AUTISM WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS AND SCHEDULE

* All workshops begin at 5:30pm on Tuesday evenings, and run for 1-2 hours.

BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS & FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT, 5/13/08  
Jennifer Gorski, Ph.D.  
Children with autism sometimes display challenging behaviors. At times, the behaviors can be difficult to understand. This workshop is designed to help parents and caregivers better understand the possible functions of their child’s behavior and the factors that are important while developing a behavior plan.

AUTISM AND SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING, 5/20/08  
Marisela Huerta, Ph.D.  
This workshop is designed to help parents learn about the current techniques used to teach and support social skills in children and adolescents with ASD. During the workshop, parents will have an opportunity to develop intervention strategies for their child.

INTRODUCING A CHILD TO HIS OR HER DIAGNOSIS, 5/27/08  
Jennifer Gorski, Ph.D.  
Explaining autism to children and adolescents with autism can be challenging. This session is designed to help parents and caregivers better understand when explaining a diagnosis of autism may be appropriate or helpful for their child (the pros and cons), and strategies to do so.

ADOLESCENCE AND AUTISM, 6/3/08  
Rachel Loftin, Ph.D.  
Adolescence can be a difficult time for any child. For children with autism and their families, the physical, behavioral, emotional, and social changes may be overwhelming. This session will review the changes associated with adolescence and how they impact children with autism. Suggestions for easing the transition and promoting independent functioning will be provided.

EARLY COMMUNICATION: CONCERNS AND STRATEGIES, 6/10/08  
Marisela Huerta, Ph.D.  
This workshop is intended for parents of young children who are demonstrating delays in communication and social skills and who have not yet been evaluated for an autism spectrum disorder. The workshop will provide information about typical communication development, important red flags, and diagnostic evaluations. The workshop will conclude with strategies for early intervention.

HELPING SIBLINGS UNDERSTAND AUTISM, 6/24/08  
Rachel Loftin, Ph.D.  
It can be difficult for parents of children with autism to decide what to tell their typically developing children about autism. This session is designed to help parents make decisions about when and what to tell their other children. We will also provide suggestions for promoting positive relationships between children with autism and their siblings.