

AUTISM:

A Guide to Finding Information & Help

This resource guide is intended as an aid for self-directed research about Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Its purpose is to provide enough basic resources for the beginning searcher to find specific information and, ideally, to help plan a strategy for future searching.

Definition & Searching Vocabulary

Definition

Autism is...
a brain disorder that typically affects a child's ability to communicate, form relationships with others, and respond appropriately to the environment.

For an introduction to the topic, see:

NIMH: Autism Spectrum Disorders

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/autism.cfm>

Searching Vocabulary

Here are some suggested searching keywords to use with the resources listed in this guide.

- Aspergers
- Autism

You may also combine these keywords with:

- Behavior
- Disability
- Education
- Spectrum
- Speech
- Therapy
- Treatment

Databases and Web Sites

The following databases and websites are available from the County of Henrico Public Library at this location:

<http://www.co.henrico.va.us/library/DBWeb/ERpub.html>

The databases are both general and specialized and may be searched from remote locations wherever there is an Internet connection as well as at the library itself. A library card is required for database access.

eLibrary

eLibrary is an online research service that includes million of full-text documents from popular magazines, scholarly journals, newspapers, television and radio transcripts, and reference sources.

GaleGroup Databases

News and periodical articles on a wide range of topics: including health care and many current interest topics.

Network of Care

(NOC), sponsored by Henrico County's Mental Health/Mental Retardation Services, is a resource for individuals, families and agencies concerned with behavioral health. It provides information about behavioral health services, laws, and related news, as well as communication tools and other features.

<http://henrico.va.networkofcare.org/mh/home/index.cfm>

MedlinePlus

MedlinePlus brings together, by health topic, authoritative information from the National Library of Medicine, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), other government, non-profit and other health-related organizations.

<http://medlineplus.gov/>

Medline Search Engine - ReleMed

ReleMed is a search engine. You enter one or a few words, and then ReleMed searches all the data in MEDLINE for the best matches to your query words. Then ReleMed displays the most relevant results first.

<http://www.relemed.com>

VHIP -- Virginia Health Information Network

The VHIP's website provides health news updated daily and videos on all sorts of health topics; detailed information on just about every disease, medical condition, and prescription drug; explanations of lab tests, a children's medical dictionary, and ways to find (and rate) doctors and hospitals; and links to state health resources and national organizations.

<http://www.vahealth.info>

Medical Search Engines

Autism/Asperger Search

Search for autism-spectrum related information from trusted, high-quality web sites.

<http://www.aspergerstore.com/aspergers>

Consumer Health and Patient Education Information

Searches consumer health information and patient education resources recommended by the U.S. National Library of Medicine and/or the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section of the Medical Library Association.

<http://davidrothman.net/consumer-health-and-patient-education-information-search-engine/>

FlexFinder Medical Search Engine

FlexFinder queries leading medical resources in parallel, and combines the results based on relevance.



<http://health.flexfinder.com/>

Healing Cloud

HealingCloud.com allows you to search a healing-related subset of Google's index that was hand-picked for you by experts in the healing domain.

<http://healingcloud.com>

Health on the Net Foundation (HON)

Includes several medical search tools. MedHunt searches for healthcare Web sites, hospitals, and support. HONselect searches websites, journal articles, multimedia, and news.

<http://www.hon.ch/>

Healthfind.com

General health search engine, with 3 additional engines that are topic specific - alternative, pet, and message boards.

<http://www.healthfind.com>

MedicineNet.com

Medical information contributed by doctors and health professionals.

<http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/hp.asp>

OmniMedicalSearch.com

Searches major medical search engines and databases.

<http://www.omnimedicalsearch.com/>

WebMD



This is a portal to health and medical information.

<http://www.webmd.com/>

Organizations

Following are specific organizations as well as directories of organizations that may be searched. Represented are advocacy and support groups, community support organizations and public and private agencies servicing children with special needs. Emphasis is local/state.

LOCAL / VIRGINIA

ARC of Greater Richmond

The Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) serves families of individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

<http://www.richmondarc.org>

Autism Society of America, Central Va.

The Autism Society of America (ASA) is one of the leading organizations in the United States for promoting awareness and developing support for the autism community.

See their list of support groups @

<http://www.asacv.org/supportgroups.htm>

And other resources @

<http://www.asacv.org/links.htm>

Care Connection for Children/Virginia Department of Health

The Central Virginia Care Connection for Children and the Virginia Department of Health developed this Care Connection Resource



Directory so that families are able to locate resources available in their community as well as state and national resources.

<http://www.vahealth.org/specialchildren/directory/health.asp>

Commonwealth Autism Service

Commonwealth Autism Service is a statewide program, providing services to families, consumers, agencies/organizations, and professionals.

<http://www.autismva.org>

ConnectRichmond: Information for a Stronger Community

ConnectRichmond is a web-based information clearinghouse and a network of people with a common interest in building a stronger community through information sharing.

<http://oncampus.richmond.edu/connect/index.html>

Parent to Parent

Parent-to-Parent of Virginia offers information about services, support programs and advocacy organizations for those with developmental disabilities.

<http://www.ptpofva.com/>

Partnership for People with Disabilities

VCU's Partnership supports individuals with disabilities and their families.

<http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/>

Parent Resource Centers

Parent Resource Centers (PRC) provide information, education, and support for parents of children receiving special and regular education services. Web sites or email addresses follow.



Chesterfield County PRC

- http://www.chesterfield.k12.va.us/CCPS/parents/ptrc/parent_teach_center.htm

Hanover County PRC

- hanoverprc@hcps.us

Henrico County PRC

- http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/parents/parent_resource.html

Powhatan Parent Resource Center

- prc@powhatan.k12.va.us

City of Richmond PRC

- <http://www.richmond.k12.va.us/exed/index.cfm>

Richmond House

Richmond House, a private, non-profit organization, provides residential living for adults who can live independently with support.

<http://www.richmondhouse.org>

Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center at Richmond

A not-for-profit clinic whose stated mission is to provide speech, language, fluency, voice, hearing and auditory processing disorder evaluations and treatment to children.

<http://www.childspeech.org/>

United Way: Information and Referral Center

Information and referral specialists can make referrals to agencies and services that may be able to help.

http://www.yourunitedway.org/InternetSite/How_To_Find_Help/

Va-LEND program at Virginia Commonwealth University

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Va-LEND) maintains a two directories of organizations: [Parent's Resource List](#) and [Internet Resource List for Parents](#).

<http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/Backup/Va-LEND.htm>

Virginia Autism Resource Center

The Virginia Autism Resource Center (VARC) was established in 1983 to help people deal with autism or the symptoms associated with that disorder. VARC provides training, consultation, materials and information to families and professionals.

<http://www.grafton.org/resources/virginia-autism-resource-center.html>

<http://www.varc.org/>

Virginia Department of Education-Division of Special Education and Student Services

Provides information, education, programs, workshops, materials, and support for parents of special education students.

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/sess/>

Virginia Department of Education Training and Technical Assistance Center at VCU

The [Virginia Department of Education's \(VDOE\)](#) Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC) at Virginia Commonwealth University is a specialty center to improve educational opportunities and contribute to the success of children and youth with disabilities.

<http://www.vcu.edu/ttac/>

Virginia Integrated Network of Family Organizations (VA INFO)

Facilitates access to support and services for children and youth, especially those with special needs, and their families.

<http://www.medhomeplus.org/vainfo.html>

NATIONAL

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

ASHA provides an online directory of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Programs; organizations and self-help groups; and a referral service to help locate a speech, language, or hearing professionals in the community.

<http://www.asha.org/default.htm>

Autism Speaks

One of the largest foundations dedicated to autism in the world, Autism Speaks is dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism as well as raising public awareness about autism.

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/>

Center for the Study of Autism

The Center for the Study of Autism (CSA) is an advocate for biomedical interventions for children with autism. The site has many links to informational pages on definitions and different treatments.

<http://www.autism.org>

Encyclopedia of Associations

This is a comprehensive source of detailed information of thousands nonprofit membership organizations worldwide. Available in print

format at the County of Henrico Public Library and many other libraries, as well.

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)

NICHCY maintains information on disability-related organizations and programs nationwide.

<http://www.nichcy.org/search.htm>

Specialists: Medical & Educational

These sites will help to find a specialist suitable for your child's needs.

American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

This source identifies doctors certified by an approved medical specialty board in the United States.

<http://www.abms.org/>

American Medical Association: Physician Select

Provides basic professional information on virtually every licensed physician in the United States and its possessions.

<http://dbapps.ama-assn.org/aps/amahg.htm>

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

ASHA's online directory of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Programs.

<http://www.asha.org/findpro/>

Special Needs Schools

Parents of children who have special educational needs will find several private schools in the central Richmond region that offer these type of programs. Some schools focus on a particular need while others offer

special education or alternative education for a broad range of developmental problems. Both day and residential treatment programs are available.

<http://www.co.henrico.va.us/visitor.html>

WrightsLaw

Wrightslaw is a source of information about special education law and advocacy for children with disabilities.

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/>

Virginia Board of Medicine

This site contains information on doctors licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

<http://www.vahealthprovider.com/>

WebMDPhysician Directory

Search for U.S. doctors by state, metro area or zip code, and name.

http://doctor.webmd.com/physician_finder/home.aspx?sponsor=core

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Search, browse, read, and discuss with others.

Autism Speaks Social Network

<http://autismspeaks.ning.com>

BoardReader

<http://boardreader.com/>



CataList, the catalog of LISTSERV lists

<http://www.lsoft.com/lists/listref.html>

Clusty

<http://blogs.clusty.com/>

Google Groups

<http://groups-beta.google.com/>