

Ascent

February 2021
The Summit Center's Monthly Newsletter



HAPPY Valentines DAY



We Love Our Summit Family!

Registration for 2021 Autism Walk Opens Monday, March 1!

When is the event? Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16

Where is the event? Your home, your neighborhood or your favorite park or trail

Pick your virtual challenge! Walk a mile, a 5k, or choose your own activity. Maybe it's running or biking or even building a puzzle with your child. Find your favorite activity and join us on May 15 and 16 for a fun-filled weekend to raise funds for Summit. Even though we can't gather together in large groups just yet, you can participate in your own home, in your neighborhood, or at your favorite park.

How much does it cost to participate? \$10 fundraising minimum required at the time of registration. No fundraising requirement for children under 18.

Additional Details: Stay tuned for more information. Give us a call at 716.629.3423 with any questions. We can also be reached at autismwalk@thesummitcenter.org.



2021 Autism Walk
Virtual Challenge

Thank you to our sponsors!



REGISTRATION

Visit SummitWalk.org on
Monday, March 1 to register!

Stay Connected With Us!
Follow us on social media!



150 Stahl Road | Getzville, NY 14068
www.thesummitcenter.org
716.629.3400
info@thesummitcenter.org



Employee Spotlight - Presented by West Herr

Employee Spotlight



KIRI KOCHANSKI

Teacher Assistant | Summit Academy

Presented by:



Tell us a little about your role.

Every day I get to work with the most incredible teachers and therapists to help our students be successful in reaching their goals! It is amazing to work with my students and reflect on all the growth we see from day to day and month to month.

What do you love about working for Summit?

The thing I love most about working at Summit is meeting and getting to know students! Every student is so unique and they teach you something new every day.

What is your favorite thing to do in Western New York?

Whenever someone visits from out of town the only thing I can think to do is to go to new restaurants. There are so many wonderful restaurants in WNY and I love to support our local businesses!

Do you have any pets?

I have one pet named, Twix. She's a 1 year old short-haired tortoiseshell cat. We took her in from a barn where she was being neglected by the mother. With the help of a friend she was nurtured back to health. She's thriving now and I can't get enough of her!

What is your favorite place you have traveled, and one place you would like to travel to once it is safe to do so?

I have been lucky enough to have traveled many places so far in my life and I would have to say my favorite place is Arizona! I love everything about it there and even hope to move there someday. I hope to be back there soon for my honeymoon!

Free School Training!

Is Your Child Acting Out?

Free District Workshops!

- 101: Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders and Evidence-Based Treatments
- 102: Inclusive Programming for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- 103: Developing and Fostering Social Development for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Public Education Settings
- 104: Redefining Consequences: Strategies for Addressing Challenging Behaviors in Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- 105: Advanced Seminar in the Applications of Behavioral Strategies for Evaluation and Responding to Challenging Behaviors Demonstrated by Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- 106: Building Skills vs. Doing Skills: Considerations for Fostering Independence and Reducing Adult Supports
- 107: Advanced Seminar in the Application of Strategies for Providing Effective Aide Support
- 108: No more Moving Meltdowns: Strategies for Transporting Students with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism and Related Diagnoses



Does your child struggle with depression, anxiety, or behavior concerns? **Summit's Behavioral Pediatrics Clinic is accepting new clients and can help! (Most insurance plans accepted!)**

Behavioral health issues are common in children and young adults. Some of these common childhood problems include: depression, anxiety, behavior concerns, and challenges related to ADHD and autism spectrum disorder.

Give us a call today at 716.629.3400 to set up an appointment.

Sign up For SPARK!

SPARK seeks to speed up research and improve our understanding of autism. This includes learning what causes autism and how best to treat it. The Rose F. Kennedy Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center at Montefiore and over 20 of the nation's leading medical schools and autism research centers are part of this effort. Participating in SPARK is free and can be done entirely from home!

To sign up for SPARK: www.SPARKforAutism.org/nyc

The WNY Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders offers autism workshops and trainings to school districts FREE of cost.

In the wake of the current pandemic, we are able to offer these same workshops and trainings virtually at times that work for your staff.

Learn more about each workshop and request a training today: <https://lnkd.in/dhMBXwf>

Attend the Next Virtual WNYRCA Conference!



Wednesday, March 24 @ 1 - 3 p.m.

Learning in Groups – Curriculum Considerations for Children with Autism (Presented by Bridget A. Taylor, Psy.D., BCBA-D of Alpine Learning)



Early intensive intervention programs for children with autism start with instruction presented in a one-to-one format, with an adult and a child. If learning is progressive however, we must help children with autism eventually acquire new information within group contexts. The first hour of this presentation will review research-based strategies to increase responding within group instructional contexts as well as procedures to increase observational learning of children with autism within these contexts. Video-taped examples will be used to illustrate instructional strategies.

During the second hour, participants will be discover why learning in a group may be challenging for children with autism, identify the components of observational learning and recognize research-based procedures that could be implemented within a group to increase rate of responding. Register here: <https://nysrcasd.org/events/810/registrations/new>

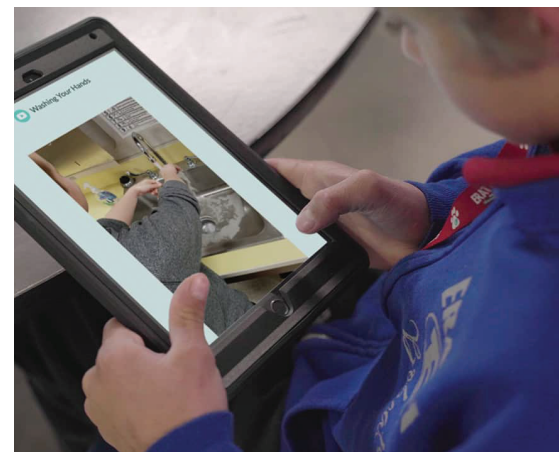
WNYRCA Mini-Workshop Wednesdays

Wednesday, March 10 @ 2:30 - 3 p.m.

Using Video Modeling (Presented by Nick Rockwell, M.S. Ed.)

The use of video modeling to teach important life skills is a very useful tool for teachers and staff who support students on the autism spectrum. Some students with autism can imitate what is viewed on a video with more ease than other teaching tools. This webinar will present participants tips on creating and using video models to teach skills such as those needed to complete domestic, hygiene and social activities.

Nick Rockwell, M.S. Ed., is an educational coordinator at The Summit Center. He has spent the last nine years teaching adolescent students skills and behaviors for a more successful transition to life as adults. **Link to Register –** <https://nysrcasd.org/events/837/registrations/new>



New S.T.A.R. Parent Training Dates Added!

The Summit Center's S.T.A.R. Training, funded by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), offers parents and caregivers the opportunity to learn new strategies to support you through various stages of your child's life.

Transition to Adulthood (five sessions)

This transition series will cover many components that are part of the process for transition for students who will be graduating with a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential.

- Sat. Feb. 27 (10 – 10:45 a.m.) Skills for Transition to Adulthood
- Thurs. Mar. 4 (4:30 – 5:15 p.m.) Transition in the Final Years of School
- Fri. March 5 (4:30 – 5:15 p.m.) Guardianship – Potential Supports
- Tues. March (4-5 p.m.) Let's Talk Transition*
- Tues. April (4 - 5 p.m.) Options for Adulthood*
- Tues. April 20 (4 - 5 p.m.) Skills for Transition to Adulthood*
- Tues. April 27 (4 - 5 p.m.) Transition in the Final Years of School*
- Tues. May (4 - 4:45 p.m.) Guardianship- Potential Supports*

Behavior Basics (one session offered on two dates).

This training will focus on basic proactive strategies to help caregivers reduce challenging behaviors that their children may exhibit. Topics will include reinforcement of positive behaviors, simple communication strategies, and other behavioral tips and techniques.

- Sat. March 13 (10 – 11:30 a.m.) Behavior Basics
- Sat. June 12 (10 – 11:30 a.m.) Behavior Basics

Adaptive Skills (one session) Saturday, March 20 10-11:30 a.m.

Many children, regardless of a developmental disability, can struggle with aspects of Toileting, Sleeping and Feeding. This training will identify the challenges that caregivers typically face as well as teach simple strategies that focus on using reinforcement to encourage skill building in these areas.

Managing Challenging Behaviors (one session) Sat. April 17 10 – 11:30 a.m.

This training will focus on teaching caregivers where challenging behaviors typically come from, what challenging behaviors mean, as well as some simple strategies that focus on using reinforcement to decrease challenging behaviors and build skills.

Sleep Solutions (one session) Saturday, May 8 10-11:30 a.m.

Many individuals and families struggle with inconsistent sleep patterns and habits. This training will identify common sleep problems, discuss environmental factors that affect sleep, and offer basic behavioral treatment strategies for sleep problems.

To learn more about each session and how to register, please visit www.TheSummitCenter.org