

[www.autismconnect.org.za](http://www.autismconnect.org.za)



# IN-TOUCH MAGAZINE



01/2016

### Who are we:

Autism Connect is a specialised learning centre for children on the Autism Spectrum. Based in Mitchell's Plain the organisation aims to bridge the gap for families not able to afford one on one therapy , but whose children are still awaiting placement in Autism specific schools/ units. Our aim is to ensure our children are accepted and not declined placement at Autism specific schools.

### Why we exist:

To make specialised Autism care accessible to low and middle income families.

### How we do it:

We base our intervention strategies on the philosophy of TEACHH (Treatment and Education of Auditory and communication – Handicapped children) established by Eric Schopler in 1964.

Working from the premise that people with Autism are predominantly visual learners , intervention strategies are based around physical and visual structure , schedules , work systems and task organisation, concepts, sensory processing , change and relating to others. Whereas some interventions focus on addressing areas of weakness, the TEACHH approach works with existing strengths and emerging skill areas.



EMAIL: [info@autismconnect.org.za](mailto:info@autismconnect.org.za)

TELEPHONE: 079 226 0063 (WHATSAPP)

ADDRESS: 24 SARINGA WAY , WESTRIDGE  
7785 MITCHELLS PLAIN

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/AutismConnectMP>

WEBSITE: [www.autismconnect.org.za](http://www.autismconnect.org.za)

### How to Find us:

Editor: NICOLETTE RIPEPI  
[info@autismconnect.org.za](mailto:info@autismconnect.org.za)

Artwork & Graphics and Magazine Publishing  
ASHLEY FORTUIN - [Ash@zamserve.co.za](mailto:Ash@zamserve.co.za)  
CREBIVE DESIGN STUDIO  
Cover Art: SUPPLIED

FIND US ON [www.autismconnect.org.za](http://www.autismconnect.org.za)

DISCLAIMER: All rights reserved. All articles and advertisements have been accepted in good faith. Ideas and opinions advertised published are NOT necessarily those of the Editor or staff. **IN TOUCH Magazine** cannot be held responsible for perceived errors in advertisements or any consequences thereof.

Although **IN TOUCH Magazine** warrants that we check all editorials and artwork supplied, **IN TOUCH Magazine** or its Holding company cannot be held liable for any damages arising as a result of your dealings with the advertisers/ publishers.

# IN touch

Issue: 08  
JAN-MAR 2016

AUTISM CONNECT  
Unlocking Greatness Since 2012

## In This Issue

- Letter from our Editor ...pg03
- So Whats been Happening at AC? ...pg03
- Team Autism Connect ...pg03
- Airing my Autism Laundry ...pg04
- Say Cheese... ...pg05
- Shout out - THANK YOU! ...pg06





Good Day Friends and Family, And I sincerely hope all of you are well – and in good spirits! This year has indeed hit us with a bang , but we strive to continue the good fight regardless J Here we are again so close and soon after the distribution of the 2015 E-Mag.

Thank you for taking the time out to read up on all things AC related. We are re-launching our online magazine as this edition is covering our 1st quarter for this year!

Wow! Can you believe we have already come to the end of the first term for 2016? I am not able to catch up I feel at times, but will endeavour as always to keep you in the loop of all things AC related. We've started off the year with meeting with parents and the AC multidisciplinary team with Individual Support plans for our learners – as this enables us to see the bigger picture relating to all our children. Summer has come and gone and autumn is right here , and with winter on our doorstep. We have quite a bit to talk about in this 1st quarter issue. We are always grateful and in awe of the phenomenal support that is shown to us on all levels and on all platforms. We've made some sound connections with the various Government Departments in solidifying our future and sustainability.

Be good , stay blessed always keep warm and enjoy reading this edition!!

*Nicky*

Visit our Website for more information and back dated Magazines

[www.autismconnect.org.za](http://www.autismconnect.org.za)

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Autism Connect Events

Follow us on Facebook for regular updates

### PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

We kicked off our very first Parent Support group meeting held on the 20th Feb at our premises in collaboration with Autism Western Cape , this will be a monthly support group meeting that will cover workshops for parents on pertinent topics on support and handling and working with children on the spectrum.



### TEAM AC

Staff week and set up for the new term was going full swing - Centre officially opened for all learners on the 11th January.

The week of the 25th Jan – 29th Jan was ISP meetings with parents of AC and the WCED CSPID team South that facilitated these meetings for the week.

We also welcome our new in-house Speech and Language therapist to the team **Ulfah Salie**



### March 2016

We welcome back the services of our head OT from maternity leave **Tamlin Klein**.

Airing My

# Autism Laundry

It's **Autism** Don't Panic It's not Contagious

Autism Letter for World Autism Day – 2 April 2016

An open letter about tolerance in April the month of Autism Awareness

This is not a letter to tell you about WHAT autism is or HOW our children possibly might have contracted it, but rather a letter from a parent who finds herself with a unique child. There is a saying that if you met one autistic child, you have only met one autistic child – i.e.: they are all one – offs. What behavioural symptoms might exist in one might not exist in another, their temperaments are different, their level of language acquisition and cognitive behaviour is different to each other too.

Autism is described as a spectrum disorder – a description that includes milder to severe forms of autism. In one family you might find more than one kind. The human experience is shared through norms, e.g. language, body language, affection – these are not norms for children on the spectrum who need to learn these norms. With these basic building blocks missing you as the parent have to think outside any box you might have come across before to find solutions. The need to find therapies and acceptance for your child takes the toll on your marriage, funds, family and the siblings in the family.

As parents of a child with autism, I would like the broader neuro typical community to just pause before you judge – if you see a child in a shopping centre that LOOKS normal but is behaving “differently” that child might have sensory issues about being at brightly lit, noisy, seemingly chaotic shopping centres. Ask questions: a sincere interested question is better than a rude stare!

On reflection we consider our boys to be fortunate they are armed with moms who has the drive to WANT to know more about their condition, recognises their differences, advocates with their school and teachers for appropriate treatment or handling. As parents we all want better futures for our children and this desire is no different from any other parent.

I worry for those children whose parents have less support, resources, no desire to recognise their difference as a child in the autistic spectrum. Ignorance is not always bliss, tolerance is a blessing.

In Closing, Autism is not a processing error; it is a different operating system!

Yours sincerely,

**The Warrior Moms**

Nicolette Ripepi -

Mom to Tyler and Founder - Autism Connect Learning Centre

Kim Von Weidts -

Mom to Lukas



Sponsorship opportunities for **2017** is now open.  
Email: [info@autismconnect.org.za](mailto:info@autismconnect.org.za)





Say  
Cheese!  
View  
Pictures on  
our  
WEBSITE...



Feb 2016

Our Greenpoint park outing held on the 18th Feb Great fun in the sun, wide open spaces and all played out. What an amazing time was had by all the Autism Connect learners.

# AUTISM CONNECT BIG WALK 2016

We are thankful to everyone that supported our event today. Our sponsors Autism SA for the caps bottles and brochures Autism Western Cape for the therapy stimulation kits that was sponsored we could issue out some kits to much needed families living with Autism.



Our Staff Team-building held on the 24th March





This list is not exhaustive and is open for correction and/or addition. Please mail info to [info@autismconnect.org.za](mailto:info@autismconnect.org.za)

**Support and Counselling**

Autism Western Cape -021 685 9581

**Diagnosis:**

Red Cross Children's Hospital

Phone: 021 658 5005

Paediatric Neurologist

Adri Van de Walt - 021 930 0250

**Schools & Learning Centres:**

Beacon School - 021 371 7665

Vera School - 021 696 2844

Cheri Botha - 021 948 9134

Alpha School = 021 447 1212

Chamelzon Inclusive School - 021 696-5888

**Occupational Therapist:**

Tamlin Klein- [ot@autismconnect.org.za](mailto:ot@autismconnect.org.za)

**ABA Programme Manager**

Calista Mc Vitty- [pm@autismconnect.org.za](mailto:pm@autismconnect.org.za)

**Nutritional Consultant:**

Michelle Lewis -079 622 4088 email -[perezlc01@gmail.com](mailto:perezlc01@gmail.com)

**Audiologist:**

Debbie Leigh Schalker - 021 683 1393

**Integrative Medical Doctors:**

Dr Louise Lindenburg - 021 914 1640

Dr Emdin - 021 696 2957

**Other Helpful Contact**

Planet Kids Play Centre  
and Party Venue - 021 788 3070

Bizzy Bodies - 021 702 0505

Little Creek Spur - Tokai

Green point urban park

**Helpful website and blogs:**

[www.auf2know.co.za](http://www.auf2know.co.za)

[www.autismspeaks.co.za](http://www.autismspeaks.co.za)

**Thank You to all our  
ON-GOING SPONSORS/ SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS**



social development

Department:  
Social Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Please share our magazine  
for more information - [info@autismconnect.org.za](mailto:info@autismconnect.org.za)