Michigan Information and Resources

1. **ARC of Michigan**
   
   The Arc of Michigan website has free handouts for: 1. Guardianship options, 2. IEP meeting guidelines, and 3. Respite care. Local ARC Chapters are listed in the [chapter finder](#). Local chapters of Arc vary in the direct services and training provided. Most will include: 1. Information and referral services, 2. Individual advocacy to address education, employment, health care and other concerns, 3. Self-advocacy initiatives, 4. Residential support, 5. Family support, 6. Employment programs, 7. Leisure and recreational programs.

2. **Autism Alliance of Michigan**
   
   Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM) is a statewide non-profit whose mission is to improve the quality of life for those with autism and their families through improved access to care, support and services, advocacy, and community inclusion. AAoM's MiNavigator program (navigator@aaomi.org or 877-463-AAOM) is a free, professional service to individuals and their families, regardless of age or issue they may be facing throughout the lifespan. Family trainings include; 1) Community & Family Safety Training, 2) IEP Process: Empowering Parents through the Special Education Process, 3) Fostering Artistic Talent and Expression through the Arts, 4) Facilitating Community Involvement, 5) Apps, Tech, Alternative & Support Communication, 6) Basic Insurance Navigation for Families, 7) Obtaining Guardianship and Planning for Adulthood, 8) Individual and Group "Job Ready" Preparation and Employment, 9) Bootcamp for Families Receiving an Autism Diagnosis, and 10) Behavior Basics for Parents.

3. **Color of Autism**
   
   The Color of Autism is a Non-Profit (501 c3) organization committed to educating and assisting African American families with children with autism. It was founded in 2009 by a parent whose son was diagnosed with ASD and struggled to get services. African-American children are frequently confronted with late diagnosis or misdiagnosis. Many misdiagnosed and undiagnosed African American children in at risk communities end up in the criminal justice system each year. The Color of Autism Foundation is devoted to empowering African American Families and Underserved Communities by creating programs that lessen their isolation and help them thrive. Its goal is to help families identify the warning signs of autism early on and to empower families with information on autism that they can use to advocate for services for their child. The non-profit encourages volunteerism (becoming an
ambassador that increases autism awareness in the African American Community),
donations, and sponsorship (providing iPads to non-verbal and limited-verbal
children).

4. **Family Center of Michigan**

The role of the Family Center is to offer emotional support, information and
connections to community-based resources to families of children and youth with
special health care needs. Children do not have to be enrolled in CSHCS to receive
services from the Family Center. The Family Center promotes coordinated systems of
care that are family-centered, culturally competent and community-based by
providing consultation related to programming, policies, direct family support
initiatives, community education and collaborative partnerships.

5. **Family Matters**

Family Matters, hosted by the Michigan Department of Education, provides parents
and families with information about special education and other resources. The
Family Matters information flyer can be shared with parents and families that might
be looking for information about special education.

6. **Michigan Alliance for Families**

Michigan Alliance for Families is a statewide resource to connect families of children
with disabilities to resources to help improve their children’s education. They help
facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving educational services and
outcomes for students with disabilities. Each Michigan Alliance staff member is a
parent or family member of an individual with disabilities who has first-hand
experience with the special education system. MAF offers many informational
resources and webinars that cover an array of different special education and ASD
related topics.

7. **Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center (MI F2F)**

Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center (MI F2F) is part of a federally
funded project. They share information and resources on disability and health issues
with families of children and youth with special health care needs. MI F2F helps
families make educated decisions and supports families to partner with professionals.

8. **Michigan Family Voices**

Michigan Family Voices is a grassroots collaborative that exists to identify and
mobilize current and new family member and individual leaders to create a network
across the state that will impact and effect positive change in policy. The group
maintains a statewide network of leaders to inform, build relationships with and/or
work in partnership with decision-makers at all levels.
9. **Michigan Great Start**  
 Provides families many resources and services including 1. resources (websites of trainings, educational information, etc) and services in the family’s local county; 2. Collaborating for Success - Parent Engagement Toolkit; 3. The opportunity to attend monthly meetings; 4. Local activities for families to participate either monthly or yearly; 5. Assistance finding child care and preschool settings for their children.

10. **The Michigan Medicaid Autism Program Website**  
 This website offers information on the Medicaid autism benefit, information on ASD, Resources for the Medicaid Benefit, documents created by the Michigan Autism Council, information on ASD legislation, information on the Michigan ASD State Plan, and contact information on how to access the Medicaid ASD Benefit in each region of Michigan.

11. **Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)**  
 Free service to help parents, educators, and providers work toward productive relationships and resolve special education issues. SEMS helps with facilitation of meetings and trains parents and educators to run useful Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.

12. **The Statewide Autism Resources and Training Project (START)**  
 The START Project, funded by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education since 2001, provides training, technical assistance, and resources to school-based teams serving students with ASD to increase local capacity, promote collaboration across the state, and create a comprehensive model for serving students with ASD. Families are invited to be members of K-12 and secondary transition intensive training teams to work with their child’s school team to improve the implementation of evidence-based practices. Parent representatives participate with Regional Collaborative Networks (RCN) to address state and regional priorities focused on training, coaching, peer to peer support, transition, and family engagement. Resources and information are available on the website.

13. **Western Michigan University**  
 Western Michigan University has posted a number of ABA resources. The materials on this website are highly technical and appropriate for an advanced learner. A parent with a solid understanding of ABA and a desire to further their knowledge in ABA may be interested in these resources.

### National Information and Resources

1. **The Arc**
The National Arc website provides:

1. Planning information and support for families with a child, teen or adult with DD/ID. Help families focus on the rights and inclusion of individuals with ID/DD.
2. Information and summaries on specific diagnoses (ASD, Intellectual Disability, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Shaken Baby Syndrome).
3. Public policy advocacy and support in areas relevant to ID/DD, such as legislation spanning issues of civil rights, education, health care, transportation, housing, and taxes.

2. Association for Science in Autism Treatment (ASAT)

ASAT offers families:
1. Comprehensive evidence-based research summaries of the full array of autism treatments for families and professionals to make informed choices before considering treatment options.
2. Recommendations on evidence based treatments and information about treatments that are “non-supported” by research including alternative treatments.
3. Information about the value of science in guiding treatment decision making.
4. Specific links for information on treatment targets (e.g., bowel training, measuring social skills, bolting).
5. A free quarterly newsletter summarizing new advances in ASD treatment.

3. Autism Internet Modules (AIM)

AIM is designed to provide high-quality information and professional development for anyone who supports, instructs, works with, or lives with someone with autism spectrum disorder. Each module guides you through case studies, instructional videos, pre- and post-assessments, a glossary, and much more. AIM modules are available at no cost and certificate and credit options are available for a fee.

4. Autism Focused Intervention Resources and Modules (AFIRM)

This website offers a number of self-directed trainings on Applied Behavior Analysis and autism. Parents and providers can visit the website and take the courses of interest. A care provider can guide parents to specific topic areas that align with their child’s educational or treatment programming. Four lesson curriculums are established, that include: Basics, Planning for Practice, Using the Practice, and Monitoring Progress. Each course is approximately 1.5-2 hours long. This training would be a good tool for parents to learn to deliver techniques along with learning how to monitor behavioral technicians in the home that are delivering ABA to their child to ensure fidelity and treatment progress.

5. Autism Distance Education Parent Training (ADEPT) – Module 1 and Module 2

This websites offers a number of self-directed parent trainings on Applied Behavior Analysis and autism spectrum disorder that are easy to use. Parents can visit the website and take the courses of interest. A care provider can guide parents to specific topic areas that align with their child’s educational or treatment programming. Two modules with 10 lessons each are established, that include: Positive Behavior
Strategies for Your Child with Autism & Strategies for Teaching Functional Skills. The trainings are in slide format with audio and also include quiz questions as you progress through the training. This training would be a good tool for parents to learn to deliver techniques along with learning how to monitor technicians in the home that are delivering ABA to their child to ensure fidelity and treatment progress.

6. **Autism Speaks Tool Kits**
   Autism Speaks has published 38 Tool Kits that focus on a variety of ASD related topics, including: 100 Day Kit for children after they have been diagnosed, Advocacy Tool Kit, Behavior Health Treatment Took Kit, Blood Draw Tool Kit, Dental Tool Kit, Constipation Tool Kit, Medication Tool Kit, Feeding Tool Kit, EEG Tool Kit, Pica Tool Kit, Medication Decision Aid, ABA Guide, Toilet Training Guide, Puberty and Adolescents Guide, Sleep Tool Kit. Vision Exam Tool Kit, Visual Support Tool Kit, Challenging Behaviors Tool Kit, Community-Based Skills Assessment Tool Kit, Employment Tool Kit, Family Support Tool Kit, Housing and Community Living Tool Kit, IEP Tool Kit, etc. These free tool kits are guides for families and providers to use that are written in easy format to understand.

7. **The Beach Center**
   The Beach Center on Disability is an affiliate of the Life Span Institute and The Department of Special Education within the University of Kansas. It is a multidisciplinary research and training center committed to making a significant and sustainable positive difference in the quality of life of individuals and families affected by disability and the professionals who support them. The center values setting great expectations for those with disabilities, acknowledging their positive contributions and strengths, promoting their autonomy, building their relationships and alliances and instilling their full citizenship. The Beach Center’s website focuses on Families, Knowledge-to-Action Guides, Disability Policy, Education and Training, and a Resource Library sorted by type, author, topic, and disability.

8. **Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
   The CDC website provides detailed information on ASD on the following: 1. Facts, signs, causes of ASD; 2. Developmental milestone checklists (2 months to 5 years); 3. Screening and diagnosis; 4. Treatments; 5. Resources for living with ASD; 6. Data and statistics about ASD, including updated prevalence rates; 7. Free, downloadable information on CDC’s ASD initiatives; 8. Links to CDC authored research on ASD; 9. Information on “Learn the Signs. Act Early” campaign.

9. **Charting the LifeCourse**
   The Charting the LifeCourse Framework was created by families to help individuals and families of all abilities and all ages develop a vision for a good life, think about
what they need to know and do, identify how to find or develop supports, and discover what it takes to live the lives they want to live. Individuals and families may focus on their current situation and stage of life but may also find it helpful to look ahead to think about life experiences that will help move them toward an inclusive, productive life in the future. Their Core Belief: All people have the right to live, love, work, play and pursue their life aspirations in their community.

10. **The Iris Center**

The Iris Center was developed in collaboration with nationally recognized researchers and education experts to develop resources to address instructional and classroom issues. The Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). They have many free, online resources about working with children and youth with disabilities and their families, including a module on autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The content of the ASD module includes characteristics, diagnosis, working with families, instructional considerations, and working with a team.

11. **Kennedy Krieger Institute Center for Autism**


12. **National Technical Assistance Center for Transition (NTACT)**

NTACT is a Technical Assistance and Dissemination project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Provides toolkits related to secondary (after high school) education for students with disabilities. This includes step by step guidance and resources on specific topics including competitive, integrated employment, transition assessment, planning for transition, and more.

13. **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)**
Provides information on outcomes and resources for people with disabilities of all ages.

14. **Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)**

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) serves families, educators, and professionals working with students with autism and low-incidence disabilities. OCALI's mission is focused on Ohio students, however, their resources are relevant and available to others outside of the state, and most are free. They offer an introduction to ASD with fact sheets and a video, assessment processes, intervention summaries and resources, and video training. They also house the Autism Internet Modules (AIM), which are training modules focused on the evidence-based practices for working with individuals with ASD. The Autism Certification training series does have a charge for non-residents of Ohio, although two of the modules are free.

15. **Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)**

The Pennsylvania training and technical assistance network (PaTTAN) is funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and although their focus is the state of PA, there are many resources that are relevant to families anywhere in the country. Information and resources include educational supports and services for students with disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, and legal guidance related to special education law and regulations. Information is offered via video, free manuals, and handouts.

16. **Transition TN: Blueprint for Student Success**

Tennessee’s online training and resources on preparing students with disabilities for life after high school. Consider this the “blueprint” to building a comprehensive transition program for your students. Learn about the best practices and practical strategies for special educators, families, and other transition team members. The site offers webcasts, professional development options, communities of practice, technical assistance, courses related to transition, age appropriate assessments, and numerous other transition to adulthood resources.

17. **Think College**

A national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving inclusive higher education options for people with intellectual disability. Think College supports evidence-based and student-centered research and practice by generating and sharing knowledge, guiding institutional change, informing public policy, and engaging with students, professionals and families.

Updated 11.1.18