

Supporting parents, supporting families

- *Connect with other parents who are raising a child or teen on the autism spectrum*
- *Learn more about Asperger's, autism, and PDD-NOS*
- *Hear from area professionals who work with Asperger's, autism, and PDD-NOS*
- *Find out how to access essential resources in the community*
- *Share your child's accomplishments and your successful parenting strategies*
- *Celebrate with others who appreciate the wonderfully unique people who make up the autism spectrum*



Asperger/ High Functioning Autism Parent Group of Goshen

**Meetings on the First Monday of
Each Month
7-8:30 p.m.
Eighth Street Mennonite Church
602 South Eighth Street
Goshen, Indiana**

Group Facilitators

Kaylene Ediger
Phone: (574) 825-1460
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Christine Guth
Phone: (574) 534-2718
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406 S. 7th St., Goshen, IN 46526

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(574) 533-6720**

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Goshen, IN 46528
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Please arrange care for your children at home, as the group is unable to provide childcare.

When the first Monday of the month falls on a holiday or during local public school spring break, check with the facilitators to see when the group will be meeting.

Who we are

The Asperger/High Functioning Autism Parent Group of Goshen is a support group for parents of children, teens, and young adults on the autism spectrum. We aim to support families by sharing information and resources, along with our insights, struggles, laughter and tears. The focus of the group is young people on the spectrum who have good use of language and average or higher intelligence. Typically our children qualify for a diagnosis of Asperger Syndrome, high functioning autism, or PDD-NOS, although not all have been formally diagnosed. Along with parents, other interested adults are welcome, including grandparents, educators, and adults on the spectrum.

The group's meetings frequently include a speaker who is an expert on a topic of particular interest to parents of those on the spectrum. Some popular topics have been communication, developing an Individual Education Plan (IEP), sensory processing difficulties and responding to challenging behaviors. Special events the group has sponsored include Asperger/Autism 101 (a night for informing the wider community about the autism spectrum) and a family fun night.

The parent group first began meeting in August 2006. Attendance is often between 15 and 25. The group usually breaks into smaller groups for discussion so that each person has a chance to share and get questions answered.



Group facilitators

The facilitators of the group are Kaylene Ediger and Christine Guth. Kaylene has two school-aged sons, one of whom has Asperger's. She is a first grade teacher at Chamberlain Elementary School in Goshen. Christine has two young adult sons, both of whom have Asperger's. She works for Anabaptist Disabilities Network as an advocate for people with disabilities in church congregations, with particular interests in the autism spectrum and mental health.

Kaylene and Christine welcome your ideas and suggestions for speakers and topics and actively solicit input from the parents who attend.

Contact Christine to be placed on one of the group's e-mail or U.S. mail lists to receive notices about group meetings and other resources in the area.

With appreciation

We are thankful to our speakers who donate their time as a community service, and to Eighth Street Mennonite Church which provides us with meeting space and photocopying. Indiana Resource Center for Autism provides us with publicity on their website, print materials, and other resources,

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