

Autism Support Services

PRESENTED BY:
THE VINFEN AUTISM SUPPORT CENTER

www.vinfen.org



February 3, 2026



WHAT DO WE DO?



AUTISM SUPPORT CENTER

- ✓ Information and referral
- ✓ Family trainings
- ✓ Parent networking
- ✓ Community connections and resources
- ✓ Autism Waiver Program

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL



**WE WILL HELP WITH
WHATEVER WE CAN,
WHENEVER WE CAN.**

- Social Security
- MassHealth
- Housing resources
- Recreation
- SNAP benefits
- Autism resources
- Summer camps
- Education
- Communication liaison
- Parent support
- Employment
- Grants and financial assistance
- We maintain a library of resources
- Open referral system (anyone can call even if they are not connected to us or DDS)

FAMILY TRAININGS

- Guardianship and shared decision making
- Special needs financial planning, able accounts and trusts
- Sexuality and the disabled individual
- Human rights
- IEP/ISP workshops
- Autism trainings
- Transition
- Self directed services
- Disability voting rights
- Open referral, anyone can participate even if they are not tied to Vinfen or DDS



“Once again you somehow pulled a rabbit out of your hat! I don't know how you do what you do, but as always, I am very much grateful! Thank You never seems like enough, you are the best!” – Lisa S.

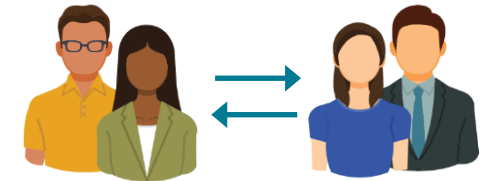
PARENT NETWORKING



We will sponsor or create a training in almost any area that is determined helpful to the families we serve. We are always open to suggestions or new ideas.



We encourage family networking both during our family trainings and support groups, as well as connecting parents (with permissions all around) with other parents in similar circumstances.



We continuously share new resources to all of our families to help them connect to each other and to their communities.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES + CONNECTIONS

Constantly growing and evolving



Both city or town specific as well as state specific



Emails, letters and connection info & opportunity sent regularly



Acquiring feedback from families on their experiences



AUTISM WAIVER PROGRAM

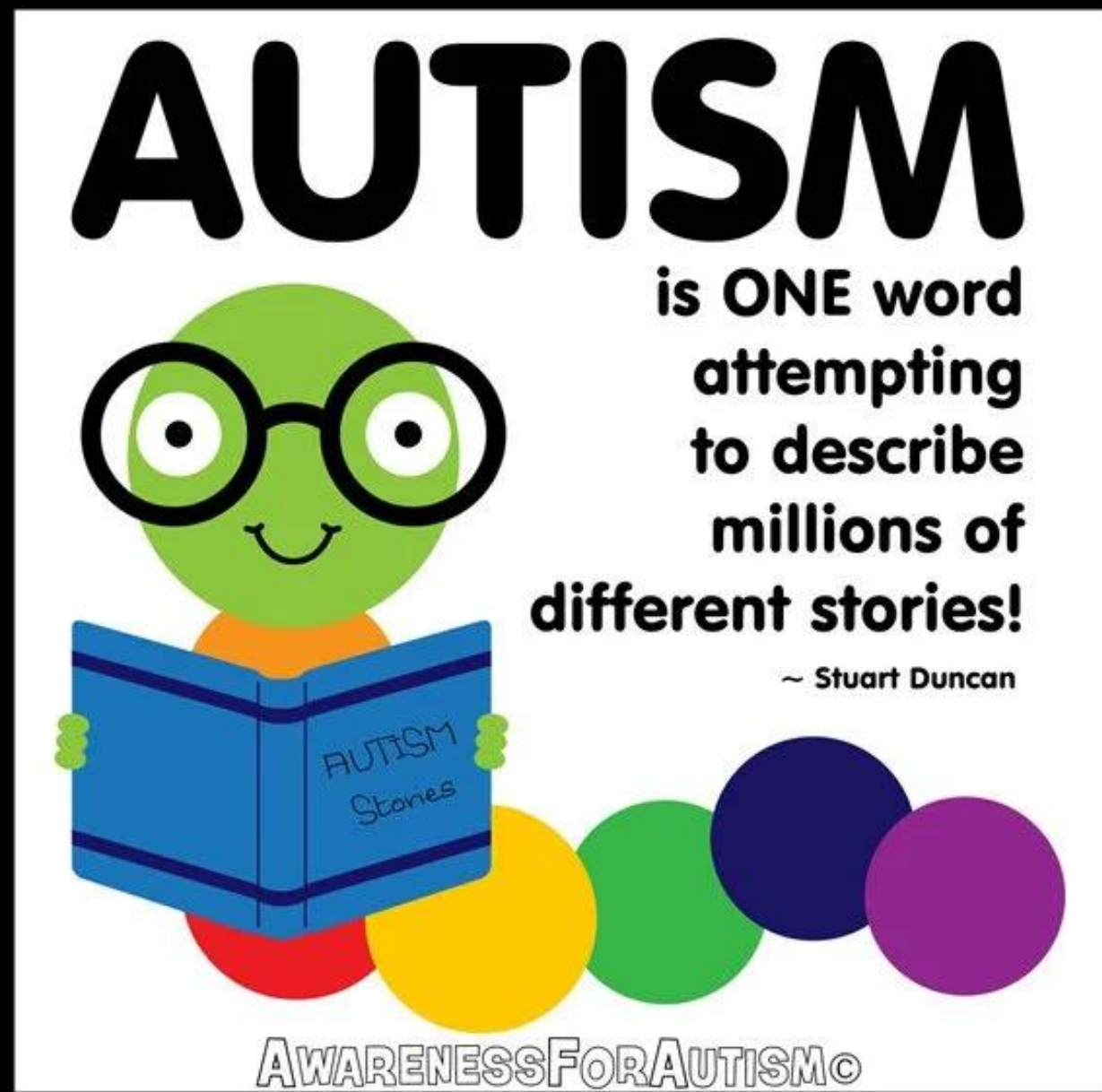
- **Through an open enrollment period, families of children with Autism under age 9 who meet the income and need requirements can apply to be in the Autism Waiver Program.**
- The Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Autism Waiver program serves participants throughout Massachusetts, who are eligible for autism waivers through DDS. Participants and their families are able to hire service workers and purchase a range of goods and services within an approved budget.



Parenting Autism

Is not the same as parenting a typically developing child.

- › Not all children will be able to participate in activities that give most children joy
- › Parenting a child with no natural fear of danger can be overwhelming and terrifying
- › There are often not enough resources and supports for families of autistic children
- › Autistic children can have dangerous behaviors such as aggression, self-injurious behavior and bolting
- › Autistic children often have sleep disturbances and require very little sleep to function





QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?



If you need assistance or have questions, please contact:

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