



# EASTERSEALS MIDWEST AUTISM CONFERENCE SERIES

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a special needs program developed by MassMutual

**KANSAS CITY**

**CAPE GIRARDEAU**

**SPRINGFIELD**

**COLUMBIA**

**ST. LOUIS**

## **KANSAS CITY**

**NOVEMBER 14**  
**8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

Kauffman Foundation Conference Center  
4801 Rockhill Road  
Kansas City, MO 64110

**JOIN US.**  
[eastersealsautismseries.com](http://eastersealsautismseries.com)

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- All registration and payments must be received by November 5.
- Payment options:
  - Online with credit card
  - Mail with a check
  - Purchase Order (upon request)
- Fees:
  - \$105 per person
  - Groups of 4 or more, \$95 per person
  - Families served by Easterseals Midwest, \$75 per person.  
(Please note, Northwest Autism Project funding may be available to cover this cost.  
You will need to contact your service coordinator for more information.)

**REGISTRATION** | 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS** | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### **“Strategies for Bringing out the Best in Children: Promoting Positive Behavior in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder”**

**Presented by Amy Buie, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA**

***ABOUT THE PRESENTER:*** Amy Buie, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, has over 25 years of experience with students who have challenging and explosive behavior. She is the founder and CEO of Learning Momentum, an agency that provides training and behavior consultation to schools and families who work with children with explosive behavior. She is also the founder of The Center for Autism Education, a not-for-profit school for children and adults with both developmental disabilities and emotional disorders. Amy is also the author of several books, including *Behavior Mapping: A Visual Strategy for Teaching Appropriate Behavior to Children with Autism and Related Disorders*, and *Rage to Reason: Behavior Intervention for the Treatment of Explosive Behavior in Children with Emotional Disorders*, co-authored with Tara Hays, MPA, MA, BCBA, LBA.

Amy has a master’s degree in special education and frequently presents at workshops and conferences throughout the Midwest. As a faculty member at the University of Missouri-Saint Louis, Amy teaches coursework in Autism Studies and Applied Behavior Analysis for the master’s program in special education and BCBA certification. She is the mother of an incredible young man who also has bipolar and an anxiety disorder. Her work as a BCBA and mother of a child with a mental illness inspired her to create *Rage to Reason*, a program that reduces explosive behavior in children with emotional disorders.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTATION:** This workshop is a training for parents and professionals to create a program for children in a classroom or home setting who may be engaging in some level of disruptive or problem behavior. The training includes an understanding of behavior strategies and how to create an effective plan for success. The workshop will include an understanding of the function of behavior, strategies for teaching replacement behaviors, classroom and home supports, intervention strategies, and content on Acceptance and Commitment Training to develop the social and emotional skills necessary for success in life! This is a great option for anyone who wants to have a better understanding of problem behavior in the school or home setting and how to teach positive replacement behaviors and emotional regulation.

**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN | 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS | 1:15 PM – 2:45 PM**

**SESSION A: “The Power of the Family Voice”**

**Presented by Alicia Curran**

**ABOUT THE PRESENTER:** Alicia Curran is the proud mother of four beautiful children. Following her son’s diagnosis of autism, Alicia devoted her professional career to work within the autism community. Currently, she works at the University of Missouri Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders where she leads the operations of the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) Autism Program, as well as serves as a Parent Panelist on two expert hub teams. Additionally, she is the Family Core Faculty Member for the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program, Site Coordinator for the Autism Speaks Autism Treatment Network (AS ATN), and the CDC’s *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* Ambassador for Missouri.

Alicia has a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Drury University, a Master’s Certificate in Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders from the University of Missouri, and is a LEND graduate. She is very active in the autism community and has a passion for family empowerment.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTATION:** In this presentation, Alicia Curran will share her personal story of raising a child with autism spectrum disorder and lessons learned during that journey that motivated her to become an advocate for children and families. Participants will learn about the importance of family-professional partnerships, the value of family expertise, and how the innovative ECHO Autism Program is promoting the family voice across the globe.

## **SESSION B: “Self-Regulation for Successful Self-Management”**

**Presented by Julie Josendale, MS, BCBA, LBA**

**ABOUT THE PRESENTER:** Julie Josendale is a licensed and Board Certified Behavior Analyst with over 20 years of experience working with individuals with autism and other developmental delays. Her background includes working with individuals of varying ages and severity of disorders. Julie works collaboratively with professionals of other disciplines to develop comprehensive treatment plans that address even the most complex of behavioral needs. She provides consultation services to parents, teachers, and other practitioners on a number of topics and enjoys seeing the progress that not only the individuals she serves make, but also the progress of those that work directly with those individuals. Julie thrives on challenges and loves the fact that no two individuals or situations are ever the same.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTATION:** This presentation will focus on self-regulation skills for individuals of all functioning levels. We will discuss strategies for helping individuals monitor and control their own emotions and behaviors, with an emphasis on strategies that do not require removal or seclusion from peers. Being able to successfully monitor and adapt our own behaviors leads to increased social, academic, vocational, and community success!

**BREAK | 2:45 PM – 3:00 PM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

## **SESSION A: “Early Start Denver Model for Young Children with Autism”**

**Presented by Megan Tregnago, M.Ed., MHA, BCBA, LBA**

**ABOUT THE PRESENTER:** Megan Tregnago is a licensed and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). She is the Manager of ABA Services and Training for Easterseals Midwest’s Central office. Megan has Masters degrees in Special Education with an emphasis on autism, and in Health Administration, both from the University of Missouri. She provides services based upon Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to families and professionals in the central Missouri region, teaching them ways to better support individuals with autism. Megan’s interests include providing consultation for early intensive behavioral intervention (EIBI) programs, implementing natural language techniques and the Early Start Denver Model with young children with autism, and improving the quality of autism services in the state of Missouri.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTATION:** This presentation will review the core principles of the Early Start Denver Model, a social-emotional approach based in ABA. This model, developed primarily for children under the age of 4, focuses on developing language, social responsivity, and other developmental milestones through motivating play activities. Specific take-home strategies and video examples will be shared.

## **SESSION B: “10 Basic Financial Steps for Special Needs Caregivers & the ABLE Act”**

**Presented by Valerie Baker**

**ABOUT THE PRESENTER:** Valerie Baker works with families to ensure that they are protected in the short-term and have a long-term achievable plan to meet their financial goals. She benefits her clients by helping them define a plan to meet their unique objectives and assists them in staying on the path to meet those long-term goals, thus bringing peace of mind and a sense of accomplishment to those with whom she works. With over 25 years in the Financial Services Industry, Valerie is an investment advisor representative focused on the active management of her clients’ assets. She assists their decisions to take risk when it is appropriate and to take cover when it is not.

As the mother of a young man with Down syndrome, Valerie has a passion for working with families who also have loved ones with special needs. She partners with the MassMutual Special Care Team, which was created to serve families that have dependents of all ages with disabilities. MassMutual is one of the leading companies with an organization dedicated to the unique circumstances and requirements of these individuals. Valerie earned her CFP® | CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ designation in July 2016. She has her Life and Health license as well as her Series 6, 63, 65 and 7 FINRA licenses. She has a Bachelor’s degree from Missouri State University in Finance and General Business with an emphasis in Investments.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTATION:** This workshop will discuss 10 basic steps to help caregivers get started in preparing for the financial future of their dependent with special needs. As a caregiver of a dependent with special needs, the single most important issue on your mind, regardless of the age of the dependent, is what will happen to my dependent after I’m gone. There are some needs that will always be present, and they must be carefully considered and planned for appropriately. This workshop addresses such critical issues as applying for government benefits for Social Security and Medicaid, creating a Special Needs Trust, the importance of a Will, and considering a Letter of Intent. Taking these 10 basic steps now can help ensure the type of care and quality of life for a loved one’s well-being today and tomorrow. Additionally, we will discuss The ABLE Act. President Barack Obama signed the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE Act on December 19, 2014 as part of the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014. The new law will allow qualified individuals with disabilities to have tax-free savings accounts.



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Kauffman Foundation Conference Center  
4801 Rockhill Road  
Kansas City, MO 64110

## REGISTRATION FORM

All registration forms and payments must be received by November 5.

### ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### BREAKOUT SESSION REGISTRATION | Please only select one per breakout session.

#### SESSION ONE | 1:15pm - 2:45pm

- "The Power of the Family Voice" by Alicia Curran
- "Self-Regulation for Successful Self-Management" by Julie Josendale, MS, BCBA, LBA

#### SESSION TWO | 3:00pm - 4:30pm

- "Early Start Denver Model for Young Children with Autism" by Megan Tregnago, M.Ed., MHA, BCBA, LBA
- "10 Basic Financial Steps for Special Needs Caregivers & the ABLE Act" by Valerie Baker

### ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

- \$105 per person
- Groups of 4 or more, \$95 per person
- ESMW Family, \$75 per person  
(Please note, Northwest Autism Project funding may be available to cover this cost. You will need to contact your service coordinator for more information.)

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express
- Discover
- Check Enclosed
- Purchase Order  
(upon request)

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Digit Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name As It Appears on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Order # (If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

### Please return form and make payment payable to:

**Easterseals Midwest**  
6600A Royal Street  
Pleasant Valley, MO 64068  
Attention to: Casey Melancon

**Register online at:**  
[eastersealsautismseries.com](http://eastersealsautismseries.com)