



# Autism Developmental Approach Therapies Association

October 2016

## Welcome to the Autism D.A.T.A.

Welcome to the inaugural edition! Each bulletin will keep you updated on the developmental approach world of autism intervention. We will alert you to new research studies, current practices, upcoming conferences and presentations, progress on government funding and advocacy, and so much more. Please sign up at [autismDATA.org](http://autismDATA.org) to receive your copy via email.

## New Resources

A **new book** entitled, *Behavioral Challenges in Children with Autism and Other Special Needs: The Developmental Approach* by Diane Cullinane, M.D. is now available [HERE](#).

A **new user-friendly website** is now available to parents and practitioners! **Affect Autism** guides you through implementing DIR/Floortime with your child. Sign up for weekly blog updates [HERE](#) and receive a free .pdf booklet, "10 Things You Can Do Now to help your child".

## New Research Study

Newest Randomized Controlled Trial: Sealy, J. and Glovinsky, I. P. (2016), Strengthening the Reflective Functioning Capacities of Parents who Have a Child With a Neurodevelopmental Disability Through a Brief, Relationship-Focused Intervention. See the abstract [HERE](#).

## Upcoming Conference

**SAT, JAN 21 9:00AM-4:00PM** Atlanta, Georgia

Come learn how to apply DIR/Floortime in an education setting at the 2017 Annual DIR in Education Conference. Find out more [HERE](#).

## Upcoming Presentations

**THURS, OCT 27 7:00-8:30PM FREE!** Mississauga

**Dr. Gil Tippy**, Clinical Director of the **Rebecca School** in New York City and co-author of **Respecting Autism** with Stanley Greenspan, M.D. will make a rare Canadian appearance. He will discuss how the Developmental, Individual differences, Relationship-based (DIR) model can provide you with meaningful therapy to help your child think, relate and communicate. See the event flyer [HERE](#).

**TUES, NOV 1 7:00-9:00PM FREE!** Georgetown

The **Excel Strategic Learning Center** is new to Halton Hills! Come hear about DIR/Floortime and the Tomatis Method, and how they can improve sensory processing. See the event flyer [HERE](#).

**WED, NOV 9 7:00-9:00PM** Toronto

**Ellen Yack & Associates** now offers DIR/Floortime! Parent involvement is an essential component for success. Come out to learn how parents can implement a DIR approach with their child. Find out more [HERE](#).



Link to this bulletin online [HERE](#).

Submissions for bulletin: [affectautism@gmail.com](mailto:affectautism@gmail.com)

## Why the Developmental Approach?

Why do we want to promote developmental approach to autism therapy? There are a few important reasons:

- 1. Parent choice.** Parents know that every child is unique and that different approaches work best with different children. As tax-payers, parents have the right to choose an evidence-based, relationship-based approach that is also funded. Currently no relationship-based therapies are funded in Ontario, Canada despite the evidence for the efficacy of such interventions.
- 2. Evidence.** There is a **growing body of evidence** that a developmental intervention is a more feasible long-term approach for families affected by autism than behavioural management of those with autism. Also, **research** supports a play-based, relationship-based approach to autism.



- 3. Developmental interventions are cost effective.** The cost to train caregivers to effectively deliver a developmental approach with their children is minimal to government, even with hiring trainers and with periodic monitoring and coaching of caregivers. The government could not only save millions of dollars, but could help many more families and eliminate wait lists for services in Ontario.

- 4. Developmental approaches are respectful, address patient-centred outcomes, and are aligned with disability rights.** By following the child's lead, allowing the child to define the activity by pursuing what (s)he finds interesting, and by having the adult facilitate the child's learning process with patience, developmental interventions are respectful. We want our children to become their own best advocates when they get older. Every child deserves the respect and careful, supportive, individualized attention of a caregiver or therapist rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. Children should be allowed to develop at their own pace, as they are ready. The developmental approach facilitates this growth through its strategic, playful, relationship-based interventions that the child enjoys.

## Funding for Developmental Interventions

**British Columbia** now provides families with funding they can use for developmental interventions including the Developmental, Individual differences, Relationship-based Floortime (DIR/Floortime) model and Relationship Development Intervention (RDI). See the announcement from last year [HERE](#).

The **DIR/Floortime Coalition of California** has made great gains in the goal of ensuring funding for developmental therapies. Through their advocacy, they were successful in their efforts to influence Bill SB 946 to require insurers to cover intensive autism treatment for children and adults with no age limit, no time limit, and no dollar limit.

Over the past two years, the Coalition helped craft and pass AB 796 which lifted the sunset, or made the funding law permanent. They are working now to ensure that health care companies cover all evidence-based treatment including developmental approaches such as DIR/Floortime, RDI, etc. See more [HERE](#).