereby agree to the policies and release information listed above and to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless ETC Café and Gifts and its officers, owners, employees, agents, and volunteers from and against any damages, loss, liability, charges, and expenses in any way arising out of my (and/or my child’s/children’s) participation in the class for which I am registering.

Signature (Parent/Guardian) ____________________________________________

Date____________________