



# SEPTA of Oldham County

Special Education Parent Teacher Association for Oldham County Schools

[www.septaofoldhamcounty.org](http://www.septaofoldhamcounty.org)

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## December Meeting of SEPTA

### Family Fun Night

Tuesday, December 13  
6:00pm – 7:30pm  
Buckner Elementary School



This month's SEPTA meeting is a relaxed, sensory-friendly experience for the entire family. Bring the kids and visit with Santa, make a holiday craft, have a light family-friendly dinner, listen to a story, explore the Snoezelen Room and simply enjoy the moment.

Feel free to invite other Oldham County families, including educators and professionals, to join us for this purely social occasion. ECS educators are especially encouraged to attend and invite their students and families.



If you have questions or would like to help or donate to the event, please contact SEPTA Board members Liz Glenn or Janet Jones.



RAVE Stonybrook Movie Theater has started offering Sensory Friendly Films for families with special-needs children. Every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. there will be a new film for children to see in a setting that is more enjoyable for them.

- ⇒ The lights will be left on (dimly),
- ⇒ the sound will be lowered,
- ⇒ families may bring snacks from home (wonderful for children on special diets or who have allergies), and
- ⇒ children are free to get up and move about the theater during the film.



SEPTA will post the movie showing for each Saturday on our Facebook page and on our website, so please visit us often to find out what's playing. Tickets are \$5 each.

This is a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy first-run movies with their children in an open, accepting, and non-abrasive environment. We hope to see you there!

## Autism Expertise in Oldham County Classrooms

In 2009, the Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC) partnered with National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders (NPDC on ASD) to evaluate a process for developing Autism expertise in classrooms. Though the partnership was only scheduled to last for two years, the KATC committed to training classrooms in every region of the state across four years. The goal is to refine procedures and tools for providing support to classrooms and to strengthen the capacity for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in every part of the state.

This year, KATC has added the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC) to their initiative to identify programs serving children with ASD. In Oldham County, Oldham County Preschool and Crestwood Elementary were chosen to participate.



THE NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER ON  
**AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

Participating staff from Oldham County Preschool and Crestwood Elementary attended a three-day summer training and KATC will continue to support both schools through the 2011-2012 school year.

The Kentucky Autism Training Center's staff works collaboratively with local personnel, including Exceptional Children Services (ECS) consultants from both Oldham County and OVEC, to address individual student and overall classroom goals. The support provided draws on the evidence-based practices as defined by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders and guiding principles defined by the field of behavior analysis and special education.

## Teaching Children with Autism to Mind-Read

### Teaching Children with Autism to Mind-Read A Practical Guide



Patricia Howlin, Simon Baron-Cohen and Julie Hadwin

WILEY

*Teaching Children with Autism to Mind-Read* explores the relationship of "theory of mind" deficits to other areas of children's functioning and describes existing experimental work that has attempted to enhance the skills associated with understanding others' minds.

Drawing on their own intervention program, and providing detailed information about the teaching materials and strategies they use, the authors provide practical guidelines for helping children with autism spectrum conditions to improve their understanding of beliefs, emotions and pretense.

The authors tackle specific problematic issues, including:

- ⇒ How to interpret facial expressions
- ⇒ How to recognize feelings of anger, sadness, fear, and happiness
- ⇒ How feelings are affected by what happens and what is expected to happen
- ⇒ How to see things from the other person's perspective
- ⇒ How to understand another person's knowledge and beliefs

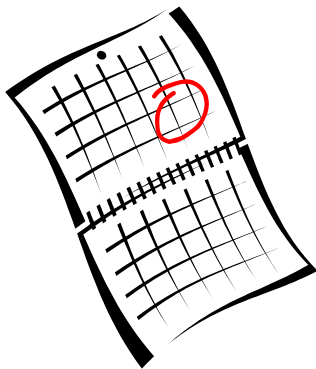
This easy-to-follow graded teaching guide is of particular relevance to special needs teachers, educational and clinical psychologists, speech and language therapists, and caregivers of children with autism spectrum conditions.

This resource and others may be borrowed from the KATC Resource Library and mailed to you today. Visit our library for more Autism and Asperger related books, or visit [www.louisville.edu/education/kyautismtraining/resources](http://www.louisville.edu/education/kyautismtraining/resources).

# 12 Commandments for Parents of Children with Disabilities

1. Thou art their child's best and most consistent advocate.
2. Thou has valuable information about your child. Professionals need your input.
3. Thou shall put it in writing and keep a copy.
4. Thou shall try to resolve problems at the lowest level, but not hesitate to contact a higher authority if the problem is not resolved.
5. Thou shall keep records.
6. Thou shall seek out information when needed.
7. Thou shall take time to think through information before making a decision.
8. Thou shall have permission to be less than perfect. Important lessons are learned from both successes and failures.
9. Thou shall not become a martyr. Decide to take a break now and then.
10. Thou shall maintain a sense of humor. It is great for your emotional well-being and that of your child.
11. Thou shall always remember to tell people when they are doing a good job.
12. Thou shall encourage a child to make decisions because one day he or she will need to do so.

– taken from [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org).



## SAVE THE DATE!

The KATC Annual  
*Conference on Autism*  
*Putting Pieces Together*  
*Through Collaboration*

June 18, 19, and 20, 2012  
University of Louisville  
Shelby Campus



## iRewardChart

an app for your Smartphone that helps track and reward your child's good behavior

Available for both iPhone and Android users

Learn more at  
[irewardchart.com](http://irewardchart.com)  
or find them on Facebook

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

