



Mission Statement:

The mission of Autism Action Groups is to provide leadership in the implementation of a regional system of services and resources to maximize the potential and quality of life of each individual with autism spectrum disorders, and their families, across the lifespan.

You're Invited!

To make a difference in the life of an individual with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Commonwealth Autism Service is partnering with local agencies and families in the Southwest VA Area in the development of the **Southwest VA Autism Action Group (SWVAGG)**. We are very excited to be able to support your community in this endeavor.

You are invited to attend our meetings because you are either a family member, provider of services, or interested party in the Southwest VA Area. The SWVAAG includes all counties and cities served by the Highlands, Cumberland Mountain, Dickenson County, Mount Rogers, and Planning District One Community Services Boards.

Meetings are held at Highlands Community Services, 610 Campus Drive, Abingdon, VA 24210 on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 11am-2pm. (Speaker Presentation from 11am-12:15, Family Support/Networking and AAG Business Meeting from 12:30pm-2pm. Lunch is provided.)

What are Autism Action Groups?

Developed to help maximize "value added" autism services by bringing together local stakeholders, Autism Action Groups meet monthly and consist of members from local communities who have a desire to actively and collaboratively work toward providing quality services and resources for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Group participants include self-advocates, parents, educators, private and public service providers, and other concerned individuals. Currently, there are 8 Autism Action Groups in Virginia, including the SWVAAG.

What activities do Autism Action Groups sponsor?

Some of the activities sponsored include:

- Autism Safety and Awareness Events in partnership with local emergency personnel
- Creation of local Transition Councils
- Partnerships with local public schools and colleges to provide training on autism spectrum disorders, biomedical interventions, effective strategies, social skills training, Virginia Medicaid Waiver training, etc. for parents, educators, students, private providers, FAPT members and CPMT members
- Training for parents and service providers, including public and private organizations
- Support in development of a Family Support Group
- Community awareness, collaboration with local businesses, and first responder training

To R.S.V.P. or for more information, please contact:

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**Virginia Autism Action Groups are an entity of Commonwealth Autism Service.
Autism Action Groups are initiated, developed, facilitated, and supported
by Commonwealth Autism Service Staff.**



COMMONWEALTH *autism* SERVICE
leading the way

Southwest VA Autism Action Group and Family Support Meetings

List of Topics/Speakers: 2011- 2012 School Year

<u>Month</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
September 20	New Family to Family Initiative Need for Family Support Groups	Family to Family Representatives
October 18	Assistive Technology	Teresa Lyons, VCU-ACE
November 15	Social Skills	HEART Team, Wise County Public Schools
December 20	NO MEETING – Happy Holidays!	
January 17	Social Stories on Various Topics (to include hygiene and sexuality.)	Highlands CSB Therapists
February 21	An Introduction to ABA and ABA in Practice	Kate Masincup, BCBA Commonwealth Autism Service
March 20	Video Modeling	Teresa Lyons, VCU-ACE
April 17	Sensory and Behavioral Feeding Issues	Teresa Boggs, ETSU
May 15	Guardianship, Trusts, and Other Legal Issues	Attorney Social Security Administration
June	AAG Planning Meeting	
July	Leadership Team Networking Meeting	
August	AAG Planning Meeting	

SWVAAG Meeting Schedule:

11am-12:15pm – Speaker Presentation

12:15pm-12:30pm – Break, Lunch Provided

12:30pm-2pm – Family Support Meeting & SWVAAG Business Meeting

Meetings will be cancelled if Washington County Schools are closed due to weather.

Please visit www.wcs.k12.va.us for weather closing information.