

Autism Society of Minnesota's 24th Annual Minnesota Autism Conference

Educator's Guide to the Conference

AuSM invites you to join us for the 24th Annual Minnesota Autism Conference at the Minneapolis Marriott Southwest from Wednesday, April 24-Saturday, April 27, 2019. If you're uncertain about what to expect, this guide will help you prepare!



Held during Autism Awareness Month, the state autism conference will feature 4 keynote speakers; 39 breakout sessions; 35 exhibitors offering autism-focused products and services; networking opportunities; the AuSM bookstore; and catered lunches.

Why should an educator attend the conference?

The Minnesota annual autism conference is a great place for educators to stay up to date on the latest best practices and research for autism. Not only will you walk away with practical strategies that will help you with everything from behaviors to social skills, you also will connect with other educators. This is THE place for an educator to be for the most comprehensive information on autism.

AuSM Bookstore

To help you keep growing throughout the year, we've stocked our AuSM Bookstore with hand-selected titles to address all ages and concerns, from behaviors to sensory issues to relationships. If you're looking for help with a particular topic, visit the AuSM Bookstore and we will help you find the right resource. We'll also have tons of fidgets ready for classroom duty.

Conference Keynote Presentations

- **Wednesday, April 24 Evening:** Theresa M. Regan, PhD, CBIS, CAS: *Autism Spectrum Disorder in Adults and Aging Adults: Lessons Learned*
- **Thursday, April 25 Morning:** Patrick Schwarz, PhD: 'From Possibility to Success': *Achieving Successful Student Outcomes*
- **Thursday, April 25 Evening:** Jennifer O'Toole: *Connecting to Others and Understanding Social Rules Through Counterculture*
- **Friday, April 26 Morning:** Sue Swenson, MBA: *How to Change the World*

Conference Breakout Sessions

Thursday, April 25

- Myths of Autism in Childhood and Families: AuSM Counseling and Consulting Services
- Advancing Social Coping Mechanisms from School to the Workplace: Allen Mavis
- Myths of Autism in Adulthood: AuSM Counseling and Consulting Services
- Transition from School to Post School Best Practices: Patrick Schwarz, PhD
- Universal Design, Differentiation, and Curricular Adaptations: Patrick Schwarz, PhD
- Understanding the Benefits of Positive Behavior Supports Across All Settings: Elizabeth Feese, MS
- Just Give Him the Whale: Patrick Schwarz, PhD
- An Introduction to Applied Behavioral Analysis Strategies for the Classroom: L. Lynn Stansberry Brusnahan, PhD; Erin Farrell, MA, BCBA; and Deeqifrah Hussein, MA
- Join the Inclusion Revolution: Practical Inclusion Strategies for Schools: Nick Cedergren, MS and Suzi Pierce Fish, MS
- Essential Elements in Your ECSE ASD Classroom: Kris Smallfield, MA and Jennifer Coughlin, MEd

- Proactive Strategies to Create a Positive Learning Environment for Students with ASD: Camille Brandt, Dr. of Ed

Friday, April 26

- Understanding Emotional Regulation in Autism: Kari Dunn Buron, MS
- The Divine Maze: How Two Non-Speaking Siblings Discovered a Shared Voice: Meghana Junnuru, Chetan Junnuru, Indu Eati, and Chris Martin
- Historical Trauma and Autism: Using Trauma-Informed Care to Heal the Disability Community: Andrea Zuber
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports: In Schools, and At Home Via Telehealth: Maci Brown, MA, BCBA; Adele Dimian, PhD; and Jessica Simacek, PhD, BCaBA
- Expanding Early Childhood Strengths-Based Strategies for Autistic Children: Sonya Emerick
- 15 Music Therapy Strategies for Incorporating Music in the Classroom and Home: Lyndie Walker, MT-BC; and Alexa Rosenbaum, MT-BC
- Supporting the Transition of Young Adults with ASD: Rebekah Hudock, PhD and Kelly Nye-Lengerman, PhD
- Using Reading to Teach Cognitive, Communication, and Social-Emotional Skills Through Story Grammar Marker: Jennifer Iverson
- Equity in Autism Identification and Intervention: Challenges, Opportunities, and Local Advances: Amanda Sullivan, PhD, LP; Cindy Hillyer, BSN, LSN; Suad Salad; Mariana Walther; and Eleanor Chenoweth
- Develop Meaningful Social Skills with Adolescents on the Spectrum: The PEERS Program: Jessica Muszynski, Eds; and Christine Peterson, PhD
- Social Narratives: Not Just for Kids: Jillian Nelson

Saturday, April 27

- Autism in Pink: Growing up Female on the Autism Spectrum: Nemeh Al-Sarraj
- Parent Perceptions of Barriers and Facilitators to Obtaining a Diagnosis of Autism: Pang Chaxiong, MA; Alefyah Shipchandler, BA; and Jennifer Hall-Lande, PhD
- Accessibility for All: Leveraging Community Partnerships to Provide Inclusive Spaces: Robyn DeCourcy and Renee Grassi
- Sensory Differences: Tools and Treatment Options for Chronic Pain in Autism: Erin Dykhuizen, MA, MSW, LICSW
- APPy Hour: Apps for AAC – A Feature Comparison: Bridget Gillormini, MST-SLP, ATP
- Promoting Family Community Integration: The Interplay of Family Adaptation, Resilience, and Culture: Beth Dierker, PhD; Amy Gunty; and Pang Chaxiong, MA

What's Next

If you're looking for more resources to expand your autism toolbox, AuSM is a great place to be involved year round! Check out our ASD Direct Support Certification course, a 15-hour intensive that will give you strategies for working with students on the spectrum. We also offer customized training on a wide variety of topics. Contact education@ausm.org for more information.

To stay in the know, make sure you visit www.ausm.org to sign up for our twice monthly e-newsletter, AuSM Connections. You can find the sign up under "Quick Links."

If you're interested in presenting at the 2020 autism conference, you can find the Call for Papers online or at AuSM Headquarters. Finally, if you're looking for a way to fill those summer hours, AuSM is currently seeking staff for our summer camps and social skills classes. Visit the website for details.