

March 2008

Sonnenberg Consultants Newsletter

Happy Easter!!!!

Research and Media Updates

Parents Speak Out on Vaccine Settlement
(From Associated Press) The parents of a 9-year-old girl who received a government settlement from a federal vaccine compensation fund today held a press conference where they described how their daughter began exhibiting odd-behavior after she got several childhood shots. The Polings say five simultaneous vaccinations that their daughter Hannah received when she was 18 months old led to autistic behaviors. The government has agreed to pay the Polings from a federal fund that compensates people injured by vaccines. U.S. officials reject the idea that the vaccines cause autism, but they say that in this case the shots worsened an underlying disorder that led to autism-like symptoms. U.S. health officials have consistently maintained that vaccines are safe, and a lawyer representing them said this week that there was no change in that position.

For more information there is video clips
On CNN.com

Fund Raising Events for research:

Walk Now for Autism

Chicago 2008

Sunday, May 18, 2008

Soldier Field, Chicago, IL

www.walknowforautism.org

- Comedy Central has again partnered with Jon Stewart's Busboy Prods. for its biannual live on-air special event "Night of Too Many Stars: An Overbooked Benefit for Autism Education."

The event, which benefits Autism education programs, is set to air live at 8 p.m. ET April 13 from the Beacon Theatre in New York. Stewart will host the evening, which will include live performances, sketches and short films from a range of comedy stars.

On April 2, Barnes & Noble stores across the country will host celebrity Storytimes in cities including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Dallas. Celebrities will read books that encourage compassion and respect for individuals with autism and other disabilities. Some 500 Barnes & Noble stores will continue the reading program during Autism Awareness Month.

New Nationwide Event to Raise Awareness, Support Families Affected by Autism

ASA and Pump It Up, the nation's largest and fastest-growing franchise of giant indoor inflatable playgrounds for private parties, are pleased to announce the launch of "Bounce for Autism," a new nationwide, community-based fundraising event that combines family fun with raising awareness and support for autism.

Kids, families and friends of all ages can "bounce" at a Pump It Up location, and all proceeds raise funds to support autism. Participants form a "Sock Squad" - their team of bouncers committed to raising funds to help improve the lives of all affected by autism. They ask friends, family and community members to support the cause by giving a

donation to sponsor them. Best of all, "Bounce for Autism" gives people on the autism spectrum the chance to support their own cause and head their own teams in a safe, supportive and fun environment.

What role does inheritance play?

Recent studies strongly suggest that some people have a genetic predisposition to autism. In families with one autistic child, the risk of having a second child with the disorder is approximately 5 percent, or one in 20. This is greater than the risk for the general population. Researchers are looking for clues about which genes contribute to this increased susceptibility. In some cases, parents and other relatives of an autistic child show mild impairments in social and communicative skills or engage in repetitive behaviors. Evidence also suggests that some emotional disorders, such as manic depression, occur more frequently than average in the families of people with autism.

-National Institute of Health-

Company Policies and Updates:

- ✚ All Wi staff members need to sign a confidentially form by April 1st.
- ✚ If any tutor/therapist wants more hours over spring break please let you senior know.
- ✚ Congratulations to Kim Rouse for earning her gas cards for the last 20 weeks in a row!
- ✚ Remember that in order to get paid on time all tutors need to sign their timesheets at the end of every month.

Stimuli:



Autismthings.com



Autism Jigsaw Puzzle Fleece Fabric
\$7.90
Autismthings.com

Happy Easter!

Joke of the month:



Bitten Bunnies