



COMMONWEALTH *autism* SERVICE
leading the way

2201 West Broad Street Suite 107
Richmond, VA 23220

1-800-649-8481
www.autismva.org
www.autismva.org

SAVE the DATE
8th Annual
Autism Conference
March 11-13, 2009



COMMONWEALTH *autism* SERVICE
leading the way

Autism: Making a Difference Together

8th Annual Autism Conference

March 11-13, 2009

**Crowne Plaza Richmond West
I-64 & West Broad Street
Richmond, VA**

8th Annual Autism Conference

Autism: Making a Difference Together

March 11-13, 2009

Breakout Sessions To Include:

Super School:

A Self-Efficacy Training Game for Students with Disabilities

Video Modeling

Adult Services Handbook

Team Building

Self-Management Tools

The Hidden Curriculum of Sexuality

Early Intervention

Classroom Organization

Autism Intervention and Etiology Research

The Spotlight Program -
A Drama-Based Social Pragmatics Program

Autism Genetics Research

And More...

Keynote Presentations

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Tony Gentry, Ph.D.

A Brain in the Palm of your Hand:

PDA's as Cognitive Aids for People with ASD

As computers become ever smaller and more powerful, their uses as organizational and task management tools grow. Students with ASD are finding that handheld computers can help them keep track of schedules, communicate with teachers, complete homework and chores, find their way in the community, and cope with behavioral challenges. For the past eight years, the speaker has conducted a series of research projects investigating the many ways these devices can help people with ASD build independence and self-efficacy at home, school and in the community. This talk will summarize his findings and offer practical suggestions for you and your child.

Tony Gentry, PhD OTR/L is an assistant professor in the occupational therapy department at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Gentry's career has focused on neurological rehabilitation and assistive technology for people with disabilities. He co-founded and served as program director of the John Jane Brain Injury Center in Charlottesville, Virginia, a community reentry program for adults with brain injuries, developed an online curriculum for neuro-rehab therapists, and currently directs the Assistive Technology for Cognition Laboratory at VCU. Over the past eight years, he has conducted a series of research trials investigating the use of handheld computers as cognitive aids. He is developing a behavioral management software for handhelds, and a computer game for students with disabilities.

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Kristi Sakai

Creating a Supportive Home and Community for

Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Their Families

The child with ASD does not live in a bubble. His diagnosis affects every aspect of home, school and community. This presentation will focus on providing practical tools for outings, transitions, and daily life activities. Implementation techniques for multiple settings will also be discussed.

Kristi Sakai lives on a farm in Oregon with her three children and husband, all of whom have Asperger Syndrome. After her oldest child was diagnosed, she embarked on an intense journey of seeking out interventions, only to discover they mostly applied to clinical and school settings. She set about to "translate" these research-based strategies for home and family, which eventually led to her writing *Finding Our Way: Creating a Supportive Home and Community for the Asperger Syndrome Family*, which received the Autism Society of America's 2006 Literary Work of the Year in the Family Social category. Kristi is a national presenter and serves on the Attorney General of Oregon's Sexual Assault Task Force for Developmental Disabilities, but the greatest passion of her life is being Mom to Tom, Kito, and Kaede, and wife to Nobuo.

Friday, March 13, 2009

Autism Panel : "In Their Own Words"

The closing keynote on Friday afternoon will feature a panel of individuals with autism. After brief introductions, the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions of the participants.