

# 19th ANNUAL FALL EDUCATION CONFERENCE



Pat Schissel, LMSW  
President, AHA  
October 2009

**AHA/Asperger Syndrome  
and High Functioning Autism Association  
prepares for our 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FALL  
EDUCATION CONFERENCE: **ISSUES IN  
EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL-AGE  
CHILDREN ON THE AUTISM  
SPECTRUM****

**Monday and Tuesday  
October 26 and 27, 2009**

AHA Association is having its nineteenth annual two-day fall conference for professionals who educate school age children with Asperger Syndrome, higher functioning language skills, and related conditions. Family members are always welcome to attend educational seminars.

The conference will take place at Eastern Suffolk BOCES, 15 Andrea Road, Holbrook NY, from 8 am to 3 pm each day. It is an annual event that draws participants from across the US and provides those who attend—educators, related professionals, and parents—with the best in current, effective educational strategies. Outstanding speakers and professionals, leaders in research and clinical work, will cover topics as Assessment and Intervention for Students with ASD and How Social Processing Deficits Impact Academics.

Once again our teen panel will be featured. They relate their experiences in school and community, and provide insight to educators and family members. The teen panel has always been a conference highlight, inspiring and valuable.

The keynote address, "What's Hot and What's Not in the Science of Autism," will be delivered by Dr. Stephen Shore. Dr. Shore is an associate professor at Adelphi University who presents and consults internationally on educational, social inclusion and adult issues pertaining to relationships, employment, advocacy, and disclosure as discussed in his books *Beyond the Wall: Personal Experiences with Autism and Asperger Syndrome*, *Ask and Tell: Self-advocacy and Disclosure for People on the Autism Spectrum*, and *Understanding Autism for Dummies*. Nonverbal and diagnosed at age two and a half with "Atypical Development and strong autistic tendencies," recommendations for institutionalization were rejected in favor of parent-based intensive early intervention and support. Dr. Shore serves on the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, on the Board of the Autism Society of America, as past President of The Asperger's Association of New England, the advisory board of AHA and other organizations.

We are bringing back by popular demand Speech and Language Pathologist **LINDA HODGDON, M.Ed. CCC-SLP** who has pioneered the development of using visual strategies for supporting communication. She is the director of Cornerstone Communication Center, an organization

that provides consultation, training, and professional development with the goal of improving communication. Her book, *Visual Strategies for Improving Communication*, is a best-seller in the field of autism because of its easy-to-implement strategies that create significant improvement in student participation and behavior. Ms. Hodgdon specializes in addressing the communication needs of students with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, PDD, Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities, and other communication and behavior challenges.

And Tuesday we are presenting, along with our teen panel **JED BAKER, Ph.D.**, the director of the Social Skills Training Project, a private organization serving individuals with autism and social communication problems. He also directs social skills training for Millburn Public Schools in NJ. He is the author of *Social Skills Training for Children and Adolescents with Aspergers Syndrome and Social Communication Problems*, *Preparing for Life: The Complete Handbook for the Transition to Adulthood for Those with Autism and Aspergers Syndrome*, *The Social Skills Picture Book*, *The Social Skills Picture Book for High School and Beyond*, and *No More Meltdowns: Positive Strategies for Managing and Preventing Out-of-Control Behavior*. His work has been featured on ABC World News, Nightline, and the Discovery Channel. Dr. Baker is on the professional advisory board of Autism Today, ASPEN, YAI, and of several other autism organizations.

**Don't miss this exceptional learning opportunity.**

Preregistration is required by October 16, 2008:

Online at [www.ahaNY.org](http://www.ahaNY.org)

Or mail to AHA Association, PO Box 916, Bethpage, NY 11714-0916.

Mailed-in forms must be postmarked by October 16.

Purchase Orders accepted

**What is AHA/Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism Association?**

AHA was formed 21 years ago out of Stony Brook University by Dr. John Pomeroy and a small group of parents seeking more support and information. AHA has grown to 10 support groups from Montauk to Manhattan serving families, professionals and individuals on the spectrum with groups for school-age issues, for families with older teens and adults, and separate groups for teens and for adults. AHA presents two major conferences yearly. Their website and electronic list serves families, individuals and professionals in New York and across the country and internationally. Answering over 2500 hotline calls yearly they are a constant source of information, support and referral.

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

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

888.918.9198