

## **Autism Resources to Share with CT FEAT List**

### **Parent Support Groups**

#### **1. Torrington Area Families for Autism**

<https://www.tafainc.org/>

What They Do:

##### **-Parent Support**

-Parents are the greatest resource for other parents. This safe space allows parents and guardians to share the triumphs and challenges associated with caring for a child on the autism spectrum. It also enables them to network and share resources taking the mystique out of navigating the complexities associated with finding appropriate care. TAFA started as support group in 2016 and has grown into a network of amazing parents.

##### **-Parent education/ training**

We provide parent training and education opportunities through collaborations with other agencies and providers in various arenas that benefit parents of children of the spectrum.

##### **-Community awareness events**

Inclusion and appropriate support for families and children with autism are directly associated with the level of awareness in the community. We feel that people are more passionate about advocating for causes that they have a high level of awareness for. Community awareness and acceptance of the neurodiverse population is critical in gaining traction for opportunities like social, vocational and residential. We hold events that aim to highlight our amazing autism community and raise funds to continue the work of TAFA.

##### **-Community inclusion**

We work to provide opportunities for children and families to engage with typical peers for social learning and modeling prosocial behavior. This type of inclusion is mutually beneficial for neuro-divergent children and their typical peers. Inclusion fosters acceptance, awareness and positive relationships between peers allowing for a more diverse and intentionally inclusive generation to move forward.

##### **-Social events**

We know that isolation can be a huge barrier for our children and families. Complex needs can inhibit our parents from accessing their peers and communities. Socialization is just as important for parents and caregivers as it is for their children. We aim to provide accommodating social opportunities that take into account the sensory, behavioral and social needs of our families in order to foster a sense of community and belonging.

2. **Sun, Moon and Stars**

203-510-9931

PO Box 563 Watertown CT 06795

<https://www.sunmoonandstars.org/>

**Mission**

To provide families with children on the Autism Spectrum opportunities to participate in activities, events and programs while building a strong community within Greater Watertown and surrounding areas.

**Offerings:**

**Parent Support Group:**

Meetings are in-person at Cara-Bean

49 DeForest St., Watertown

This is a closed group.

Please read below for important registration requirements.

Registration requirements for parents & guardians

Any parent or guardian who would like to join the CARES group must email [info@sunmoonandstars.org](mailto:info@sunmoonandstars.org) (or click "Request to Join" button below) to request entry into the group. All participants must agree to and sign the code of conduct.

**Activities:**

Groovy Night Out

Starfish Swim Club

Watertown Stars Soccer and Basketball Club

Others – see their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292586837771054>

3. **Connecticut Families for Effective Autism Treatment**

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

PO Box 370352 West Hartford, CT 06137-0352

[info@ctfeat.org](mailto:info@ctfeat.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CT-FEAT-180202462046587>

**Parent Discussion Group (online only)**

Sign-up: <http://www.ctfeat.org/listservrules.htm>

**Helpful articles on transitioning, PPT's, evaluations and observing in the classroom:**

<http://www.ctfeat.org/parents.htm>

4. **Autism Services and Resources Connecticut**

101 North Plains Industrial Rd.  
Harvest Park, Wallingford, CT 06492  
Phone: 203-265-7717 | Fax: 203-265-7768  
info@ct-asrc.org

**Offerings:**

Social & Recreational Programs

Trainings

LifeNet: LifeNet is a private pay, independent living support program for adults with Asperger's or similar autism spectrum profiles.

Social Skills Group

Resource Guide

Hold a conference each year

5. **Autism Speaks**

www.autismspeaks.org

**Resources on a variety of topics**, including initial diagnosis toolbox, safety at home & the community, financial planning and financial assistance

**Resource Guide** – lets you search for providers by state

6. **CT Family Support Network**

<https://ctfsn.org/>

Northwest Region Contact:

Rachel Keesler

Family Support Coordinator ~ Northwest Region

860-419-5715

[rkeesler@ctfsn.org](mailto:rkeesler@ctfsn.org)

**CTFSN Mission**

CTFSN exists to help families raising children with disabilities and special healthcare needs through the life span.

**Offerings**

Parent support group

1:1 Parent Interaction

Trainings

Recreation/Camp Data Base

7. **LARC**

Be sure to make a list of all LARC does

Try to get Robin's recreation opportunities on facebook/website

8. **LACASA - Litchfield County Autism Spectrum Association, Inc.**

Sharon Cable 860-693-9128 or [Cablehome3@comcast.net](mailto:Cablehome3@comcast.net)

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

Second Thursday of each month. 6:30pm Founders Hall Conference room of Northwest CT Community College, Park Place East, Winsted, CT 06098

## Recreation Opportunities

1. Many of the above organizations also provide recreational opportunities

### 2. Special Olympics Connecticut

LARC – see Robin

Listed by Region/Town: <https://www.soct.org/get-involved/local-programs/>

Both regular Special Olympics and Unified programs

Athlete may join any team

### 3. Autism Families Connecticut

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

<https://www.facebook.com/AutismFamCT/>

Physical Address:

Autism Families CONNECTicut

600 North Mountain Road

Newington, CT 06111

Mailing Address:

Autism Families CONNECTicut

PO Box 370162

West Hartford, CT 06137

Connects individuals on the autism spectrum to each other by providing recreational, social, and learning opportunities

Playing

Friday Night Socials for Teens

Running Track

Young Adult Hangouts

Family Swimming

### 4. Chapter 126 Sports & Fitness

<https://sportsandfitness.oakhillct.org/>

33 Coventry St.

Hartford, CT 06112

(860) 243-2869

Fitness and sports facility for individuals with disabilities run by Oak Hill.

#### Offerings:

Fitness center

Gym classes and playgroups

Adaptive and inclusive sports programs

**5. Miracle League**

<https://www.miracleleaguect.org/programs/>

68 South Main St. Bsmt 100

West Hartford, CT 06107

PHONE: 860 461-1501

Executive Director

Mike Michaud

Office – 860 461-1501

Email: [info@miracleleaguect.org](mailto:info@miracleleaguect.org)

Offerings:

Baseball, bowling, Sibshops, Dance, Swimming, Learning to ride a bike

**6. Autism SOAR - Spectrum Opportunities in Arts and Recreation**

Organized by Grace Clark [autismsoar@gmail.com](mailto:autismsoar@gmail.com)

Information is posted on their facebook page

Hold monthly meetings at Mouja Studio, 277 Broad Street, Manchester, CT

<https://www.facebook.com/events/532318401644464/?ref=newsfeed>

Welcome to S.O.A.R. Spectrum Opportunities in Arts and Recreation, for youth, teens and young adults (ages 5 to 19) with autism and their families.

We will share highlights, information and updates of our monthly programs featuring arts and crafts, music and movement, and other social activities, such as LEGO-building, storytelling through puppet theatre, and fitness. We will may also facilitate community outings to offer our participants greater learning and social opportunities.

**7. FOCUS Center for Autism**

<https://focuscenterforautism.org/adult-support-services>

Sharon Cable is forming a 15-hour/week Zoom program for adults with autism that is starting to meet in person. The cost is \$360./12-week session.

Contact: Sharon Cable 860-693-9128 or [Cablehome3@comcast.net](mailto:Cablehome3@comcast.net)

PO Box 452

326 Albany Turnpike

Canton, CT 06019

(860) 693-6127

## **Sibling Support Groups**

### **1. SibShops**

<https://www.siblingsupport.org/sibshops>

Meet other sibs (usually for the first time);

- Have fun;
- Talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sib with special needs with others who “get it”;
- Play some great games;
- Learn how other brother and sisters handle sticky situations sometimes faced

### **2. Autism Families Connecticut**

See above for contact information

AFC’s original, signature program. Each four-week session serves dozens of children with autism ages 3 to 13, as well as their siblings in their own *Sibling Club*. The goal is for children to exercise in a safe, appropriate environment where they can make friends, practice social skills and master basic sports skills.

### **3. Center for Children with Special Needs**

<https://www.ccsnct.org/>

2300 Main Street

Glastonbury, CT 06033

860-430-1762

Opening in Farmington soon

Individual and Family Therapy

Individual and Family Therapy Supporting the needs of patients and their families

Individuals with autism or related neurodevelopmental disorders and their families often benefit from therapeutic support that improves their social and emotional well-being Our team of clinicians specialize in the treatment of autism, other neurodevelopmental disorders, and associated mental health difficulties.

### **4. North Central Community Collaborative Parent and Sibling Support Group (West Suffield)**

For more information, contact Dorian Vicedomini at [504-259-4327](tel:504-259-4327) or Diane Reynolds at [860-668-6005](tel:860-668-6005) or [orsdbreynolds@cox.net](mailto:orsdbreynolds@cox.net).

The NCCC serves the following towns: Bloomfield, East Granby, East Windsor, Enfield, Granby, Somers, Strafford Springs, Suffield, Windsor and Windsor Locks.

## Parent Advocacy

### 1. **The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA)**

**[www.copaa.org](http://www.copaa.org)**

An independent non-profit organization of attorneys, advocates, and parents. It was established to improve the quality and quantity of legal assistance for parents of children with disabilities.

COPAA's web site, [www.copaa.org](http://www.copaa.org), is an excellent information resource. It includes a listing, alphabetically by state, of attorneys who represent parents. See also their article explaining the differing roles of attorneys and parent advocates.

### 2. ***The Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC)***

**[www.cpacinc.org](http://www.cpacinc.org)**

an excellent source of information about special education laws and the PPT process. CPAC is state-funded and their services are free. However, their staff is not able to attend PPT meetings. [www.cpacinc.org](http://www.cpacinc.org)

### 3. **CTLawHelp.Org**

**Special Education: Protecting Your Child, Protecting Your Rights | CTLawHelp**  
**Several Statewide Legal Services agencies have collaborated to provide this user friendly, self-help guide to special education law in CT**

### 4. **Wright's Law**

**[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)**

A company, created by attorney Pete Wright, that publishes practical and affordable materials pertaining to advocacy for children with disabilities

### 5. **Mayer's Law**

**[www.mayerslaw.com](http://www.mayerslaw.com)**

Maintained by Gary Mayerson, a New York attorney who first became involved with educational rights and developmental disabilities as an advocate for a family member. The site contains information about advocacy and due process, as well as descriptions of leading court cases (some of which Mayerson has been involved in) and pertinent statutes.

### 6. **The ARC of Connecticut**

**<https://thearcct.org/>**

Parents can sign-up to receive emails about legislation affecting special needs people. They help with how to write to legislators and how to testify.

**7. CT DDS Families First**

A grassroots advocacy nonprofit group comprised of families with loved ones who have an intellectual or developmental disability and are clients of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The mission of CT DDS Families First is to secure all opportunities and supports for Connecticut citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) so that they may live full and productive lives in their communities. The goal is to educate the legislature and the public about the challenges facing families of persons with I/DD so that they understand the need to prioritize this population within the state's budget process. [www.ctddsfirst.org](http://www.ctddsfirst.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CT-DDS-Families-First-469896936504642](https://www.facebook.com/CT-DDS-Families-First-469896936504642)

**8. CT DDS Family Empowerment Task Force**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CT.DDS.FETF>

Here we discuss our efforts to sustain, enhance and grow the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) that are offered by the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS) through its private provider network and self-directed plans

## Dentist

### 1. Suggestions To Make It Easier

Desensitization programs – ask BCBA to create one for your child  
Communicate to provider issues ahead of time  
Baby steps – Get him to tolerate some and keep progressing  
Find autism friendly providers  
Get equipment to send to school for child to get used to  
Bring reinforcers! Toys! Preferred activities!

### 2. Smiles for the Future

Provides dentistry for Special Needs Children  
379 Naubuc Avenue  
Glastonbury, CT 06033  
860-633-5246  
<http://www.smilesforthefuture.com/>

### 3. Dentistry for Children

Dr. Hiroshi Tsuyki  
Provides dentistry for Special Needs Children  
149 East Ave, Norwalk, CT  
203-838-4191  
<http://www.dentistryforchildrenct.com/>

### 4. DDS Dental Clinics

Each region has a dental clinic.  
Either contact the clinic directly or work through case manager/DDS helpline  
<https://portal.ct.gov/DDS/Divisions/Health-Dental-Services/Dental-Services-Contacts>

### 5. Dr. Ira Greene, DDS (regular dentist)

34 Dale Road  
Avon, CT  
860-674-0874  
<https://www.iragreenedds.com/>

### 6. Dr. Ron Albert, DDS (dental surgery ex: root canal under sedation)

360 Tolland Turnpike  
Manchester, CT 06042  
860-649-5000  
<https://www.freshimpressionsdentalcare.com/meet-dr-ron-albert>

### 7. Dr. Stuart Lieblich, DMD (ex: wisdom teeth removal under sedation)

34 Dale Road  
Avon, CT 06001  
860-674-8079

**8. CCMC Dental**

<https://www.connecticutchildrens.org/search-specialties/dental-care/>

**9. Dr. Santos-Tomas**

Newington Children's Dentistry

<http://www.ourfavoritedentist.com/meet-dr-santos-tomas.html>

## **Blood Draw**

### **1. Suggestions to Make it Easier**

Desensitization programs – ask BCBA to create one for your child  
Communicate to provider issues ahead of time  
Baby steps – Get him to tolerate some and keep progressing  
Find autism friendly providers  
Get equipment to send to school for child to get used to  
Bring reinforcers! Toys! Preferred activities!

### **2. Home Draw Services**

**QUEST: 844-864-4055**

A phlebotomist will come to the person's house to draw blood  
Doctor's order is required  
Cannot request a specific phlebotomist

## **Psychiatrists**

1. See separate sheet

## Haircuts

### 1. Suggestions to Make it Easier

Desensitization programs – ask BCBA to create one for your child  
Communicate to provider issues ahead of time  
Baby steps – Get him to tolerate some and keep progressing  
Find autism friendly providers  
Get equipment to send to school for child to get used to  
Bring reinforcers! Toys! Preferred activities!

### 2. Gitzy Girls Mobile Salon, Ellington

[tlipsky@live.com](mailto:tlipsky@live.com)

<http://www.glitsygirlsmobilesalon.com>

For children on the Spectrum having a haircut can be very overwhelming Tracy has been a licensed hairdresser for over 13 years (and is the proud mother of a child on the Spectrum). I provide in home haircuts as well as colors, hi-lites, manicures, facial waxing, perms and pedicures. By coming to your home, I can provide a professional service as you or your child remain in his/ or her comfort zone.

### 3. Snip-Its (Southington, Canton)

110 Albany Turnpike Ste 719 Ste 719, Canton, CT 06019 (Shoppes at Farmington Valley)

<https://local.snipits.com/canton-ct>

Snip-its stylists, in conjunction with Autism Speaks®, receive special training to meet the needs of children with autism. We were one of the first to provide this unique training for our stylists so coming to Snip-its is a positive experience for children with autism. Our [Snip-its Haircut Guide](#) has useful information and tips to make your child comfortable about coming to a salon. You can also schedule a pre-visit with your child to familiarize them with the salon and our stylists

[Autism-Speaks\\_Haircut-guide.pdf \(snipits.com\)](#)

### 4. Roosters

926 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury, CT 06070 (Simsbury Town Shops)

Also in Glastonbury, South Windsor & Brookfield

<http://www.roostersmgc.com/locations/ct/simsbury.html>

### 5. Sally at Cuts for Peanuts

<https://mail.crec.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=zKUcG-mo5QdvEXeaDR5hifFhEs80BX1LV0HMK2gYxShqCSYk7gjWCA..&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.kpsearch.com%2fd%2fcutsforpeanuts%2fall.asp>

## **ABLE Accounts**

1. ABLE Accounts, which are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities and their families, were created as a result of the passage of the Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 or better known as the ABLE Act. The beneficiary of the account is the account owner, and income earned by the accounts will not be taxed. Contributions to the account, which can be made by any person (the account beneficiary, family, friends Special Needs Trust or Pooled Trust), must be made using post-taxed dollars and will not be tax deductible for purposes of federal taxes; however, some states may allow for state income tax deductions for contributions made to an ABLE account.
2. ABLE National Resource Center [www.ablenrc.org](http://www.ablenrc.org)

## **Supportive Churches**

### **1. Rhythms of Grace**

<http://www.rhythms-of-grace.org/locations.html>

Come and join us to hear a bible story, interact in therapeutic arts and crafts projects and share communion in a child-friendly environment. Our program especially supports children on the Autism Spectrum, but children with other special needs are encouraged to attend.

**Resources outside of the Torrington area:**

**Recreation:**

**1. TOPS Soccer – CT**

<https://www.cjsa.org/Default.aspx?tabid=852475>

State Chairperson, Bill Fallon [coachbill01@comcast.net](mailto:coachbill01@comcast.net) 203-415-8812

**Miracle League Glastonbury – TOPS Soccer**

<http://www.leagueathletics.com/Page.asp?n=113147&org=GLASTONBURY%2ESOC%2EORG>

**8. Town of West Hartford Leisure Services**

<https://www.westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/leisure-services/special-needs-recreation>

Includes summer camp and sensory friendly films

**Parent Advocacy:**

**1. SpEd Connecticut**

<https://www.spedconnecticut.org/>

PO Box 260415

Hartford, CT 06126

860-560-1711

[info@spedct.org](mailto:info@spedct.org)

Offers:

Parent advisor services, Training for Parents & Professionals, Adult testing to qualify for accommodations, Resources for transition planning

Fees are based on a parent's ability to pay

**2. West Hartford SEPTO:**

<https://www.whps.org/pupil-services/septo-special-education-pto>

Many towns have a Special Education PTO

**3. Disability Rights Connecticut Disability Resource Directory**

If you would like to request a free copy of the booklet, please contact

Disability Rights CT at [info@disrightsct.org](mailto:info@disrightsct.org) or call 860-297-4300 or 1-800-842-7303 (Toll-Free in CT)

<https://www.disrightsct.org/program-and-services>

**9. African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP)**

<https://www.afcamp.org/>  
49 Woodland Street  
Hartford Connecticut 06105  
info@afcamp.org  
860-548-9959

**Our Mission**

We educate, empower, and engage parents and the community to improve the quality of life for children with special needs and others at risk of education inequity or system involvement.

Services: Trainings, Workshops, Family Engagement, Parent Leadership and Advocacy Development, Case Management, Community Forums, Focus Groups, Youth and Young Adult self-Advocacy, Support Groups

Many services provided at no cost. Some fees may apply. They speak Spanish.

**10.FAVOR**

<http://www.favor-ct.org/>  
(860) 563-3232  
FAVOR, Inc.  
185 Silas Deane Highway  
Wethersfield, CT 06109-1219

Services:

Family Peer Support Program  
Family Systems Management Program  
Learning and Leadership Academy  
CT Medical Home Initiative (MHI)

**Other Resources**

**1. Driving with Autism**

<https://autismdriving.com/virtual-training-webinar-series/>  
74 Batterson Park Rd Floor 1, Farmington, CT 06032  
833.593.7483

Helps individuals with autism be motivated to drive and identify resources necessary to obtain a driver's license. (Does not provide driver's education classes/experience)

Our Training Webinar Series

We are proud to offer "Driving With Autism: A Supportive Webinar." This 7-part webinar series is taught by a live, virtual expert instructor and focuses on the very specific training needs of autistic individuals. The series focuses on one topic per week and teaches it in a way that is easy to digest and gives students the space to process the information before we move on. The topics include:

- Motivation: Starting the Driving Journey and Roadmap
- Parents: Accepting Your New Driver's Motives and Moving Forward
- Adding Driving Goals To Your IEP
- Managing Changes And Anxiety
- Sensory Processing And Limiting Sensory Overload
- Understanding Police Interactions And Solutions
- Financial Basics of Driving 101
- Bringing It All Together - Taking That First Step

## **2. Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) Disability Rights Connecticut:**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5952983059cc68ff83ce3153/t/5e68ea7c130cb7670e4be6aa/1583934077061/Social+Security+Monitoring+Program+Flyer+8.5x11.pdf>

SOCIAL SECURITY MONITORING PROGRAM: Disability Rights Connecticut (DRCT) monitors the activities of Social Security Representative Payees appointed by the Social Security Administration to manage the funds of Social Security Beneficiaries.

## **3. Powell Therapy Solutions, LLC**

<https://www.powelltherapysolutions.com/>

East Windsor, CT

Tel: (860) 983-8112

Not a BCBA

Services:

Evaluations & Assessments

Comprehensive Autism Assessments

Assistive Technology Assessments

ABA Evaluations

Social Skills Therapy  
Sexual Education and Therapy  
Virtual Therapy

4. **Angel of Edgewood**

<https://angelofedgewood.org/#>

224-258-9497

[info@angelofedgewood.org](mailto:info@angelofedgewood.org)

657 Blue hills Ave, Hartford, CT

Services:

Provide basic human needs

Diaper Bank

Uniquely Me: focuses on areas such as food complexities, obsessive-tendencies, coping skills, anxiety, school liaison, legal services, and PTSD