



# REFLECTIONS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2022 ISSUE

## BACK TO SCHOOL BEHAVIOR SUPPORT RESOURCES

It's that time of year: back to school! We couldn't be more excited for all the fun a new school year brings. However, this annual occasion often means changes in routines, new teachers, and faces. Naturally, these changes can be tricky for some autistic people and their families.

Rest assured, we have resources to help! Our behavior basics resources can be a great starting point to prepare for the start of school. Here are some of our favorites:

- [How to Use Visual Supports to Help Your Child with Autism](#)
- [Visual Supports and Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)
- [Social Stories: Tier 2 Positive Behavior Intervention and Support of Social Stories](#)
- [Video Tool Kit: Reinforcement](#)

Check out our other free, evidence-based resources at [ECHOAutism.com/resources](https://ECHOAutism.com/resources).



## CONGRATULATIONS TO POLAND-COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES - UNIVERSITY OF RZESZOW

Congratulations to the College of Medical Sciences-University of Rzeszow!

The College of Medical Sciences-University of Rzeszow is one step closer to starting their own ECHO Autism program. They have finalized their partner agreement with Project ECHO and are now ready to launch their own ECHO Program.

We look forward to learning more about your ECHO Autism Program and supporting you through our ECHO Autism Communities partner liaison program.

## LEARN ABOUT ASSERT: ALL STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED IN RESEARCH TOGETHER

# VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

One of ECHO Autism Communities' goals is to spread knowledge and resources everywhere so that everyone can experience high quality care. Vanderbilt University Medical Center has started a project that does just that.

ASSERT: All StakeholderS Engaged in Research Together is a project that engages people with autism, with Down syndrome, or with other intellectual or developmental disabilities. The project also reaches caregivers, clinicians, and researchers with the purpose of building an online learning community where the stakeholders learn about research together. This project is collaborative and multidirectional so that learners gain knowledge from each other. Through this project, stakeholders will "assert" themselves and make their voices heard as they work together as partners in research to improve health outcomes.

Learn more about how the ASSERT project [here](#).

## DR. KRISTIN SOHL NAMED 2022 INSPIRATIONAL LEADER OF THE YEAR



A huge congratulations to ECHO Autism Communities' founder and Executive Director Dr. Kristin Sohl! She was recently named 2022 Inspirational Leader of the Year by the Greater Missouri Leadership Foundation.

She is doing amazing work in the autism community! Watch the video highlighting her inspiring leadership and the impact she is making [here](#).

## **SPOTLIGHT ON ECHO AUTISM: BEHAVIOR SOLUTIONS IN HOSPITALS**

We are highlighting a new ECHO Autism Communities program this month: Behavior Solutions in Hospitals. This program aims to bring knowledge of best practice care to healthcare teams in hospital settings.

### **What is ECHO Autism: Behavior Solutions in Hospitals?**

ECHO Autism: Behavior Solutions in Hospitals is a virtual learning program intended to improve care for autistic people within the hospital setting. Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder are known to have increased utilization of emergency room visits and they sometimes require hospitalization.

Understanding and meeting their needs can be challenging in these settings, therefore, it is essential the Emergency Departments and Hospital-based Healthcare Teams have the knowledge and training to support patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder effectively.

This program launches with a kickoff training on September 19. The program includes six virtual ECHO sessions on Mondays from 1:15pm to 2:30pm CST, beginning on September 26 and going through October 31.

Participation in this program is suited for hospital-based healthcare teams including mental healthcare teams and emergency departments. This includes nurses, physicians, social workers, child life specialists, security, psychologists, quality improvement specialists, patient advocates, hospital administration, etc.

This program is spearheaded by an interdisciplinary panel of leading experts in the autism field. The hub team consists of a clinical psychologist, child and adolescent psychiatrist, family advocate, and resource specialist.

Participants can expect to learn and share best practices for interfering behaviors, managing medical conditions, including psychiatric conditions, connecting with community resources, and family/caregiver support.

Space is limited. Register soon [here](#).

**ECHO Autism Communities is excited to announce this opportunity for hospital-based health care teams to join the program! To learn more, contact Christy Kidwell at [kidwellcf@health.missouri.edu](mailto:kidwellcf@health.missouri.edu)**