



12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF AUTISM AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:

**"OPTIMIZING POTENTIAL FOR LIFE AND LEARNING"**

CONFERENCE LOCATION: Ramada Plaza Hotel JFK, JFK Airport, Jamaica, NY 11430 

For directions: <http://www.hopstop.com/?city=newyork>

**Speakers**

(Morning Presentations)

**Nicky and Lizzie Gottlieb**

Film: **"Today's Man" presentation and questions**

"From the time my brother was born, we could tell that he was not like other children. As a small child he had amazing skills—he could tell you what day of the week you were born, could figure prime numbers into the thousands, but he was incapable of holding a real conversation or making friends. No one could tell us what might be wrong with Nicky or how to help him."

—Lizzie Gottlieb, filmmaker

TODAY'S MAN follows Nicky over the course of six years as he struggles to leave the safety of his family's home and find his own place in the world.

**Keynote: Mary Van Bourgondien, Ph.D.**, is a Clinical Psychologist and Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Clinical Director of the Raleigh TEACCH Center.

**Topic: Lessons We Have Learned: Maximizing the Potential of Individuals with Autism:** This presentation will focus on the experiences and strategies that adults with autism and their parents report were helpful to them or would have been helpful to them as they were growing up. The speaker will relate these strategies to the development of skills we know that individuals with disabilities need to be successful adults.

**Speakers**

(Afternoon Break-out Sessions)

**Mary Van Bourgondien, Ph.D.**

**Topic: Sexuality for Adolescents and Adults with Developmental Disabilities:** will discuss issues related to helping adolescents and adults with autism appropriately deal with their sexual and social needs.



**Carolyn Kessler, Ph.D.**

**Topic: Responding to Unpredictable and Aggressive Behaviors:** will address the wide array of difficult behaviors associated with ASD and other developmental disabilities, spanning all ages and levels of functioning. Dr. Kessler will focus on multiple environments and will use her expertise in behavior management to provide participants with tangible skills in reduction and prevention of challenging behaviors.



**Dana Murphy, M.S**

**Topic: Learning Through Seeing: Using Visual Supports in the Home and Community:** will provide participants with turn-key strategies for utilizing visual supports in both the home and community. The use of visual supports will be modeled and the participants will be presented with creative methods of construction and application.



**Jemma Grindstaff, Ph.D.**

**Topic: Promoting Independence Across the Lifespan:** will explore the principles of structured teaching and how it can be applied across the lifespan, across developmental levels and across a variety of skill areas. Dr. Grindstaff will describe how to apply the principles of structured teaching to enhance the independence of our more concrete learners, regardless of developmental age.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Telephone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

✦Please rank in order of preference (from 1 to 4) your choice for the afternoon session.  
**Preference will be given on a first-come first-serve basis.**

- \_\_\_ Sexuality for Adolescents and Adults with Developmental Disabilities
- \_\_\_ Responding to Unpredictable and Aggressive Behaviors
- \_\_\_ Using Visual Supports in the Home and the Community
- \_\_\_ Promoting Independence Across the Lifespan

**Registration Fees:**

**If postmarked by 10/15/09**

- Professionals .....\$145.00
- Parents and Full-Time Students .....\$100.00

**After 10/15/09 or at the door**

- Professionals .....\$160.00
- Parents and Full-Time Students .....\$115.00

Total Enclosed .....\$\_\_\_\_\_

**Please note that a continental breakfast and buffet style lunch will be served**

Please make checks payable to: **Herbert G. Birch Services Fund**

**Mail to: "OPTIMIZING POTENTIAL FOR LIFE AND LEARNING"**

**Birch Family Services  
104 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001**

**Attn: Tanya Santiago**

**Fax: 212-937-0027**

**No reservations will be accepted without payment.**  
Substitutions for original registrants will be accepted.

For MasterCard, Visa or American Express payment options, please call **212-616-1858**