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# ABIQ NEWS

September 2005

*Autism Behavioural Intervention Queensland (ABIQ) was formed to enhance the treatment of children with autism. It is the belief of ABIQ that children with autism are best treated by Applied Behavioural Analysis. This therapy gives children with autism a chance – a chance to grow, to live and to lead a fulfilling and independent life.*

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ABIQ presents

## **Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Information Day**

Sunday 2nd October 2005  
9:00am – 5:00pm  
QUT, Kelvin Grove Campus  
Room N 518

Free Entry  
Morning Tea and lunch provided  
BYO Lunch

Presenters: ABA practitioners, parents

Target Audience:

- Uni Students interested in working in a home-based ABA program
- Parents of children with autism considering a home-based early intervention program

For bookings or more information, contact ABIQ  
Ph. (07) 3264 2582 or [enquiries@abiq.org](mailto:enquiries@abiq.org)

# President's Column

## by Michael Chan

As you will be aware, the Annual General Meeting of ABIQ was held recently on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> 2005. I have much pleasure in announcing that the following members were elected to the ABIQ Management Committee for 2005-06:

President – Michael Chan  
Vice-President – Bianca Joe Kong  
Secretary – Kylie Graham  
Treasurer – Belinda Harris  
General Committee Positions – Maria McCaffrey, Maureen Brand, Fiona Treadwell, Des Sipos, Richard Keylock

I look forward to working with a very committed team again this year. Thanks to Jack and Maria Carroll for offering their home as the venue for the AGM and for providing a delicious afternoon tea. I would also like to thank those members who attended the meeting (including those by proxy.)

### **Achievements in 2004-05**

At the AGM, I presented a report detailing the achievements of ABIQ in 2004-05. I would like to share this information with you all as members. The activities of ABIQ were closely guided by the business plan 2004-05, which was developed prior to the Annual General Meeting in 2004 and by the “objects”, as stipulated in the ABIQ Constitution.

The following were achieved between September 2004 and August 2005:

- Increase in ABIQ membership to over 450.
- Eleven workshops and seminars were conducted. A total of over 1,100 persons (including parents, professionals, teachers, teacher aides, home therapists and carers of children with autism) attended the events. These events were offered to ABIQ members at very affordable rates.
- Upgrade of ABIQ website with the introduction of a ‘members only’ section. Around 30,000 visitors enter the site on a monthly basis.
- ABIQ has become well known on the state and national scene as an organisation providing assistance to families of children with autism. ABIQ was invited to present at numerous autism events, including Parent-to-Parent conference at Mackay, Autism Awareness Week Seminars at Education Queensland, Brisbane School of Distance Education, Bayside and Toowoomba AVT groups, Autism Support Services Teleconference for regional EQ staff; and Annual Queensland Paediatrician Society Conference (2004). ABIQ has again been invited to participate on the advisory panel for the “Growing Stronger: Supporting Parents of Children with Autism” research project at the University of Queensland.
- ABIQ successfully held a number of fundraising events, including a trivia night, Arms Global for Autism Charity Golf Day and Face Autism Masked Charity Ball.
- ABIQ provided an extensive library of resources including books, videos, DVDs, toys and therapy materials for members. During the period, over \$13,000 has been spent on autism-related resources.
- The provision of quarterly newsletters and other publications eg. brochures, information kits.
- Regular support group meetings at 3 locations in Brisbane.
- Register of teaching assistants for in-home programs was created and maintained.
- ABIQ extended its services to regional Queensland, including the availability of the “1300ABIQLD” telephone number for regional callers to contact ABIQ at the cost of a local call.

## Acknowledgements

ABIQ has received a number of significant grants from organisations including Jupiter's Casino Community Benefits Fund, Brisbane City Council and Anglo Coal Australia for various projects. I want to thank them for their generosity and support.

Acknowledgement of thanks should also go to those who have contributed to the success of the educational events organised by ABIQ during the year. In particular, many people have volunteered their time and expertise to present at the events. I also want to acknowledge the support from Queensland University of Technology for providing the venue for the majority of education and training events.

During the year, ABIQ has enjoyed tremendous support and cooperation from professionals in the autism-related field. Their support is invaluable and I look forward to a fruitful working relationship with them in the coming year.

During the year, committee members have worked exceptionally hard to help ABIQ attain the achievements listed previously. I want to convey my appreciation to each and every one on the committee. Thanks must also go to others, who are not part of the management committee but nevertheless contributed significantly to the organisation. These people included Sharon Horan, Zhimin Zhan and many others who helped in sub-committees, especially for the very successful fundraising activities.

Maria Carroll, Dee Brough and Mogens Johansen will not be continuing on the new 05-06 management committee. On behalf of the committee, I want to thank them for the hard work they have put in to make 2004-05 an outstanding success for ABIQ.

## The Way Ahead

2005-06 is going to be an exciting year. An extensive range of activities has been developed in the 2005-06 business plan, including another international conference during 2006. The committee looks forward to continuing a helpful level of service to members and the community.

Get Ready... Get Set... Get Festive  
It will soon be time for the

## ABIQ FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY



Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2005  
2pm-5pm

Carindale PCYC  
27 Narracott St  
Carindale

Food, drinks, entertainment provided

Please RSVP by Nov 17 to ensure kids receive a gift from Santa.

By phone: (07) 3264 2582 or by email: [enquiries@abiq.org](mailto:enquiries@abiq.org)

Let us know the number of adults + names and ages of children attending.

# Research

## **NIH Study Confirms Parents' Claims of Autistic Regression Birthday home videos prove existence**

Researchers studying home videotapes of children's first and second birthday parties have confirmed what a number of parents have been claiming for years - that some youngsters who are seemingly normal at age 1 regress and exhibit the characteristic behaviors of autism by the end of their second year.

In a study published in the Archives of General Psychiatry, research done at the University of Washington's Autism Center provides the first objective evidence for autistic regression. This form of autism is estimated to account for about 25 percent of all autism cases in the United States.

The study did not address the cause of autistic regression or the possible role that childhood vaccines might play in children developing autism, according to lead author Geraldine Dawson, director of the UW's Autism Center.

"Once again, this study provides an important lesson that parents are good reporters on what is happening with their children. It underscores the importance of professionals to listen to parents," said Dawson. "And it certainly suggests that in early screening for autism that we need to screen at 18, 24 and 36 months to find children who develop normally at first, but then experience a regression."

The researchers examined the birthday videos of 56 children - 15 who were later diagnosed with autism and whose parents reported that their children experienced regression in their first three years of life; 21 whose parents reported that their child had symptoms early in life and had no regression; and 20 typically developing youngsters. The children's behavior was coded by trained observers who were not aware of which children had been diagnosed with autism or regression. Parents also filled out a detailed questionnaire about their child's development during the first two years of life.

Perhaps the study's most striking finding involved verbal communication. The three groups differed significantly in their use of complex babbling and use of words at 12 months of age. Children later diagnosed with regressive autism used complex babbling and words much more frequently than those diagnosed with early onset autism. Typically developing youngsters fell between the groups of children with autism.

However, a year later typically developing infants showed a dramatic increase in the use of words and complex babbling while the two groups of toddlers with autism either lost their language or failed to make meaningful gains. Children with regressive autism at age 2 displayed other symptoms of autism that didn't show up at 1, such as not pointing or using their body to refer to objects, not turning when their name was called and not looking at other people. Both groups of children with autism significantly decreased their amount of looking at other people in the second year of life.

Dawson said these findings corroborate parent reports that some children with autism use words spontaneously and meaningfully, use gestures and participate in social games early on and then lose these skills.

The parental questionnaires also indicated that children with regressive autism had regulatory difficulties such as sleeping problems and being soothed when upset prior to the onset of autism symptoms.

"This does suggest that there might be an early vulnerability in the development of the nervous system and that these children weren't developing normally," she said.

The researchers also found there were no differences at ages 3 and 4 in the severity of autism, IQ, adaptive behavior or neuropsychological functioning between children with a history of regression versus those with early-onset autism.

The UW Autism Center continues to track the children with autism in the study to see if there are differences in the course of regressive autism from early onset autism and to determine if regression is a distinct form of the developmental disorder.

The research was funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Co-author of the study is Emily Werner, a research scientist at Pennsylvania State University who conducted the research while working on her doctorate in psychology at the UW.

## Membership Renewal Time

**September is the month when ABIQ annual membership fees are due. All members were mailed a renewal notice prior to the Annual General Meeting.**

**Please accept this friendly reminder to renew your membership with ABIQ for 2005-06 if you wish to continue receiving quarterly editions of ABIQ News, discounted entry to education events and access to ABIQ's extensive collection of resources.**

## ABIQ WEBSITE MEMBERS ONLY SECTION

The members only section of the ABIQ website contains the following information:

- Editions of ABIQ News (current and past)
  - Register of Teaching Assistants
- Details of ABIQ resources available for loan
- Suggestions for implementing a gluten free casein free diet

The ABIQ members only login page now has a link 'Forgot password?' which allows members to enter their email address registered with ABIQ.

If the email address entered is valid, an email containing login info will be sent. If not valid, members can try again.

New passwords will be issued during October for all 05-06 members who have nominated an email address on their membership form.



## Congratulations!

The lucky winner of the \$200 "Book In Hand" voucher for renewing membership with ABIQ before September 10, 2005 is

Children's Inclusion Support Services, Northern Territory

Thanks for your continued support of ABIQ.

# ***Fundraising News***

The Face Autism Masked Charity Ball was an enormous success. As parents we should all feel very proud. Approximately \$13,000 was raised from the night and this will be spent on the much-needed resources that children require for their therapy programs. So please be sure to check this newsletter to find out what will soon be available to help your little one along.

ABIQ has some wonderful resources available to you and offers tremendous support. I shall be leaving ABIQ but I am still continuing on in a capacity to raise the profile of autism and advocate early intervention which, of course, our young children desperately need. My journey to this point cannot go without thanks to the many people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help achieve so many wonderful fundraising feats.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the following members/people:

- To Yvonne and Darren Moulds – Yvonne and Darren have always committed 110% for all of ABIQ's events. They have expended enormous time and energy to be able to give back. Yvonne particularly has been the backbone to fundraising and her wonderful talents for promotion, advertising, event management and support person have ensured the success of all events for ABIQ.
- To Kristine and Peter McDonald - Pete and Kris have been an inspiration and incredible support. Kris is one motivated, talented lady who has brought a vibrant, positive energy to the fundraising line and she is quickly gaining the support autism needs.
- To Maria Carroll – Thank you Maria for believing that 'parents can do anything!'
- To Richard Keylock – Thank you Richard for always having faith and offering your energy and unwavering support to any venture we have undertaken.
- To Des and Bev Sips – Thank you for your belief in me and for just being the wonderful people you are
- To Sarah Edwards – Thank you to my very best friend for the days on end of wrapping gifts – Put her on your list if you need an extra hand at Xmas time because she has become an expert wrapper!
- To Bedeliah Ludwick – Thank you to Bedeliah who is simply one of the nicest people you could meet (Bedeliah works with my husband and has no association with autism) but has given so much of her time and energy in supporting the ball this year.
- To Kylie Graham – Thank you for acting as my editor for any submissions and for the administration fallout after fundraising!
- Last but most certainly not least, thank you to those members who have been able to attend ABIQ's events. You have contributed enormously to their success.

I wish ABIQ well in its future endeavours and continuing success.

Dee Brough

# Thank you to our wonderful sponsors!

- 7th House
- Adorne Handbags
- Always Fabulous Flowers
- Amusement Regulator
- Group
- Andrew Denton
- The ARMS Global Group Pty Ltd
- Autism Tasmania
- Avis Australia
- Avon
- B-105FM
- Bach Hair
- Baguette
- Balloons Beautiful
- Bali on Logan
- Bargain City Toombul
- Bonnie and Clyde
- Breville
- Bridgeclimb, Sydney
- Broncos
- Bronze Age
- Bulimba Day Spa
- Bunnings Warehouse, Oxley
- Clayfield Hairlines
- Coca-Cola Amatil
- Conrad Treasury
- Crowne Plaza, Surfers
- Paradise
- Customs House
- David Cox Dental
- David Constantine
- Designer Tan, Clayfield
- Di Bella Coffee
- Diamond Code and Design
- Direct Framing
- Dockside Comedy Bar
- Domino's Pizza
- Donna Williams
- Dreamworld
- Easton Pearson
- Ecco
- Electrodry
- Enjo
- Flight Centre
- Friends Hair Studio by Karen and Sharon
- Funky Friends
- Entertainment
- Freedom Wheels Motorcycle Tours Australia
- Gold Coast International
- Gold Coast Turf Club
- Goldwell
- Gone to Pot
- GT Print
- GWP Studio
- Harbour Day Spa
- Harvest Rain Theatre
- Helping Hands
- Hills
- Holden Racing Team
- In Therapy
- Indooroopilly Shopping Centre
- Jessica Eastoe-Allen
- K & K Toys
- Katie M Photographics
- Kendall Perkins - Kids Promotions
- Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village
- Kingston Park Raceway
- Kirkman Labs
- Kyle and Jackie O
- Laser Force
- Lawrie Lawrence
- Mary Kay Cosmetics
- Mercure Hotel Brisbane
- Mercure Resort, Great Keppel Island - 'My Restaurant Rules - Brisbane'
- Microsoft
- New Creation Photography
- North Lakes Camera Centre
- North Lakes Resort Golf Club
- Novotel Twin Waters Resort
- Pacific Golf Course
- Penrith Panthers
- Peter Dutton MP
- Premier Peter Beattie
- Prime Minister, John Howard
- Qld Bulls
- QPAC
- Quality Hotel Clear Mountain
- Quicksilver Connections
- Radio 4BC
- Radio 97.3FM
- Revlon
- Rove McManus
- RNA- Ekka
- Samuel Smith and Sons
- Sanctuary Cove
- Seaworld
- Shane St. James
- Stefan Hair Fashions
- Sofitel Reef Casino, Cairns
- Squeaky Clean Auto's
- St. George Dragons
- Studio Jae Photography
- Sydney City Roosters
- Sunbeam
- TCL
- TEAM - Duet Pty Ltd
- The Coffee Club
- The Good Guys
- The Party Bags
- The Perfume Connection
- The Vending Express and Robert Allenby
- The Wiggles
- Token Artists and Token Events - Rove McManus
- Toni Pearen
- Underwater World
- Vavachi Classic Occasions
- Warner Bros Movieworld
- Webster and Wood
- Woolworths, Forest Lake
- WOTIF.com -
- XXXX Ale House



Michael Hill Jeweller offers a tempting range of diamond jewellery, gold chain and bracelets, watches and silver. There's something for everyone... Michael Hill Jeweller, Celebrate You.



With the generous support of sponsors and guests, the Face Autism Masked Charity Ball raised much-needed funds to help children with autism and their families. These funds have enabled ABIQ to purchase many new items, including specialised books, toys, and therapy aids. A list of items purchased appears on page 8 of this newsletter.

The following resources are being purchased with funds from the Face Autism Masked Charity Ball and will be available for loan in the next 1- 2 months.

<b>BOOKS - REFERENCE</b>	<b>THERAPY AIDS/ TOYS/ GAMES cont..</b>
One on One	Balloon Ball
Social Skills Solutions (Krempa)	Balloon Replacements
Behaviorask (Newman)	Giant Plastic Weaving Shapes
Language Targets to Teach a Child to Communicate (Luckevich)	Giant Plastic Weaving Kit
Peer Play and the Autism Spectrum (Wolfberg)	Sticky Dartboard
Play and Imagination in Children with Autism (Wolfberg)	Magnetic Circle
Siblings of Children with Autism (Harris)	Pre-Writing Boards
Teaching Playskills to Children with ASD (Smith)	The Socially Speaking Game
Teach Me Language: Manual (Freeman)	Get A Grip On Patterns
Teach Me Language: Companion (Freeman)	Tricky Tree
Severe Behavior Problems (Durand)	Sorting Food Bags
Friendly Kids, Friendly Classroom (McGrath)	Gingerbread Attribute Cookies
Children With Starving Brains (McCandless)	Introducing Numbers
	Jumbo Dice
	Lorry Race Games
	Rock and Roll Shape Sorter
	Games Pack
	Hoppit
	Pizza Fraction Fun
	Time Tracker
	A Check Up With The Doctor Big Book
	Practical Safety For Preschool Set
	Multi Percussion Set
	How's Teddy Colour Cards
	Large Action Motion Stamps
	Dressing Boards
	Double Game Easel
	Hopscotch Play Mat
	Tactile Curve Path
	Plastic Balance Hemispheres
	Rocker Scales
	To and Fro Ball
	Electronic Activity Cube
	Jungle Soft Skittles
	Click-Clack Caterpillar
	Stacking Elephants
	My First Talking Ted
	Noah's Ark Sorting Shapes
	Pink Palace
	Magical Figure Set
	Palace Figure Set
	Fire Station
	Doctor's Surgery
	Pirate Ship
	Knight's Castle
	Palace Accessory Set
	Enamel Pots and Pans
	Baking Play Set
	Cut and Play Food – Cake
	Cut and Play Food – Pizza
	Cut and Play Food – Sandwich
	Cleaning Set
	Steam Iron
	Basket

<b>THERAPY AIDS/ TOYS/ GAMES cont...</b>	<b>THERAPY AIDS/ TOYS/ GAMES cont...</b>
Tai-Chi Balance Board sm	Move'n'Sit Cushion small
Wiggle and Giggle	Move'n'Sit Cushion large
Going to the Dentist	Pirate Hat
Going to the Doctor	Princess Hat
Cash Register	Cool Keyboard
Garden Tidy	Xylophone
Plastic Watering Can	Jolly Phonics DVD
Accessories – Firefighter	Jolly Phonics Dictionary
Accessories – Policeman	Jolly Phonics Flashcards
Accessories – Medical Case	Jolly Phonics Picture Lotto Game
Emergency Outfits - Firefighter	Jolly Phonics Songs
Emergency Outfits – Police	Wooden Monkey Table Skittles
Doctor's Outfit	Pop It In The Post
Nurse's Outfit	Puff the Pop-up Dragon
Cowboy Outfit	Rocket Hangman and Farm Squares
Indian Outfit	Prickly Hedgehogs
Indian – headdress	Touch and Feel Vehicles Lift Out
Humpty Dumpty Nursery Rhyme	Touch and Feel Animals Lift Out
Right and Left Hands	Touch and Feel Bugs Lift Out
Reader Rabbit Toddler	Touch and Feel Blossom Farm
Reader Rabbit Preschool	Blossom Farm Electric Lift Out
Reader Rabbit Kindergarten	Soccer Zoomer
Reader Rabbit 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	
Reader Rabbit 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	
Pirate Outfit	<b>SOFTWARE</b>
Pirate Hook and Cutlass	Boardmaker Deluxe Set

**A Word about ABIQ  
Support Groups...**

ABIQ currently has 2 support groups operating in the Brisbane area. These get-togethers are held at member's homes on a regular basis at Brendale (north side) and Fig Tree Pocket (west side). Please be advised that the south side support group is no longer operating. There are plans to start up a support group on the Sunshine Coast in the near future.

Any member is welcome to attend any of the support group get-togethers advertised. Bring a friend if you like. Support group is an opportunity to meet with other parents informally over a cuppa and talk about issues relating to autism. We share ideas, experiences, information and seek comfort from others who know and understand first hand what it means to be the parent of a child with autism. There is usually no set agenda, so you can raise topics or ask questions that interest you. Support group get-togethers are also a great opportunity to browse through resources you may want to borrow and to ask others about therapy, biomedical interventions or school placement. To find out when support groups are meeting, check date claimers on page 16 of this newsletter and watch out for email reminders. Love to see you there!

# Food and Diet

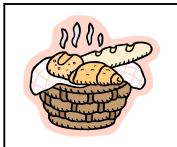
## GFCF Crunchy Coconut Cookies



- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup virgin coconut oil/ butter (available at health stores)
- 3/4 cup brown rice flour
- 1/4 teaspoon GF baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground linseeds (optional)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons water

Mix sugar and coconut oil/butter together well. Stir in flour and baking powder. Add water and stir until well blended. Shape dough into walnut-sized balls. Place onto baking tray lined with non-stick baking paper. Press down with fork. Bake at 180 deg C for 10-15 minutes. Cool on baking tray.

## Savoury Flat Bread (GFCF and low GI)



- 1 cup rice bran
- 1/2 cup brown rice flour
- 1/2 cup arrowroot flour
- 3/4 teaspoon bicarb soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 cup chicken stock or water
- 2 egg yolks
- oil for glazing
- 1 tablespoon coarse salt
- poppy seeds/ sesame seeds/ sunflower seeds

Sift dry ingredients into large mixing bowl. Make well in centre; add combined stock or water and egg yolks. Beat until smooth with a wooden spoon. Spoon heaped tablespoons of dough onto well-oiled baking trays. Bake at 190 deg C for 35-40 minutes. Halfway through cooking, brush with oil and sprinkle with salt and seeds. Continue cooking for required time. Bread can be topped or split and filled. Keeps in fridge for 2-3 days.

## What oils should I use in my child's diet?

“ I never want parents to use canola oil, and to only use olive oil for salads and cool foods as it gets rancid when cooked. Coconut oil and macadamia nut oil are the best for cooking. One thing that will block essential fatty acid entering the cell membrane is the ingestion of a lot of chips - anything fried causes the fat to change and clog up the cell membranes so good fats don't come through. “

Dr Jaclyn McCandless (Children With Starving Brains)

Source: [csb-autism-rx list](#)

## Take a Photo to Talk About



Learning effective conversation skills ranks as one of the greatest challenges for students with autism spectrum disorders (and lots of other students with communication or behavior difficulties).

Conversation is complex. It requires exactly the abilities that are difficult for these students. Success with conversations requires many skills such as:

- Engaging another person
- Deciding what to talk about
- Using appropriate language to share thoughts or information

### Where do you begin?

Teaching conversation skills is a huge task. An effective teaching strategy is to break a big task down into smaller parts. Photos can help. Photos are powerful communication tools.

Take your camera out and keep it handy. Watch for opportunities to capture events that would be good conversation topics. The photos will provide a bridge to better conversation and social interaction. They will help students talk about meaningful topics. The photos help communication partners participate, too.

### What should you take pictures of?

There are lots of possibilities.

Look at the world from the student's perspective. Observe what other students the same age think about or talk about. Is there anything this student finds especially interesting?

### Here are some ideas:

1. **Where did she go?** Take photos when students go someplace that is unique. A vacation or a movie or a trip to the zoo. Don't stop there. Photos of more common activities are also valuable. Going out to eat or visiting Uncle John are also conversation topics.
2. **What did he see?** They are doing some road construction at the end of our street. There are big bulldozers and dump trucks and holes in the road. Think of the great conversation that can occur with a few photos to help.
3. **What happened?** Life is full of new things or unexpected events. Think about the excitement that comes from telling people that the dog had puppies or that mom crashed the car. But even more regular events are worthy to talk about. If a student is interested in something, it can become a topic to talk about.

### Then what do you do?

Teach the student how to use the photo to engage in conversation. What you teach will depend on the age and skill level of the student.

If a student is nonverbal or does not easily establish a social connection with others, she may need to learn to give the photo to someone to get their attention.

Students with emerging communication skills can get someone's attention and say a few words to communicate the event. The picture will help the student know what to say.

When students have more language, the photo can help them remember what to talk about. It can stimulate more questions and conversation.

[Continued next page]

Here are more ideas:

- **Make picture taking a regular part of your routine**  
Keep your camera close. You will remember to take pictures if it becomes a natural part of what you do.
- **Encourage students to take photos**  
All students will not be able to do this. But those who can take pictures will benefit from deciding what to photograph and what to talk about.
- **Talk about the pictures**  
Look at them with the student. Point to anything significant in a photo.
- **Practice**  
Keep talking about the picture or the event it represents. Help her rehearse before talking to someone else.
- **Write information**  
Who is in the picture? What is happening? Try writing what the student will say. Write on the back of the picture or write on a sticky label that you can stick on the front or back of the picture. This can help a communication partner know what to ask or talk about. If the student reads, it can help him remember what to say.
- **Show the student how to use the picture**  
Demonstrate how to hold the picture for someone to see. Teach her to say, 'Look' or 'Guess what I did' or something similar to begin a conversation.
- **Repeat**  
Create multiple opportunities to use the picture to talk to people. Students learn from repetition.
- **Keep the picture where the student can get it easily**  
Will it fit in a pocket or wallet? Perhaps a purse or a notebook. Use a magnet to hang it on the fridge. He has to be able to get it easily to use it easily.
- **Store the pictures**  
When it is time to move on to another topic or event, keep the pictures. Store them in a place the student can access easily. Go back to them from time to time. They will be useful for conversation later, too. 'Do you remember when \_\_\_\_\_?' Pictures help to remember past events.

Sharing a photo is a great way to aid teaching effective conversation skills. The photo helps students establish joint attention by engaging with another person. Important photos will guide students to talk about important topics. And photos will provide support for students as they share thoughts or information.

Lots of people take photos. Common practice is to look at them once or twice and then store them in an album or box on a shelf.

Instead, make photos a valuable part of each student's communication system. Use them and reuse them. They will make social interaction and conversation richer and more meaningful.

Would you like to see some of my favorite photos? Imagine the conversation these pictures would generate.

Laminating photos will keep them from getting crushed or wrinkled or bent and torn. Office supply stores carry various laminating products that will help. Look for the heavier weight lamination (5 mil or 10 mil). This is the kind that many ID cards are made of. The heavier lamination products will protect the pictures so they don't get easily damaged.

Linda Hodgdon is the author of the best seller, *Visual Strategies for Improving Communication*. She is featured in the award winning Visual Strategies Workshop-Video Program. To learn more or to sign up for her FREE E-newsletter, visit [www.UseVisualStrategies.com](http://www.UseVisualStrategies.com)

## Growing Stronger: Supporting Parents of Children with Autism

A research team from the University of Queensland is wanting to hear from families who have a young child (aged birth to 4 years) with a diagnosis of Autism, Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Asperger Syndrome or early signs of these disorders. Some of these signs may include social communication difficulties.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services and represents an exciting shift towards family and community centred practice. It will focus on developing skills appropriate to parenting a child with ASD, including the development of the child's social communication skills. Participation may involve group sessions, individualised home visits, assessments and/ or a self-paced home program on DVD.

If you would like to participate or find out more about this research project, please contact  
Kim Doussin  
at the University of Queensland on  
Phone: (07) 3365 2101 or Email: k.doussin@uq.edu.au

## ABIQ Resources

Our current collection contains the following resource categories:

- **Reference Books, Manuals, Videos, DVDs** for parents and professionals located at ABIQ office (including videos of recent presentations by Professor Tony Attwood and Donna Williams)
- **ABA Resource Kits** located at both ABIQ office and Noah's Ark
- **Toys, teaching aids and equipment suitable for children in early intervention programs** located at Noah's Ark
- **Video Cameras** located at ABIQ office.

A list of resource items is available at the ABIQ website "members only" page.

You must be a current financial member of ABIQ

to borrow resources in our collection. Borrowing period is 1 month.

Access to materials at Noah's Ark requires dual membership of Noah's Ark and ABIQ.

Please contact ABIQ to arrange collection of materials located at the ABIQ office.

ABIQ mails resources to members in regional areas on the condition that the member pays return postage and items are dispatched by due date.

**ABIQ now has the following resources  
available for loan to members.**

Title/ Author	Comments
<b>The Anti-Bullying Game</b> <b>Y. Searle &amp; I. Streng</b>	“This lively and appealing therapeutic board game helps children and adolescents who experience difficulties with bullying.”
<b>The Social Skills Game</b> <b>Y. Searle &amp; I. Streng</b>	Board game which helps children and adolescents who experience difficulties with relationships.
<b>The Incredible 5 Point Scale</b> <b>K. Dunn Buron &amp; M. Curtis</b>	Assists students with autism spectrum disorders in understanding social interactions and controlling their emotional responses.
<b>Amazingly.....Alphie</b> <b>Understanding and Accepting Different Ways of Being</b> <b>R. Espin</b>	Illustrated story for children 8 yrs and above. Written to assist a child to understand and accept his own differences and challenges and to offer all children a positive way of understanding and accepting differences in others.
<b>The Little Class with the Big Personality</b> <b>F. Hunnisett</b>	Experiences of teaching a class of young children with autism.
<b>How To Be A Friend – A Guide to Making Friends and Keeping Them</b> <b>L. Krasny Brown &amp; M. Brown</b>	An illustrated book for children 8 yrs and under. Content includes who can be your friend, how to handle bosses and bullies, the best ways to be a friend and ways NOT to be a friend.
<b>Looking For Gluten and Dairy</b> <b>Swain, Selby, Soutter &amp; Loblay</b>	Clear and straightforward information and recipes to implement a gluten and dairy free diet.
<b>Challenging Behaviour and Autism: Making Sense – Making Progress</b> <b>Philip Whitaker</b>	A guide to preventing and managing challenging behaviour for parents and teachers.
<b>Are You Ready?</b> <b>Toilet Training Package for People with Intellectual Disability</b>	Includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Video “Tom’s Toilet Triumph”</li> <li>▪ Cue cards</li> <li>▪ Parent/ carer video</li> <li>▪ Parent/ carer guide</li> </ul>
<b>Sensory Perceptual Issues in Autism and Asperger Syndrome</b> <b>O. Bogdashina</b>	Focuses on the role of sensory perceptual problems in autism as identified by autistic individuals themselves. Includes assessment and intervention issues with practical recommendations.



**Does your child love watching TV and video?**

**Are they learning as they watch?**

**Do you know about video modelling?**

Seana Smith is a TV producer and mother of a child with an ASD. She used video extensively as a teaching tool during her son's ABA programme.

She has created a website:

[www.video-modeling.com](http://www.video-modeling.com)

There you can find the best pre-made DVDs available at economical prices, some are specially made for children with an ASD and ABA specific. There is also lots of general advice about how to use video modeling and how to make your own videos for your child.

Seana has been very involved with the Sydney ABA group Learning to Learn and is a member of ABIQ. Her son is now eight years old.

## NEW AUTISM STUDY

Research will soon be underway within The Department of Learning And Educational Development at the University Of Melbourne. The research will investigate the experiences of parents and the ABA team who conduct home-based behavioural interventions for their children with autism. There is little published research on these experiences and this is your opportunity to evaluate the program and to voice your opinions and concerns.

**By asking the experts – that's you, the project aims to develop a clear understanding of the parental and therapists experiences.** The project is planned to begin in July 2005 and at this time we will be inviting parents and therapists to participate in the project. Participation will involve two questionnaires that will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

**With your assistance, it is hoped that the study can inform policy direction regarding ABA in Australia. In addition, your comments will facilitate change and improvement to ABA and will ensure that there is better program design and delivery.**

For further information, comments, or to register your interest in joining in the project, please contact:

Ms. Betty Evtimovski  
The University Of Melbourne  
0413 405 170

[b.evtimovski@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:b.evtimovski@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au)

## ANYONE FOR DANCING?

Pulse dances for young people with special needs (10 – 18 yrs) will be held at the Carindale PCYC on the following Friday evenings between 7pm and 9pm.

21<sup>st</sup> October 05      18<sup>th</sup> November 05      9<sup>th</sup> December 05

Here are just a few reasons to come along to the next dance:

- Fully disabled access
- Great prizes and giveaways – walkmans, radios and lots more
- Fully supervised

For more info, contact the Carindale PCYC on (07) 3324 9652

Print off or tear this page out and put it on your fridge!

<b>Date Claimers</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2005	9am-5pm	Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) Information Day (for prospective teaching assistants and parents new to ABA)  QUT, Kelvin Grove Room N 518	ABIQ (07) 3264 2582 1300 224 753 (Regional Qld) <a href="mailto:enquiries@abiq.org">enquiries@abiq.org</a>  Places available
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2005		Westside Support Group 1 Spinkbrae St Fig Tree Pocket	Ruth 3878 3879
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2005		Northside Support Group 24 Currajon Street Brendale	Bianca 3264 3995
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2005	2pm-5pm	ABIQ Family Christmas Party Carindale PCYC 27 Naracott Street Carindale	ABIQ (07) 3264 2582 1300 224 753 (Regional Qld) <a href="mailto:enquiries@abiq.org">enquiries@abiq.org</a>  <b>PLEASE RSVP by Nov 17</b> <b>Including no. of adults and children</b> <b>attending + names and ages of children</b>

**DISCLAIMER:** This newsletter is intended to provide basic information on Autistic Disorder and Applied Behavioural Analysis. It is not intended to, nor does it, constitute medical or other advice. Readers are warned not to take any action with regard to medical treatment or otherwise based on the information in this newsletter without first consulting a physician. ABIQ does not necessarily endorse any of the information contained in this newsletter. The information contained in this newsletter is intended to be for your general education and information only and not for the use in pursuing any treatment or course of action. Ultimately, the course of action in treating a given patient must be individualised after a discussion with the patient's physician(s) and family.