



ASAT Real Science, Real Hope

ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE IN AUTISM TREATMENT



**Standing up for Science:
A Brief Overview of the Association for Science
in Autism Treatment**

Just Some Treatments Available to Consumers in 2011

Secretin
RDI
Weighted Vests
Miller Method
Holding Therapy
Sensory Integration Training
TEACCH
Verbal Behavior Method
Shaping and Chaining
Dietary Modifications
CABAS
Discrete Trial Instruction
Greenspan's Floortime
Rapid Prompting
Lovaas Therapy

Cranial-sacral Therapy
Secretin
Facilitated Communication
Psychoanalytic Play Therapy
Prism Glasses
Option Therapy
Pyramid Method
Drug Therapy
Vitamin Therapy
Natural Environment Training
PECS
Facilitated Communication

Functional Communication Training
Therapeutic Contact with Animals
Natural Language Paradigm
Incidental Teaching
Fast ForWord
Gentle Teaching
Hyperbaric Chamber
Rebirthing
Auditory Integration Training
Prompt Technique
Pivotal Response Training
Fluency based Instruction
Direct Instruction
Applied Verbal Behavior
Precision Teaching
Task Analysis
Chelation
Patterning
Dolphin Therapy

Methods Possibly Available to Consumers in 2020

Verbal Behavior Method Functional Communication Training Psychoanalytic Play Therapy

Miller Method Dietary Modifications Natural Language Paradigm Pivotal Response Training

Holding Therapy Secretin PECS Dietary Modifications Incidental Teaching Holding Therapy

Verbal Behavior Method Dolphin Therapy Discrete Trial Instruction

Sensory Integration Training Facilitated Communication Gentle Teaching

TEACCH Pivotal Response Training Psychoanalytic Play Therapy Natural Environment Training

Verbal Behavior Method Shaping and Chaining Auditory Integration Training Prism Glasses

Shaping and Chaining Auditory Integration Training Direct Instruction

Option Therapy Pivotal Response Training TEACCH

Dolphin Therapy Natural Environment Training Psychoanalytic Play Therapy CABAS

Pyramid Method Fluency based Instruction

Dietary Modifications Secretin Drug Therapy Drug Therapy Option Therapy

CABAS Holding Therapy Sensory Integration Training Discrete Trial Instruction Direct Instruction

Discrete Trial Instruction TEACCH Precision Teaching Secretin Miller Method

Precision Teaching Shaping and Chaining Task Analysis

Greenspan's Floortime Drug Therapy Shaping and Chaining TEACCH

Psychoanalytic Play Therapy Natural Environment Training Pivotal Response Training

Lovaas Therapy Facilitated Communication Dolphin Therapy

Weighted Vests Facilitated Communication PECS Lovaas Therapy

Patterning

“What is state of the art treatment for autism?”



“What is the BEST treatment for my Billy?”

ASAT's Mission

- We promote safe, effective, science-based treatments for people with autism by disseminating accurate, timely, and scientifically sound information;
- advocating for the use of scientific methods to guide treatment; and combating unsubstantiated, inaccurate and false information about autism and its treatment.
- for all people with autism ...
regardless of age, severity of condition,
income or place of residence.

The Association for Science in Autism Treatment (ASAT)

- ASAT is a national, not-for-profit, 501(c) 3 organization.
- ASAT is committed to science as the most objective, time-tested and reliable approach to discerning between safe, effective autism treatments, and those that are harmful or ineffective.
- ASAT supports all scientifically sound research on the prevention, treatment and cure of autism, as well as all treatments for autism that are shown to be effective through solid scientific research, regardless of discipline or domain.

Who Benefits from ASAT

- ◉ individuals with autism and their families
- ◉ the professional community
- ◉ students/faculty
- ◉ the media
- ◉ medical professionals

ASAT's Resources



NEWSLETTER

Science in Autism Treatment



SCIENCE IN AUTISM TREATMENT

Vol. 7 No. 4

Newsletter of the Association for Science in Autism Treatment

Fall 2010

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A Horse of a Different Color: A Review of the Effectiveness of Hippotherapy by Thomas Zane, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Hippotherapy, sometimes also called "equine-assisted" therapy or "therapeutic riding," involves the use of horses to provide various therapies to persons who display a number of challenging conditions (American Hippotherapy Association, 2010). "Hippo" means "horse"

"multidimensional movement" of this animal provides "sensory input through movement which is variable, rhythmic, and repetitive" (2010). The rider must react with motions that mimic movements of the pelvis while walking. Such movement is claimed to benefit the rider by enhancing mobility, posture, and balance (Bliss, 1997). Certified occupational, physical, and speech therapists administer hippotherapy, which is often combined with other forms of sensory or motor activities. Therapeutic use of the horse for persons with disabilities, including autism, is quite popular. Currently, according to the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (2010), there are over 3,500 certified instructors, 800 accredited riding centers worldwide, and over 42,000 participating children and adults.



in Greek. According to the American Hippotherapy Association (AHA) website, the horse is used because the

(Continued on page 2)

Watch examples of effective teaching methods for children with autism here: <http://www.asatonline.org/intervention/videos.htm>

Message from ASAT President, David Celiberti, Ph.D., BCBA-D

SIAT



Science in Autism Treatment

- Articles
- Clinical Corner
- Consumer Corner
- Ethics Corner
- Summaries of specific treatments
- Book Reviews
- Media Watch highlights
- Reviews of published research
- Critiques of policy statements regarding autism treatments
- Interviews with those supporting science and confronting pseudoscience
- Upcoming conferences
- Guidelines for consumers to access effective treatment
- Links to resources

www.asatonline.org/signup

ASAT's Resources



WEBSITE

www.asatonline.org



Welcome to the website of the Association for Science in Autism Treatment

As you know, there are many websites about autism treatments and interventions. In many ways ASAT is unique. We are not a business with a particular agenda. We are not trying to promote any particular treatment. We are not selling anything.

Our mission is to share accurate, scientifically sound information about autism and treatments for autism because we believe individuals with autism and their families deserve nothing less.

For more information, click onto the question or questions that best match your interests and needs.

Please visit our site often. If you want to receive for our free quarterly newsletter, please [sign up here](#).

REAL SCIENCE

[What will help the child with autism?](#)
[How do I know if a specific treatment will work?](#)

REAL HOPE

On the ASAT Website

About Autism

About Autism

What We Know About
The Causes Of Autism

Is Autism On The Rise?

Suggested Reading

Conferences

Emphasize treatments
that have been
scientifically validated or
show legitimate promise.

Interventions



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[Media Watch](#)

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Intervention

Text size: S M L XL High Contrast: S M L XL

Intervention

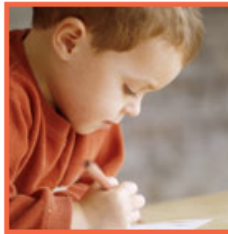
**Autism Treatments:
Descriptions And
Research Summaries**

Video Examples

**Description Of Service
Providers**

**Making Sense Of Autism
Treatments: Weighing
The Evidence**

**Recommendations Of
Expert Panels &
Government Task Forces**



Intervention

Making Decisions About Treatment and Intervention

As we mentioned in our introduction to the mission and values of ASAT, our Board and Advisory Board are committed to assuring that families who receive the diagnosis of autism have access to credible information as they navigate the theories and choices that abound in autism intervention. Click for information related to autism treatments, service providers, strategies for making informed decisions, and the published results of expert panels and task forces.



Intervention

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Social Stories

Description: A story written according to specific guidelines to describe a situation in terms of relevant cues and common responses. Social stories are usually written for individual students, reflecting on the student's perception of a situation.

Examples: Comic strip conversations, Thinking stories, or Story boxes

Research Summary: Preliminary evidence indicates that social stories may be effective in reducing problem behavior or improving adaptive behavior, particularly when used in conjunction with applied behavior analytic teaching methods. To benefit from this approach, individuals with autism spectrum disorders may need to be able to communicate in sentences that connect different ideas to each other.

Recommendations: An important area for future research is to evaluate social stories in studies with strong experimental designs. Professionals should present social stories as having limited scientific support, encourage families who are considering this intervention to use it in conjunction with other teaching methods, and recommend careful evaluation of the intervention.

Selected References:

Selected scientific studies:

- Scattone, D., Tingstrom, D. H., & Wilczynski, S. M. (2006). *Increasing appropriate social interactions of children with autism spectrum disorders using social stories*. Focus on



Intervention

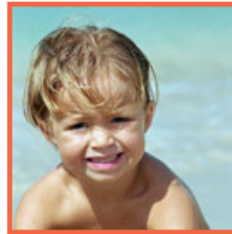
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Making Sense of Autism Treatments: Weighing the Evidence

Before evaluating any content found on the ASAT website, please read [this article](#) by Sense About Science. Sense About Science has produced a guide to help people to query the status of science and research reported in the media. The guide details how peer reviewed articles like the ones we offer below are checked and published.

Choosing among the multitude of treatments for autism can be a confusing and overwhelming undertaking. The following articles may assist and guide you in making important decision such as selecting treatments or treatment providers.

[ASAT Supports Proven Treatments and Informed Choice](#)

[Pseudoscientific therapies: Some warning signs.](#)

[What is Evidence-Based Practice and Why Should We Care?](#)

[Science, Pseudoscience and Antiscience](#)

[What Caused That?](#)

[Does the MMR Vaccine Cause Autism?](#)

[Smart People Believe Weird Things](#)



Intervention

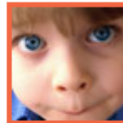
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Recommendations Of
Expert Panels &
Government Task Forces



Recommendations of Expert Panels and Government Task Forces

Several expert panels and task forces have convened to review research on treatments for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Reports from these groups have been in agreement on several points:

1. Behavioral and educational interventions are currently the main treatments for individuals with ASD.
2. Of these interventions, approaches based on applied behavior analytic (ABA) have received the most extensive research, and this research indicates that ABA approaches are effective.
3. Medications also may be effective for some individuals with ASD if they also display challenging behaviors such as aggression or hyperactivity. (Many individuals with ASD do not display these challenging behaviors, however.)
4. There are a number of areas where additional research is needed. For example, most research on comprehensive ABA programs (i.e., programs that combine different teaching methods and aim to teach a variety of skills) has centered on preschoolers with ASD. Thus, research on outcomes of comprehensive intervention programs for older children and adults with ASD is a high priority.

Based on these conclusions, some reports have recommended ABA as the intervention of choice for individuals with ASD. Three important examples are the following:

Interventions

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*Make informed
decisions*



Media Watch

Media Watch (a subcommittee of the Public Relations Committee) has three primary initiatives:

- Educating the public about effective autism treatment through proactive contact with the media;
- Responding to inaccurate information or proposed treatments described by the media (as it relates to scientific findings about their effectiveness); and
- Supporting accurate media depictions of empirically-sound interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

We seek to increase awareness of the scientific underpinnings surrounding autism treatment that can lead to real hope for those touched by this disorder.

Below are some recent letters showcasing our Media Watch efforts.

ASAT Responds to Atlanta Journal-Constitution's "Tech Hopes to Develop Early Warning Tools and Treatments for Autism"

Thursday, September 30, 2010

Source <http://www.ajc.com/.../tech-hopes-to-develop-595947.html>

As you mention in your article, there is a critical period during which intervention is at its most effective...

♦ **[ASAT Responds to Atlanta Journal-Constitution's "Tech Hopes to Develop Early Warning Tools and Treatments for Autism"](#)**

Source <http://www.ajc.com/.../tech-hopes-to-develop-595947.html>

As you mention in your article, there is a critical period during which intervention is at its most effective...

Thursday, September 30, 2010

♦ **[ASAT's Open Letter to Son-Rise Program's Raun Kaufman](#)**

Source <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6D2NwqiX72Q>

Monday, September 20, 2010

♦ **[ASAT and Autism Science Foundation: An Open Letter to Autism Speaks](#)**

Source <http://action.autismspeaks.org/.../scienceanswers>

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

♦ **[ASAT Eulogy for Dr. O. Ivar Lovaas](#)**

Source <http://www.latimes.com/.../la-me-ivar-lovaas-20100806.0.1639646.story>

It is an understatement to say that Ivar Lovaas was a pioneer...

Thursday, August 12, 2010

♦ **[ASAT Responds to Denver Post "Alternative Therapies for Brain Disorders Seeing Success"](#)**

Source http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_14886346

In the absence of data from well-controlled scientific studies, a testimonial from a consumer and opinions offered by Brain Balance therapists or franchise owners do not establish Brain Balance as a scientifically validated treatment for autism...

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

♦ **[ASAT Responds to Sun Sentinel's "Castration Drug Given to Kids as Autism Therapy" story](#)**

Source <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/health/fl-autism-treatment-20100803.0.2504213.story>

Despite the caveats, articles such as yours with the media attention it brings may raise concern for a few, but actually may do more to increase revenue for those turning autism treatment into a cottage industry...

Wednesday, August 04, 2010

♦ **[ASAT Responds to Chicago Tribune story "FDA Warns Maker of Product Used as Alternative Autism Treatment"](#)**

Source <http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/ct-met-autism-chemical-20100623.0.7088247.story>

It is unconscionable that medical professionals in leadership roles make unsubstantiated declarations about unproven treatments, especially those that may have side effects that threaten health and safety of children...

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

♦ **[ASAT Responds to Irish Times article "Best Practice Autism Treatment 'Will Vanish' Under Proposals"](#)**

Source <http://www.irishtimes.com/.../1224274659597.html>

Ireland's Department of Education is making some dangerous and unfounded assumptions. Acting upon these assumptions will harm children, squelch progress, and lead to generations of soon-to-be-adults with autism who will require significant life-long services...

Monday, July 19, 2010

♦ **[ASAT Responds to NYT story "Vaccinations: A Hot Debate Still Burning"](#)**

Source http://tv.nytimes.com/.../27vaccine.html?_r=2

For a number of years now, scientific studies have confirmed that vaccines are not causally linked to autism. That is the good news...

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

♦ **[ASAT Responds to ABC News "A Gluten-Free, Casein-Free Diet No Remedy for Autism"](#)**

Source <http://abcnews.go.com/.../story?id=10690766>

This is a time when families of children with autism are bombarded with treatment claims and, too often, promises of "magic bullets" or cures based on little more than slick marketing, bold testimonial or word-of-mouth. Many of these so-called treatments offer much but deliver little...

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Resources



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Resources

Topical Articles

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Research Synopses

Clinical Corner

Interviews

Forum



Resources

Welcome to ASAT's Resources section. Here you will find a tremendous amount of useful information. Much of this content has appeared in recent issues of our newsletter, Science in Autism Treatment. Please return to this section frequently as we are continually adding new items.

- **Topical Articles** features articles related to autism treatment. Some of these are more scholarly in nature and include supporting references.
- **Book Reviews** contains reviews of several useful books related to autism and its treatment.
- **Research Synopses** has overviews of important research articles related to autism and its treatment from a variety of disciplines.
- **Clinical Corner** highlights questions that parents and teachers have asked us regarding treatment for individuals with autism. These questions are answered by experts in the field.
- **Interviews** features candid conversations with leaders in the field on autism treatment, best practices, and pseudoscience. Some of these interviews involve ASAT Board members.
- **Forum** showcases essays written by parents (and in a few cases by professionals), many of whom were involved with ASAT over the years.

Interested in reprinting material from the ASAT website or newsletter? Please contact ASAT, care of Daniel W. Mruzek, Ph.D., BCBA-D, at reprints@asatonline.org to review reprint policy

ASAT's Resources



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ASAT is a not-for-profit organization of parents and professionals committed to improving the education, treatment, and care of people with autism.
www.asatonline.org

Information

Founded: 1998

Association for Science in Autism Treatment

We are pleased to present the 2010 Fall edit Autism Treatment. This edition is packed with information, and we hope that you find it useful and inforrr www.asatonline.org/pdf/fall2010.pdf and if you are not already a subscriber, please sign up at <http://ase/signup>

Let us know what you think! We welcome positive and/or constructive feedback! last Tuesday

Wall | Info | Photos | Events

Write something...

Share

Association for Science in Autism Treatment + Others

Just Association for Science in Autism Treatment | Just Others

Association for Science in Autism Treatment Hi Every to know about the upcoming NYSABA conference to be hel

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Student Externship Program



**RECENT CREATION OF 150 HOUR
FORMALIZED VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES
AT THE GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE
LEVELS**

**EXTERNS PARTICIPATE IN A VARIETY OF
STRUCTURED ASAT ACTIVITIES WITH ASAT
BOARD MEMBERS**

CONTACT DCELIBERTI@ASATONLINE.ORG

Thanks for Listening...We hope to see you again!



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