



AIR-B NEWSLETTER

April 2023



AIR-B NETWORK

- ★ **OUR WEBSITE!** To learn more about AIR-B projects, visit us at: www.airbnetwork.org
- ★ **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER!** If you would like to subscribe, please email cogarcia@mednet.ucla.edu. Digital copies will be available on our AIR-B website!



WE ARE A TEAM OF
RESEARCHERS COLLABORATING
WITH COMMUNITIES TO
IMPROVE THE LIVES OF
INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM
THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFESPAN,
EMPHASIZING INCLUSION FOR
THOSE TRADITIONALLY
MARGINALIZED AND
MINORITIZED.

SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS AND THEIR FAMILIES



Information



Diagnosis



Services

*BARRIERS PERSIST IN IDENTIFYING AUTISM AND CONNECTING UNDER
RESOURCED FAMILIES TO AUTISM SUPPORTS AND SERVICES*

Many families in under-resourced communities lack support for their family members with autism. They have fewer opportunities and greater difficulties in accessing services. These delays in diagnosis and services are important, especially for early intervention in a child's developmental years. We made **Mind the Gap** to address this and to build a parent-peer network.



MiND THE **Gap**

*Crossing barriers ("gaps") to unlock access
to support and services for ASD families*



Thanks to the [Mind the Gap] program, my child is gonna get assessed this month and we can finally get ABA therapy and speech therapy at home.

— Mind The Gap Parent

From the 2019 Conference: Autism Unplugged: Contemporary Issues in ASD

Mind the Gap is a bridge between families and the services available to them.

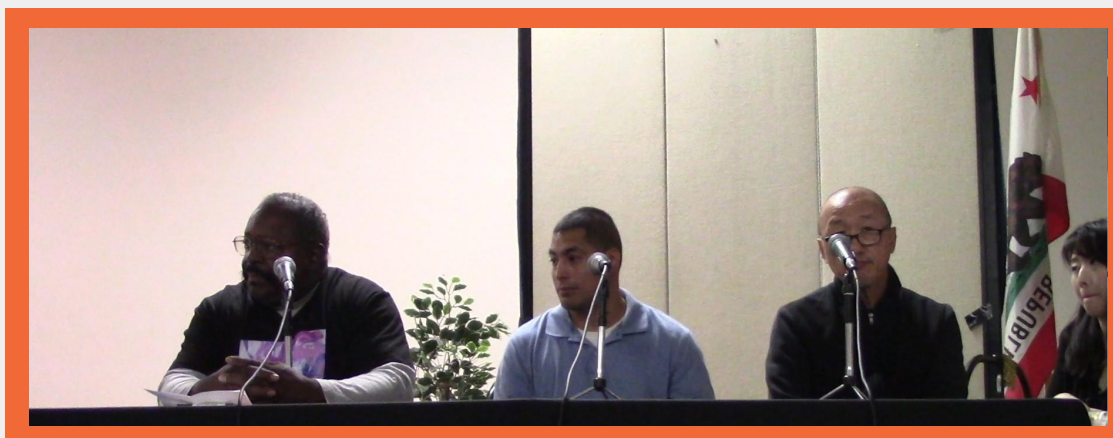


**AUTISM SERVICES
AND DIAGNOSIS**

**UNDER-RESOURCED
FAMILIES**

Racial and ethnic minority children are less likely to access autism-related services. This is due to a lack of resources and knowledge as well as cultural and language barriers.

MTG offers one-on-one support to families by connecting them with “peer navigators”. These peers are also caregivers, but who have experience accessing services.



MiND THE Gap

Free Resources
are available in
English / Spanish:

www.airbnetwork.org/downloads/#mindthegap



At first I didn't know who to call or what to say; but when I spoke with the peer navigators, they helped me by telling me who and what numbers to call, what to say when contacting people. They also told me about what kind of programs were offered because I didn't know anything.

— *Mind The Gap Parent*

From the 2019 Conference: Autism Unplugged: Contemporary Issues in ASD



HIGHLIGHTS

UC DAVIS

SACRAMENTO SPOTLIGHT

As an agency we are consistently reaching out to community organizers to promote Warmline's peer navigation support and services. We stress the importance of what MTG offers, which is so beneficial to families trying to navigate a system of services so new and foreign to them. The structure and organization MTG offer, without a doubt, builds stronger connections, collaboration, and advocacy to families in a positive way...

— Tanishia from Warmline



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

NEW YORK SPOTLIGHT

These community partners work together to increase community access to services and care for individuals with disabilities in the **Rochester, NY** area.



EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The Mid-West Family and Community Engagement Centers (FACE)



Monroe County Early Childhood Development



To learn more about Rochester partner's, visit: <https://www.airbnetwork.org/community#Rochester>



Penn

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA SPOTLIGHT



On April 2nd, World Autism Awareness/Acceptance Day, **Heather Nuske's** team on the KeepCalm digital mental health project attended the Huddle Up for Autism event hosted by the Center for Autism Research at CHOP, at the Eagles stadium. It was lovely to share resources with families and see them enjoy this event!



Additional Resources

ARTICLE SPOTLIGHT



An article recently has been published in Autism Spectrum News covering Mind the Gap (MTG). Some highlights include:

Scan QR
Code to
Read →



- The AIR-B team has scaled up MTG to family resource centers and other family-based organizations with funding from HRSA.
- Peer navigators appreciate the structure and organization of MTG and some agency leaders use it as part of their intake process with all families.
- Regular meetings between peer navigators and families help create long and short-term goals and proactively engage in services.

Now when I work with families I have a structured plan, and discipline to do follow-ups.



— Faustina Salvador, Peer Navigator

Article: Empowering Caregivers Through an Innovative Peer Navigator Program

MIND THE GAP MEDIA



For more details, you can also watch the video on “Introduction to Mind the Gap” on our AIR-B Network Youtube Channel.

Use the link or QR code: www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqxYriu1WII



MTG FAMILY RESOURCE BINDER:

Family Resource Binder - English Version

Family Resource Binder - Spanish Version



UPCOMING / CURRENT EVENTS

- 2023 UCLA & HAAF CONFERENCES' recordings are NOW available on our AIR-B website:

○ In Korean / Spanish/ English www.airbnetwork.org/web-events or

