

# Ithaca Autism Symposium Family Support

August 18-19 2008



Contact Information:

[www.3-tier.org](http://www.3-tier.org)

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 **NOTE: The Ithaca Autism Symposium has been moved to  
TST BOCES (555 Warren Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850)**

## Support for People with Autism in Central NY

The services, family support groups and educational programs for people with autism continue to grow in Central New York. This summer symposium offers an opportunity to see the work being done in this area, hear from those with similar circumstances, and learn navigate the system of services available to families. The first day focuses on programs and services available in the region. On the second day, experts will share valuable tips, strategies and resources for families. Both days will wrap up with interactive panel discussions.

### Family Support Sessions

**Self Determination** is based on the belief that people work best and are happiest when they feel in control of their own lives. Ms. Sally Colletti, owner of [Advocate for Autism](#), will share the principals and methods of self determination in New York State. The session will cover the Medicaid HCBS Waiver and Person-Centered Planning along with options and examples.

**Navigating the System:** Ms. Kathryn Gleason is a parent of a person with autism and creator of [Autism Ithaca](#). & Ms. Susan Ruff is Director of Advocacy at the [Southern Tier Independence Center](#). Ms. Gleason will share a parent's perspective on the issues faced by parents as their children grow and services change. Ms. Ruff will explain her experience and share her knowledge of agencies and services available to parents in Central New York.

**Special Needs Trust Funds:** Ms. Virginia A. Hoveman Esq. is an attorney [with Green Seifter, PLLC](#) in Syracuse, NY. She will explain how a [special needs trust fund](#) can help families ensure the financial security of individuals with disabilities without losing government benefits.



### Registration Information

**Two Days: \$60.00**

Continental Breakfast & Lunch Included

Location: [TST BOCES, Ithaca, NY](#)

555 Warren Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850

Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Sessions: 8:30—4:00

**Registration:**

Email - [michael@3-tier.org](mailto:michael@3-tier.org)

FAX - 877-651-1038

Payments may be made at the door for pre-registered participants

More Sessions on Page Two...

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## Family Support Sessions (continued)

**Legislative Initiatives:** Current State and Federal legislation related to disabilities will affect families and individuals with autism in upcoming years. Ms. Susan Ruff will share current legislation and pending issues and explain how parents, caregivers and agencies can act to ensure these laws are written to the benefit of individuals with disabilities.

**Family Support :** The responsibility of supporting individuals with autism can be stressful for families. Central New York has organizations to help. During breakout sessions and panel discussions, Advocates for Autism, Ithaca Autism Coalition, Autism Ithaca, and other support groups will explain their activities aimed at supporting families.

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## Evidence-Based Program Sessions

**State of the Art Services for Autistic Spectrum Disorders: National and Local Perspectives:** Dr. Raymond Romanczyk is Director of [The Institute for Child Development](#) in Binghamton, NY. He is also the Director of the new [Center for Autistic Spectrum Disorders](#). He will explain the methods and practices shown to help individuals with autism. Dr. Romanczyk will also describe the services provided at ICD and summarize the new role the Center for Autistic Spectrum Disorders will play in providing training for schools, agencies and families.



**The Primary Autism Program:** [Ithaca City School District](#) developed a model, school-based program for children with autism. The program includes discrete trial training, visually structured environments, the Picture Exchange Communication System, and functional assessment to “trouble-shoot” and modify programs. Ms. Nicole Dauria and Ms. MaryAnn Simpson, the classroom teacher and speech therapist, will discuss the logistical challenges of student scheduling, staff deployment, and physical structuring needed to ensure a successful program.



**Partnership Programs:** Dr. Karen Fried is Director of [Autism Services at the Franziska Racker Centers](#). She will share information about the Partnership Program, which is located in Tompkins and Cortland Counties. The program is based on the methodology of applied behavioral analysis (ABA). Using ABA, the program helps preschoolers on the autism spectrum learn new skills and behaviors, develop interests, form relationships, and actively participate in community life while simultaneously helping the families of these children reach their goals for success and happiness. The program provides an intensive behaviorally based classroom model that includes school experiences with typical and non-typical peers and a logically sound transition plan for kindergarten



**Online Resources for Autism Support:** In the past few years, web-based resources related to autism have increased exponentially. Dr. Michael Friga, Director of [Three Tier Consulting](#) will help families sort through the resources related to interventions, research, and networking in the area of autism. Participants will receive a guide to resources, with an emphasis on sources here in Central New York.



### Registration

**FAX Registration to: Three Tier Consulting 1-877-651-1038**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment of \$60.00 may be made at the door. Checks and Purchase Orders should be made out to:**

**Three Tier Consulting  
130 Landon, Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850**

**For more information:  
michael@3-tier.org**