



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION ASSOCIATION

A California non-profit corporation serving children with Autism Spectrum Disorders since 1993

Fall 2009 | Vol. XI

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Our Mission

To provide treatment and remediation to young children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders; to provide training to those who would offer such treatment; to provide trained personnel for the families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders; and to offer these services to low-income or economically disadvantaged families.

Wrapping Up 2009

By Hilary Baldi

This fall we watched with pride as many of our students headed off to kindergarten. For many of our families entering elementary school this is both an exciting and stressful time. In this issue of our newsletter, we feature articles, one from a parent and one from our staff, which we hope will provide insight and practical suggestions to help other families through this new phase of parenting a child with special needs.

The end of 2009 brings with it many transitions for BIA as well. In addition to a new tech-upgrade at our main office, BIA is now on [Facebook](#) and has at last left behind their prehistoric website (built in 1999) and launched a brand new site for BIA and The Village (our Fresno-based preschool). On [our new site](#), visitors can learn more about BIA's services, view video clips of our approach to intervention for our clients and their families, and keep up on latest happenings at BIA and The Village through our now online newsletters. These new additions will not only help us serve our current clients more efficiently but also reach out to new families who seek our support.

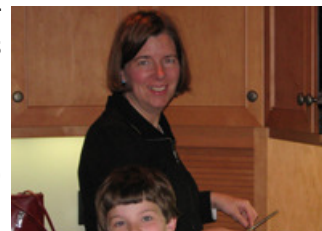
I am pleased to announce that BIA's co-founder, Deanne Detmers, will be stepping back into the role of Executive Director after a stint of doing consult work. I will remain as Clinical Director and will have even more time now to devote to supervising programs, focusing on community outreach, and creating new programs to help serve a greater variety of needs in the ASD community.

NEWS

Transition To Kindergarten

By Lynne Royer (BIA Client 05-08)

Life transitions are scary for everyone at every stage, but as parents of kids with ASD we experience special anxiety around our kids' transitions as they bring unique challenges. I wanted to share my family's experience with





A's Game Silent Auction

On Sept. 6, 2009, BIA was the recipient of the proceeds generated from the Oakland A's Community Fund Silent Auction. BIA received an outstanding \$1,700 from the auction! Thank you to our Program Managers Emily & Linsey for working the booth that night!



our son Ethan's transition to kindergarten at the beginning of this school year.



Our Story

Ethan was diagnosed with ASD at age 2.5. His telltale repetitive behaviors and aversion to peers was spotted by an alert pre-school teacher during Ethan's first year of preschool. My husband Bruce and I sprung into action and sought out early intervention services with BIA. I credit Ethan's readiness to transition to mainstream kindergarten to all the hard work by BIA, our extended family, and caregivers from age 2.5 on. It truly does "take a village" and a lot of hard work teaching your child how to learn, how to focus, and how to interact with his or her world. A highly customized approach of early intervention services in the home, where parents and other family members and caregivers receive extensive training on how to communicate effectively with their child and how to mold behaviors, as well as a truly individualized program that is custom tailored on a week-to-week basis to each child's challenges and abilities, provides the best foundation for a successful entrance into a mainstream educational environment.

Our BIA director consulted with us through the transition to kindergarten. After school started, by mid-October BIA was phased out and we transitioned to fully relying on the IEP team of the Orinda School District. The team, which includes an inclusion specialist, behaviorist, speech therapist and occupational therapist, is excellent. While it was nerve-racking to let BIA go, we knew Ethan and our family was ready. On BIA's last visit to observe Ethan in his kindergarten classroom a month after school started, our BIA director noted Ethan is "comfortable, proud and enjoying himself" [...click here to download the rest of the article.](#)

After-School Activities

By Deanne Detmers

All parents find providing their child with after-school activities challenging. Having your child with hours of downtime each day is far from ideal for every parent. Yet for the parent of a child with special needs, this task can be even more daunting as the options of after-school activities for children who require additional support or structure are extremely limited. We have compiled a comprehensive list of after-school programs specifically for kids with special needs. If we have left your favorite program off this list, please let us know as we are eager to provide families with as many options as possible...[click here to download the rest of the article.](#)

EVENTS

Stella & Dot Jewelry Party

A BIA Fundraiser

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009 | 7PM

Home of Alison Fingerut - BIA Board Member

313 Sun Stream Ct. Danville, CA 94506 | 925-964-0756



On **Thursday, Nov. 12, at 7PM**, BIA is hosting a Stella & Dot Jewelry Party at the home of BIA Board Member Alison Fingerut! **30% of the receipts (from the night & online orders) will go directly to BIA!**

There will be samples of beautiful jewelry for you to look at and to try on! With 50% of the Stella & Dot line under \$50, it's affordable and stylish jewelry not available in retail stores. From fun bracelets, to statement necklaces, bold earrings and delicate charms, Stella & Dot is worth checking out. The designer is the former lead designer for Banana Republic. Stella & Dot is showcased every month in magazines such as Lucky, InStyle, and Oprah.

Please feel free to bring friends who you think might enjoy - the more the merrier! To RSVP, please call 510-652-7445 x 10.

Can't wait to shop? Or can't make it to the party?

Feel free to shop and order online before or after the party by going to the website below. As a guest of this party, you will only pay the party flat shipping rate of \$5.95.

Go online at: www.stelladot.com/jenniferatterman

1. In the upper right corner, click where it says "Can't make it to the party... find your hostess".
2. Enter "Alison Fingerut".
3. Then click her name when it appears, followed by "continue" and shop away!

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*Donors after our print date will be acknowledged in the next issue.

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